

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



Prosecutor Stephen Rapp addresses members of the press on Wednesday at the Sierra Leone News Agency.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Thursday, 11 October 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Office of the Prosecutor

Wednesday, 10 October 2007

Press Statement

Statement by the Prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, Following CDF Sentencing Judgement

We meet today following yesterday's sentencing of the two convicted persons in the CDF case, Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa. This was the second judgement handed down by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Once again the judges have upheld the rule of law and recognized the suffering of the people of Sierra Leone and the horrific crimes committed during the country's civil war.

In yesterday's CDF sentencing the Court specifically referenced shocking crimes committed by CDF forces. Presiding Justice Benjamin Itoe spoke of women having stakes driven into their genitals and out of their mouths and their entrails use to mark roadways. They also noted that the two Accused had been responsible for the murder of more than 200 civilians, people who were not rebel collaborators, some who were chosen merely because of their ethnicity.

As the judges emphasized, there can be no justification for these crimes. The majority rejected any justification of these acts, stating that accepting the defense of necessity would negate the resolve of the international community. And as the Court further emphasized in its judgement, there is no question as to the responsibility of the convicted persons for these crimes.

The judges found there were several mitigating factors that justified a reduction of sentences of Fofana and Kondewa. Some of these factors are well recognized. They did cite a new factor, their motivations to restore democracy. Of course, many who engage in conflict and who may commit horrible crimes may originally have noble reasons to do so, including the desire to overthrow a purportedly oppressive government and to put into effect a beneficial program for the people. The acceptance of such factors could be used to escape significant punishment for grave crimes committed by all sides, and diminish the protection to innocent civilians. The imposition of short sentences for terrible crimes can also fail to consider and acknowledge the impact of the crimes on the victims.

The pain of awful crimes inflicted on innocent civilians is every bit as terrible when done by defence forces as by rebel groups. The strikes of the machetes and of the bullets did the same damage to human flesh. There can be no justification for the killing of innocent unarmed civilians, and for pillage, collective punishment and the use of children under the age of 15 in armed hostilities.

We are concerned about the imposition of sentences of this length for unquestioned crimes of this terrible nature. We are concerned as well about the potential impact of such a ruling on future war zones where domestic forces fight rebel groups. The innocent in war must always be protected, and must know they are safe from being targeted by any side in the conflict.

We will look at this sentencing judgement closely and deliberate on the possibility of Appeal. Regarding the judgement more generally, we are also looking at possible appeals on the acquittals for crimes against humanity and the acquittal of Fofana for use of child soldiers.

Our Appeals Chamber has been established to review judgments such as this one and to be sure that the final decisions of the Special Court will be a strong precedent applicable to other courts in the region and in the world and will establish an effective deterrent against the commission of the grave crimes like those suffered by the people of Sierra Leone.

* * *

Awoko

Thursday, 11 October 2007

Special Court Prosecutor says...

CDF sentence too short

By Betty Milton

Some 24 hours after the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone handed down six and eight year jail terms on the two Civil Defence Forces (CDF) commanders on war crime charges, Prosecutor Stephen Rapp yesterday told journalists at the Sierra

Leone News Agency (SLENA) office that the sentence was too short as compared to the crimes committed by the convicts.

Prosecutor Rapp explained that they believe that the sentencing was "too short given the seriousness of the crimes and their impact on victims and to deter similar crimes by all sides in future civil wars."

"We are concerned about the imposition of sentencing of this length for unquestioned crimes of this terrible nature and about the potential impact of such a ruling on future zones where domestic forces fight rebel groups."

Speaking on the issue of an Appeal, the Prosecutor said that anytime a party or prosecutor runs into a legal decision that one party is not

happy with, that does not automatically mean there will be an Appeal.

Explaining that "an Appeal depends upon the law, it depends upon the standards for a general law one cannot succeed on an appeal unless the decision is way off base. If it's just a little way off base it may be impossible to change.

But we have to look at the law in particular with other courts in regards to the sentencing issues and determine whether there is a significant chance of success on an Appeal."

The Prosecutor stressed "We are going to view all the cases around the world to determine whether we have good grounds of appeal. If we

are not satisfied and we think there is a strong policy argument for an appeal, and if we think there are, we will proceed with an Appeal."

Mr Rapp further said that based upon the grounds of an Appeal the Judges can change the sentences as it is a general rule that both the Prosecution and defence can Appeal,

"But there should be strong grounds for the Appeal Chambers to change the judgment."

On the issue of factors raised by the judges in the sentence Prosecutor Rapp maintained that some of which includes

motivation but whether the person is motivated by democracy or by desire to bring about a better future is always going to be existing in the heart of many people who fight.

"that kind of motivation doesn't justify killing of innocent civilian or women as the motivation to restore democracy, have been argued by all the indictees as they claim that they have motivation when they went to war."

"We think that factor is something which is dangerous in terms of protecting the people as lots of people who have committed crimes may have a lot of good motives but that doesn't excuse the crimes" he added.

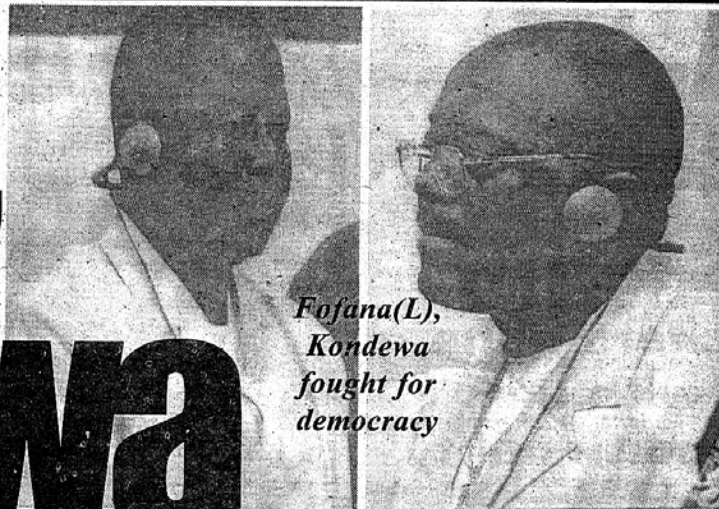
The News

Thursday, 11 October 2007

As CDF trial ends...

Fofana,

Kondewa



*Fofana(L),
Kondewa
fought for
democracy*

and 4 years jail term in respect of counts 5 and 7. He had already spent four

and-half years in the detention facilities at the Special Court and he will now serve for only a year and a month as the sentences will run concurrently.

Alieu Kondewa was also convicted on count 2, 4, 5 and 7 respectively. He received 8 year jail term for count 2. He will have

Cont. page 2

may appeal

Fofana, Kondewa may appeal

From front page

to serve for 3 years. The convicts are at liberty to appeal.

The two men contributed greatly towards the return of the democratically elected government of

former president Ahmed Kabbah but were indicted by the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

The Exclusive

Thursday, 11 October 2007

Over CDF Sentence...

Margai Seeks Appeal

By Musa Sesay

Despite the lighter jail sentences slammed by the Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone on two CDF indictees Moinina Fofana

and Alieu Kondowa, legal luminary representing Alieu Musa Kondewa Charles Francis Magai has said he is contemplating on

filing an appeal on the verdict of the Trial Chamber.

"Notwithstanding the favourable outcome we are still contemplating on an appeal," Margai told The Exclusive after judgement was de-

livered. As far as Margai was concerned, there was no winner or loser in the marathon trial.

His client Alieu

Kondowa was slammed an eight year jail term including the four years he had already spent in detention.

Before delivering judg-
Contd. page 2



Margai Seeks Appeal

From front page

ment past Tuesday, a member of the panel of judges, Sierra Leonean born Justice Thompson expressed his dissent opinion over the judgement. According to a letter written to his colleagues, the CDF indictees were not culpable under Necessity of Defence.

According to Justice Benjamin Itoe, necessity cannot be sustained as a defense and therefore not a mitigating factor.

"We can't negate the norms and compromise the objectives which the international court stands to achieve," he said. Alieu Kondewa he said, deeply express re-

gret and remorse while Moinina Fofana the Trial Chamber noted, was committed to the Lome Accord and worked with community based organizations and also received certificate of good conduct. Their exemplary behaviour the Trial chamber recognized, was as a mitigating factor.

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7 years sentence for CDF indictees

By Aminata Khumala

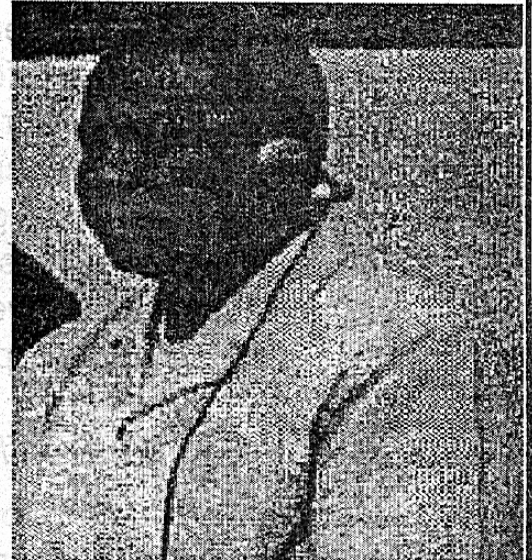
Justice Itoe revealed that the date for the commencement of the jail term for the two CDF indictees takes effect from the date of their arrest, i.e. 29th May 2003 to the day of sentencing.

According to the Presiding Judge, this means that Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondewa who were indicted on eight-court charges would now serve a jail term of three and four years respectively.

The two former leaders of the Sierra Leone CDF militia were convicted of war crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war.

Trial Chamber 1 convicted Moinima Fofanah and Allieu Kondewa on a four-count with murder, cruel treatment, pillage and collective punishment while Allieu Kondewa was convicted on an additional count for the recruitment of child combatants under the age of 15.

The three judge panel consisting of the Presiding Judge, Justice Benjamin Itoe, Justices Bankole



(Right to Left) Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondewa

Thompson and Pierre Boutet found the two indictees not guilty of two-counts of crimes against humanity and one-count of war crimes.

Furthermore, Moinina Fofanah was not found guilty on the charge of recruiting child combatants.

Delivering the verdict, Justice Itoe asserted that the sentence would send a strong signal to anybody or pro-democracy civilian or militia groups to desist utilizing children as instruments of war

in addition to strictly abiding to internationally accepted standards of

war such as the Geneva Conventions and its additional protocols.

New Vision

Thursday, 11 October 2007

CDF Commanders Go For 6, 8 yrs

Two former commanders of the Civil Defence Force, Monina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa have been sentenced to six and eight years imprisonment respectively.

The United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone

convicted the two men on murder, cruel treatment, among other charges.

Mr. Fofana who was indicted in 2003 will now spend only two years in prison while Mr. Kondewa will spend four years.

Standard Times

Thursday, 11 October 2007

Over CDF Judgment...

Prosecutor seeks to appeal

BY EDWARD MARAH

The prosecutor of the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone Mr. Stephen Rapp has expressed disappointment at the short sentences handed down on the two convicted persons in the Civil Defence Force (CDF) case Moinina Fofana, and Allieu Kondowa on Tuesday 9th October 2007 by the judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

In a press conference held on Wednesday 10th October 2007 at SLENA, Mr. Stephen Rapp told the

press that the convicted persons committed the same war crimes and against humanity and were responsible for the murder of more than two hundred civilians during the war. Their victims included people that were not rebel collaborators, some of whom had fallen on their commands because of their ethnicity, he said.

The Special Court prosecutor maintained that though the two men fought to restore democracy, yet the pain of awful crimes inflicted on their innocent victims is every bit as terrible done

by the defense forces and the rebel groups.

He stated that the strikes of the machetes and the bullets did the same damage to their victims' human flesh. "There can be no justification for the killing of innocent unarmed civilians and for pillage, collective punishment and the use of children under the age of fifteen (15) in armed hostilities", noted Mr. Rapp, who further stated that they were concerned about the imposition of the sentences of this length for unquestionable crimes of this terrible nature as well as about

the potential impact of such a ruling on the future war zones where the domestic forces fought the rebel groups.

He concluded saying that the innocent in war must always be protected and must know that they are safe from being targeted by any side in the conflict. Mr. Rapp informed that they will look into the sentencing judgment closely and deliberate on the possibility of appealing. They are also looking at possible appeals on the acquittals for crimes against humanity and the acquittal of Moinina Fofana for use of child soldiers.

Premier News

Thursday, 11 October 2007

President Kabbah will not face Special Court

Contrary to speculations doing the rounds in Freetown, Premier News can authoritatively reveal

that President Kabbah will not be indicted by the Special Court. This was revealed by the Chief of

Public Affairs of the Special court, Peter Anderson, in an interview

Continued page 4

President Kabbah will not face Special Court

From page 2

with Premier News. He, in fact stated that the court has no intention of indicting any more persons.

He was however quick to point out that this does not mean that a serving President cannot be indicted for war crimes, giving the case of Charles

still President of Liberia, as an example. Taylor, is now standing trial in the Special Court in the Hague and the trial has been adjourned to January.

Mr. Anderson explained that the mandate of the Special Court is more restrictive than the tribunals for Yugoslavia

and that the emphasis of the court was on those bearing the greatest responsibility for crimes committed during the war.

Anderson maintained that it was never intended for the Special Court to indict a large number of people.

Premier News

Thursday, 11 October 2007

SPECIAL COURT ARREST AWAITS JOHNNY PAUL

BY JUNIA SPENCER &
ALPHAB. KAMARA

The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Steven Rapp disclosed on Wednesday that the indictment of AFRC leader Johnny Paul Koroma still stands. "We are investigating stories in relation to the whereabouts of Johnny Paul Koroma and we will chase down the truth", he said.

Rapp said that as long as Koroma is alive he would be brought to book to face the charges against him. He further disclosed that one of three options will be used by the Special Court. The first of these is that Koroma will be arrested and tried by the Special Court. The other alternatives are that the court will confirm by the use of forensic evidence that he is dead as current rumors state,

or that the court will put the necessary mechanism in place to ensure that he is tried in court if he resurfaces even after the Special Court has completed its assignment in 2009 and left Sierra Leone.

On the issue of whether more people will be indicted, Rapp confirmed the assertion by the

Spokesman of the court, Mr. Peter Anderson as reported in this paper, by saying though a prosecutor never says 'never', it

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Cotton Tree News

Wednesday, 10 October 2007

UN Court Sentence Two

The UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone on Tuesday sentenced two former leaders of the Civil Defence Forces. In a jam-packed session, the court handed down sentences on Fofanah and Kondewah for six and eight years respectively. Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa were convicted in August. They had earlier pleaded not guilty to eight counts charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law during the country's eleven-year civil war.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone had indicted a total of thirteen people, including the former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

The Special Court handed down its first sentences in July against three senior members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council.

Agence France-Presse
Wednesday, 10 October 2007

Prosecution may appeal light terms for SLeone militia chiefs

The prosecution at the UN-backed court for Sierra Leone Wednesday said it may appeal the light jail terms handed to two former militia bosses for atrocities during the west African nation's savage civil war.

Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, leaders of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) -- a notorious pro-government force which recruited traditional hunters to fight rebels during the 1991-2001 conflict -- were Tuesday jailed for six and eight years respectively.

The terms were a far cry from the 30-year sentence sought by the prosecution for the various war crime charges they were convicted for.

"We are not happy with the sentences and will study the decision carefully for an appeal within the next two weeks," the tribunal's chief prosecutor Stephen Rapp told reporters.

"We are concerned about the imposition of sentences of this length for unquestioned crimes of this terrible nature," he added.

While pronouncing the sentences, judge Benjamin Itoe said it was clear that the crimes committed by two were "serious".

But he expressed "the hope that the judgement will send a message to all that it is now time for all to bury the hatchet of war in the interest of peace."

As a parallel force to the regular army, the CDF fought rebels from the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in a war that claimed, according to UN estimates, some 120,000 lives and left tens of thousands mutilated.

The court justified the shorter sentences compared to the 45- to 50-year terms slapped on some rebel leaders in July, on mitigating factors including the CDF's role in restoring democracy in the battered and impoverished nation.

The court said the CDF "contributed immensely to re-establishing the rule of law in this country where criminality, anarchy and lawlessness ... had become the order of the day".

"It is now time for reconciliation and forgiveness," said Itoe.

But Rapp expressed concern about "the potential impact of such a ruling on future war zones where domestic forces fight rebel groups."

"There can be no justification for the killing of innocent unarmed civilians ... and the use of children under the age of 15 in armed hostilities," he said.

"The pain of awful crimes inflicted on innocent civilians is (in) every bit as terrible when done by defence forces as by rebel groups. The strikes of machetes and of the bullets did the same damage to human flesh," he said.

The two men were found guilty of war crimes but acquitted of charges of crimes against humanity.

Many Sierra Leoneans believe the CDF and its Kamajor fighters helped rein in the brutal RUF rebels and protect villagers in the vulnerable hinterland of the diamond-rich country.

Set up in January 2002 through a treaty between the Sierra Leone government and the United Nations, the tribunal is prosecuting those responsible for war crimes.

Chief among those in the dock is former Liberian leader and warlord Charles Taylor, who is the first African head of state to face warcrimes charges in an international court.

Associated Press

Wednesday, 10 October 2007

Prosecution to appeal for harsher sentences in Sierra Leone war crimes case

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY, Associated Press Writer

Prosecutors in Sierra Leone said Wednesday they will appeal for longer jail terms for two former pro-government militia leaders, saying the six- and eight- year sentences by a U.N.-backed court a day earlier were too lenient for their brutal crimes.

The prosecution had asked for 30-year-terms for Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, who were among the leaders of the Civil Defense Forces, or CDF, which used a network of tribal-based hunters known as the Kamajors to fight various rebel groups during the country's 1991-2002 war.

The relatively light sentences six years for Fofana and eight for Kondewa were viewed as a victory for the defense. The charges against the CDF had fueled controversy in the West African country, where many argue the tribal-based force should be praised for helping save the nation.

"Many who engage in conflict and who may commit horrible crimes may originally have noble reasons to do so, including the desire to overthrow a purportedly oppressive government and to put into effect a beneficial program for the people," Rapp said. But "the acceptance of such factors could be used to escape significant punishment for grave crimes committed by all sides, and diminish the protection to innocent civilians."

"We are concerned about the imposition of short sentences of this length for unquestioned crimes of this terrible nature," Rapp told reporters. "We are concerned as well about the potential impact of such ruling on future war zones where domestic forces fight rebel groups. The innocent in war must always be protected and must know they are safe from being targeted by any side in the conflict."

Fofana and Kondewa were both convicted on four counts involving murder, cruel treatment, pillage and issuing collective punishment. Kondewa was convicted on an additional count of conscripting child soldiers.

Rapp said the two were "responsible for the murder of more than 200 civilians, people who were not rebel collaborators, some who were chosen merely because of their ethnicity."

He also noted that presiding Judge Benjamin Itoe himself spoke of the brutal nature of CDF's crimes, including driving stakes into women's genitals and using the entrails of victims to mark roadways.

Announcing the verdicts Tuesday, Itoe said the sentences were short partly because the CDF "contributed immensely to re-establishing the rule of law in this country where criminality, anarchy and lawlessness ... had become the order of the day."

Still, he added that the brutality of their methods could not go unpunished.

Rapp said the prosecution's appeal would be formally made within two weeks.

Fofana and Kondewa issued public statements expressing their regret for their organization's role in the bloody war.

Sierra Leone's Special Court was set up after the end of the war to hold accountable those most responsible for atrocities committed during years of vicious fighting. During the war, various groups burned villages, chopped off people's hands with machetes and went on campaigns of rape.

In July, the court sentenced three former rebel leaders to 45- to 50-year prison terms, the first punishments handed down by the war crimes tribunal since it was set up five years ago.

It is estimated that about half a million people were victims of killings, systematic mutilation and other atrocities during years of fighting in Sierra Leone.

Voice of America

Thursday, 11 October 2007

Sierra Leone Prosecutors Consider Appealing Light Jail Sentences

By Howard Lesser
Washington, DC

Prosecutors at the UN – backed Special Court for Sierra Leone say they are considering an appeal of Tuesday’s light jail sentences handed down against two pro-government Civil Defense Force (CDF) commanders. The prosecution had sought 30-year sentences against Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, who were found guilty in August of war crimes, including murder, cruel treatment, pillaging, and other criminal acts committed during the country’s 11-year civil war. Kondewa also was punished for conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 into the armed forces. But Presiding Judge Benjamin Itoe said that mitigating factors, including the CDF’s efforts to restore a democratically elected government, had contributed to this week’s ruling.

Attorney Elise Keppler is counsel with the International Justice Program at the watchdog group Human Rights Watch. She says the shorter sentences, which include convictions on multiple penalties, will be served concurrently, not cumulatively.

“As far as I understand it, the information from the Special Court suggests that the sentences will be served concurrently. And that means that Fofana will serve a total of six years and Kondewa will serve a total of eight years,” she said.

The court’s Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp said his team will consider appealing Justice Itoe’s decision over the next two weeks and objected that the sentences did not reflect the horrible nature of the defendants’ crimes. Fofana’s and Kondewa’s jail time has been back-dated to commence on May 29, 2003, the date the Special Court took the men into custody. However, Keppler says the sentencing guidelines have been shaped according to the court’s mandate to show impartiality by treating all perpetrators of heinous acts fairly and equally under the law.

“The work of the Special Court overall, from Human Rights Watch’s perspective, has made an important contribution to seeking justice for the most serious crimes committed during the Sierra Leone conflict. And by our fact-finding, the conflict was extremely brutal and involved abuses such as families being gunned down in the streets, widespread sexual abuse, child recruitment. One of the more significant aspects of the work of the Special Court is that persons associated with all of the warring factions were indicted by the court, including the Civil Defense Forces, which was associated with government forces. And that has gone a long way, from our perspective, according to local civil society groups, in demonstrating the court’s impartiality and also signals that regardless of the associations of the perpetrators, no one is above the law when it comes to these kinds of crimes, and these kinds of crimes will not be tolerated, regardless of the associations of the perpetrator,” said Keppler.

The 2-1 split guilty verdict in August exonerated Kondewa and Fofana on charges of crimes against humanity, one of the most serious offenses still facing former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is also being tried for his role in the Sierra Leone conflict. Whether or not the current sentencing will affect the conduct of the Taylor trial, Keppler says the process sets a tone for the entire country to address its turbulent past.

“The Taylor trial is expected to start up again in January. I think the whole general process of what the Special Court has been doing has a very important impact in promoting rule of law in Sierra Leone. And the process of putting these alleged perpetrators who have not been convicted, and the administration of the trials of those associated with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) is a crucial process in rebuilding Sierra Leone, bringing redress to victims, and really sending a signal that these crimes will not be tolerated,” noted Keppler.

United Press International

Wednesday, 10 October 2007

Sierra Leone War Criminals Headed To Jail

by Staff

A U.N.-backed tribunal sentenced two former Sierra Leone militia leaders to prison after they were convicted of war crimes.

Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa were sentenced to prison by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for various war crimes committed while they served as leaders in a pro-government militia in the 1990s, the U.N. News Service said.

Fofana, who once served as the National Director of War for the Civil Defense Forces, was sentenced by the court to six years in prison for war crimes ranging from cruel treatment to homicide.

For his actions while acting as the militia group's former High Priest, Kondewa was given an eight-year prison sentence by the tribunal.

The Civil Defense Forces had supported the government of Sierra Leone during the African country's violent civil war in the 1990s.

The U.N. News Service said the special court was created to bring those responsible for the various atrocities committed during that bloody conflict to justice. (c) UPI

Star Radio (Liberia)

Wednesday, 10 October 2007

Sierra Leone UN Court Jails Two Former Militia Leaders

The UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone has passed prison sentences on two former leaders of the Civil Defence Force [CDF]. The court sentenced Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa to six and eight years respectively for the role they played in the country's civil war.

A release issued by the court said the men were sentenced yesterday following their conviction in August. The two former CDF leaders were found guilty for recruiting under-aged children into the armed group and using them to actively take part in hostilities.

The prosecution had asked for longer terms of imprisonment but Presiding Justice Benjamin Itoe mitigated the sentences.

The sentences will run retroactively from 29 May 2003, the date the two former CDF officials were taken into custody by the Special Court.

Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Programme

Tuesday,, 9 October 2007

Special Court for Sierra Leone Issued Sentencing Judgments on the CDF Trial

By Joseph A.K Sesay

This afternoon Trial Chamber I of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) issued its first sentences in the case of the Prosecutor against Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, former leaders of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF). Presiding Justice Benjamin Mutanga Itoe read the judgement that sentenced Moinina Fofana to six (6) years in prison and Allieu Kondewa to eight (8) years in prison with credit for the time they were detained pending trial. Unlike the Court's first set of global sentences in the case of alleged Leaders of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Counsel (AFRC), Trial Chamber I issued separate sentences on the counts for which the Accused were convicted. Fofana was sentenced to a separate six years in prison for counts 2 and 4, three years for count 5 and four years for count 7. Kondewa was sentenced to a separate eight years in prison for counts 2 and 4, five years for count five, six years for count 7 and seven years for count 8. The Court orders that these sentences should be served concurrently.

As a full courtroom listened, Justice Benjamin Mutanga Itoe first tendered his appreciation to all those who have in diverse ways participated towards the success of the trials and informed the court that the Accused persons have expressly profess their remorse and that this have been taken into consideration in mitigating their sentences. He charged them with the responsibility to live up to their words. He outlined the factors that the Court considered in issuing its judgement pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Statute for the SCSL: the gravity of the offence, the individual circumstances of the accused, aiding and abetting the commission of crimes and the failure to prevent the commission of crimes, the mitigating and aggravating circumstances surrounding the commission of crimes and the accused's behavior after the end of the conflict. He said that the Court would not be bound by the sentencing practices of Sierra Leone, given that none of the accused were charged with crimes under Sierra Leonean law. The judgement also ruled on issues raised at the sentencing hearing on Wednesday, 19 September 2007: the legality of the Fofana Defence to attempt to call on new character witness that was not introduced during the trial and the admissibility of a character report. The Chamber found that the Fofana defence cannot call on new witness at this stage of the trial but admits the report on Fofana's character.

After a lengthy and graphic description of the crimes for which the accused were convicted, the judgement discussed the Prosecution and Defence submissions and Trial Chamber deliberations on each sentencing factor for each accused. While Defence theoretically benefited from only needing to satisfy a balance of probabilities in establishing mitigating factors, rather than the Prosecution standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt," the Chamber still rejected all proposed mitigating factors unless the expression of remorse. While the Chamber found that a command position could not serve as an aggravating factor for crimes for which the defendant was convicted via command responsibility because it already served as an element of those crimes, it could serve as an aggravating factor for crimes where the defendant was convicted via direct responsibility. After describing the considerations surrounding the Chamber's deliberations, the judgement ruled that sentences should be served from the date each Accused was taken into the Court's custody.

The Prosecution indicted Fofanah and Kondewa in June 2003, after Norman 's March 2003 indictment. On 31 May 2004 , the Appeals Chamber ruled that the recruitment of child soldiers had reified as a crime under customary international law before the beginning of the period covered by the Special Court 's mandate, a key decision allowing the recruitment of child soldiers to be charged as a crime by the Special Court . In June 2004 the Chamber joined the three trials. The Prosecution presented 75 Prosecution witnesses over 131 trial days, and the Defence teams collectively presented 44 Defence Witnesses over 112 trial days. After Norman 's death in February 2007, the Trial Chamber terminated proceedings against him, over the objections of his counsel. Judgments were handed down on 2nd August 2007 with a sentencing hearing on the 19th September 2007 .

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 10 October 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

10/10/2007 07:36:56

Conflict costs Africa "as much as solving HIV/AIDS crisis": report

Clare Byrne, dpa

Source: Dpa English Date: October 10, 2007

Johannesburg_(dpa) _ Conflict costs Africa each year more than would be required to solve the continent's HIV/AIDS crisis, a study by three non-governmental organizations (NGOs) calling for stricter controls on global arms sales showed Thursday. The Africa's Missing Billions study, carried out by Oxfam International, the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) and British NGO Saferworld, estimated at nearly 300 billion dollars the cost to Africa of conflict between 1990 and 2005. Conflicts in 23 countries was found to have cost the continent around as much as Africa had received in international aid over the same period. "In my own country conflict has led to the squandering of rich mineral, agricultural and human resources that should have benefited Liberia and its people," Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf wrote in the foreword to the report.

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Prosecution may appeal light terms for S/Leone militia chiefs

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: October 10, 2007

FREETOWN, Oct 10, 2007 (AFP) - The prosecution at the UN-backed court for Sierra Leone Wednesday said it may appeal the light jail terms handed to two former militia bosses for atrocities during the west African nation's savage civil war. Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, leaders of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) -- a notorious pro-government force which recruited traditional hunters to fight rebels during the 1991-2001 conflict -- were Tuesday jailed for six and eight years respectively.

Local Media – Newspaper

Solicitor General Re-echoes Corruption in Judiciary but Chief Justice vows to weed out corrupt judges

(National Chronicle)

- Liberia's Solicitor General Counselor Tiawon Gongloe on Monday reiterated the issue of corrupt practices in the judiciary, which he said needs to be changed if the country is to rise above the waters. Counselor Gongloe made the assertions when he proxied for President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf at the opening of the October Term of Court.

- Meanwhile, Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis said his administration will create training for members of the judiciary while at the same time weed out incompetent and corrupt members of the judiciary.

Daily Observer Reporter Claims 'Sex' Allegation was taken out of context

(The News and Public Agenda)

- Mae Azango, the Liberian Daily Observer reporter who is at the centre of a controversy over statement attributed to her that female journalists in Liberia were being asked for sex in exchange of information has dispatched comments on the issue for the first time, from the United States, implying that she was taken out of context.
- Azango pointed out that the FrontPage Africa website in its story insinuated that she said female journalists in Liberia were being asked for sex in exchange of information and that the practice was prevalent.
- In a press release sent to media houses via E-mail Monday, Azango clarified that she spoke on the general challenges female practicing journalism in Liberia could face in the discharge of their functions, noting that sexual harassment (not sex) could pose a challenge in the context of gender sensitivity, especially where recent reports of rape and sexual molestation was rampant.
- She explained that, "when I referred to news sources, I wasn't in anyway implying news makers or government officials were asking sex in exchange for information. I simply implied that a female journalist could face the temptation of sexual solicitation from a confidential source aiding a leak of information from government or private individual."
- Journalist Azango said her concern was drawn to recent media speculation and misinterpretation that has been generated as a result of a statement attributed to her in a Community Town Hall Forum in Rhode Island on September 29, 2007. She said these concerns were raised against the backdrop of the larger access to information debate and wasn't an isolated statement.

MITTAL Steel Signs US\$21M Contract to Reconstruct Port of Buchanan Port and Railway

(The Informer, The Inquirer and Daily Observer)

- The global steel giant, Arcelor Mittal otherwise known in Liberia as Mittal Steel, has signed a US\$21 million contract with an American-Canadian-Brazilian firm for engineering and project management of largely survey and consultancy services on the reconstruction of the Port of Buchanan, a 300-kilometer railway and a survey on mines in Yekepa.
- Three senior vice presidents from the company, who were in the country over the last few days, made the disclosure at a press briefing before their departure Tuesday. Most print media outlets perceived the development to mean that the company is now set to commence operation in the country.

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

New Foreign Minister Sees Surmountable Challenges at the Ministry

- At a ceremony to takeover as the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Olubankie-King Akerele said that there are difficult but surmountable challenges associated with the position of Foreign Minister, especially with the refocusing and reorienting of Liberia's foreign policy highlighting the Country's traditional values and policies of promoting good neighbourliness, sub-regional peace and security.
- Minister Akerele also announced that the Government has secured international assistance for the nation's reconstruction and renewal efforts stressing that as Foreign Minister, the Country would continue to pursue closer ties with its traditional friends while seeking new avenues of engagement, mutual friendship and solidarity.

- The Foreign Minister stated that she would address the difficult challenges facing Liberian foreign missions, the issue of passport and the reintroduction of the inspection of Liberia's missions abroad.
- For his part, the outgoing Foreign Minister George Wallace said that he was leaving the Ministry with honour, pride and untainted character having served diligently since 1953 beginning as a cadet.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

Renowned Medical Ship to Set up Unit at Major Medical Centre

- Touring the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Medical Centre yesterday, a member of the Board of Directors of Mercy Ship, an international medical ship, Ann Gore said that the group was considering the possibility of establishing a unit at the JFK, equipping and providing manpower for it. The Ship will leave Liberia shortly having rendered free medical services to Liberians.
- The Centre's General Administrator, Dr. Wannie Scott-McDonald thanked the charity organization for the medical assistance the Ship rendered but said that enormous challenges still exist at the Hospital.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

Internal Affairs Minister Says UNHCR Turns Support to IDPs

- Internal Affairs Minister Ambullai Johnson told correspondents that the UNHCR has switched its support from refugees to internally displaced persons. Thus, his Ministry has begun a campaign to sensitize Liberian refugees who are refusing to return home, of this latest development.
- Minister Johnson said that during a meeting in Switzerland, authorities of Ghana and Nigeria were concern about the huge presence of Liberians in their Countries following the expiration of UNHCR repatriation program.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

Government Arrests Illicit Diamond Miners at Kungbor

- The Director of the Bureau of Mines at the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, Bartholomew Tingbe said that the Ministry arrested two illicit diamond miners in the Kungbor area of Gbarpolu County and in Sinoe County.
- Speaking to Radio Veritas, Mr. Tingbe said that one of the illicit miners, a woman, was arrested in the Kungbor area with 9.16 karats of diamond worth about US\$5,000 which has been deposited at the Government diamond office as further investigation was underway.
- The other illicit miner, a Guinean national, was arrested at the Sengbeah Mining Camp in Sinoe County and is to be transferred to Monrovia for further investigation.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

The Daily Orange

Wednesday, 10 October 2007

<http://media.www.dailyorange.com/media>

Nuremberg prosecutor speaks today

By: Brian Hayden

Imagine witnessing the first-hand story of a man who looked Nazi officials in the eye and helped determine their fate following World War II.

Today, the Syracuse University community will have that opportunity at 6:30 p.m. in Hendricks Chapel.

Henry T. King, a prosecutor in the Nuremberg Trials against Nazi Germany officials, will speak in a discussion on human rights issues and world justice.

"He really is a national treasure," said David Crane, professor at the College of Law, of the 88-year-old King. "He is very vibrant, straightforward, honest and can give great life to these issues. Students will be able to gain a window to the great horrors of the 20th century through him."

King currently serves as director of the Canada-United States Law Institute. He wrote "The Two Worlds of Albert Speer: Reflections of a Nuremberg Prosecutor," detailing his court encounters with Speer, a Nazi official.

"It will be as if we were all sitting around a kitchen table. We will discuss what these atrocities were really like, and the human side of what happened," said Crane, who will speak alongside King in a conversation-style lecture.

Crane offers a more current perspective on human rights. He was the chief prosecutor of the Special Court to Sierra Leone from 2002-05. He was appointed by then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to investigate war crimes that took place during the civil war there. The tribunal indicted then-Liberian President Charles Taylor for the murder, rape, maiming and mutilation of more than one million people. Taylor currently is awaiting sentencing.

Crane said both the Nuremberg Trials and the Sierra Leone case were major advancements in international human rights.

"The students will come away with the fact that the law can make a huge difference," Crane said. "They will realize that the law is fair, that no one is above the law and that the rule of the law is more powerful than the rule of the gun."

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Carolyn Newton said she believes the discussion fits perfectly into this year's symposium theme of "justice," as both King and Crane sought to bring justice to war criminals, she said.

"How could anyone leave a discussion about Nuremberg without thinking better about all of these issues?" Newton said. "The goal is to challenge people to think more incisively and ask better questions about human rights."

Newton sees this as a first-rate opportunity for students. She said the symposium committee saw this as an opportunity to reach into history and make connections between the human rights atrocities of the past and those of the present, such as the current genocides in Darfur.

"This discussion will put a historical lens on the sadly contemporary issues of genocide in our world," she said.

Western New York attorney Gregory Peterson will moderate the event. Peterson is the director of the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown, N.Y. The center is named for the chief U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials.

Peterson said he plans to let Crane and King lead the discussion, and he looks forward to questions from the audience.

He saw the event as "more than just a history lesson," he said.

"I think what we will talk about has a direct impact on the current crimes against humanity," he said. "This is an opportunity to increase our sensitivity to these issues."