

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office**

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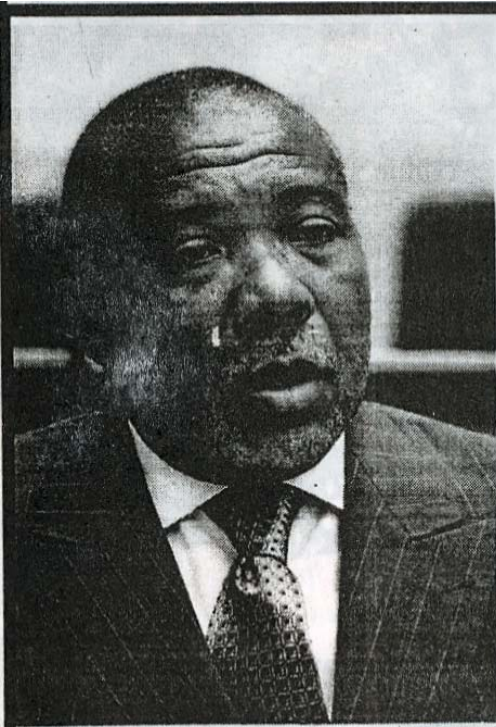
Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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## Update on the Charles Taylor Trial

The Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has decided on Monday 27th September on the status conference on the Charles Taylor trial. The Judges declined the Prosecution's request to order expedited responses/replied to pending Defence motions. At the Conference the Trial Chamber heard submissions from the parties on the formal closure of the Defence case; finally determined as to whether there will be any more Defence witnesses; set a formal date for closure of the Defence case; and heard submissions on time limits for filing final briefs, for closing arguments, and incidental matters. The next Status Conference is scheduled for October 22 at 10.00 a.m.

# Special Court Prosecutor hails new ACC boss

By David Jayne Manley

The Prosecutor of the United Nation's backed Special Court for Sierra Leone; Ms. Brenda Hollis has described her former Deputy, the newly appointed Commissioner of the Anti Corruption Commission Mr. Joseph F. Kamara as a man of higher standards and integrity who has provided exemplary service to the people of this country during his tenure at the Special Court.

"Since his arrival at the Office of the Prosecutor, he has served his people on the questing needs of bringing justice for the horrific crimes committed against innocent men and women of this country," Ms. Hollis said in a press release issued by the Court on Tuesday September 28 this year

She noted that Mr. Joseph F Kamara leaves the Office of the Prosecutor to continue serving the people of Sierra Leone in his new capacity and expressed that the legal luminary would be missed by

the entire staff of the Special Court seriously.

The Office of the Prosecutor's loss, she insists is the gain of the people of Sierra Leone and maintains that "throughout his tenure in the Office of the Prosecutor he has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism and integrity traits that will ensure his success as Commissioner of the Anti Corruption Commission".

She noted that "Mr. Kamara's selection for the ACC Job is but one example of the Special Court's legacy of returning talented experts they have worked with to the services of their country.

It could be recalled that Mr. Joseph F Kamara joined the Court in January 2004. He became the first Sierra Leonean to be appointed as Deputy Prosecutor in the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in August 2008, and also served as Acting Prosecutor.

The Democrat  
Friday, 1 October 2010

## UN lifts last sanctions against Sierra Leone

The UN Security Council has lifted the last remaining sanctions against Sierra Leone, eight years after the end of a bloody civil war. The council said the government had fully re-established control over its territory, and former rebel fighters had been disarmed and demobilised. The last remaining sanctions - an arms embargo and a travel ban for rebels - had been in place since 1997. The mandate for UN peacekeepers has been extended for another year. The council said Sierra Leone still needed the international support of the troops to support peace-building efforts. It also called for more efforts to combat corruption and to guarantee free and fair elections in 2012. Tens of thousands of people died and many more were mutilated by militias in Sierra Leone's brutal civil war, which ended in 2002.



## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Tuesday, 28 September 2010

### Sierra Leone war crimes court prosecutor steps down

By Thijs Bouwknecht (Photo: SCSL)



Prosecutor Joseph Kamara is leaving the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. He leaves the war crimes court, which is finalising its last trial, to take up his new job as head of Sierra Leone's anti-corruption commission.

Chief Prosecutor for the SCSL, Brenda Hollis hailed

her Sierra Leonean deputy as a man of "the highest standards and integrity."

Hollis said Mr Kamara would be missed, adding that "since his arrival at the Office of the Prosecutor, he has served the people of Sierra Leone in the Court's quest to bring justice for the horrific crimes committed against innocent men, women and children. He is leaving the Office of the Prosecutor to continue to serve the people of Sierra Leone in his new capacity."

Mr Kamara joined the SCSL in January 2004 and was appointed Deputy Prosecutor in August 2008, the first Sierra Leonean to occupy the post. He also served as Acting Prosecutor.

The tribunal, which was set up to deal with "those most responsible" for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's civil war is about to finish its work. All proceedings at the main courthouse in Sierra Leone's capital Freetown have been closed.

The court's last trial continues in The Hague, where Liberian president Charles Taylor must answer accusations of fueling the Sierra Leone war and atrocities.

## Naharnet

Friday, 1 October 2010

<http://www.naharnet.com>

### **Indictment to be issued 'Very, Very soon,' Arab Embassy**

An embassy of an Arab State has informed a political party official that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon will issue an indictment in former Premier Rafik Hariri's assassination "very, very soon."

The official told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Anbaa that ongoing campaigns against the Tribunal – whether direct or through the false witnesses – "will not change anything with regards to the work of the government or the STL."

On the other hand, Al-Anbaa quoted March 14 sources as ridiculing statements that said members of al-Qaida have entered Lebanon and that the coalition and the Lebanese Forces have been provided with weapons.

They expressed fears that these "intimidating" remarks aimed at justifying the formation of "armed hostility" against Hizbullah and its allies in order to take actions under the excuse of deterring these armed men.

## The Arab Monitor

Thursday, 30 September 2010

### **Special Tribunal for Lebanon suffering from lack of credibility**

Tensions are mounting in Lebanon over the implications of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) for stability in and sovereignty of the country. STL chief prosecutor Daniel Bellemare appealed against STL pre-trial judge Daniel Fransen's recent ruling on the legitimacy of a request to access specific documents. The request was made by former Lebanese security chief, General Major Jamil al-Sayyed, who had been held in prison for four years because indicted by statements made by a witness used by the precursor of the STL, the Commission of Inquiry into the assassination of Rafiq Hariri. Although the witness soon turned out to be an unreliable adventurer who had been paid for his testimony, General al-Sayyed and three other top-ranking former Lebanese were still held in prison, without ever being charged and hence without the possibility to defend themselves. Now STL chief prosecutor Bellemare claims judge Fransen had committed a mistake in his interpretation of the "Rules of Procedure and Evidence" and suspended the ruling that would have given al-Sayyed access to the documents on the grounds of which the arrest warrant against him had been issued in 2005.

Dissent between prosecutor Bellemare and pre-trial judge Fransen seems to constitute merely the tip of the iceberg: as the Lebanese al-Manar news and broadcasting outlet pointed out today, nine resignations of STL officials in a period of only 18 months indicate a high level of conflict in this judicial entity, which from the onset had suffered from the odium of politicized justice. The latest resignation was that of Henrietta Aswad, spokesperson for Daniel Bellemare, after only three weeks since her appointment on 8 September. Aswad's resignation was preceded in May by that of her predecessor, Radiya Ashouri, who had been in charge for one year. In April last year the British Registrar Judge Robin Vincent resigned, followed by that of Judge Howard Morrison, by the resignations of chief investigator Naguib Kaldas, of Registrar David Tolbert, of assistant chief prosecutor Bernard Cote and that of chief of public affairs, Peter Foster as well as that of spokesperson Suzann Khan.

Chief prosecutor Bellemare's interference suspending judge Fransen's ruling to grant al-Sayyed's lawyers access to his file with the STL, while contemporaneously having permitted US and French media to report copiously about the content of STL files (regarding the eventual indictment of Hizbollah members), confirms the widespread opinion of a highly politicized case and casts doubts on the impartiality of the STL. Yesterday Syria's foreign minister Walid Muallem said the STL was irredeemably politicized warning that such developments were bound to destabilize Lebanon. Muallem called on Lebanon to live up to its obligations as a sovereign state and take justice matters back into its own hands.



## Daily Nation (Kenya)

Thursday, 30 September 2010

### ICC can compel Kenya to release meeting records

By OLIVER MATHENGE, omathenge@ke.nationmedia.com

The government may be forced to release records of security meetings held during the post-election violence.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) could, however, seek the softer route of negotiating for the information by offering conditions on its disclosure and use.

The Rome Statute allows the ICC prosecutor to seek a compelling order from the Pre-Trial Chamber if, in his opinion, the release of the documents does not threaten national security.

The International Crimes Act, which domesticates the Rome Statute, also requires all Kenyans to cooperate with the ICC or risk imprisonment.

On Thursday, it emerged that the ICC officials who arrived in the country on Monday have not met the security officers they wish to interview.

Lawyer Evans Monari, who has been engaged by the PPOs and PCs, said the officers had not recorded statements as the government had not yet appointed a judge. Section 78 of the International Crimes Act says statements recorded to assist the ICC must be witnessed by a High Court judge.

The ICC is seeking minutes of security meetings held during the post-election violence period.

The government has denied the ICC access to these papers, citing national security.

If Kenya continues to deny access, the court may order it to disclose the information if such disclosure is no threat to national security.

Centre for Policy and Conflict executive director Ndung'u Wainaina said ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo may either decide to use the evidence he has to open the case or seek the Pre-Trial Chamber's assistance in getting the documents.

"Some officials may be summoned by the Pre-Trial Chamber to explain why they cannot provide the documents," said Mr Wainaina.

He also said the government was contravening Article 35 of the new Constitution which grants citizens the right to access information held by the State.

## Hirondelle News Agency

Thursday, 30 September 2010

### **Ex-MRND Leaders' case adjourned to October 18**

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) Thursday adjourned to October 18, the trial involving two former Rwandan top leaders of ex-ruling party, MRND, Mathieu Ndirumpatse and Edouard Karemera.

Since the start of his defence case on August 23, Ndirumpatse, former MNRD president, called 15 out of 35 witnesses he intended to field for his defence.

The last witness was Andre Nzabanterura, who briefly testified that he did not identify the political affiliation of the youths who took part into the killings in his area in 1994.

The next court sitting would proceed up to November 25, according to the Tribunal judicial calendar.

Ndirumpatse and Karemera, the party's vice president, are charged with seven counts including genocide, complicity in genocide, incitement to commit genocide and crimes against humanity, allegedly committed, mostly by members of their party, its youth wing, Interahamwe, in particular.

The prosecution has notably indicted the duo for their superior responsibility as top officials of the party. Karemera has already completed his defence case.

Earlier, the prosecution had charged Ndirumpatse and Karemera jointly with the then MRND Secretary General, Joseph Nzirorera. The Tribunal, however, terminated the proceedings against Nzirorera following his death on July 1, 2010. Before meeting his death, Nzirorera was still presenting his defence case.

FK/NI/ER/GF

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## Radio Netherlands

Friday, 1 October 2010

### Dutch PM stirs anger in Sudan

By Ruben Koops



Sudan regrets that the Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende made an example out of the Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir in his speech during the UN general assembly meeting in New York. The Dutch foreign ministry confirms this to Radio Netherlands.

In his speech on Wednesday, PM Balkenende disapproved of countries like Chad and Kenya, who do not arrest the president Omar al-Bashir during his regional visits. This while the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague issued a warrant for his arrest in March '09. "It's not acceptable that people like the Sudanese president Bashir can move freely in ICC member countries." Balkenende said.

A high-ranking Dutch embassy official was summoned to the Sudanese foreign ministry on Wednesday, the Spanish press agency EFE is reporting. According to a Sudanese spokesperson, the speech was "completely opposing the African Union, the Arab Liga and the countries devoted to peace".

According to Joël Voordewind, MP for the Christian Union party, it is embarrassing that a country like The Netherlands gets summoned by Sudan. "Its weird that Sudan calls on us, while their president should report himself here in The Hague!" Martijn van Dam, Labour MP is not impressed with the diplomatic turmoil that Sudan provokes: "Its rabble-rousing. The fact that al-Bashir is a gangster is no impediment for the Sudanese to call him president. They had to say something."

President Omar al-Bashir is wanted by the ICC for war crimes and crimes committed against humanity. All ICC member states are compelled to arrest al-Bashir when entering their territory. But several members of the African Union have rallied together in support of al-Bashir, allowing him to travel abroad freely. Most recently Al-Bashir visited Kenya during the signing of the new Kenyan constitution. In a meeting in New York last week, the Kenyan minister of Foreign Affairs Moses Wetangula was told that Kenya had to explain its actions to the ICC.

MP Voordewind wants more pressure on countries like Kenya en Chad. "The countries that let Omar al-Bashir walk freely should be called upon by the UN in the strongest language possible. Or else, the ICC turns into a weak political instrument."

# USA Today

Friday, 1 October 2010

## War criminals find it's harder to hide from past, U.S. agents

By Dimitar Dilkoff



By Alex Brandon, AP

**"We owe it to the world":** Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer, a child of Holocaust survivors, has pushed for measures to hold war criminals accountable.

By Peter Eisler, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — When federal agents finally caught up with Gilberto Jordan, he had all the trappings of a solid American life: a house in a tidy South Florida neighborhood, steady work as a chef and a spotless record as a law-abiding citizen since emigrating from Guatemala in the early 1990s.

Nothing suggested he was hiding from a horrific past that the agents attributed to him when they knocked on his door that day in May. He still used the same name that appeared on a decade-old order for his arrest on murder charges in his native country.

When the agents confronted him with those charges — that he was in a Guatemalan military unit that killed more than 150 innocent civilians in the country's notorious Dos Erres massacre of 1982 — he made no effort to conceal his role.

"Jordan readily admitted that he ... participated in killing people at Dos Erres," said a sworn affidavit by Jon Longo, an arresting agent with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "Jordan specifically admitted that the first person he killed was a baby, whom Jordan murdered by throwing into the village well."

The prosecution of Jordan, 54, underscores a new push by federal law enforcement agencies to hunt down war criminals and human rights abusers who have found refuge in the United States.

The agents that tracked him are from a special center that Immigration and Customs created last year to bolster its work on such cases.

When Jordan pleaded guilty this summer to participating in the Dos Erres massacre, it marked the first conviction won by a new, 50-person Justice Department office set up to prosecute them.

The targets range from African despots and military officers from the former Yugoslavia to lesser-known figures, such as Jordan. It's unclear how many are out there, but officials at Justice's Human Rights and Special Prosecutions office say they're tracking multiple suspects. Armed with new investigative tools, more legal powers and a beefed-up congressional mandate, they're charging culprits at an unprecedented rate.

Convicted offenders usually are deported, sometimes after a U.S. prison stint. Many end up being turned over to authorities in countries where they face charges for war crimes or human rights abuses.

"I don't think there's any question that we're going to have a greater number of these cases and that these cases are going to reach (suspects from) more parts of the world," says Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer, a child of Holocaust survivors who has pushed the more aggressive efforts to hold war criminals accountable. "It's something we have to do. We owe it to our citizens and we owe it to the world."

### **Nazi hunters 2.0: Skills updated**

Justice's old Office of Special Investigations pioneered many of the tactics being used to hunt war criminals and human rights abusers. That office was set up in 1979 to find and deport former Nazis who burrowed into America after helping to persecute Jews during World War II. Its staff of lawyers, investigators, historians and archivists became part of the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions unit this year.

As time has thinned the ranks of Holocaust perpetrators, many old Nazi hunters have rededicated themselves to finding more contemporary targets. Their skills, whether digging up lost records or using name-recognition software and other digital-age tools to cull immigration records, are proving invaluable.

"These cases can be very difficult," says Teresa McHenry, chief of the special prosecutions unit. "For the most part, the crimes occurred thousands of miles away and they're being investigated years later. Witnesses have moved. ... One of the things we've learned from the Nazi cases is that you often need to gather an incredible amount of information to figure out how things happened and where evidence may exist."

McHenry's staff and their investigative counterparts at Immigration and Customs can spend months, even years, to identify and build cases against suspected war criminals and human rights violators who are hiding in America.

They sometimes track down suspects by digging through immigration records to identify suspicious individuals based on when they arrived in the United States and where they came from. In other cases, they act on tips or unravel leads from foreign news reports.

Often, they must travel to remote parts of the world to find witnesses or obtain documents from foreign governments that may not be eager to help expose misdeeds of one of their own. Forensic material must be found and analyzed — if it still exists.

The evidence almost never arrives in English; the special prosecutions unit even has an in-house speaker of Kinyarwanda, the obscure language of Rwanda.

Among the recent cases:

- In January, U.S. officials returned Nedjo Ikonic to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where war crimes prosecutors charged him with commanding a police company that captured and killed hundreds of Bosnian prisoners after the fall of Srebrenica during the Balkans conflict in July 1995.

Ikonic, who had been living in Wisconsin, was convicted in the United States for lying on his visa application when he failed to divulge his role in the war.

- In June 2009, Immigration and Customs agents arrested Juan Miguel Mendez, a native Argentine, based on his alleged involvement in torturing and killing "leftist" prisoners while serving an Argentine military junta during the country's "Dirty War" from 1976-83. Mendez, who was living in Virginia, has appealed a November 2009 court order that he be deported for concealing his involvement in the abuses when he immigrated.

- In April 2009, Lazare Kabaya Kobagaya was arrested in Kansas on charges linked to his alleged role in the slayings of innocent civilians in the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Kobagaya is accused of failing to disclose during his immigration to the United States that he was involved in organizing arsons and murders during the Rwandan conflict. He has pleaded not guilty and awaits trial, scheduled for spring 2011.

### **Taking cover in U.S.**

Until recent years, U.S. efforts to hunt down war criminals and human rights violators focused mainly on closing the book on World War II.

Over three decades, Justice's Office of Special Investigations launched more than 100 cases against alleged Holocaust perpetrators, and many were deported. That work continues: Deportation actions against nine suspects are in the courts.

In May, a federal judge ordered that Anton Geiser, who served at the Buchenwald concentration camp as a member of the Nazis' notorious SS "Death's Head" forces, be deported from Pennsylvania to Austria.

Because Nazis are dying off, Congress gave Justice and its partners at Immigration and Customs an expanded mandate in 2004 to hunt down all sorts of war criminals and human rights abusers, regardless of where or when their crimes took place.

The order came amid a series of laws that also gave prosecutors new powers to charge suspects for human rights offenses in foreign lands, including a 2007 law allowing the government to try non-citizens for genocide.

Previously, someone who had participated in, say, the Rwandan atrocities, could not be charged for those crimes unless he was a U.S. citizen. As a result, the government had won only one conviction: Charles McArthur Emmanuel, also known as Chuckie Taylor, the U.S.-born son of former Liberian president Charles Taylor. The younger Taylor was arrested on a stop at the Miami airport and convicted in 2008 of committing torture for his father's regime from 1997-2003.

### **Casting a wider net**

Congress passed the laws amid a broader international push after the Cold War to hold war criminals and human rights abusers accountable, says Eli Rosenbaum, who ran the Office of Special Investigations and now is director of strategy and policy in the new Human Rights and Special Prosecutions unit.

"Interest burgeoned all over the world in bringing these people to justice," Rosenbaum says. Among U.S. policymakers, "there was bipartisan support for doing this, and Congress gave us a lot of new tools."

As the mandate to catch war criminals and other human rights violators has grown, so has the challenge of figuring out which suspects to chase.

McHenry declines to guess how many may be in the United States, but she says many have sneaked in because the country promises opportunities to make a living and, given its size and freedom, it's seen as a place where it's relatively easy to hide.

Some suspects are relatively easy to find: Information is passed along from a foreign government or a war crimes tribunal on a suspect who has fled to America, and McHenry's team is handed much of the evidence it needs to prosecute.

More often, though, it takes months or even years of work to build a case.

Once suspects are identified, tracking them down can be straightforward. Like Gilberto Jordan, seemingly convinced that he'd escaped his role at Dos Erres, they often do little to hide.

"They just blend in, try not to call attention to themselves," Rosenbaum says. "Most of these people think nobody will look for them. And frankly, for a long time, that wouldn't have been an incorrect belief. ... The concerted effort by the United States to pursue the so-called modern war criminal cases really didn't begin until this century."

Now, it's going full steam.

"We want to send a message to would-be human rights violators of the future," Rosenbaum says. "Their odds of getting away with it are shrinking rapidly."