

**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

as at:

Monday, 10 November 2008

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

Monday, 10 November 2008

UN Alleges War Crimes in DR Congo

THE REBEL forces of Gen Laurent Nkunda and pro-government militias in the Democratic Republic of Congo have been accused of war crimes by the UN.

The alleged crimes took place in the eastern town of Kiwanja this week when it was captured by Gen Nkunda's forces. Several civilians were reported killed.

The UN said investigators did not yet have a clear idea of what happened.

Fighting between government and rebels forces has left hundreds of thousands of people displaced since August.

The head of the UN mission (Monuc), Alan Doss, said he was concerned about what he described as "targeted killings of civilians by different armed groups" in Kiwanja, 80km (50 miles) north of the provincial capital Goma.

"We condemn them, we deplore them, and we remind the different groups involved that international law is very clear on this - these are war crimes that we cannot tolerate," he said, quoted by AFP news agency.

The UN investigation followed reports by Human Rights Watch that civilians were killed in their homes in Kiwanja, both as pro-government militiamen tried to take the town and after their departure.

At least 26 people are known to have died. UN military spokesman Jean-Paul Dietrich told the BBC that while some may have died in crossfire, others were summarily shot.

The rebels said they had attacked armed, pro-government militiamen, but reports say there was no evidence to suggest the dead people were fighters.

The investigation came as African leaders meeting in Nairobi called for an immediate ceasefire, for UN peacekeepers to be given a wider mandate and for humanitarian corridors to be set up to help the displaced.

The DR Congo government has accused UN peacekeepers of failing to stop rebels from killing civilians.

But while Rwanda has been accused of supporting the rebels a Uruguayan officer serving with the UN peacekeepers in DR Congo said the government side was being reinforced by Angolan troops.

The officer spoke to international news agencies in Goma, saying the Angolans had arrived there four days ago.

Two eye-witnesses have told the BBC they have seen Angolan troops in the area.

Angola is an ally of the Congolese government and has been invited by Mr Kabila to provide military assistance. But its government has said it will not intervene directly.

Angola and Zimbabwe both supported DR Congo with troops during the 1998-2003 war.

The situation in DR Congo has been described as a humanitarian catastrophe, and an estimated 250,000 people have been made homeless by the conflict.

The UN has 17,000 peacekeepers in DR Congo, making Monuc its largest mission in the world.

But only a few hundred peacekeepers are in the areas affected by the latest violence, and human rights groups have also criticised the UN for failing to prevent the killings.

Villagers said the rebels killed civilians in their homes

Gen Nkunda says he is fighting to protect his Tutsi community from attack by Rwandan Hutu rebels, who fled to Congo after the 1994 genocide.

Cotton Tree News

Wednesday, 5 November 2008

Cluster Munitions Coalition lobbies parliamentarians to help ban cluster bombs.

Written by Fatmata Kargbo

Cluster Munitions Coalition or CMC in Sierra Leone met with members of the Parliamentary Committees on Defence and Human Rights. The meeting discussed the proposed treaty to ban cluster bombs worldwide. Over one hundred countries have been negotiating in Norway to adopt a treaty that will ban bluster munitions and provide assistance to affected communities.

The treaty will be opened for signing on the third of December this year. The CMC says it is lobbying parliament to ratify the treaty banning cluster bombs when it would have been signed in Oslo, Norway. Abubakarr Sheriff is CMC's Focal Campaigner in Sierra Leone.

He said they were lobbying the parliamentarians to urge government to go to Oslo and sign the treaty and later to table it before parliament for ratification.

Mr. Sheriff told CTN that Sierra Leone would benefit from the treaty since the country was among the African states that had been affected by cluster bombs. Cluster bombs are large weapons which are dropped on the ground from the air and they release up to one hundred sub-bombs.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
5 November 2008**

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

Newspaper Summary

Two Experts in Liberia for Email Scam Probe

(Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer)

- Two experts from the James Mintz Group, Inc (JMG) are here to assist the Independent Ad-Hoc Committee to investigate the alleged improprieties in reference to the e-mail exchange on Front Page Africa. The group was recently engaged to assist the independent Ad Hoc Committee in certain component of its investigation as directed by the Committee.
- JMG will be assisting in the identification, reviewing and analyzing certain government computers and servers. It will also seek access to personal computers of certain individuals. The JMG experts will also take a forensic image of the hard drives and servers, and analyze the data from those computers to look for information related to the published e-mail, determine their authenticity and review other information relevant to the investigation.
- According to a release signed by Menekeh Pshorr, Information Officer of the Committee, Mr. Jim Rowe, Executive Vice President and Managing Partner of the Washington D.C. office is leading the investigation on behalf of the JMG.

UNMIL Boss Concern of Liberia's Investment Climate ...Pays Courtesy Call on NIC

(The Inquirer)

- The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General (SRSG), Madam Ellen Margaret Løj has expressed deep concern over the country's investment climate with a call that the National Investment Commission (NIC) should augment its effort to attract foreign investors. The UNMIL boss made the assertion at a brief meeting held at the head offices of the NIC where she paid a short visit to the Chairman, Dr. Richard Tolbert and his lieutenants.
- She lamented that with this effort in place, jobs can be created for Liberians to earn their own income. Additionally, the UNMIL boss noted that the high presence of foreign investors will also ensure that peace takes root which will eventually avoid conflict in the country. At the same time Madam Løj reaffirmed UNMIL's support to the country's peace and investment process, stressing, "If you are not succeeding, I doubt it that we will be succeeding in our endeavours."

Auditing Commission Submits Three Audit Reports to Legislature

(Heritage, Public Agenda, The News, The Inquirer)

- The General Auditing Commission (GAC) has presented the second batch of Audit reports to the National Legislature. Making the presentation on behalf of the GAC, the Communication Officer, James N. Jensen said his agency was pleased to submit audit reports of the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation, the National Housing Authority and the Independent National Human Rights Commission for fiscal year 2005/07 to the august body for their perusal.
- He made separate presentations to the Houses' secretariats yesterday at the Capitol. The GAC Communication Officer presented six hard copies and a CD each containing the audit reports to the Chief Clerk, Atty. James R. Kaba and the Deputy Secretary of the Senate, Mrs. Genevieve Massaquoi. Mr. Jensen reminded members of the Legislative secretariats that the submission of the audit report to the Legislature by GAC was one of its constitutional duties.

Defense Lawyers Withdraw from Case involving Senate Leadership

(Heritage, Public Agenda, The News, The Inquirer)

- Lawyers representing the "Acting" President Pro-tempore Lahai Lassanah leadership at the Senate have filed an application before the Supreme Court requesting their withdrawal from the case. The lawyers made the request yesterday at the start of the argument by both parties in the Senate leadership crisis. The Defense lawyers said their request stemmed from the fact that the case was more political than legal.
- Lawyers representing the "embattled" Senate Pro-temp, Isaac Nyenabo however argued that the request was made in bad faith saying it was intended to delay the proceeding and thereby prolonging the tenure of Senator Lassanah.
- Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is expected to hand down ruling into the application of withdrawal by lawyers representing Lahai Lassanah and others.

Government Introduces New Transport Regulations

(The News, The Inquirer, The Informer)

- The Government of Liberia has introduced new transport regulations that take immediate effect. The adjustment in transport fares covers the entire country. Making the disclosure yesterday at a joint-ministry of Transport and Commerce news conference, Transport Minister Jackson Doe said the adjustment is in line with the current fall in the price of crude oil on the international market.
- He said the Ministries and stakeholders of the transport industry participated in the formulation of the new fares. The Government has established a hot line system that will allow the public to report violators. The Minister said from broad street to Congo Town is LD\$ 20, from broad street to Duala is LD\$20, Freeport is LD\$ 10, and 24th Street is LD\$ 15.

Technical Team Should Steer MCDMP

(Daily Observer)

- A two-man fact finding American Urban Planning and Engineering Team from Capitol Development Design International company based in Washington, DC, has expressed optimism that a well crafted Master Plan for the Renewal and Re-development of the Port City of Monrovia with its beautiful waterways and yet undeveloped landscape can transform the City into a first class International Urban Attraction for tourists and businesses from the United States and around the world.
- Speaking earlier, the Chairman of the Monrovia City Council, Daniel Johnson said it was owing to the outdated city zoning laws and the absence of a Master Plan there is a rapid expansion of slum communities. He said it was important to work in providing the city with a short and long range development Master Plan that will address the critical issues the city is confronted with.

Radio Summary

Local Media – Radio Veritas (News monitored today at 9:45 am)

Auditing Commission Presents Second Audit Report

New Transport Regulations Introduced

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Lawyers Withdraw from Senate Leadership Case

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Normal Operations Briefly Stalled at Port of Monrovia

- Normal operations at the Freeport of Monrovia yesterday came to a standstill when confusion erupted between Deputy Managing Director of the National Port Authority (NPA) Administration, Mary Broh and port users.

- Correspondents say the confusion erupted when Madam Broh stopped the port users from entering the premises of the port.
- The port users accused the Deputy Port Manager of attempting to engage them in a fistfight something she denied.
- Madam Broh said her action was intended to protect the main entrance of the port and ensure that the standard International Ship and Port Security Regulations are enforced.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Truth F.M. *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

ITTO to give US\$1 Million Grant to Liberia

- The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) with headquarters in Japan is expected to approve a grant of about US\$1 million for implementation of two projects in Liberia.
- The two projects include forestry education comprising mainly the rehabilitation of the Forestry Training Institute in Tubmanburg, Bomi County and capacity building for the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and the University of Liberia.
- The other project is the formulation of a reforestation policy in accordance with the 2006 National Forestry Law.

Agence France Presses

Monday, 10 November 2008

Liberian peacekeepers step up patrol along Ivorian border

MONROVIA (AFP) - UN peacekeeping troops in Liberia said Friday that they have stepped up patrols on the border with Ivory Coast after media reports of rebel incursions.

"As a precaution we have increased our vigilance to intensive foot patrol, dismounted patrol and air patrol in the area," the new commander of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Lieutenant General Abu Tayeb Muhammad Zahirul Alam told AFP.

A newspaper reported in late October that Liberian rebels who want to overthrow the government, had crossed into the country from Ivory Coast and caused unrest. The reports did not specify who the rebels were.

Many Liberians are still traumatized by the 14 year civil war up to 2003 which left more than 250,000 people dead. That war started when rebels led by Charles Taylor crossed into Liberia from Ivory Coast.

UNMIL took the reports and the population's concern seriously, Alam said, but had not yet found "anything substantial" to back up the reports.

UNMIL maintains security in Liberia. Set up in 2003, it was for several years was the largest UN force in Africa with more than 13,000 peacekeepers. Last year the UN started reducing troop numbers as disarmament was completed and security improved. There are now about 11,000 peacekeepers and it will be further reduced to 10,000 next year, the commander said.

The UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo has 16,000 soldiers while the missions in Ivory Coast and Darfur have about 8,000 peacekeepers each.

BBC

Monday, 10 November 2008

Senior Rwandan official arrested

Ms Kabuye has heroic status in Rwanda as an MP and former guerrilla
German police have arrested a senior Rwandan official in connection with the killing of a previous president whose death triggered the 1994 genocide.

Rose Kabuye - the chief of protocol for current Rwandan President Paul Kagame - was detained on arrival at Frankfurt on a warrant issued by a French judge.

She is one of nine senior Rwandan officials wanted over the shooting down of Juvenal Habyarimana's plane.

All are members of the party which ousted the genocidal regime.

Correspondents say Ms Kabuye, a former guerrilla fighter with the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), now Rwanda's ruling party, has heroic status in Rwanda.

She has served as an MP and mayor of the capital Kigali, and is one of President Kagame's closest aides.

The plane carrying Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down on 6 April 1994, as Mr Kagame's Tutsi rebels were advancing on Kigali.

The Hutu extremist government accused the RPF of the assassination. Shortly afterwards, militias set up roadblocks and started to systematically murder any Tutsis or moderate Hutus they could find.

The RPF has always accused the Hutu extremists of shooting down the plane, to provide a pretext for carrying out their genocidal plans.

Some 800,000 people were slaughtered in just 100 days before Mr Kagame's forces ousted the Hutu government.

A German diplomat told AFP news agency that Ms Kabuye had been in Germany on private business and that Germany was "bound to arrest her" by a French-issued European arrest warrant.

Ms Kabuye has visited the country before but under German law could not be arrested as she was part of an official delegation.

"Rwanda has been made aware on several recent occasions that if Ms Kabuye returned to Germany she would be arrested," said the diplomat.

Diplomatic row

Ms Kabuye's lawyer said she would be transferred to France "as quickly as possible".

"She is ready to speak to the judges, especially since, to our knowledge, there isn't much in the dossier," said Leon-Lef Forster, referring to the evidence against his client.

AFP quoted Rwandan Information Minister Louise Mushikiwabo as saying that Ms Kabuye's arrest was a "misuse of international jurisdiction".

Ms Kabuye and the eight other senior RPF officials were indicted in France in 2006 following an investigation.

The BBC's Alasdair Sandford in Paris says the charge led to an immediate break in diplomatic relations between Paris and Kigali which has continued ever since.

Mr Kagame has long accused France of complicity in the genocide.

Earlier this year, Ms Kabuye's lawyers complained that they were being denied access to the indictment dossier, and criticised what they described as France's "silence" over the case, says our correspondent.

The African Union (AU) has said arrest warrants would not be recognised in AU countries and has also accused France of violating international law by failing to bring the case to trial.

Voice of America

Monday, 10 November 2008

Kigali Expresses Displeasure Over Diplomat's Arrest in Germany

By Peter Clottey

Rwanda's chief of protocol goes before a French judge today (Monday) after she was arrested in Germany over allegations of participating in the assassination of the country's former president, an event that triggered the country's 1994 genocide. Rose Kabuye, who was a leading member of a former rebel group, was arrested Sunday on her arrival at Frankfurt Airport under a French-issued arrest warrant. She is the first Rwandan to be arrested out of nine warrants issued by French judge Jean-Louis Bruguire in 2006 against close aides of President Paul Kagame for their alleged role in the assassination of former President Juvenal Habyarimana.

The death of the former president is widely believed to have started the 1994 genocide in which 800 thousand minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed over a 100-day period. But President Paul Kagame's government Sunday rejected the arrests citing European political manipulation against Rwanda.

Jean Bosco Gasasira is the editor of the Umuvugizi independent newspaper. He tells reporter Peter Clottey from the capital, Kigali that President Kagame's government hurriedly organized a news conference to explain its displeasure with the arrest of the diplomat.

"The news conference was unexpected, it was very urgent and it was called tonight explaining the arrest of retired colonel Rose Kabuye. They were explaining that her arrest was politically manipulated and was saying that if the European countries continue to base their action on such political indictment, the international jurisdiction is going to be in anarchy," Gasasira noted.

He said the government sharply denied that Rose Kabuye, who is currently the chief of protocol in President Kagame's government, was responsible for the charges being leveled against her.

"They (government) are saying that colonel Rose Kabuye was among those who stopped the genocide. And for them (Europeans) they are saying that she committed war crimes or was among those who shot ex-President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane. But the government is saying that is manipulation or fraud justice, claiming that it was not true of the charges leveled against her (Kabuye). The government is calling on all European countries where the indictment holds not to respond to them," he said.

Gasasira said President Kagame's government has strongly protested the arrest of its chief of protocol to the German ambassador in Kigali.

"The foreign affairs minister just told journalists that the German Ambassador to Rwanda was called yesterday (Sunday) afternoon so that they could tell him how Rwanda is unhappy about what happened in Rose Kabuye's arrest," Gasasira noted.

He said Kigali is promising to do whatever it takes to ensure the safety of the chief of protocol.

"Colonel Rose Kabuye is going to be transferred from Germany to France. And we should be reminded that she is supposed to appear today (Monday). She is supposed to appear in front of the judge on the allegations of war crimes and the shooting down of the plane of the former Rwanda President Juvenal

Habyarimana. And the government is saying that if at all she needs any assistance, they are going to be there for her, both financial and legal assistance," he said.

Gasasira said the government is dismissing the charges as unsubstantiated.

"The government is blaming the European countries saying that the allegations on both Rose Kabuye and her former colleagues that is the four RDF (Rwanda Defense Forces) in the former rebel movement who were indicted, they are saying those allegations are baseless, and that these are manipulations against the Rwanda Defense Forces," Gasasira pointed out.

He said the French army has filed a suit against Kigali over defamation.

"Last week the French Army sued the Rwandan government for defamation after the Kigali government accused French soldiers of having a hand in the country's 1994 genocide. So, there is all along the fight between Rwanda and France, each accusing the other of having an upper hand in the genocide and committing war crimes," he said.

Meanwhile, In April, Kabuye sparked controversy by visiting Germany as part of an official delegation headed by Kagame. But Berlin at the time acknowledged its government was not aware of the French arrest warrant, adding that German law prevented it from taking action against representatives of foreign states or their delegations it had invited to visit.

Both Rwanda and France have long traded and refuted accusations of involvement in the genocide. Kigali broke off ties with Paris following the French arrest warrants. In August, the Rwandan government issued a 500-page report accusing 13 French politicians of playing a role in the massacres, including then-president Francois Mitterrand, who died in 1996, and former prime minister Edouard Balladur. The report alleged France's complicity saying Paris was aware of preparations for the genocide, and significantly contributed to planning and participating in the massacres.