

**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:**

Friday, October 01, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
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# STANDARD TIMES

Friday October 1, 2004

Le500

## Special Court...

# Judges accused of partiality

By Theophilus S. Gbenda

**T**he decision of the trial judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to hold most of the trials in closed sessions has come under heavy attack by a group of human right officers monitoring the court, and journalists covering the day-to-day proceedings.

Throughout this second phase of the CDF trials, which is effectively being boycotted by Hinga Norman and Moinina Fofanah, the better part of the proceedings have been held in closed sessions, with the public excluded and kept waiting endlessly.

categorically that "all proceedings of the trial chamber other than deliberations of the chambers, shall be held in public unless otherwise provided."

Rule 79, on the other hand, states that the trial chamber may order that the press and the public be

excluded from all or part of the proceedings for reasons of national security, protecting the privacy of persons as in the case of sexual offences or cases involving minors

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## Special Court

From page 1

or protecting the interest of justice from prejudicial publicity.

Rule 79 (b) goes further to state that, "the trial chamber shall make public the reasons for its order."

Rule 79 (c) takes a step further to argue that, "in the event that it is necessary to exclude the public, the trial chamber should, if appropriate, permit representatives of the press

and or monitoring agencies to remain."

Notwithstanding the foregoing however, the trial judges have neither made their reasons for going into closed session nor had they ever allowed press representatives or monitors to witness such sessions.

This seeming non-compliance to the rules by the judges have been the subject of heated debate among human rights monitors, who have dem-

onstrated their frustration in a letter addressed to the chamber and copied to other relevant authorities of the court. It remains to be seen what impact that letter would create, but what is clear though is the fact that issues relating to the too much confidentiality of the court has left many observers with serious doubts as to the impartiality and transparency in the affairs of the court.

# No one is above the law...

## Chief Sam Hinga Norman

I believe it was under the rule of law and not by the force of arms or influence of any sort from any quarter whatsoever, that I was arrested in the ministerial office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and led away in cuffs (as a Minister of the SLPP Government) into the cell of an old slaves dungeon in Bonthe.

This was done on the 10th of March, 2003 on the orders of a Judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, His Honour, Bankole Thompson, who signed the single indictment against me, dated 7th March 2003, as a result of which I was held in very deplorable and inhuman conditions for a considerable period of time before being transferred to the present Special Court Detention Facility in Freetown, still held and awaiting trial and being forced to the use of a plastic bucket in my cell for toileting.

Several complaints of inhuman treatment have been lodged in the form of Court Motions before the trial chamber but it has done nothing to address

the situation to date.

We still continue to use the toilet buckets in our cells, which we know and believe is an inhuman treatment under fundamental human right laws.

I believe in the stand that I and the CDF/SL (Kamajors) took against our brother and sisters of the RUFm, and my colleague soldiers of the RSLAF, in the struggle to reinstate the Presidency and restore democratic rule in Sierra Leone, which is a duty expected of every citizen of Sierra Leone and the free world - a struggle in which many other Sierra Leoneans and other nationals joined and for which I extend thanks and appreciation to all those who offered sacrifices of all kinds.

I also extend my heartfelt sympathies and apologies to all those who suffered unnecessarily in the conflict, and I wish to urge all and sundry to accept what has happened to all of us as worthy sacrifices in the course of our nations historical journey.

My respect for the rule of law and acceptance of the fact that nobody and no organization is above the law

### OPINION...

is profound- hence my determination for the rule of law to be forever respected in Sierra Leone is non-negotiable.

Therefore, if the rule of law has been accepted and respected by me, equally so, I would expect the same rule of law to be accepted and respected (with the greatest of respect to their Honours) by the judges of the trial chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

I was arrested under the rule of law and I am now requesting under the same rule of law that the Joinder Indictment against me should be served on me pursuant to Rules 50 (a) & (52) of the Rule of Procedures of the Statute of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, to enable me proceed to court, and pursuant to Rules 61 (iii) of the Rules of Procedure, be arraigned before the trial chamber to enter a plea to the charges against me, so that my trial could commence. This is the law and these are the legal and lawful conditions which should be respected by the Special Court- remember that no one is above the law: not even the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

If justice is the mission of the Special Court, then, I am simply requesting for:

- a) The application of the law
  - b) The implementation of justice.
- Let justice be done and be seen to be done by the Special Court.

Sierra Leone Times

Friday

Oct. 186 2004

Though the matter is still subjudice, we can comment on the inconsistencies that have manifested themselves so far in the Carnal Knowledge case preferred against the Special Court Investigator, Mr. Peter Halloran since the trial started. Did somebody tamper with the evidence or is there not sufficient evidence to make a strong case against the accused? Or was this incident a concocted story, after all? COCORIOKO (in the USA) was the first Sierra Leonean newspaper to break this story. It was a spectacular scoop for this newspaper as the source who provided the story stressed that no other newspaper or journalist had got wind of the story. And when we came out with the story, even a Special Court official could not help but applaud us for our exclusive. However, it is now becoming obvious that the former Australian Police Chief may go free, if he is given a fair trial.

#### EVIDENCE

First of all, the evidence against Halloran is circumstantial. There is no direct evidence linking the man with the alleged act. All we have heard so far is circumstantial evidence--- The revelations of Halloran's colleague at the Special Court and flat-mate !!! The fact that there are no medical or DNA

# Who Wants Halloran Jailed?

test results to confirm that Halloran actually had sex with the young child involved in the case is something that must be considered by those who investigated the case.

The elements of rape and carnal knowledge are similar. There must be evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that a sexual act did take place. There must have been a penetration or if not,

beyond a reasonable doubt that she had either been penetrated or violated? Were any body fluids found in the girl that had the same DNA composition as Halloran's? Why are there no incriminating evidence, as usually accompany compact sexual crimes? Or did our Police fail to prise all these valuable evidence? If the police really wanted all these evidence, they could have got them because the time lapse

promised a car and a plane ticket by the woman? According to reports, the Special Court investigated this story and found that there was no merit to the case. Did our police avail themselves with the facts from this internal investigation?

Why is the police so vigorously and overzealously pursuing this case? Are sex acts between adults and minors not a common

bative value to prove that Halloran really committed the alleged crime?

One can also understand where the police and the court are pressing charges because Halloran abused his power. But what evidence exists to back such high-minded ideals? Also, the bail imposed on the Australian national was too exorbitant and ridiculous. What explanation exists for

the International Community. According to the Law of Criminal Procedure, always, always there must be evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that a given individual committed an act for which he is standing trial. The *mens rea* and *actus reus* must cohere. Where the evidence has no probative value or has been compromised or elements of doubts exist about their reliability and authenticity, or there is a lack of *actus reus*, the accused is given the benefit of the doubt and the charges against him are immediately dismissed.

Is anybody investigating why Halloran's female flatmate is so intent on incriminating him and sending him to jail? We hold no briefs for Mr. Halloran. But as an independent paper, one of whose goals is to promote fairness and transparent justice, we hope the authorities in Sierra Leone know what they are doing. We think that this case is fishy and the accused should be given the benefits of the doubt, in the face of all the inconsistencies and legal contradictions, to avoid further tarnishing our already battered image as a country where transparent justice is a mirage.

*The author, a Sierra Leonean, lives in the USA.*

## MY VIEW/ Rev. Wilfred Kabs-Kanu

*Why is the child now denying in court that she told Halloran's flat mate that she and Halloran engaged in an intimate act?*

a lascivious act of a sexual nature that fits the charge of carnal knowledge.

There is so far no such direct evidence to prove that the acts alleged did occur. The Prosecution's case is built on hearsay evidence that Halloran's flatmate said that the girl told her that Halloran had carnal knowledge of her.

Why was the child not taken for medical examination or DNA tests conducted on her to ascertain

between the night that the alleged sexual acts were said to have been committed and the morning when the girl allegedly complained to Halloran's flatmate was very short. Or did the police fail to get all these evidence because there were none?

#### DENYING

Why is the child now denying in court that she told Halloran's flat mate that she and Halloran engaged in an intimate act? Why is the girl now confessing that she was

occurrence in a country where child brides are as common as "funkia mina"? I can see with the police where they are holding Halloran to higher standards. As an investigator who came into the country to help unearth the very crimes of child sexual abuse, sexual slavery and other non-sexual atrocities, he should have been the last man to engage in an alleged sexual act with a child. But is there evidence of a pro-

this? Did not the British and American Embassies attempt to stand in surety that they will ensure that if granted bail, Halloran will remain in Sierra Leone and will not flee? Was not his passport impounded by the police? Why did the Presiding Judge persistently deny him bail at first?

#### CAREFUL

Sierra Leone must be careful that we do not make a mockery of ourselves to

Sierra Leone Times

Friday Oct 18 2004

## PEOPLE AND EVENTS

# DID THE POLICE TORTURE CO-ACCUSED IN THE SPECIAL COURT RAPE MATTER?

*National Forum For Human Rights claims that evidence obtained is unsafe...*

Two human rights groups have accused the police of torturing witnesses to give false evidence against Special Court investigations commissioner Peter Halloran in connection with the alleged case of sexual abuse against a 13 year old school girl Kadie Kabia.

In a press released earlier this week, the *National Forum for Human Rights*, in association with the *Trade Union Coalition of Sierra Leone*, claimed there was a strong hint of "foul play" in the case brought against the Australian national.



*did Halloran abuse under age girl? Or was it a setup?*

press release, Kadie Kabia was employed by Halloran to take care of his three year old son and his partner, who is deaf and dumb,

When the two men refused to do that, DFID - funded State Prosecutor Ladi Robin-Mason come in to threaten them to co-operate.

Three people, Mr Halloran, Sheka Fofana, uncle of Kadie Kabia and Abdul Fofana, another senior relative of the alleged victim, are currently standing trial before the High Courts. According to the press release, Abdul and Sheka Fofana were detained purely on the unsupported word of Mandy Cordwell, an Australian co-tenant of Peter Halloran.

Upon returning from a trip to the provinces in late July, Abu Kamara, (head of the family), discovered that Abdul and Sheka Fofana had been detained at Ross Road police station. Abdul and Sheka Fofana were allegedly arrested for writing a letter to the Special Court saying that Ms Cordwell's allegations of sexual abuse by Mr Halloran against Kadie Kabia were 'false'.

### **Kadie and Peter Halloran**

According to statements obtained by the police and quoted in the NFHR

and due to fly into Sierra Leone in late August, 2004. Sheka Fofana, a driver for Halloran, allegedly asked the Australian to employ his 'younger sister'.

In return Halloran agreed to further Kadie's education and pay a Le 200,000 fee 'by way of assistance' to Kadie Kabia's family.

Ms Cordwell subsequently made a report to the Special Court and the Sierra Leone police, alleging that Kadie Kabia had slept in Halloran's room and had unlawful sexual affairs with the Australian.

### **police step in**

Both Sheka Fofana, and Abdul Fofana were arrested in mid July and accused of "procuring a girl under 14 for sex".

On August 24, 2004 the two men claim that they were invited to the Law Officers Department and threatened by State Council Suliaman Bah.

"He asked us to co-operate with the police and the government... He (said) that as a family we should support the allegation (of sexual abuse) made by Mandy and Kadie".

the constable Le30,000... Constable Vandi demanded Le 100,000 but eventually accepted Le60,000".

Both co-accused claim that force and coercion were employed against them, both by the police and Law Officers, to make them

change their statements.

### **Kadie denies**

According to statements given on August 14, 2004 Kadie denies that she had any sexual relationships with Halloran.

"Mandy Cordwell asked me to agree to this... promising me they will build a

house for my family and take me to the U.S for further studies".

The case is still ongoing; the truth yet to be discerned; but if any impropriety and/or torture was involved in police gathering of evidence, the matter needs to be investigated.

On September the two men were detained on allegations of being bribed by Peter Halloran.

According to the NFHR statement "After being ordered from the Attorney-General F.M Carew's office, we were taken to the CID".

### **beaten and torture**

Sheke and Abdul Fofana claim that they were beaten by CID director, FUK Daboh and detained for 48 hours.

"He (Daboh) swept my feet and I fell on the ground and he started slapping and humiliating me".

CID boss Daboh allegedly said that the letter they'd written to the Special Court was 'nonsense'. The two men were detained; Sheka at Ross Road police station, Abdul at Central police. "We were both held for three days without charge".

### **bribes to constable**

On the third day, the two men claim that they were hauled before police constable Vandi, who took a statement without reading it back to the accused.

"My family attempted to secure my bail by offering

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## Rights group says corruption rife in Halloran sex case

By John Silvester

October 1, 2004

A human rights investigation has raised serious concerns about how Victoria Police superintendent Peter Halloran came to be charged with child sex offences while working for the United Nations in Sierra Leone.

The investigation reported claims of political interference, police brutality, attempts to pervert the course of justice, intimidation, unlawful imprisonment and faked witness statements in the prosecution case.

The National Forum for Human Rights and the Trade Union Coalition of Sierra Leone interviewed many of the key witnesses, including the teenage girl who the prosecution claims was sexually assaulted by Halloran.

The girl, who gave her age as 14, told the investigators that she had not been molested by the 56-year-old policeman and said she had been pressured to make statements against him.

Concern for the girl's welfare was first raised by former Tasmanian detective Mandy Cordwell, who was investigating war crimes with Halloran at the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone, and shared a house with the former homicide squad chief in Freetown.

In an interview with the human rights group, the schoolgirl said: "Miss Mandy said she wanted me to be her friend... she wanted to take me to town to buy me some new dresses."

But the girl said Ms Cordwell instead took her to be interviewed by a woman, believed to be a local police officer. "She asked me whether Pa Peter (Halloran) had any sexual affair with me during my two nights stay and I told her no. But Miss Mandy again interrupted and said I was telling lies."

The girl said that the two women then pressured her, "telling me to say that Pa Peter played with my breast and sexually assault me, promising they will build a house for my family and take me to the United States . . . so I said if that is what you want me to say, I agree, so I said it".

A separate UN inquiry has criticised Ms Cordwell's actions as unprofessional and found the girl was tricked into making a statement against Halloran.

Yesterday the girl continued to give evidence in the High Court case but was declared a hostile witness by the prosecution, because she refused to support the assault claims.

One of the girl's relatives told the Human Rights investigation that the Attorney-General, F. M. Carew, had tried to intimidate potential witnesses.

Another family member said he was beaten by a senior police officer for not co-operating with the prosecution case.

Halloran's trial is continuing.

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## **Liberia: UN Opens Last Disarmament Site in Harper**

### **UN Integrated Regional Information Networks**

NEWS

September 30, 2004

Posted to the web September 30, 2004

Monrovia

The last disarmament centre in war-scarred Liberia has finally opened its doors just one month before the deadline for ex-combatants to hand in their weapons, the United Nations mission in the country (UNMIL) announced on Thursday.

Around 1,000 former fighters for the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) are expected to come to the centre in the port town of Harper in Maryland County, which lies near the southeastern border with Cote d'Ivoire.

"Today marks the beginning of the end of disarmament throughout Liberia," UNMIL force commander Daniel Opande told Wednesday's opening ceremony.

"I want to urge all members of MODEL who are in the south-east to know that UNMIL is ready to cooperate with them to ensure that all ex-combatants in these areas turn in their weapons in large numbers," he added.

After almost 14 years of civil war, this heavily-forested West African country has enjoyed more than a year of peace but pockets of rebel activity remain.

Residents in Maryland County who fled to the capital Monrovia during the war, have complained they are too frightened to return home because of gunmen who continue to prey on the local population. And humanitarian workers also worry that ex-combatants in the south-east are crossing into neighbouring Cote d'Ivoire to fight or to sell their arms.

UNMIL kicked off the disarmament programme on 15 April after a false start in December. On Thursday it said its 15,000-strong peacekeeping force had already disarmed over 82,000 fighters, more than double the original estimate of 38,000.

But critics point out that while every former combatant gets a \$300 cash handout, only one in three of those disarmed so far have actually handed in a weapon. They suspect that

many civilians are simply posing as former combatants in order to grab the cash and claim other benefits like education and retraining.

There is also disagreement about the planned closure of the disarmament programme. The UN, which is beginning to repatriate refugees next month and is keen to shepherd Liberia to elections in October 2005, wants to wrap up disarmament by 31 October.

"Anyone found with weapons beyond the date will be prosecuted for illegal possession of weapons under Liberian law," UNMIL warned again on Thursday.

But the government commission overseeing disarmament has slammed the deadline as "unrealistic and unilateral" and argues that the campaign must go on for longer in order to mop up all the weapons still held by the warring factions in remote areas of the country.

"The rainy season is on and many roads in the interior are inaccessible. We need enough time," Moses Jarbo, the head of the National Commission on Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Rehabilitation, told IRIN earlier this month.



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Announcements**CANADA'S MODERN-WAR CRIMES PROGRAM RELEASES ITS 7TH ANNUAL REPORT**

**OTTAWA, September 30, 2004** □ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Anne McLellan and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Irwin Cotler, today released the [Seventh Annual Report on Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes](#). The report details the progress of Canada's War Crimes Program from April 1, 2003, to March 31, 2004, in bringing war criminals and those who are involved in crimes against humanity or other atrocities to justice.

"The Government of Canada has demonstrated a clear commitment to deny refuge to persons who have committed atrocities," announced Minister McLellan. "Canada has not been and never will be a safe haven for war criminals or persons who have committed reprehensible acts against humanity, no matter when they have occurred."

"The bringing of war criminals to justice, both domestically and internationally, is the linchpin of building an international criminal justice system in the 21st century," said Minister Cotler. "There will be no sanctuary for the enemies of humankind."

In fiscal year 2003-2004, the Program prevented 242 potential war criminals and individuals involved in crimes against humanity from reaching Canada, ensured that 63 people did not get refugee protection, and removed 44 people from Canada because of their involvement in war crimes or crimes against humanity.

In the World War II program, two citizenships were revoked, while proceedings continue before the Federal Court in three other cases.

Canada's War Crimes Program investigates potential cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity and has recourse to a number of remedies to deal with persons involved in atrocities, whether World War II cases or modern war crimes. These measures include denial of visas to such persons seeking to enter Canada, denial of refugee protection to those who do reach Canada, revocation of citizenship, deportation, criminal prosecution, extradition or surrender to an international tribunal.

Apprehending and dealing appropriately with individuals who have committed such crimes are international problems that require international cooperation and solutions. Canada is a leader among countries that have supported the work of international organizations including the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and the hybrid Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Canada's War Crimes Program is a joint initiative of the Canada Border Services Agency, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Department of Justice, which work together to support Canada's efforts in denying safe haven to war criminals and perpetrators of crimes against humanity.

The Annual Report on Canada's War Crimes Program provides information on the program's activities during the past fiscal year. The 2003-2004 Annual Report is available on the Internet at [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca). Previous Annual Reports can also be found on the Canada Border Services Agency site.

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## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **Canada's Annual War Crimes Report 2003-2004**

On December 12, 2003, the Government of Canada announced the creation of the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC). Canada Border Services Agency was created and became part of PSEPC's portfolio, along with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The ability to prevent the entry of and to remove people suspected of being involved in atrocities was enhanced by bringing all the players with a role in securing public safety on the same team and reporting to the same Minister.

Canada's War Crimes Program is a joint initiative of the Department of Justice Canada (DOJ), the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). It supports Canada's policy of denying safe haven to war criminals and perpetrators of crimes against humanity. Since 1998, the War Crimes Program has issued an annual report of its activities.

Canada can use various remedies in dealing with war criminals including: extradition; prosecution in Canada under the *Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act*; surrender to an international tribunal; revocation of citizenship and deportation; denial of visas to people abroad; denial of access to our refugee protection system; and removal from Canada.

### **Highlights of Canada's War Crimes Program activities during fiscal year 2003-2004:**

#### **Modern War Crimes Program**

- 242 potential war criminals were prevented from entering Canada.
- CBSA researchers produced 46 screening aids, guides and country reports to help in the assessment of potential war crimes cases.
- CBSA intervened at 387 refugee hearings to seek the exclusion of possible war criminals from refugee protection.
- The Immigration Refugee Board excluded 63 persons from refugee protection because of war crimes or crimes against humanity.
- CBSA carried out 44 removals from Canada of war criminals or persons considered complicit in crimes against humanity.
- CBSA reviewed all war crimes files with outstanding immigration warrants and established an inventory of 125 active warrants in cases with war crimes concerns as of end of the fiscal year 2003-04.
- RCMP investigates, travels abroad to interview witnesses, and has entered into cooperation agreements with law enforcement agencies in other countries. RCMP currently have over 80 cases in their inventory.
- RCMP and DOJ continue to work closely with the International Criminal Tribunals.
- RCMP submitted three cases to the Department of Justice with recommendations for criminal prosecution.
- Department of Justice is supporting the investigation of 85 cases.

#### **World War II Program**

- Two new cases were started
- The Federal Court decided in favor of the Government of Canada in two citizenship revocation cases.

- Federal Court proceedings are ongoing in three citizenship revocation cases.
- DOJ completed 65 investigations.
- DOJ is actively investigating 59 files.
- DOJ is checking allegations in 122 cases.
- DOJ has reviewed a cumulative total of 1,749 WWII cases, of which 1,564 have been closed or declared inactive.
- CIC is responsible for the revocation of citizenship.

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Title : UN mission says "war crimes" likely in Darfur

By :

Date : 01 October 2004 0820 hrs (SST)

URL : [http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp\\_world/view/109472/1/.html](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_world/view/109472/1/.html)

UNITED NATIONS : The UN's top rights official accused Sudan of failing the people of Darfur after her mission to the troubled region found evidence of probable war crimes.

Reporting to the UN Security Council, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour painted a bleak picture of suffering and despair, amid continued attacks on civilians accorded little or no protection by the authorities.

"In short, my mission came away from Sudan gravely concerned that the government and its security forces, particularly the police and the judicial system, are failing the people of Darfur," she said.

Juan Mendez, the UN's special advisor on the prevention of genocide, who accompanied Arbour, said their mission had concluded that "crimes against humanity, war crimes and breaches of the laws of war have probably occurred on a large and systematic scale."

Sudan has been under pressure from the international community to rein in the bloodshed in Darfur, its vast western region where an estimated 50,000 people have died and another 1.4 million have been displaced.

The UN Security Council passed a resolution on September 18 threatening sanctions against the government in Khartoum if it does not take steps to disarm the Arab Janjaweed militias behind the violence.

Sudan called on the militias to help subdue a rebellion that erupted in Darfur in February 2003, as the region's mainly black and poor residents rose up in anger against the Arab-led government they said had ignored their plight.

Arbour and Mendez made it clear that Sudan's efforts to bring security to Darfur had been inadequate and that the authorities did not command the trust and confidence of those they promised to protect.

Most of the displaced have been shunted into squalid and disease-riddled camps where security remains a serious problem and the people are "captives in prisons without walls," Arbour said, calling for an international police force to be deployed in the region.

"It's pretty clear that even when the Sudanese police presence has been considerably increased, it still has virtually no interaction with the camp community and people have no confidence," she told reporters after the closed-door council meeting.

"So it would seem the only way to reverse that lack of trust would be to accompany the Sudanese police force with an international component," she added.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail offered the Security Council Khartoum's take on the situation in a separate meeting, after which he told reporters that his government would accept an outside police presence as well as an expanded mandate for African Union monitors to check human rights abuses.

The current AU mandate is simply to monitor ceasefire violations.

Following the council meeting with Ismail, US ambassador John Danforth stressed Sudan's responsibility to disarm, arrest and prosecute Janjaweed leaders, and stop the abuse of civilians.

"We have to make sure the government of Sudan does what it says it's doing," Danforth said. "This is a show-me situation ... They have not done that yet."

He also dismissed as "baloney" Sudanese President Omar el-Beshir's allegation that the United

States was backing the rebels "to the hilt."

The United States has called the atrocities in Darfur a genocide, and US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday told AFP he was disappointed that other nations -- or organisations like the United Nations -- had not followed suit.

Arbour qualified the current level of violence as having changed from large-scale assaults to "individual attacks on a massive scale," especially the rape and murder of women leaving the camps to collect wood.

Mendez said he had made it clear to the Security Council that "we have not turned the corner on preventing genocide from happening in the future, or even the near future."

- AFP

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UNMIL

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UNMIL/PIO/PR/119

Press release, 30 September 2004

**Final round of disarmament exercise launched in Liberia**

(*Harper, Liberia*) – With the deadline for the disarmament of Liberia's warring factions set to expire in just one month, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) yesterday launched the final round of its nation-wide disarmament program in the provincial city of Harper, Maryland County, about 750 kms. southeast of the capital, Monrovia. Approximately 1,000 combatants of the armed group Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) in the southeastern counties of Maryland, Grand Kru and River Gee are expected to turn in their weapons during this last round.

At a symbolic disarmament ceremony marking the launch of the program, UNMIL Force Commander Lt.-Gen. Daniel Opande received an AK-47 rifle from MODEL's acting battalion commander in the region. "Today marks the beginning of the end of disarmament throughout Liberia. I want to urge all members of MODEL who are in the southeast to know that UNMIL is ready to cooperate with them to ensure that all ex-combatants in these areas turn in their weapons in large numbers," said Lt.-Gen. Opande.

Accompanying the Force Commander from Monrovia was MODEL's co-chairman and military spokesman, Gen. Boi Bleaju Boi, who said his organization would continue to cooperate with UNMIL and would do nothing to derail the ongoing peace process in the country. "That is why representation of our leadership is here while you are disarming," he said.

During the trip, Lt.-Gen. Opande and MODEL's representatives visited local community radio stations *Radio Harper* and *Voice of Pleebo* to sensitize the residents of the launch and the procedures of the disarmament and demobilization process in the region. They urged the civilian population to encourage ex-combatants to give up their weapons. "When they have turned in their weapons, embrace them, reintegrate them into society. They fought a war and the war is over. They are your children and treat them as such," they appealed.

Disarmament of ex-combatants continues smoothly in other areas of the country. Since the beginning of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DDRR) program in December 2003, over 82,000 fighters have turned in their weapons. The disarmament and demobilization phase will come to an end on 31 October and anyone found with weapons beyond the date will be prosecuted for illegal possession of weapons under Liberian law.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office**  
**Press Clips 30 Sept 2004**

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## **Fighters say Liberia disarmament deadline too tight**

By Alphonso Toweh

HARPER, **Liberia**, Sept 30 (Reuters) - Fighters from **Liberia's** second rebel movement in the southeast of the country said there was little chance all their guns would be handed in by the end of a U.N. disarmament programme next month.

The U.N. began taking weapons off tens of thousands of former fighters from two rebel groups and loyalist militias in December last year but the programme only started in earnest in April. The U.N. has now set October 31 as the cut-off date.

``We were only told that disarmament will start here yesterday ... Most of us are not aware of this time set," said former Model commander Prince Dweh, as the U.N. programme kicked off in the southeastern port town of Harper on Wednesday.

``If the U.N. wants this country to be gun free, they should extend the deadline to December this year. Most of the fighters have hidden their guns in the bush and it will take a long time for them to hear this news."

The southeastern region of **Liberia** near Ivory Coast is the last area of the West African country to be tackled by U.N. peacekeepers. The U.N. is trying to steer the impoverished country to elections next year after nearly 14 years of war.

The U.N. said on Sept. 9 that 72,652 combatants had been disarmed in **Liberia**, nearly double initial estimates, although only 19,191 guns had been handed over. The number of combatants disarmed has now risen to more than 83,000.

The race to complete the programme comes amid reports that both guns and fighters are heading into neighbouring Guinea. The U.N. also wants to complete disarmament so more than 300,000 Liberian refugees scattered around the region can return home.

Fighters get \$150 a week after handing over guns or ammunition and \$150 more after spending time in demobilisation centres where they are given vocational training.

But former fighters in Harper said some of the heavy weapons they had used had now been taken into Ivory Coast while guns had been removed by commanders, making it hard for them to claim the cash. They also complained that the demobilisation site in Harper was not completed.

``We want to disarm, but where is the cantonment centre? They have not completed the place we will go and they are rushing for us to disarm. They need to take time so that we will come out and disarm in good spirit," said fighter Francis Appleton.

``Some of us do not have guns. How will we disarm and to whom will we disarm?"

After meeting angry Model fighters and commanders in Harper, U.N. force (UNMIL) commander Daniel Opande and Model's military spokesman, Boi Blejou Boi, visited a local radio station to put out the message that disarmament was now underway.



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Rwanda: Rape Survivors Find No Justice

(New York, September 30, 2004) – Tens of thousands of Rwandan women were raped during the genocide and in the decade since, but only a few perpetrators of sexual violence have been prosecuted, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.

“Women who were raped during the Rwandan genocide and afterwards are still struggling to find justice. Rwanda’s legal system remains ill-equipped to address sexual violence cases.”

LaShawn Jefferson, executive director of the Women’s Rights Division of Human Rights Watch.

The 58-page report, “Struggling to Survive: Barriers to Justice for Rape Victims in Rwanda,” investigates the persistent weaknesses in the Rwandan legal system that hamper the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence. The report also documents the desperate health and economic situation of rape survivors. Many of the women who were raped became infected with HIV.

“Women who were raped during the Rwandan genocide and afterwards are still struggling to find justice,” said LaShawn Jefferson, executive director of the Women’s Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. “Rwanda’s legal system remains ill-equipped to address sexual violence cases.”

Weaknesses in the legal system include insufficient protection for victims and witnesses, lack of training for authorities on sexual violence crimes, and poor representation of women among police and judicial authorities. Genocide survivors, including women and girls who were raped in 1994, have not been able to obtain reparations such as monetary compensation or other assistance for the human rights abuses they suffered.

A woman who suffered serious physical injury and trauma after being gang-raped during the genocide told Human Rights Watch, “It makes me sad to hear them call me a ‘genocide survivor.’ I am not a survivor. I am still struggling.”

The Rwandan Penal Code and the laws governing prosecution of genocide suspects criminalize “rape” and “sexual torture” without expressly defining the legal elements of either crime, such as force or coercion. The resulting ambiguity over what forms of conduct are legally prohibited leads to inconsistent court verdicts, confusion among law enforcement and government officials, and inattention to sexual violence against women. Denied adequate procedural protections, including confidentiality and access to female police officers and judicial officials trained in dealing with cases of sexual violence, rape victims risk being stigmatized and retraumatized.

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“We who have suffered rape, we are afraid that the person we tell will reveal our story to others,” one rape victim told Human Rights Watch. “If I go before the court, who will I speak to?”

The gacaca system, a traditional community-level justice mechanism reinstituted to prosecute the tens of thousands of perpetrators of genocide offenses, initially lacked sufficient procedural safeguards for rape victims. New safeguards established in June must be properly implemented to redress this inadequacy.

The report recommends that the Rwandan government enact pending legislation to provide reparations in the form of monetary compensation or other assistance, which would allow rape victims to seek the care they require. The government should also better train doctors and other medical personnel to collect medico-legal evidence, and it should regularly train prosecutors and judges on how to prosecute and try cases of sexual violence.

“Given its failure to intervene during the genocide, the international community must do more to help its survivors,” said Jefferson. “Rwanda’s international donors need to provide more medical and other assistance for rape victims and other genocide survivors.”




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Text of report by Michael Donkor, Fasilatu Raji entitled "Lt-Gen Obeng calls on **west African** colleagues to complement efforts of **political** leaders" published Ghanaian newspaper Daily Graphic on 30 September

The chief of defence staff, Lt-Gen Seth K Obeng, has called on the chiefs of defence staff of the armed **forces of west African** countries to complement the efforts of their **political** leaders to find a lasting solution to the conflicts in the subregion. He said the conflicts that had plagued the region today were the creation of Africans, and that it would take the concerted efforts of the chief of defence staff and the **political** leaders with assistance from the international community to solve them.

Lt-Gen Obeng made the call at the 10th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Economic Community of **West African States** Defence Security Commission in Accra yesterday.

The conference attracted 15 chiefs of defence staff from Ghana, Benin and Cape Verde. The others were from Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

The participants were expected to brainstorm on the need for the operationalization of a **stand-by force** to respond rapidly to conflicts in the subregion.

Lt-Gen Obeng noted that African leaders could not improve the lot of their people, because they lived in an atmosphere of conflict and circumstances which have reduced some people to the status of refugees and internally displaced persons. He, therefore, stressed the need for concerted efforts from all stakeholders to achieve peace in the subregion.

He recalled some of the achievements chalked up by the commission, and said the aftermath of a special United Nations-sponsored summit on the Ivorian crisis held in Accra between 29 and 30 July this year was the successful reconstitution of the Government of National Reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire.

He noted with satisfaction that while the **political** leadership embarked upon diplomatic initiatives and other measures to resolve disputes in the subregion, the Defence and Security Commission played its role by the timely deployment of peace-keeping **forces** in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire.


He commended the donor communities for their tremendous support and said without their assistance it would have been difficult for the commission to chalk up these successes.

On the issue of a regional **stand-by** brigade for the subregion, Lt-Gen Obeng disclosed that a lot has been done by way of proposals.

The deputy executive secretary, **Political** Affairs of the Defence and Security Commission, Gen Cheick Oumar Diarra, said it was expected that at the end of the meeting members would come out with crucial and firm pledge of **forces** to back the concept of a **stand-by force** for the **West African** subregion. He said the need for such a **force** could not be overemphasized since it had become clear that conflict prevention, management resolution and peacekeeping would be complete and effective by **stand-by force**.

**He therefore urged** all the participants to make a candid and fruitful contribution to ensuring of the implementation of the **stand-by force** concept for the subregion.

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