

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



'School children' transporting their classroom bench.

**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:**

Tuesday, 12 March 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

10<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

**Fourah Bay College and University of Bedfordshire to Hold  
Special Court Legacy Seminar**

The Mass Communication Department of Fourah Bay College and the Centre for International Media Analysis, Research and Consultancy at the University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom will hold a one-day seminar on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 on **the Impact of the Special Court trials on the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia.**

The seminar which will be held at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone is part of a three year legacy project that is being funded by the British Academy to document through sound scholarship, the impact of the Special Court trials on the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The project is currently well underway through a PhD thesis undertaken by a scholar at Fourah Bay College on media reporting of two of the trials - the CDF in Freetown and the Charles Taylor trial in The Hague.

It also includes the establishment of a platform through which journalists, civil society activists, lawyers and academics in both West Africa and the UK can dialogue and come up with concrete resolutions on transitional justice and thus strengthen democracy and good governance in the sub region.

ENDS

Salone Champion  
 Tuesday, 12 March 2013

## FBC AND UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE TO HOLD SPECIAL COURT LEGACY SEMINAR

The Mass Communication Department of Fourah Bay College and the Centre for International Media Analysis, Research and Consultancy at the University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom will hold a one-day seminar on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 on the Impact of the Special Court trials on the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia. The seminar which will be held at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone is part of a three year legacy project that is being funded by the British Academy to document through sound scholarship, the impact of the Special Court trials on the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia. The project is currently well underway through a PhD thesis undertaken by a scholar at Fourah Bay College on media reporting of two of the trials - the CDF in Freetown and the Charles Taylor trial in The Hague. It also includes the establishment of a platform through which journalists, civil society activists, lawyers and academics in both West Africa and the UK can dialogue and come up with concrete resolutions on transitional justice and thus strengthen democracy and good governance in the sub region.

## Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Friday, 8 March 2013

### **The fight to achieve gender equality**

*This is a guest blog by the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Brenda J. Hollis, on the occasion of International Women's Day.*

Today, over 100 years since International Women's Day was first acknowledged, we celebrate the progress achieved in the fight to achieve gender equality. We reflect on the courage and sacrifices of those women and girls at the forefront of this fight, and the men and boys at their side.



*Brenda Hollis at Bishop Johnson Memorial School*

We also reflect on the challenges that remain to ensure that women and girls achieve their true potential in all walks of life and are no longer the targets of violence.

Inequality and discrimination have fostered an environment which all too often tolerates this violence against females. Women and girls have routinely been treated as “spoils of war”, viciously and disproportionately targeted during

conflict, for example in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone.

In these conflicts they were savagely and repeatedly raped, and often used as sex slaves, with fatal or lifelong medical and emotional consequences.

The maltreatment of women and girls in these conflicts demonstrates much work remains to achieve true gender equality; but the response to this maltreatment gives rise to renewed hope. The ad hoc tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone, have made crystal clear the criminal nature of this sexual violence, and have prosecuted and punished those responsible.

History will judge to what extent this will deter future criminal conduct targeted at females, but there can no longer be any doubt that such conduct is deserving of the strongest condemnation.

The United Kingdom's Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative is an auspicious development in this regard. In this year of the UK's G8 presidency, I welcome the priority it has given to this matter.

I also salute its commitment to building on the practices and case law developed by the international criminal courts, thus ensuring more effective and efficient investigation and prosecution of violent crimes against women and girls.

To prevent sexual violence, and to eliminate inequality and discrimination against women and girls, we must all act as one. Each woman and man, girl and boy, must act to ensure that the types of victimization visited upon women and girls in conflicts, and on their sisters elsewhere, will no longer be tolerated.

Justice for all must be just that. There can be no justice until everyone, female and male alike, is treated with the dignity, respect and equality that each deserves as a member of the global community.

## Capital FM Blogs

Monday, 11 March 2013

### Why I dropped Muthaura's charges – ICC Prosecutor

Posted by Opinion Leaders

Ladies and Gentlemen, People of Kenya:

Firstly, I wish to sincerely commend all Kenyans for their commitment to maintaining peace during this election.



I wish to inform you, that today I filed a notice to the Judges to withdraw charges against Mr Francis Kirimi Muthaura.

I have done so after carefully considering all the evidence available to me at this time. It is my duty to proceed only when I believe that there is a reasonable prospect of conviction at trial. If not, then it is my responsibility as prosecutor to take the decision to withdraw the charges.

This is an exceptional decision. I did not take it lightly, but I believe it is the right thing to do.

I explained to the judges the reasons for my decision, specifically, the severe challenges my Office has faced in our investigation of Mr Muthaura;

- the fact that several people who may have provided important evidence regarding Mr Muthaura's actions, have died, while others are too afraid to testify for the prosecution.
- the disappointing fact that the Government of Kenya failed to provide my Office with important evidence, and failed to facilitate our access to critical witnesses who may have shed light on the Muthaura case.
- the fact that we have decided to drop the key witness against Mr Muthaura after this witness recanted a crucial part of his evidence, and admitted to us that he had accepted bribes.

Let me be absolutely clear on one point – this decision applies only to Mr Muthaura. It does not apply to any other case.

My decision today is based only on the specific facts of the case against Mr Muthaura, and not on any other consideration. While we are all aware of political developments in Kenya, these have no influence, at all, on the decisions that I make as Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

As I have consistently underscored, the International Criminal Court is a judicial institution.

In conclusion, let me remind you all of my unwavering commitment to justice for the victims of the 2007-2008 post-election violence. The real victims of the terrible violence in Kenya five years ago are the men, the women, and the children, who were killed, injured, raped, or forcibly displaced from their homes – and whose voices must not be forgotten.

I will not forget them.

## Capital FM News

Tuesday, 12 March 2013

### Effective justice key to lasting peace

By BERNARD MOMANYI

Legal experts at Nairobi event highlight peace dividends of criminal prosecutions for major crimes/FILE

Legal experts at Nairobi event highlight peace dividends of criminal prosecutions for major crimes/FILE  
NAIROBI, Kenya, Mar 12 – Prosecuting crimes against humanity is not just a matter of justice; it is essential for any society wishing to move on from a dark period in its past, speakers at an event held in Nairobi ahead of Kenya’s presidential election said.

The February 20 public debate at Nairobi’s Strathmore University was held by the Institute for War and Peace Reporting and the Wayamo Communication Foundation, as part of a joint two-year programme called Generating Demand for Accountability: A critical reporting and media project in Kenya.



*Legal experts at Nairobi event highlight peace dividends of criminal prosecutions for major crimes/FILE*

Post-conflict justice processes, and in particular the role played by the International Criminal Court, ICC, were central issues in campaigning for this election, since one of the leading candidates, Uhuru Kenyatta, and his

running-mate William Ruto are both due to stand trial in the Hague on charges of orchestrating months of bloodshed after the last presidential ballot in December 2007.

More than 1,100 people were killed and over half a million others displaced in the worst violence witnessed in Kenya since it gained independence in 1963. The abuses included murder, rape and forcible population moves.

As of March 11, Kenyatta had declared victory, although his main rival Raila Odinga, the current prime minister, was challenging the count data in the hope of forcing a second round of voting.

Drawing on examples from the Kenyan violence and from conflicts elsewhere in the world, panelists at the Nairobi debate discussed the link between justice and sustained peace.

The panel consisted of chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, Serge Brammertz; former director of legal and constitutional affairs at the Commonwealth Secretariat; Akbar Khan; German ambassador Margit Hellwig-Boette; Rwanda’s prosecutor general Martin Ngoga; and Kenyan judge Mohammed Warsame.

“Peace without justice cannot be sustained,” Khan said. “There must be concerted efforts and determination.”



Khan said failing to prosecute the perpetrators of mass atrocities could pave the way for further abuses. “Chronic impunity can have a devastating long-term impact on society and can act as an underlying cause for [the] resurgence of violence,” he explained.

In Khan’s view, criminal prosecution is the key mechanism for achieving sustained peace in a country affected by conflict. The reason for this, he said, was that “individualised findings of guilt help to negate collective guilt, which allows marginalised groups in society to again reintegrate into national life without having to carry the guilt for [crimes] which they did not commit”.

While the ICC prosecutions focus on those individuals held to be most responsible for the 2007-08 violence, it is for the national justice system to tackle thousands of other lower-level cases.

In November, Kenya’s chief justice announced the formation of an international crimes section within the high court, but it is not yet clear whether the government will fully support this institution being used to investigate the abuses of 2007 and 2008.

In his remarks, Brammertz discussed the ICTY’s experience of cooperating with prosecutors in former Yugoslav states to lay the ground for successful prosecutions in domestic courts. He brought prosecutors from Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia into his own office, and international judges worked in Bosnia in 2006-12, hearing cases alongside local judges.

“Cooperation between international and national level is of course key. We have seen at our tribunal that it can develop over time. From the active cooperation over the years, it is a full partnership today,” he said. “Whatever the international level is doing, there is no doubt that the greatest part of the work will be with the national authorities.”

Rwandan chief prosecutor Ngoga focused on the importance of pursuing different models of justice in order to achieve peace and reconciliation after the 1994 genocide which killed more than a million people. While the United Nations- backed International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, operating in Tanzania, tries the most serious cases from the genocide, thousands of alleged perpetrators have been dealt with both by formal courts in Rwanda and by the traditional “Gacaca” courts.

If atrocities go unpunished, Ngoga said, “it creates the risk for further atrocities”.

IWPR’s Generating Demand for Accountability project is funded by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. As part of its two-year programme in Kenya, IWPR and the Wayamo Communication Foundation work with journalists to produce analytical reports on developments in the election campaign and on transitional justice issues, including the cases at the ICC.

These pieces are published or broadcast on a special website, ReportingKenya.net, as well as by local media outlets.

As well as encouraging regular reporting, IWPR and Wayamo host regular meetings with local editors, in partnership with the Kenya Editors’ Guild. These meetings provide a forum for debate and reflection on the challenges facing the media during and beyond the elections, as well as during the ICC trials.

Bernard Momanyi is a reporter for ReportingKenya.net and News Editor at Capital FM in Nairobi.

This article was produced as part of a media development programme by IWPR and Wayamo Communication Foundation in partnership with Capital FM.