

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Thursday, July 01, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914

London Times

Thursday July 1, 2004

among 5 Sierra Leoneans marched in

Labour Congress threatens mass rally against Taylor

Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) president, Adams Oshiomhole, Tuesday threatened that workers would

hold a mass rally in Calabar to protest against President Obasanjo's refusal to extradite former Liberian leader, Charles Taylor, for war crimes to the Special Court in Sierra Leone, this Day reports.

Addressing a cross section of trade union leaders in Calabar, Oshiomhole said Nigerian workers would be ready to work with the United States of America, and all groups interested in the speedy extradition of Taylor from Nigeria.

He said the protection granted to the former warlord is the greatest disservice to the progressive people of the world committed to checking the spate of injustice being perpetuated by some leaders.

He said Nigeria must relieve itself of the burden by allowing Taylor to face the war crimes tribunal and answer for his past deeds.

The Labour President added that Ni-



geria should not accommodate a man who deliberately made life unbearable for his people.

He also urged the people of Calabar to seek the removal of Taylor from their state so as to make the area retain its status as one of the cleanest states in the country, politically and economically.

Charles Taylor dragged to Court today



Charles Taylor, murderer No. 1

THE SPECIAL Court senior war crimes indictee, erstwhile President of Liberia, Mr. Charles Taylor is to appear in court today. According to reports, the proceedings in a monitored by this Nigerian High Court in press, the Monrovia Abuja following a petition challenging the refugee status granted to Taylor in August

2003. The Presiding Judge of the Federal Court, Justice Stephan Adah had issued a writ of summons against the

former Liberian leader through the Governor of Cross River State, Donald Duke to deliver the writ to Taylor in a case filed by two Nigerians Businessmen, Emmanuel Egbuna and David Anyaele. According to the Petitioners, Taylor is in- See page 2

dicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity as well as violation of international humanitarian laws.

The two petitioners who were amputated in the brutal civil conflict in Sierra Leone prayed for the Nigerian High Court to quash the refugee status granted to Taylor, contending that the assylum had precluded his trial before the Special Court. Furthering their claim, the Nigerian amputees recounted the brutal treatment against them

and other Nigerians during the Sierra Leonean conflict which they claim was largely engineered and financed by defendant Taylor.

It could be recalled that during the brutal war in Sierra Leone caused by the infamous RUF war dogs, many Nigerians were targetted and singled out for extra judicial killings and amputation.

In view of this, Mr. Taylor being a major financier in this summary execution and amputation of many Nigerians, the former Li-

berian leader is in serious breach of international treaties on war crimes.

Mr. Taylor stands accused on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, charges that the United Nations backed Special Court of Sierra Leone has indicted him for his involvement in the country's conflict merely for illicit diamonds gains.

Human Rights activists the world over regard this court proceedings in Nigeria as the beginning of Taylor's doom.

Thursday July 1, 2004
New Vision

Source: News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days (English, Full Text) |
Terms: **nigeria woorkers union push for taylor's extradition** ([Edit Search](#))

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Panafrican News Agency (PANA) Daily Newswire June 30, 2004

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Panafrican News Agency (PANA) Daily Newswire

June 30, 2004

LENGTH: 330 words

HEADLINE: NIGERIA WORKERS UNION PUSHES FOR TAYLOR'S EXTRADITION

BODY:

Lagos, **Nigeria** (PANA) - **Nigeria's** powerful umbrella workers **union** has threatened to stage a mass rally in the southeastern city of Calabar, as part of efforts to press the federal government to hand over former Liberian President Charles **Taylor** for war crimes trial.

"We will collaborate with the American government and other governments of the world to ensure that **Taylor** is released to answer for his activities in government," the private Thisday newspaper quoted the President of the **Nigeria** Labour Congress (NLC), Adams Oshiomhole as saying Tuesday.

Taylor stepped down and fled to **Nigeria** last August under a deal brokered by West African leaders to help end Liberia's long-drawn civil war.

The former Liberian leader, now living in opulence in Calabar was indicted last June by a UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone on charges that he trained and armed rebels of the former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in exchange for diamonds.

More than 50,000 people died in Sierra Leone's brutal civil war.

Since his arrival in **Nigeria** individuals, human rights organisations and foreign governments have been urging Abuja to hand **Taylor** over to the court for trial.

"By the action of our government, it remains a sad note that we have not contributed to helping African countries to make their leaders accountable after their reign," Oshiomhole told a workers rally in the Cross River capital.

He said **Nigeria** should not accommodate a man who deliberately made life unbearable for his people, and urged the people of Calabar to seek the removal of **Taylor** from their state so as to make the area retain its status as one of the "cleanest" states in the country.

President Olusegun Obasanjo has said the government would not hand over the former Liberian leader, arguing that it consulted widely within and outside the region before agreeing to bring him to **Nigeria**.

Meanwhile, Oshiomhole did not say how soon the anti-**Taylor** rally would hold.

COMMENTARY

By

Zainab Bangura

Flouting the Rule of Law

Last Year, when a war crimes tribunal announced the indictment of former Liberian president Charles Taylor for ravaging the neighbouring country of Sierra Leone- my country- it generated hope for lasting peace in West Africa. But international failure to enforce the indictment has deflated that hope and Taylor remains a menace. After fighting his way to power in Liberia, Taylor played a central role in Sierra Leone's 11-year war through his support of a brutal rebel movement. Taylor seized my country's diamond fields, enriching himself and his henchmen. Together they exploited child soldiers, conducted mass amputations and were responsible for the rape and mutilation of many women.

Sierra Leone requested that the United Nations help it bring to justice those bearing "greatest responsibility" for such atrocities during the conflict and a joint UN-Sierra Leonean tribunal was created. It came as no surprise when the Special Court for Sierra Leone issued a 17- count indictment against Taylor last year. Then people West Africa waited to see whether the law could really topple someone so powerful.

Taylor has a history of breaking numerous peace accords and when under pressure of using peace negotiations as a stalling tactic to rearm and recognize his forces. One year ago, rebels had Taylor's forces surrounded. Once again he headed for peace talks.

The indictment chased Taylor from the negotiating table, which lent instant credibility to the Liberian peace process. It finally led to international demands that Taylor leave power and Liberia. But rather than deliver the desperate Taylor to face his indictment in Sierra Leone, diplomats orchestrated his escape to Nigeria.

Taylor agreed to behave. But for West Africans who have suffered for years at his hands, it has come as no surprise that he still seeks to regain power in Liberia, where he maintains links to armed supporters. To this end, he has even fomented regional conflict and the UN Security Council has been worried about his activities. Nevertheless, Nigeria allowed Taylor to give a television interview in April, on the eve of a UN effort to relaunch Liberia's disarmament program. Taylor reiterated his intention to return home, thereby offering hope to his supporters, some of whom rioted a few weeks later in the Liberian capital, Monrovia.

As usual in this region- where chronologically shortsighted international policies foster instability, bloodshed and extreme poverty- a political decision has been made to ignore the law. The United Nations, the United States and other initial supporters of the Special Court for Sierra Leone promised to bring to justice the worst creators of our national nightmare. It was believed that doing so would instil greater respect for the rule of law throughout the region.

Instead, West Africans have watched as Nigeria granted "asylum" to an indicted war criminal in clear contravention of its own asylum laws. They have listened as Secretary of State Powell, in testimony before Congress in February, acknowledged the Bush administration's blessing of Taylor's illegal exile in Nigeria. And West Africans have waited in vain for UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to lend any support to efforts to bring Taylor before the UN-backed court.

On May 31 the court's appellate chamber ruled that Taylor must go to Sierra Leone to face the charges against him. His delivery would be a watershed event. It would remove from circulation the prime instigator of conflict in the region and send a resounding message through these troubled countries that leaders can and should be held accountable.

The converse is also true: If African leaders cannot be held responsible even for the worst crimes, then why should they bring fear being held responsible for more atrocities, let alone corruption and mal-governance?

Lawlessness has gutted the humanitarian and development assistance sent to alleviate Africa's suffering. When Charles Taylor arrives in court, accountability for him and justice for his victims will signal that the world is finally taking a long view of African needs.

(Culled from *The Washington Post*)

Awoko

Thursday July 1,

2009

Vision Comments

Sierra Leoneans mourn for Peace Keepers

ON TUESDAY, June 29th, a Russian chartered M1-8 helicopter crashed near Koidu Town in the Kono District.

All 24 passengers on board the flight, including a three man Russian crew were reportedly killed. According to reports, the helicopter left Hastings Airfield at around 8.am on a routine supply to Yengema and around 9.20am, the UNAMSIL Air Operations Centre lost Radio contact with it.

UNAMSIL officials as well as some Sierra Leoneans who were on board the helicopter lost their lives.

THIS IS not the first time our Peace Keepers have been involved in such a disaster.

IT WILL be recalled that in 2001, another helicopter crashed into the sea and a number of UNAMSIL personnel were also perished.

THE UNAMSIL personnel who lost their lives in the Tuesday crash and others who have died in the cause of the search for peace in our country did not think that they would lose their lives in a foreign country.

THEY DIED here because the Almighty Allah has destined that, that is the way they will go back to him.

IT WAS indeed sad, very, very sad, for Sierra Leoneans in particular, when the news of the crash and the loss of the lives of those peacekeepers hit the airwaves, late Tuesday.

HOW SAD and sorrowful the family and relatives of the deceased will hear the news of the death of their loved ones!

WE IN this medium, join the thousands of mourners both at home and abroad, who shed tears for the Peace Keepers and all those who died in that helicopter crash.

EQUALLY SO, we do admonish the family, relatives and friends of the deceased to take heart. It is the God's wills.

WHATEVER he says nobody rejects it. He is the Almighty, all-knowing to whom all living things on earth pay homage to.

IN TO His heavenly hands, we commend the souls of our departed friends.



Rebel Group Turns Over Stronghold, Brings Down Flag Wednesday

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

June 30, 2004

Posted to the web June 30, 2004

By Stanley McGill
Monrovia

A ceremony to relinquish Tubmanburg and other territories under the control of the rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) is expected to take place in Tubmanburg, Bomi County today (Wednesday).

Following the ceremony, the Transitional Government and the Liberia National Police (LNP) would be expected to exercise full control in Tubmanburg.

Tubmanburg, a former ore-mining town, has been one of the strongholds of the rebel movement since June 2003 when they retook it from former President Charles Taylor's government forces.

But since the ousting of the Taylor's regime and an end to hostilities last August, the Liberian National Police has not been able to establish offices into the rebel territory.

Police presence in that part of the country is being provided by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Civilian Police with routine patrols.

Today's ceremony, which is considered as "flag-handover" to the National Police by LURD fighters, will mark an official end to the territorial control by the rebel group. The National Police would thereafter be expected to establish offices in the area to combat crimes.

With the support of UNMIL/CIVPOL, the National Police will take control of that territory, as the Transitional Government prepares to appoint a civil administration for the area.

The United Nations Security Council has told the Transitional Government to establish full responsibility and control over the territories of Liberia before the sanctions on timber and diamond are lifted.

It is not known when other places under rebels control would be formally turned over to the National Police.

But it is believed that the National Police would be extended shortly as soon as the DDRR is completed and the new Liberia Police Service personnel are selected and trained.

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9:33am (UK)

Saddam 'Won't Respond' to Charges

"PA"

Saddam Hussein and 11 of his top lieutenants will not be asked to respond to specific charges when they appear today before an Iraqi judge today.

Salem Chalabi, the director of the Iraqi Special Tribunal, said Saddam will face a single judge in today's session, expected to take place in or around Baghdad International Airport.

"Basically it's an arraignment," Chalabi said. "An indictment has not been issued. There isn't always an indictment first."

Criminal charges stemming from Saddam's brutal regime will be outlined before the judge, but the defendants will not have to respond, Chalabi said.

President Ghazi al-Yawer told an Arab newspaper that Iraq's new government has decided to reinstate the death penalty, suspended during the US occupation that ended this week.

The initial proceedings are taking place under a blanket of secrecy because of fears that insurgents, many of them Saddam supporters, might exact revenge on those taking part.

US and Iraqi officials refused to say where the hearing would take place or release the name of the presiding judge. No pictures will be allowed of any of the Iraqi participants – except for the defendants – to protect them from attack. Only a few journalists will be allowed to attend.

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Q&A: the trial of Saddam Hussein

Simon Jeffery explains how the process of trying the former Iraqi dictator will work

Simon Jeffery
Wednesday June 30, 2004

The Guardian

What is Saddam going to be charged with?

The exact charges are not yet known, but the case against him is expected to include war crimes relating to the use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish town of Halabja, northern Iraq, in 1988, the massacre of Shia Muslims in the failed revolt that followed the 1991 Gulf war and the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. He is also likely to be charged with human rights abuses.

Who is trying him?

An Iraqi special tribunal. Unlike in the case of Slobodan Milosevic, the former Serbian leader charged with war crimes, and other troublespots such as Sierra Leone and Rwanda, where the UN has set up or helped set up tribunals, Saddam will be tried under a national jurisdiction. The proceedings are expected to rely on a mix of Iraqi criminal law, international law - such as the Geneva conventions - and the experiences of UN war crimes tribunals.

Where is he being held?

Saddam is in the physical custody of the US, but the legal custody of Iraq. This rather unusual state of affairs is due to a combination of the US not wanting to be in violation of international law after the handover (prisoners of war, such as Saddam, cannot be held without charge when a conflict is over) and fears that an Iraqi jail would not be secure enough to hold him. Saddam is now a criminal defendant, whose treatment will be in accordance with Iraqi law and not the Geneva conventions.

What will the prosecutors try to prove, and how will they try to do it?

Saddam will not have killed every person whose death he will be charged with with his own hand, so the prosecutors will attempt to establish that he ordered the killing or was responsible for it. Evidence for a chain of command is hard to come by but, in similar tribunals, cases have been built on witness statements and paper trails. Forensic evidence is required to prove that the massacres took place.

Who will defend Saddam?

Saddam's wife, Sajidah, has assembled a team of 20 foreign lawyers to represent him, but because only Syrian and Palestinian non-nationals are permitted to work in Iraqi courts, there is some doubt whether they will actually be there. One of those named in connection with the case is the French lawyer Jacques Verges, a man whose previous clients have included the Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, Carlos the Jackal and, he claims, Mr Milosevic.

Who else is on trial?

The others include Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister; Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, Sabawi Ibrahim and Watban Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, all Saddam's half-brothers and advisers; Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti, his secretary; Aziz Salih Numan, head of the Ba'ath party militia; vice president Taha Yassin Ramadan, and Ali Hassan al-Majid, also known as Chemical Ali.

When will it happen?

The Iraqi government appears determined to have Saddam on trial in January next year. One of those who claims he was tortured in Saddam's jails, Hamid al-Bayati - now deputy foreign minister - said: "Everyone who lost loved ones to Saddam will want to see this."

What powers of sentencing will the court have?

Iraq's government is considering the reintroduction of the death penalty, which was suspended under the US-led occupation.

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THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

IN IRAQI LEGAL CUSTODY

The Boston Globe

No longer a POW, Hussein awaits 'trial of the century'

By Fisnik Abrashi, Associated Press | July 1, 2004

BAGHDAD -- The transfer of Saddam Hussein to Iraqi custody yesterday reduced him to a criminal defendant in the land he once ruled and launched the painful process of holding the former dictator and his henchmen accountable for their brutal regime.

A thinner-looking Hussein and 11 of his top lieutenants are no longer prisoners of war but still locked up with US forces as their jailers.

Today, the 12 will appear before an Iraqi judge to hear criminal charges that are likely to include war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

President Ghazi al-Yawer told an Arab newspaper that Iraq's new government has decided to reinstate the death penalty, which was suspended during the US occupation.

The proceedings mark the first steps in a legal process that could take months or possibly years. The trials, not expected to start before 2005, could also widen the chasm between Iraq's disparate groups -- Kurds, Shi'ites, and Sunnis -- as the country struggles to recover from a generation of tyranny and conflict.

The transfer of legal custody took place in secret. Salem Chalabi, director of the Iraqi Special Tribunal, said the defendants were brought one by one into a room at an undisclosed location and informed of the change in their status from POW to criminal suspect.

They were told that they will appear in court within 24 hours to hear charges, Chalabi said.

According to Chalabi, the 67-year-old Hussein appeared thinner and haggard after nearly seven months in US confinement. Hussein said "good morning" as he entered the room, listened to the official explanation, and was told he could respond to the complaints today. He was then hustled away.

"Some of them looked very worried," Chalabi said of the other defendants. They include former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, the regime's best-known spokesman in the West; Ali Hasan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali;" and former Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan.

US and Iraqi authorities hope the trial will lay bare the crimes of the regime -- thus vindicating the American decision to invade Iraq last year -- and help expunge the nation's pain and guilt, much as the Nuremberg trials of Nazi criminals did for Germany after World War II.

"It's going to be the trial of the century," National Security Adviser Mouwafak al-Rubaie told Associated Press Television News.

"Everybody is going to watch this trial, and we are going to demonstrate to the outside world that we in the new Iraq are going to be an example of what the new Iraq is all about."

The initial proceedings are taking place under a blanket of secrecy because of fears that insurgents, many of them Hussein supporters, might exact revenge on those taking part.

US and Iraqi officials refused to say where today's hearing would take place or release the name of the presiding judge. No pictures will be allowed of any of the Iraqi participants -- except for the defendants -- to protect them from attack. Only a few journalists will be allowed to attend.

Issam Ghazawi, a member of Hussein's defense team, said he received threats in a telephone call yesterday from someone claiming to be a minister of justice who promised that anyone who tried to defend Hussein would be "chopped to pieces."

US officials had hoped to delay proceedings against Saddam until the Iraqis set up a special court and trained a legal team. But Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, whose government regained sovereignty Monday, insisted publicly on taking legal custody of Saddam quickly. The Americans agreed on condition they keep him under US lock and key.

Trying Hussein and top regime figures presents a major challenge to the new Iraqi government and its American backers.

Allawi's government is due to leave office after elections in January, and a second national ballot is to be held by December 2005. That raises the possibility that national policy on the prosecution of Hussein and his backers could change depending on the makeup of the government.

Most of Iraq's 25 million people were overjoyed when Hussein's regime collapsed, and many are looking forward to the day he will be punished.

"Everyone all over the world agrees that Saddam Hussein should be put on trial in front of the Iraqi people," said Baghdad resident Ahmad al-Lami.

However, the turmoil of the past 14 months has led to a longing for the stability and order of the ousted dictatorship, at least among Sunni Arab Muslims who now feel threatened by the possibility of a Shi'ite-dominated government.

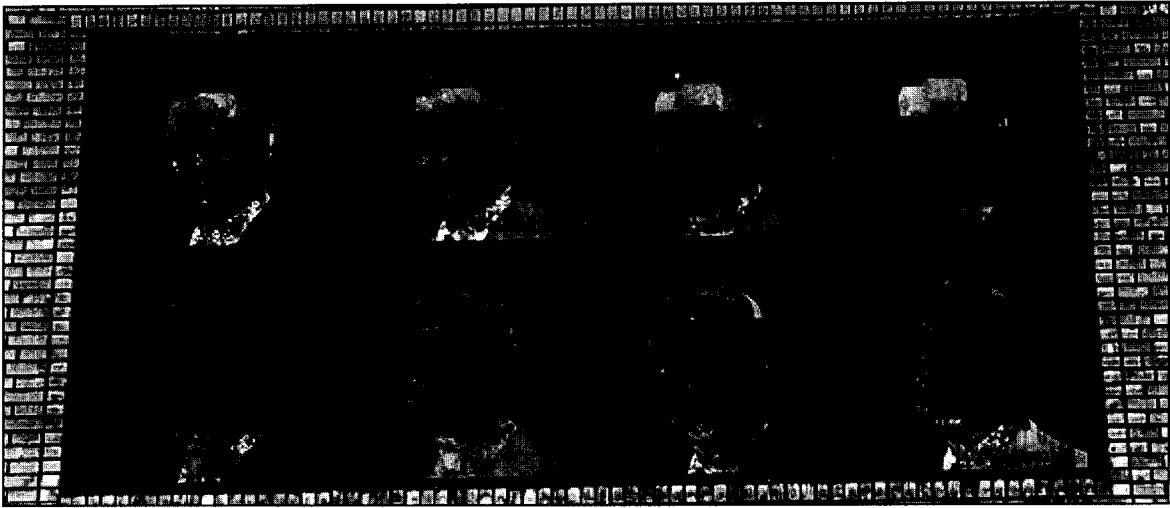
Nostalgia for Hussein, a Sunni, is strongest in Sunni-dominated parts of the country most heavily involved in the insurgency.

"Saddam Hussein was a national hero and better than the traitors in the new government," a resident of Hussein's hometown of Tikrit told APTN, refusing to give his name.

In Fallujah, an insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad, resident Ammar Mohammed suggested the Americans should be put on trial first, because they "killed thousands of Iraqis in one year of occupation." ■



Hussein's Trial Offers Both Peril and Promise to Iraq and U.S.



Associated Press

Defaced images of Saddam Hussein on a wall in Baghdad. The former dictator is to be arraigned today.

By **SOMINI SENGUPTA** and **JOHN F. BURNS**

Published: July 1, 2004

BAGHDAD, Iraq, June 30 — When Saddam Hussein is charged with crimes against humanity in an Iraqi court on Thursday, much more will be at stake than his own fate.

For the people of this country, the Iraqi Special Tribunal could open the door for a thorough accounting of the crimes committed by his notoriously repressive government.

For the fledgling Iraqi government, it could offer an opportunity to shore up confidence among a weary citizenry.

For the Bush administration, known for its dislike of international criminal tribunals, it could mean a chance to establish a war-crimes court it can hold up as a model.

Mr. Hussein appeared before an Iraqi court on Wednesday, after being held in American custody for seven months, but

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his formal trial is unlikely to begin before next year, Iraqi officials said.

With so much at stake, the proceedings carry as much promise as peril. Already, questions have come up about whether the Iraqi Special Tribunal, relying on Iraqi law and American legal expertise, can produce credible, transparent proceedings or whether the result will amount to little more than victor's justice — or victim's vengeance.

On the one hand, the trial of the former dictator could deliver a degree of empowerment to a country still reeling from the excesses of Mr. Hussein's rule. On the other, it could present the defendant with a political platform of his own.

Compared with war-crimes courts from Nuremberg to Sierra Leone, the Iraqi Special Tribunal is unique in that it is not an independent international judiciary from the start. The Iraqi government has insisted on trying him in the country, under Iraqi law and by Iraqi judges. American lawyers and law enforcement agents have been dispatched to sift through the evidence against Mr. Hussein, dig up mass graves for forensic proof of his crimes and develop the prosecution strategy.

Critics say they wonder whether an Iraqi judiciary, crippled from years of isolation and repression, is up to the task of carrying out such a complex war-crimes case. They also question the degree of American influence over the entire enterprise. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is leading the investigation, along with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and agents from the Justice Department. The American military is guarding Mr. Hussein, even as he is transferred to the legal custody of the Iraqis. Washington is financing the court.

"The tribunal, the statute, can be seen as a microcosm of the larger undertaking," said Richard Dicker, head of transitional justice for Human Rights Watch, the New York-based rights group. "It's an occupation-supported effort with Iraqi judges and lawyers."

Americans guiding the process say they are taking pains to preserve independence and credibility. American expertise is needed now to rebuild a judiciary eroded under Mr. Hussein's rule. But with time and training, they say, Iraqis will be in full control.

One American legal expert working on the tribunal said all key decisions, including what people are to be investigated, what charges are to be brought, and what evidence is to be heard, would be made by the Iraqi judges who are to sit as a panel at each trial. Eventually, he said, speaking on condition that he not be named, the Iraqi judges would probably ask the Americans to step aside.

"There clearly will be a certain time and place when the Iraqi Special Tribunal will say, 'We're up to speed, we don't need any more help,' and that will be it, we'll be on our way," he said.

The charges against Mr. Hussein are likely to include a range of crimes against humanity, including genocide, in connection with roughly a dozen specific incidents, from the quelling of the 1991 Shiite uprising to the 1988 poison gas attacks that killed 5,000 people in the Kurdish village of Halabja. According to the statute that established the tribunal last

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December, any crimes committed between July 1968 and May 2003 fall under the court's purview.

Mr. Hussein's lawyers have already challenged the very legitimacy of the court, created last December by the now-defunct American-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

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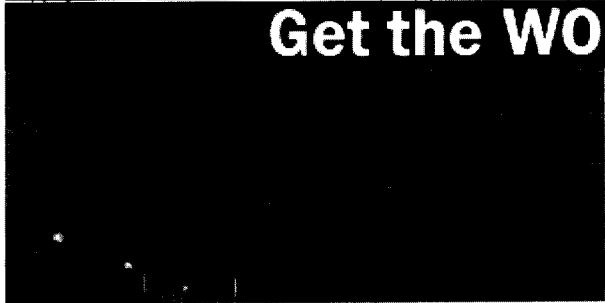
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Long Beach Press Telegram

Saddam trial ties Iraq's past, future

Saddam appears before court that may help legitimize new government.

By Somini Sengupta and John F. Burns

The New York Times

Wednesday, June 30, 2004 - BAGHDAD, Iraq — When Saddam Hussein is charged with crimes against humanity in an Iraqi court today, much more will be at stake than his own fate.

For the people of this country, the Iraqi Special Tribunal could open the door for a thorough accounting of the crimes committed by his notorious regime.

For the fledgling Iraqi government, it could offer an opportunity to shore up confidence among a weary citizenry.

For the Bush administration, known for its dislike of international criminal tribunals, it could mean a chance to establish a war crimes court it can hold up as a model.

A thinner-looking Saddam appeared before an Iraqi court on Wednesday, after being held in U.S. custody for seven months, but his formal trial is unlikely to begin before next year, Iraqi officials said.

The former dictator will get his first chance since his capture to speak in public when he appears today. He and 11 of his top lieutenants will hear criminal charges likely to include war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

With so much at stake, the proceedings carry as much promise as peril. Already, questions have come up about whether the Iraqi Special Tribunal, relying on Iraqi law and American legal expertise, can produce credible, transparent proceedings or whether the end product will amount to little more than victor's justice or victim's vengeance.

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Critics say they wonder whether an Iraqi judiciary, crippled from years of isolation and repression, is up to the task of carrying out such a complex war crimes case. They also question the degree of U.S. influence over the entire enterprise. The FBI is leading the investigation, along with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and agents from the Justice Department. The U.S. military is guarding Saddam, even as he is transferred to the legal custody of the Iraqis. Washington is financing the court.

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One American legal expert working on the tribunal said that all key decisions, including the people to be investigated, the charges to be brought, and the evidence to be heard, would be made by the Iraqi judges who will sit as a panel at each trial. Eventually, he said, speaking on condition that he not be named, the Iraqi judges would probably ask the Americans to step aside.

"There clearly will be a certain time and place when the Iraqi Special Tribunal will say, 'We're up to speed, we don't need any more help,' and that will be it, we'll be on our way," he said.

The charges against Saddam are likely to include a range of crimes against humanity, including genocide, in connection with roughly a dozen specific incidents, from the quelling of the 1991 Shiite uprising to the 1988 poison gas attacks that killed 5,000 people in the Kurdish village of Halabja. According to the statute that established the tribunal last December, any crimes committed between July 1968 and May 2003 fall under the court's purview.

Saddam's lawyers have already challenged the very legitimacy of the court, created last December by the now-defunct U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

Several vital logistical issues remain unresolved. The rules of evidence are still being drafted. A witness protection program must be developed. Potential documentary evidence lies scattered across the country, subject to tampering and loss. A sufficiently secure building has not yet been found to house the tribunal.

The Iraqi experiment distinguishes itself from the growing body of protocols on international criminal tribunals in important ways.

Both the International War Crimes Tribunal for Yugoslavia and Rwanda are seated outside the two countries, in an attempt to keep the trials from stirring further unrest. The

Special Court for Sierra Leone, while taking place inside that country, relies on international human rights law and is made up of judges and lawyers from Sierra Leone and outside. The Iraqi Special Tribunal will rely on a mixture of international and domestic laws. "We try to meet as many international standards as we can, while keeping it a domestic tribunal," said Salem Chalabi, the administrator of the court and a nephew of the once-vital U.S. ally, Ahmad Chalabi. "I don't want to be accused by the international community that we are running roughshod over rights."

International advisers are permitted. According to the statute, so too are foreign judges, but this, Salem Chalabi said, remains a sensitive matter, for fear that "internationals will come and start imposing international moral standards on the whole process."

What the Iraqis say they do not want is for Saddam to use the process to advance his own political platform, as Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia has been able to do in the tribunal in The Hague and as Sam Hinga Norman, a former government official on trial now in Sierra Leone, is poised to do now in that country's war crimes court.

President Ghazi al-Yawer told an Arab newspaper that Iraq's new government has decided to reinstate the death penalty, suspended during the U.S. occupation.

— *The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

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UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

U.N. council briefed on W. Africa mission

By William M. Reilly
UPI United Nations Correspondent
Published 6/30/2004 7:10 PM

UNITED NATIONS, June 30 (UPI) -- The head of the U.N. Security Council's latest mission to find a workable strategy for the world organization in West Africa Wednesday briefed his colleagues.

Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry of Britain, who headed up the panel of 14 that made the latest trip, briefed the council, coincidentally, in its 5,000th formal meeting. Russia sat out this year's journey.

The latest trip began June 20 and was completed Tuesday. It included Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau.

The London envoy said that while the region is full of potential, the fragility of its states has brought on a cycle in which there is no sustainable development without security, and little security or stability without development.

Jones Parry said the panel held talks in Accra, Ghana; Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Monrovia, Liberia; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Abuja, Nigeria; Bissau, Guinea-Bissau; and Conakry, Guinea, focusing especially on U.N. peacekeeping missions in Ivory Coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

He said the West Africa region has problems that have been solved in one country but often migrate to a neighbor. For this reason, the mission had gone beyond simple issues and had addressed such regional problems as human rights violations, small-arms trafficking, the inequitable situation for women, poverty, HIV/AIDS, refugees and the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of ex-combatants.

In Accra, the mission learned that the Economic Community for West African States, now chaired by Ghana and already active in peacekeeping, intended to establish a standby force, Jones Parry said.

For the first time since the signing of the 2003 Linas-Marcoussis peace agreement for Ivory Coast, the signatories had been brought together to review their shaky progress toward the goal of holding elections by 2005, he said.

The mission had been impressed by the improved security situation in Liberia and he said that there should be no impunity for those who faced indictments.

London's envoy said increasing Sierra Leone's capacity to manage its own security and defense was only one of the challenges it was facing as UNAMSIL was gradually drawing down in strength.

In Nigeria, President Olusegun Obasanjo underscored the importance of international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, an economic program drawn up by Obasanjo and South African President Thabo Mbeki, known by the acronym NEPAD.

According to the terms of reference, the aim of the mission was to identify how the United Nations could coordinate its efforts in the strife-torn region, from conflict

prevention to peace-building, and encourage ECOWAS to design and implement a sub-regional conflict-prevention strategy, including how to tackle cross-border problems. The mission looked into the practical support needed to strengthen ECOWAS.

It also inquired into the role of sanctions and their effectiveness.

The conflict in Sierra Leone began in March 1991, when fighters of the Revolutionary United Front launched a war from the east, near the border with Liberia, to overthrow the government. The rebels were gruesomely known for hacking off the limbs of civilians. A peace accord was signed in 1999 between the government and the RUF.

Due to Liberia's support for armed groups in the West African sub-region, including Sierra Leone, the council had imposed wide-ranging sanctions against former president Charles Taylor's government in 2001, including an embargo on arms and rough diamonds.

The council in 2002 dispatched a 15,000-strong stabilization force to assist in implementing a peace accord and welcomed the resignation of Taylor who is now in exile in Nigeria.

Following an attempted Ivory Coast coup in September 2002, the country was divided, with the south controlled by the government of President Laurent Gbagbo, and the north by rebel groups. In January of last year, Ivory Coast factions signed a peace agreement at Linas-Marcoussis, France, and the council quickly authorized the deployment of ECOWAS and French forces.

The Council established a Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau in March 1999 to coordinate the efforts of the U.N. system after the civil strife of the late 1990s. But in September 2003, the military seized power from President Kumba Yala in a bloodless coup, after he had postponed elections several times following his dissolution of the government in November 2002.

A new National Popular Assembly and a new government was established in May and the council expressed satisfaction with the move, but was concerned about the fragility of the democratization process due to the weakness of state institutions and persistent economic and social crises.

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Europe: The Hague · The Netherlands · Tel/Fax: 31-70-352-1171
Email: coalition@cij.org · Internet: www.cij.org

Court Balances Gravity of Crime Against Voluntary Expression of Guilt and Remorse: Babic Sentenced to 13 Years



International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY)
- The Hague
29 June 2004

THE HAGUE - Milan Babic, one-time president of the Republic of Serbia Krajina (RSK), was sentenced today to 13 years in prison for his part in "cleansing" the Krajina of Croats in 1991 and 1992. Babic voluntarily came forward to testify against Slobodan Milosevic, though he risked incriminating himself and was indicted following his testimony. He also testified against Momcilo Krajisnik, former president of the Assembly of Republika Srpska. Babic pled guilty to persecutions on ethnic or religious grounds as a co-perpetrator with Milosevic, Krajisnik and others in a joint criminal enterprise to ethnically cleanse the Croatian Krajina of non-Serbs. At least for awhile, he was in the inner circle. According to the judgment, his vanity and "ethno-egoism" kept him in that position even after he realized the extent of its criminality.

As part of its plea agreement with the Accused, the Prosecution recommended that the Court sentence him to no more than 11 years in prison, recalling that former RS President Biljana Plavsic received an 11 year sentence following her guilty plea. There has been considerable criticism that her sentence was too light in view of her central role in Bosnia's ethnic cleansing. Other than her guilty plea, she does not appear to have cooperated further with the Prosecution. This Trial Chamber refused to consider Plavsic's sentence, noting that each individual must be judged on his or her own particular circumstances. Exceeding the Prosecution's recommendation can be seen as the Court's rejection of comparative sentencing as well as its view of the gravity of the crimes and Babic's central role in them. That the Court did not impose a harsher sentence is likely the result of the value it placed on plea agreements, Babic's voluntary and extensive cooperation with the OTP and the Tribunal, the risks he undertook to come forward, and his remorse.

Despite having exceeded the Prosecutor's recommended sentence, the Court's judgment stands as a judicial acceptance of plea agreements in Tribunal practice, at least as far as this trial chamber is concerned. The Court concluded, "The Trial Chamber accepts the parties' arguments that the case-law of the Tribunal has consistently considered a guilty plea as a mitigating factor." The Chamber went on to emphasize the importance of the Tribunal's role in establishing the truth, implying that it is particularly aided by admissions of guilt. "The Trial Chamber considers that by his guilty plea and his account of the events, Babic has contributed significantly to the reconciliation process in the territory of the former Yugoslavia particularly in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina." The Court found Babic's acceptance of guilt "exceptional" because "[it] made it more likely that an indictment would be issued against him."

Finding that cooperation with the Prosecutor was a "substantial" mitigating factor, the Court noted the Prosecution's submission that Babic's testimony in the Milosevic trial "provided far-reaching insight in the decision-making, the operation, and the plans of the JCE [joint criminal enterprise] around Slobodan Milosevic, which no other insider witness had been able to provide so far." The Prosecution concluded, "the evidence provided by Babic was of major significance to the Prosecution's case. . . ."

The Court also found that Babic's expressions of remorse were sincere and, therefore, would be considered in mitigation. The judgment quoted his statement of remorse extensively: "I come before this Tribunal with a deep sense of shame and remorse. I have allowed myself to take part in the worst kind of persecution of people simply because they were Croats and not Serbs. Innocent people were persecuted; innocent people were evicted forcibly from their houses; and innocent people were killed. Even when I learned what had happened, I kept silent. Even worse, I continued in my office, and I became personally responsible for the inhumane treatment of innocent people. . . ."

"These crimes and my participation therein can never be justified. . . . Only truth can give the opportunity for the Serbian people to relieve itself of its collective burden of guilt. Only an admission of guilt on my part makes it possible for me to take responsibility for all the wrongs that I have done."

Despite accepting his remorse as a mitigating factor and remarking that he "demonstrated some courage" in admitting guilt, the Court concluded that "[it] is not convinced that he has, at all times, recognised the full significance of the role he played in Croatia in that period." Nor was it satisfied that Babic had acted to alleviate the suffering of victims, as represented by his Defence counsel.

The Court also rejected arguments by both Prosecution and Defence counsel that Babic's role in the joint criminal enterprise was limited. Though he was not the prime mover, the Court wrote, he "chose to stay in power and provided significant support for the persecutions against non-Serb civilians. . . ." His actions contributed to the murder of hundreds of Croat civilians, prolonged imprisonment of several hundred in inhumane living conditions, deportation and forcible transfer out of the Krajina, and the deliberate destruction of their homes, cultural institutions, historic monuments and sacred sites, which were all part of the joint criminal enterprise to ethnically cleanse the Croatian Krajina. In fact, the Court found the extreme gravity of the crime to be an aggravating factor in sentencing. "The crime, which was characterized by ruthlessness and savagery and was committed with the intent to discriminate against non-Serb civilians, strongly impacted on victims and their relatives. Their suffering is still significant. Participants in crimes of this gravity should expect sentences of commensurate severity."

As noted above, Babic's leadership position was also considered in aggravation. His inflammatory speeches prepared the Croatian Serb population to accept the campaign of persecution against their Croat neighbors.

A final mitigating factor the Court accepted was Babic's family and personal circumstances. Since coming forward, he and his family have lived in fear of violent retribution. They can never return to their homeland, according to Defence counsel, and Babic will have to serve his sentence in a high security situation. The Court agreed, "By agreeing to substantially cooperate with the Prosecution in the context described above, Babic incurred substantial security risks for himself and his loved ones."

The Court refused to consider Babic's upstanding character prior to the conflict in mitigation, noting that many people who committed crimes and participated in persecution were ordinary people before the war. "[P]rior good character of a convicted person . . . does not as such count in mitigation," absent exceptional circumstances.

In summary, the Trial Chamber balanced significant factors that called for opposite results -- the extreme gravity of the crimes to which Babic contributed in a leading role against his voluntary admission of guilt and remorse and his crucial cooperation with the Prosecution in its attempt to bring his former collaborators to justice.

Submitted by Judith Armatta on 29 June, 2004

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Who's Involved

; **Judges:** Al Mahdi, Amin Canivell, Joaquin Orie, Alphonsus ; **Prosecutors:** Bauer, Sabine Uertz-Retzlaff, Hildegard Whiting, Alex ; **Defence Counsel:** Fogelnest, Robert Muller, Peter Michael ; **Indictees Mentioned:** Babic, Milan Krajisnik, Momcilo Milosevic, Slobodan Plavsic, Biljana

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Coalition for International Justice 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 1000 Washington, D.C. 20036 USA
tel. (202) 483-9234 fax. (202) 483-9263 E: cij@cij.org
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Seizing sovereignty in Africa

By Kojo Bedu-Addo
Senior Analyst, Control Risks Group

Recent conflicts in Sudan, Liberia and Ivory Coast have ignited discussion about foreign intervention in failing states.

Humanitarian intervention is intended to help ordinary citizens who bear the brunt of the violence and economic hardship in such situations.

However, the concept remains contentious, raising important questions about when a state's sovereignty should be over-ruled.

The new African Union's security council has acknowledged that intervention is a likely scenario.

The AU's charter explicitly overturns the old respect for national sovereignty.

Political renaissance

These new guiding principles send a strong signal to member states that they risk losing their sovereignty to the regional body in the event of poor governance and gross failure to protect civilian life.

If food shortages and political violence grew worse in Zimbabwe, at what stage would the AU choose to act?

The 1994 genocide in Rwanda provided the tragic, but compelling argument for this radical concept to gain acceptance.

The charter raises important questions: It's not clear whether in the claimed political renaissance, African leaders will abandon the traditional refusal to even criticise their peers, let alone intervene in their internal affairs.

It is also questionable whether the AU's members would agree on intervention, and how long it would take.

It is unclear at what stage intervention would become acceptable.

For instance, if food shortages and political violence grew worse in Zimbabwe, when would the AU act?

A second issue surrounds the practicalities of intervention.

Events in Somalia reduced the willingness of the US to intervene in situations that are of no direct strategic interest.

But the war on terrorism and the links between terrorism and failed states have changed these calculations.

Military muscle

A number of recent successful interventions have been carried out by a single state with the backing of the

international community.

For example, Australia intervened in East Timor and Solomon Islands; the British-led intervention in Sierra Leone; and the French led the operation in eastern DR Congo.

These cases underline continued reliance on the West for the required military muscle.

But Africa has shown that it can act alone: a South African operation provides security for politicians in Burundi.

The West African regional body, Ecowas, has played a key role in peace processes in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast.

There have been renewed discussions on the formation of a standing African army, an idea first pioneered by Ghana's independence leader and pan-Africanist Kwame Nkrumah.

However, at present there is heavy reliance on Nigeria and South Africa.

If they were unwilling to act, it is hard to see how intervention could proceed.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/3850123.stm>

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XINHUA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE June 30, 2004, Wednesday

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June 30, 2004, Wednesday

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; OTHERS

LENGTH: 906 words

HEADLINE: Roundup: Africa steps up efforts to build peaceful continent

DATELINE: ADDIS ABABA, June 30

BODY:

The African Union (AU) is going to set the next 10 years as the African Decade for Peace and Combating Violence, as part of an ambitious endeavor to turn the world's most troubled **continent** into a **peaceful** and prosperous place for its 800 million inhabitants.

The idea is contained in a strategic plan released here Wednesday during the ongoing Fifth Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council.

The strategic plan, to be submitted to the upcoming third AU summit for adoption, outlines the challenges and a tendency of **Africa's** marginalization in face of an increasingly globalized world economy.

It draws a roadmap for the **continent** to obtain full integration, as a major way for Africans to realize their long-cherished dream of "African Renaissance," and lists "**Peaceful Africa** in a **Peaceful World**" as one of the priority programs.

The strategic plan "offers a comprehensive roadmap for achieving our collective vision of an integrated, prosperous and **peaceful Africa**," said K. Y. Amoako, UN under-secretary general and executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for **Africa** (ECA), when addressing the opening of the AU Executive Council meeting in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, Wednesday.

"My colleagues and I at the Economic Commission for **Africa** warmly welcome the new plan and look forward to working closely with the Commission of the AU as the plan moves to implementation, " he said.

According to the strategic plan, the African Decade for Peace and Combating Violence will be launched officially in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, in January 2005.

The period from 2005 to 2015 is set aside not only for celebration but also for more concrete action to eliminate the various conflicts ripping the **continent** apart.

During the decade, the AU is expected to strengthen its leadership role in promoting peace and security in the region, while building the capacity to respond rapidly in crisis situations.

A series of conflict prevention schemes will be carried out across the region, such as a systematic campaign for the prevention and rejection of unconstitutional changes, implementation of the Common Defense and Security Policy, promotion of international partnership for collective peace and security, and development of initiatives to combat the use of child soldiers.

Of all the schemes, the most noticeable will be the finalization and implementation of a continental peace and security architecture, the first of its kind in **Africa**, which will mainly consist of the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System, and the African Standby Force due to be established under the AU Peace and Security Council by 2010.

Some four decades after independence from colonial rule, the African **continent** continues to grapple with numerous inter-State, intra-State, ethnic, religious and economic conflicts with catastrophic consequences both from humanitarian and socio- economic standpoints.

Official figures indicate that not less than 26 armed conflicts erupted in **Africa** between 1963 and 1968, affecting the lives of 474 million people representing 61 percent of the population of the **continent** and claiming over seven million lives.

One of the consequences of armed conflict is the emergence of refugees, currently estimated at three million, and displaced persons, predicted at not less than 20 million, many of whom live in very difficult condition without adequate assistance from national governments or the international community.

This is the reason for which the AU has set as one of its priorities the promotion of peace and security in the war-torn region.

Over the last few years, the AU has already made remarkable progress in conflict prevention and management on the **continent**, especially in such countries as Liberia and Burundi.

It has authorized the deployment of peace support operations in the Comoros and the Sudan, and renewed, on two occasions, the mandate of the African peacekeeping mission in Burundi.

Together with the international community, the AU is currently trying to help settle the humanitarian crisis in the Sudan's Darfur region, where more than 10,000 people have died, one million have displaced and a further 120,000 refugees have poured across the western border into Chad since the rebellion by black African groups against the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum broke out in February 2003.

Also speaking at the opening of the AU Executive Council meeting, Alpha Oumar Konare, chairperson of the AU Commission, said the AU would continue to intervene in the conflict between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, where tensions began to **build** up since reports emerged saying the DRC had moved over 10,000 troops to its troubled eastern area near Rwanda recently, following an apparent coup attempt in Kinshasa and insurgency in and near the strategic town of Bukavu earlier this month.

The AU, consisting of 53 countries, was launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organization of African Unity, and is modeled on the European Union.

Though faced with enormous obstacles ahead, it has set itself the ambitious task of transforming the world's most poverty- stricken and most troubled **continent** into a prosperous and **peaceful** place.

The AU constitution allows for interference in wars involving crimes against humanity on the **continent.**

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West Africa full of potential but states are fragile, Security Council told

30 June 2004 – West Africa is full of potential, but the fragility of its states has brought on a cycle in which there is no sustainable development without security, and little security or stability without development, British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry said today as he reported on a Security Council fact-finding trip to seven countries in the region.

Stopping in a different capital or major city every day, the 14-member delegation, led by Mr. Jones Parry, held talks in Accra, Ghana; Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; Monrovia, Liberia; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Abuja, Nigeria; Bissau, Guinea-Bissau; and Conakry, Guinea; focusing especially on UN peacekeeping missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

He reminded the Council that in 2015 UN members would review the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which address global problems such as extreme poverty and hunger, and Africa was way off track compared to most of Asia and Latin America.

Meanwhile, the West African region risked having problems that had been solved in one country migrate to its neighbour, he said. For this reason, the mission had gone beyond simple issues and had addressed such regional problems as human rights violations, small arms trafficking, the inequitable situation for women, poverty, HIV/AIDS, refugees and the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of ex-combatants.

In Accra, the mission learned that the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), now chaired by Ghana and already active in peacekeeping, intended to establish a stand-by force, he said.

For the first time since the signing of the 2003 Linas-Marcoussis peace agreement for Côte d'Ivoire, the signatories had been brought together to review their progress towards the goal of holding elections by 2005, he said.

The mission had been impressed by the improved security situation in Liberia and stressed that there should be no impunity for those who faced indictments, he said.

Sending condolences to the bereaved families of those UN workers who died yesterday in a helicopter crash in Sierra Leone, he said increasing that country's capacity to manage its own security and defence was only one of the challenges it was facing as the UN mission, UNAMSIL, was gradually drawn down.

In Nigeria, President Olusegun Obasanjo underscored the importance of international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), an economic programme drawn up by himself and South African President Thabo Mbeki.



Osman Lahai
<olahai@yahoo.com>
Sent by:
owner-leonenet@listpro
c.umbc.edu

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Hezbollah denies U.S. claims it is extorting funds from West

BC-ME-GEN--Lebanon-Hezbollah-Diamonds
Hezbollah denies U.S. claims it is extorting funds from West Africa's diamond trade

By HUSSEIN DAKROUB (Associated Press Writer)

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) _
Hezbollah on Wednesday denied U.S. claims it was extorting money from Lebanese emigrants involved in West Africa's lucrative diamond trade.

U.S. diplomats claimed Hezbollah was systematically siphoning profits from West Africa's multimillion-dollar diamond trade, in part by threatening Lebanese merchants who long have handled much of the region's diamond business.

The allegations, supported by independent analysts but denied by some traders, claim more organized and coercive Hezbollah profiteering from the diamond trade than most U.S. officials have previously acknowledged.

``One thing that's incontrovertible is the financing of Hezbollah. It's not even an open secret; there is no secret," Larry Andre, deputy chief of mission for the U.S. Embassy in diamond-rich **Sierra Leone**, told The Associated Press.

Andre alleged said Hezbollah had threatened merchants that they'd ``visit your people back home" if they did not provide funds to the group.

Hezbollah dismissed the allegations. ``There is no need to confirm the falseness of claims and invalid allegations propagated by the U.S. administration against Hezbollah," the group said in a statement faxed to The Associated Press in the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

The statement added that the claims were ``part of a continuing frenzied campaign aimed in the first place at covering up the crimes and plots hatched by the American intelligence circles against states, movements and parties brought together in an axis resisting the American-Zionist project."

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah has been on the U.S. State Department list of terrorist groups since the 1980s because of its anti-Western and anti-Israeli attacks. These included suicide bombings that destroyed a U.S. Marine base and severely damaged two U.S. Embassy buildings, killing a total of 270.

Hezbollah led a guerrilla war against Israel's 18-year occupation of a border zone in southern Lebanon that ended in 2000. It continues to launch occasional attacks on Israeli forces in a disputed border area.

Hezbollah said the U.S. accusations were also aimed at ``threatening and besieging" Lebanese merchants in West Africa to replace them with Israeli merchants.

An estimated 100,000-plus Lebanese live in West Africa, where they have formed the core of the region's merchant class since they began sailing here over a century ago. Middle East crises of the 1970s and 1980s sent another wave of Lebanese immigrants to West Africa. Many Lebanese retain strong business, cultural and family ties to their homeland.

The U.S. Embassy in **Sierra Leone**, citing experts, says between US\$70 million to US\$100 million worth of rough gems still are smuggled out of the country each year.

(PROFILE

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