

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



'Okada' overloading in Lungi

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, 12 October 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

Rwanda Is Safe.../ <i>The Torchlight</i>	Page 3
Charles Taylor Trial Goes Recess / <i>The Senator</i>	Pages 4-6
Yenga to be Turned Over to Sierra Leone Soon / <i>Cocorioko</i>	Pages 7-8

International News

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 9-12
Liberian Rebels Participated in Guinea Massacre / <i>Agence Frances Presses</i>	Pages 13-14
Guinea Rights Groups Want Military Brought Before ICC / <i>Voice of America</i>	Pages 15-16
We Will Help Ocampo in Trials: Raila / <i>The Daily Nation</i>	Page 17
War Crimes Prosecutor Winds Down Yugoslav Trials / <i>Harvard Law Review</i>	Pages 18-19

RWANDA IS SAFE...BUT OUR INDICTEES NEED NOT GO THERE



Anybody assuming or wishing that Rwanda is not safe should be denounced outrightly for not wanting Africa to move forward. Because, despite its terrible genocidal past, today Rwanda is being

show-cased as an international example of how a people can rapidly transform themselves when they have the political will. Visit Rwanda and see development and progress. Visit Rwanda and see

education at its best. Visit Rwanda and see.... The fact that Rwanda has been able to even switch from using French as its official language to English – a feat unheard-of in African history – puts

the country in a unique position as a shining example of how a determined people can turn their situation around.

Notwithstanding, if The Spotlight had its way, it would rather see the Special Court indictees serve their jail terms in Sierra Leone where they could be visited by their relatives, and for even not giving the impression that we do not have enough security to keep them in prison. If we can keep cocaine convicts in our jails, why not the disarmed and disabled RUF/AFRC/Kamajor 'axis of evildoers'? But we have to blame the same SLPP for including the clause of foreign imprisonment in the agreement that set up the Special Court. This was because they never expected any of their own – including Sam Hinga Norman – to have been caught. But o la la ... di law nar biscuit



The Senator

Friday, 9 October 2009

Charles Taylor Trial Goes Recess

special report

October 4 was the last day of trial for three weeks while the Special Court for Sierra Leone goes on recess.

The presiding judge, Justice Richard Lussick, today said that the trial will take a recess as of end of working day tomorrow and will resume on Monday October 26 2009 at 9:30AM. The recess, Justice Lussick said, is in place of the summer recess which the chamber had refused to take because they wanted to get started with the defense phase of the case.

Also today, the prosecution asked Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, to provide a revised timeframe for the estimated length of Mr. Taylor's testimony. Contrary to his original statement that Mr. Taylor's testimony will last for about eight weeks – covering direct, cross and re-direct examination – Mr. Griffiths today told the court that Mr. Taylor's testimony will not be completed by the end of this calendar year. Mr. Taylor's testimony will continue in 2010, after which, other defense witness will be called to testify.

When court resumes on October 26 2009, Mr. Taylor will continue with his direct testimony. On October 4, 2009 at 10:00 am, robert said: every night , i pray that Taylor sees the same barrel of the gun that he made others to see. not only that but that he be shot and killed just as he and his criminals shot and killed others. there will be no rest of minds in Liberia and sierra Leone until that beast faces some of the wickedness he visited upon the people of this region.

there are more of these wicked men walking free but at least if this one is wiped from the face of the earth, this world will be a better place.

Reply

On October 5, 2009 at 6:43 pm, Aki said:

Robert,

Why are you being such a coward? If you really meant what you are saying you should have gone and fought against him. You now sit from the comfort of your home and make silly statements.

Reply

On October 6, 2009 at 12:05 am, Jose Rodriguez said:

Robert, clealy you are experiencing some emotional outburst here. President Taylor lived all along in Liberia up to the time he left for Nigeria. Why didn't you shoot him dead? It is still not late. Get a Netherland Visa, go to his detention falicity, and shoot him dead, if that's want you want. Don't just sit there, do something. I can assure you Robert, Taylor will be acquitted and he will return to Liberia. You will not even come close to him before I say shoot him. You are dreaming Robert. Hadn't been for George Bush and Tony Blair, Taylor wouldn't have been where he is today and you know it. You also know very well, that all the other warring factions combined along with Ecomog, sactions with UN, Great Britain, and America backing and media propaganda, yet you could not have even touched him. Stop dreaming. Liberians and Africans are willing and able to protect President Taylor with their bodies.

Reply

On October 6, 2009 at 6:48 am, Sam said:

Robert,

unfortunately, your personal hatred for Mr Taylor as expressed in your comment does not amount to evidence to PROVE Mr Taylor guilty in this case. If as you claim you want justice, then why should justice be conditional? there should at least be equal justice for everybody including Mr Taylor. All of us following this trial are yet to be convinced that Mr Taylor is guilty of the charges he is accused of in this trial. If you doubt me read the indictment.

Reply

On October 5, 2009 at 1:45 am, andrew jlay



said:
Fallah,

Do you believe all aspects of Zigzag Marzah's testimony, given its erraticity? Let us be as intellectual as we can. I hold in high respect your level of exposure, maturity and education. If you accept all aspects of that story, Fallah, then I must apologize but you are not being consciously sincere to you ancestry and the name FALLAH that they bestow upon you. This Marzah demeaned the honor of our poro society. He claimed that the poro society engages in cannibalism. You and I know that the practices of the poro and sandee societies are customary and traditions of our chiefs and elders. The use the society as a medium to pass on values, traditions and standards from one generation to the other. For you to accept that our elders are cannibalizing as we speak is disappointing. I am sorry but you are not being humble to your ancestry.

Revert Fallah. Because the practices that we are defending today are inherit in your name – Fallah. That name is a traditional and cultural name and it is not just given to any individual. Let me hear from you, Fallah.

Reply

On October 5, 2009 at 7:35 pm, noko5 said:

Andrew, Please, this guy will not address himself to your inquiry. Eventhough he claims to have all the educations around here, but his analitical contributions are completely in contradiction. besides he tried to get a job at one point in taylors' goverment but never had a strong resume. So you know how bitter he is against taylor.. don't hold him of too much high esteem..let's see what he may have to say this time.. if he..

Reply

On October 6, 2009 at 9:35 am, Jocone said:
Andrew Jlay,

You make a very good point concerning the poro society. I am a member of the poro society since January of 1975 and my traditional name is Kpannah, which means, I was the first one to joined when the poro society schooling start that year.

Since 1975 up to today date I have not seeing members of the poro society involved in cannibalism as been told by Marzah Zigzag in this trial. But the good thing is that there are some westerners who have joined the poro society; therefore, some of them knows what it's all about. I remember in 1984, there was a poro society bush going on in Jimmy Jackson farm, Careysburg, before getting to fifteen gate on Kakata highway; there was a white man who join there in 1984 and I hope he's following this trial and come out to testify as well.

Infact I am getting ready to take my boys children from the United States to have them joined the poro Society once I leave Iraq next year. I really don't care what anyone have to say against the poro society. I am taking my children to become members and if anyone have problem with it, they can join and find out the true about the poro society instead of listining to all these lies that Marzah is saying here!

Reply

On October 7, 2009 at 3:09 pm, andrew jlay said:

Jocone,

Thumbs up to you for this post sir, and God Bless you in IRAQ.

Reply

On October 6, 2009 at 2:10 pm, noko5 said:

Hello prosecution people , are you there??? Have you all escape?? I am here to take on you. Come on speak up . Tell what you Know about Rapp, his human eating witnesses and liers.

Reply

On October 7, 2009 at 6:01 am, Jocone said:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What do your think about the Liberian TRC report? Will it be Justice at all for Mr. Taylor and others who didn't have the opportunity to appeared before the TRC to tell their stories to be recommened by the TRC for prosecution?

If so, does such recommendations fall with in the TRC mandates? I look forward to hearing from you all!

Thanks,

Joe

Reply

On October 7, 2009 at 12:55 pm, Jose Rodriguez said:

Noko5,

it is true that Mr. Rapp witness/witnesses are human eating witnesses and crazy people (Ziggy Manza, Vamuya sherif, etc). Mr. Rapp, Are you proud of your cannibalistic witnesses you brought to this court? Rapp, you know very well that in the U.S, these witnesses and their testimonies will not be brought to court for reason of INSANITY.

Cocorioko

Monday, 12 October 2009

Yenga to be turned over to Sierra Leone soon , Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Guinea discloses

Written by Joseph Kamanda in Conakry

The disputed border town of Yenga, which has been occupied by Guinean troops for well over fifteen years, is expected to be handed over to the government of Sierra Leone after fruitful diplomatic engagement with the authorities in the sister country, disclosed the Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the Republic of Guinea. Speaking in an interview with COCORIOKO at Leone House in Conakry, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, His Excellency Adikalie Foday Sumah, said the ongoing negotiations for the liberation of Yenga will soon bear fruit as the Guinean government has now seen reasons to withdraw its troops from the occupied border town and hand it over to the government of Sierra Leone.

He recalled that former president Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah and late President Lansana Conte of Guinea decided to use the border town in 1996 on compassionate grounds in a bid to prevent the National Patriotic Front and the Revolutionary United Front rebels from entering Sierra Leone and Guinea at the peak of the civil conflict in both Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Ambassador Sumah said; “since the last visit of the Joint Technical Committee it was agreed that the matter be settled through diplomatic means which is an indication for Guinean authority to withdraw its troops from Yenga”. This seems to be a positive development on retrieving the disputed border town from Guinean troops. But he admitted that the Guinean occupation of Yenga is the only problem facing people living in the area adding; “the magic behind recent development on the issue is the 1912 Protocol which indicated that the former colonial masters did not complete the demarcation of boundaries”.

In order to further add his quota to the long discussion to redeem Yenga from Guinea, Ambassador Sumah had gone the extra mile and got hold of relevant documents pertaining to boundary demarcation between Sierra Leone and Guinea.

“It was not easy for me to lay hands on those documents. I went the extra mile to get the International Boundary Limitation Report from Durham University in the United Kingdom and the Report of the Institute of Geographic National from France”, Ambassador Sumah disclosed.

With the aid of these documents; he explained; “I was able to understand the legal ramification of the Yenga issue. So from that point I analyzed and evaluated both reports and later realized that Sierra Leone makes a better point on the issue of Yenga”.

Thereafter, Ambassador Sumah prepared and fifty page document, which according to him , presents a balanced opinion on how Sierra Leone can move in the right direction to redeem Yenga from Guinean occupation. After fifteen years of foreign occupation of our land , Sierra Leone will soon get a full hold on Yenga, he reassured.

The Sierra Leone Ambassador to Guinea said Guinea has never claimed possession of Yenga; “Never at any time Guinea has said that Yenga belongs to them because Yenga is right in the heart of Sierra Leone.” He further disclosed that the boundary demarcation on the left bank of the Moa-Makona River still

remains as the contention that needed to be resolved diplomatically because they were not finalized in the 1912 Protocol.

This, according to the diplomat, was left out by boundary commissioners until the Anglo-Liberia boundary was being settled, before that of Sierra Leone and Guinea was settled and he recalled that the Government of Sierra Leone started discussion for the purpose of resettling final boundary demarcation between Guinea and Sierra Leone in the said area in 1974.

Asked how optimistic he was that Guinean occupation of Yenga will be soon put to an end, Ambassador replied "though not with huge funds, I came with the spirit of turning the table round especially in the area of strengthening diplomatic ties between the two countries". He thus pleaded with government to increase budget allocated to the Sierra Leone Embassy in Guinea, especially for extra charges.

For his part, the Deputy Ambassador, Hon. Alhaji Lahai Foday Koroma, is optimistic that the Yenga problem is over and will soon be a thing of the past when the disputed border town shall be finally released to Sierra Leone. He is confident that with help from the new Guinean leader-Captain Dadis Mousa Camara- backed by the efforts of President Koroma and his emissary in Conakry-Ambassador Sumah, the whole situation has now been handled diplomatically.

KABBAH'S UNGRATEFULNESS HIGHLIGHTED

"It is through the personal effort of President Koroma that has resulted in the positive result and responses we are now getting from Guinean authorities. The problem was created by former President Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah who failed to show gratitude to late President Lansana Conte for his role in restoring peace in Sierra Leone", he said.

Instead, he continued, former President Kabbah lavished all the praises on the former Nigerian head of state, late General Sani Abacha, for pursuing the civil war in Sierra Leone, ignoring close door neighbours Guinea.

He blamed former President Kabbah for selfishly failing to realize that the Special Court indictee, former Liberian president Charles Taylor and his Revolutionary United Front allies wanted to use his National Patriotic Front of Liberia rebels to attack Guinea through Yenga during war in Sierra Leone. It was for this reason that he confirmed that the two neighbouring countries countered the NPFL/RUF rebels infiltration into Guinea by deploying over seven hundred Guinean troops on the border town of Yenga.

Hon. Foday Koroma disclosed that Yenga has now been realized by the Guinean government as a Sierra Leonean territory and "I am sure of it being returned to Sierra Leone soon. I am very proud that it is going to be turned in under the leadership of President Koroma".

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 9 October 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

Chinese language class starts in Liberia's capital amid China's growing presence

Source: Canadian Press

MONROVIA, Liberia _ A new language class is providing an opportunity for Liberians to learn Mandarin as China expands its economic presence in the West African country. China is heavily engaged in post-war Liberia, rebuilding roads with funding from the World Bank and running hotels, restaurants and other businesses. And a Chinese firm, China Union, became the largest ever investor in Liberia when it signed a \$2.6 billion agreement earlier this year to go into the iron ore business in a town about 30 miles (50 kilometres) north of Monrovia. "Traditionally, we Liberians are closer to the Americans than we are to the Chinese, but the irony is that the Chinese are more open to us than the Americans are," said 57-year-old John K. Cooper, who works for a local youth development centre and is one of 15 students in the Mandarin class that began this week.

Boost for Country's Human Resource Development-More Graduate Students Return

Oct 09, 2009 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Several Liberian students who have been undergoing graduate and undergraduate studies at various Universities in the United States, China, Morocco, Russian and Ukraine, have called on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to express thanks to the Government of Liberia for the opportunity afforded them to pursue advanced studies. During a meeting Thursday at the Foreign Ministry, the students praised the Liberian Government for the opportunity to improve their capacity. Despite some difficulties the students said they encountered during their studies abroad, they spoke of their delight to return home to contribute to nation-building. The students called on the Ministry of Education to create a data base that would track the activities of students abroad for better coordination. The exercise, they say, could help minimize some of the problems students often encounter abroad. Welcoming the students back home, President Johnson Sirleaf said the need for the enhancement of the nation's human resource capacity is critical to the overall development programs of Government.

International Clips on West Africa
Guinea

The Massacre in Guinea

Oct 09, 2009 (Daily Trust/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The jury is still out on the actual number of people killed recently in Conakry, the Guinean capital after soldiers opened fire on a group of people attending an opposition political rally in the capital's stadium. At the last count, not less than 160 persons were said to have died when government troops opened fire on unarmed civilians. The rally was being held in the continuing national resentment against the military junta led by Captain Moussa Dadis Camara who seized power in a coup in December. Camara had promised a

speedy return to civil rule and got the endorsement of the African Union, which had hoped he would keep his word. Events now suggest he has no intention of doing so willingly.

EU backs away from Guinea sanctions: diplomat

BRUSSELS, Oct 9, 2009 (AFP) - The European Union backed away Friday from sanctioning members of Guinea's military junta responsible for last month's massacre, preferring to let African nations take the lead, an EU diplomat said. "It was decided that leadership in this crisis should be left to the African Union," the diplomat said, after talks in Brussels between members of the 27 EU nations. The African Union is due to meet on October 17 to discuss possible targeted sanctions against junta members, and the EU "will coordinate with the African Union following its decision" at that meeting, he said. Guinea's health ministry has said that 56 people were killed and 934 people injured during a bloody crackdown on a protest in Conakry on September 28. The United Nations and aid organisations say at least 150 people were killed when soldiers opened fire in a crowded stadium in the Guinean capital.

Ivory Coast

UN Legal Team Assesses Prisons And Judiciary

Oct 09, 2009 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- United Nations legal experts are on a 10-day visit to Cote d'Ivoire to study the West African country's implementation of national laws and its prison administration as well as the judiciary's interaction with other sectors of society. Yesterday, the two experts from the UN Department Operations Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Agneta Johnson and Gwendolyn Chellam, went to the western region to discuss the redeployment of judicial and prison authorities across the country following years of tensions in the wake of a political and military crisis. The UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) says the visit will enable the UN and the international community, which has contributed to the reorganization of the judicial and prison sectors, to assess the progress achieved and the challenges remaining to be addressed.

Local Media – Newspaper

12 AFL Cadets from Nigeria on Break in the Country

(Heritage, Inquirer)

- Twelve Officers cadets of the Armed Forces of Liberia pursuing a four-year undergraduate degree in various academic and military occupational specialities at the Nigerian Defense Academy are back in the country for a break.
- The training of the officers is as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Governments of Liberia and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- As a component of the MOU, the Nigerian Government will train enlisted members of the Armed Forces of Liberia as part of the military and assistance package to the Security Sector Reform Programme of Liberia.

Police Increases Presence in Monrovia

(The Inquirer)

- The Liberia National Police (LNP) have increased their presence in Central Monrovia by deploying officers at the intersections of major street corners, especially those noted for high criminal activities.
- A police source however said that the exercise is only carried out at day because the police in Central Monrovia are incapacitated at night due to lack of logistics
- With the increase in police presence in Central Monrovia and with the assistance of the Monrovia City Corporation, dealers in stolen phone and street sellers have left the corners of Carey and Gurley Streets which is notorious for being a criminal hot spot.

Scholarship Students Return to Boost Human Resource Development

(The Inquirer, Heritage)

- Several Liberian students who had undergone graduate and undergraduate studies at various universities in the United States, China, Morocco, Russian and Ukraine, have called on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to express thanks to the Government of Liberia for the opportunity afforded them to pursue advanced studies.
- The students acquired Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees in a number of areas including Human Resource Management, Educational Administration, Educational Management, Geo-Sciences, Computer Engineering, Micro-biology, Marketing and International Relations, among others.

Citizens of Bong Mines Express Concern over China Union Agreement

(Public Agenda, The Independent, Liberian Express, Heritage)

- Citizens of Bong Mines in Bong County have expressed concerns over the implementation of the China Union Mineral Development Agreement.
- The citizens say since the signing of the agreement early this year not much has been heard about the US\$2.6 billion agreement.
- The agreement which calls for the exploration and mining of iron ore in the Bong Range in Bong Mines includes a requirement that the company makes a signature bonus payment of US\$40 million to the Liberian Government.
- During a Liberia Extractive Industry (LEITI) outreach programme this week, the citizens called on Government to account for the “signature fee” claiming that a certain portion of the money should be used for the development of their area.
- It can be recalled that citizens of Bong Mines recently demonstrated to press for information on the bonus payment but Government is yet to respond to their concerns.
- Meanwhile, Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, Zhou Yuxio says the China Union agreement remains on course as the company is currently doing basic preparation insisting that they will honor their contractual obligations.

NEC Launches Civic and Voters Education for Pending By-Election

(The News)

- The National Elections Commission today launched its civic and voters education campaign for the Montserrado County Senatorial by-election.
- The launch of the campaign is part of start up activities for the election which is slated for November.
- The by-election is to fill the vacant seat following the death of the Senator Hannah Brent.

Liberia Unsafe says U.S. Government

(Plain Truth)

- [SIC] A U.S. State Department report has categorized Liberia as being ‘unsafe’.
- The publication reveals that Liberia remains unsafe despite the presence of UNMIL in the country.
- The report said UNMIL mandate is restricted to political stability while the Liberia National Police which is responsible to fight crimes has limited presence in Monrovia.
- The statement warned U.S. citizens in Liberia to be aware of their surroundings and use caution when moving around especially at night.

Local Media – Star Radio (*culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

Study on Violence in Liberia Begins

- A Swiss-based research organization, the Small Arms Survey has begun a sixteen-month study on the dynamics of violence across Liberia.
- The Program Director of the group, Keith Krause who has just returned from the former rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) stronghold on a fact-find visit said the justice system there was slow and that the general security situation in Gbarnga was unfavourable.
- He said his findings on the situation in Gbarnga and the rest of Bong County are based on information obtained from residents of the area.

NEC Launches Civic and Voters Education for Pending By-Election

Also reported on Radio Veritas, Sky F.M., Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Liberia Celebrated World Post Day Today

- Liberia has joined countries the world over in celebrating World Post Day today.
- The day is in recognition of the challenges faced by the Universal Postal Union in the postal sector.

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

Ministry of National Defense Says it takes Seriously Allegations of Brutality by Soldiers

- The Ministry of National Defense says it is not taking lightly report of brutality against citizens by some newly trained Armed Forces of Liberia personnel.
- Defense Ministry authorities say investigations into such complaints are investigated and the necessary actions taken.
- The statement followed recent reports of brutality by newly trained soldiers.

Bong County Leadership Halts Operations of Local Mining Firm

- The political leadership of Bong County has with immediate effect put to a halt the operations of a local mining firm, Geo-Services in the County.
- In an interview, the Chairman of the Bong Legislative Caucus, Representative George Mulbah said the action is a result of an inhumane act allegedly carried-out by a foreign employee of Geo-Services, Hans Armstrong who allegedly sprayed five Bong citizens with some dangerous chemical.
- He said the decision to halt the operations of Geo-Services was also as result of the expiration of its contract. According to him, the contract between government and Geo-Services ended in 2005.

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

Guthrie Teachers End Strike Following Commitment From Government

- Government says it will pay three months salary arrears to teachers of the Guthrie School System at the end of October.
- The government's commitment followed days of strike action by the aggrieved teachers. The teachers have meanwhile accepted the commitment by government.

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

BIN Bong Mine Detail Commander Sacked

- The Commander of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization at the Bong Mines detail, Colonel Glenn Yambay has been sacked.
- BIN authorities said Colonel Yambay was sacked for constant harassment and illegal inspection of documents of aliens which run contrary to a warning to employees.

Radio Veritas (News monitored today at 09:45 am)

12 AFL Cadets from Nigeria on Break in the Country

Scholarship Students Return to Boost Human Resource Development

Agence Frances Presses

Saturday, 10 October 2009

Liberian rebels participated in Guinea massacre: sources

By Laurence Boutreux

CONAKRY — Former Liberian rebels participated in a recent bloody crackdown of an opposition rally in Guinea by the country's military, sources from the army, the opposition and a rights group have said.

The massacre that the United Nations and rights group say led to more than 150 deaths occurred September 28 when soldiers opened fire at a crowded stadium in Guinea's capital.

"It was the presidential guard ... with elements from ULIMO and the NPFL that did that, that massacre," a military source in Conakry said on condition of anonymity.

ULIMO, or the United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy, was a rebel group that fought in that country's brutal civil war.

The National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels were led by ex-Liberian president and former warlord Charles Taylor.

"ULIMO members currently surround the head of the junta, Captain Moussa Dadis Camara," the military source said, adding that ex-NPFL fighters were simply looking to work as mercenaries.

"That's why they have no pity," the source said.

Camara seized power in December last year after the death of Guinean strongman Lansana Conte, who had ruled the resource-rich country since 1984.

Conte had supported the creation of ULIMO and oversaw training of some of its members in Guinea, which neighbours Liberia.

Meanwhile, residents of Guinea Forestiere -- an area near Liberia's border -- fought on the side of Taylor's rebels in the 1989-2003 war. Many soldiers recruited since Camara took power come from the same region, the source said.

The military source's claims backed up similar accusations made by opposition members and a rights group official.

One opposition leader, Jean-Marie Dore, claimed at least two of the soldiers who beat him during the crackdown were ULIMO members. He said they carried the same types of charms and necklaces that ULIMO members were known for.

Dore had supported the NPFL during Liberia's war.

"One told me, 'We've been looking for you for a long time ... I'm going to kill you with two bullets in the head,'" Dore said. "His friend said, 'No, we have to cut his throat.'"

Another opposition leader, Francois Lonseny Fall, said "we have never seen such a massacre in Guinea," with the violence including women being raped with guns and sticks.

"It recalls the techniques used in Liberia," he said.

Mamadi Kaba, Guinea coordinator for African rights group RADDHO, said a civilian working in a military camp has alleged there were signs Liberian rebels participated in the killings.

"He told us that there were soldiers covered in gris-gris (charms), like during the war in Liberia, who spoke English between them or a local language, and that he has since seen them at a camp in Conakry," said Kaba.

Camara, who has apologised for the massacre, recently denied claims that Liberian rebels had been recruited.

"I have never recruited men, rebels," he told Radio France Internationale. "I have never done it."

Guinea's government disputes the toll for the massacre given by rights groups, saying 56 people died and 934 people were injured.

Local human rights organisations say in addition to the death toll, 1,200 people were injured including many women who were raped by soldiers during the crackdown.

Liberia was ravaged by its civil war, which left more than 250,000 people dead.

Voice of America

Friday, 9 October 2009

Guinea Rights Groups Want Military Brought Before ICC

By Scott Stearns
Dakar

Human rights groups in Guinea want members of the military brought before the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity in last week's killing of at least 157 opposition demonstrators. The military government's political opponents are refusing to join an internal inquiry into that violence.

Political parties, civil society groups, and trade unions in Guinea are refusing the military government's offer of an independent inquiry into last Monday's violence because they say the ruling military council must be dissolved before the country can move forward.

Human rights groups say soldiers committed crimes against humanity during that violence that should be brought before the International Criminal Court.

Tierno Madjou Sow is president of Guinea's Human Rights Organization.

Sow says members of Guinea's military raped women in public, a crime against humanity that can be brought before the International Criminal Court. He says they hit and tortured protesters in an abominable fashion, appearing happy to be beating political leaders.



Guinean police arrest a protester on 28 Sep 2009 in front of the biggest stadium in the capital Conakry during a protest banned by Guinea's ruling junta



Junta leader, Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, speaks at meeting at Camp Alpha Yaya Diallo military camp in Conakry, 27 Dec 2008

Demonstrators were protesting the expected candidacy of military ruler Captain Moussa Dadis Camara.

Sow says at least 157 people were killed in that violence, but the death toll could be higher as he says the military used eight trucks to collect bodies that have not been seen since.

A reporter who was at the stadium and agreed to be interviewed only if his name was not used says soldiers attacked protesters with what he describes as a barbaric ferocity.

When he identified himself as a journalist to members of the presidential guard wearing red berets, he says they beat him with their fists and hit him over the head with clubs. He says policemen kicked him and punched him in the face. Then another red beret whipped him with a belt.

One witness says he saw red berets of the president guard violating women inside the stadium. He says there were two soldiers who stripped about 15 girls naked and violated them as well. After that, he says the soldiers clashed with members of the gendarmerie who ordered them to stop.

A third man says he saw things that day that he has never seen before and does not know how he escaped

without injury.

Once the stadium was full, he says security forces closed all the doors and shot directly into the crowd not into the air. He says he saw many people fall. When those who survived tried to flee the stadium, he says members of the presidential guard were waiting for them at the gates and whipped them with wire. Those who fell were trampled by others trying to escape.

Under Guinean law, human rights groups may not sue the government. Sow says two separate groups are being established to bring charges against the military: one group for women who were raped, another for the other victims of that violence.

Sow says his human rights group is conducting a census of each family in Conakry to find out who was killed and who disappeared. He says they also hope to publish the names of people who are still in detention so their families will know they are alive.

Captain Camara says he is not responsible for the events of September 28 because he was not at the stadium. He is blaming his political opponents for staging an illegal protest, saying they should have known Guinea's military contains what he calls "uncontrollable elements."

Asked about Captain Camara's role in the violence, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner told a parliamentary foreign affairs committee that, at the least, Paris "strongly suspects" Captain Camara to have "taken part in the decision."

Captain Camara has dismissed French accusations, saying Guinea is not a district of France. But he has not entirely ignored mounting international criticism. He says the proposed independent inquiry is in response to that pressure and he is now offering to form a transitional government.

Frederic Kolie is Captain Camara's minister for territorial administration and political affairs.

Kolie says Captain Camara wants Guineans inside and outside the country to take part in the ongoing democratization process. He says the military is working toward an inclusive democracy that includes Guineans living abroad. He says the ruling council is committed to meeting voter registration deadlines ahead of presidential balloting in January.

Captain Camara has not yet formally announced his candidacy but has told supporters that he will not insult them by ignoring their demands that he run.

The African Union says it will sanction him later this month unless he makes clear that he is not running for president.

The Daily Nation (Kenya)

Sunday, 11 October 2009

We will help Ocampo in trials: Raila



A scene of post election violence in Naivasha in January 2008.

Prime Minister Raila Odinga said he and President Kibaki were ready to cooperate with the International Criminal

Court's chief prosecutor to ensure those behind the 2008 post-election violence were brought to book. Photo/FILE

Prime Minister Raila Odinga on Sunday welcomed Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo's planned visit to Kenya. The PM said he and President Kibaki were ready to cooperate with the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor to ensure those behind the 2008 post-election violence were brought to book.

Mr Odinga said they would have preferred a local special tribunal to try perpetrators of the violence but were left with no option when Parliament rejected a Bill to establish such a court.

Fully committed

"We had wished that the trial of masterminds of last election's violence here would be the best way but our members of Parliament rejected that," he told a church fund-raising ceremony in Kiambaa, Kiambu.

Mr Odinga said he and the President were fully committed to working closely with Mr Moreno-Ocampo. "We have no option. I, together with the President, are ready to help Ocampo in carrying out the prosecution."

Mr Odinga blamed the slow pace of reforms on lack of trust among politicians in the Grand Coalition Government. "Our country went through a bad time, where blood was shed, and to bring together people is not easy," he said and explained that this was due to their different political affiliations. Mr Odinga urged leaders to unite and shun ethnicity, saying it was the major cause of the violence that rocked the country. Medical Services minister Anyang' Nyong'o, who accompanied the PM, said ethnicity must be shunned because it stifled development.

Kiambaa MP Stanley Githunguri urged all Kenyans to unite to avoid a repeat of the violence in future. And speaking in his Ugenya constituency, Lands minister James Orengo welcomed the ICC chief prosecutor's intended visit to Kenya, saying it would help hasten reforms.

Mr Orengo said the visit was aimed at settling on the three-tier approach where The Hague, a local tribunal and the truth commission would be recommended to complement each other in handling suspects.

Harvard Law Review

Thursday, 8 October 2009

War crimes prosecutor winds down Yugoslav trials

ICTY's Serge Brammertz recounts international tribunal's lessons for ongoing, future prosecutions

By Rebecca Agule

On October 5, Serge Brammertz, Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), joined Professor Alex Whiting and a standing room only audience for a discussion entitled, “International Criminal Justice: Challenges of Investigating and Prosecuting War Crimes.” As a former Professor of Law at the University of Liège, Brammertz clearly felt comfortable in front of the student audience, noting his own appreciation for the interaction between the judicial world and the academic one.

Brammertz’s fluency in four languages served him well as a Belgian federal prosecutor, where he focused on organized crime, terrorism and international humanitarian law. In 2003, Brammertz moved to the International Criminal Court (ICC), where – as a member of the Investigations Division of the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) – he conducted the inaugural investigations of crimes in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur, Sudan. Following the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, the United Nations Secretary General appointed Brammertz to the UN Independent Investigation Commission.

Charged with closing out the ICTY, Brammertz must finish current trials and locate remaining fugitives. Thus far, the ICTY has indicted 161 persons, with seven cases still to be completed. Brammertz enumerated some of the Tribunal’s difficulties, including the balancing of victims’ needs against keeping each case manageable. Recalling how former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milošević died before the completion of his trial after five years in The Hague War Criminal Prison, Brammertz said, “We must formulate the indictment to represent the magnitude of the crimes, but we must also be able to present it in a reasonable time.”

Speaking of the ICTY, he said that “no one expected it to last for 15, 20 years.”

The recent arrest of Radovan Karadžić, after thirteen years in hiding, highlights many of the challenges facing the ICTY. Brammertz noted the heightened significance of the Karadžić trial, especially as it may be one of the Tribunal’s last important cases. Even with the scope of the indictment still pending, Karadžić has begun contesting the Tribunal’s competency, while attempting to claim immunity from prosecution per an agreement with United States Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. The indictment itself, which charges Karadžić with, among other things, genocide and crimes against humanity stemming from his participation in the Bosnian War, including the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, has also given rise to tensions. With only 300 hours to make its case, the Office of the Prosecutor must make difficult decisions regarding which charges to pursue. The OTP currently refuses to make additional cuts to meet these limits, as Brammertz explained, in doing so, “the case would no longer be representative of the crimes committed.”

Even as the ICTY nears its end, the Chief Prosecutor must maintain pressure to find and arrest the remaining fugitives. “We must wait and see what the future will show us in this regard,” Brammertz said. “We have a tendency to forget what happened 15 years ago, but we must remember how awful the crimes have been that were committed.”

As part of his visit to the US, Brammertz will meet with UN officials in New York to discuss the ICTY's completion strategy. Now set to end in 2012, with appeals lasting through 2013, the Tribunal must maintain the pace of trials, even while facing a 60% downsizing of human resources. In addition, residual mechanisms must be developed to deal with on-going and future issues, such as the remaining fugitives and witness protection. The ICTY aims to send a strong message from the international community that the closure of the Tribunal does not equate to immunity for those not yet charged. A permanent working group, as well as increased engagement with local and regional prosecutions, will likely fill this gap.

"The success of the ICTY depends on how local prosecutors continue," Brammertz said.

While his presentation focused on the ICTY, Brammertz touched briefly upon other international tribunals and special courts, using each to underline the variety of tests facing the international justice system. He connected each back to the International Criminal Court and other possible regional courts, saying, "The way those challenges are resolved will have direct impact on the future of all tribunals." Brammertz further compared the ICTY's resources to those of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which faces many of the same struggles, even while it cannot call on local colleagues to continue prosecutions in the same manner. The reality of limited resources impedes several international courts, including the Special Court for Sierra Leone must continue its case against former Liberian President Charles Taylor despite financial hurdles.

Throughout his discussion, Brammertz connected and distinguished his range of domestic and international experiences. Where national trials may focus on convictions, international tribunals must account for a broader range issues regarding victims, scope and legitimacy. In addition, each system faces different practical problems in terms of political obstacles and prosecutorial decisions, as well as access to crime scenes, intelligence information and witnesses. To illustrate his point, Brammertz noted that, in the first years of the ICTY, the continued power of Milošević made evidence collection nearly impossible, even while Serbian authorities further complicated investigations by removing bodies from mass graves.

Before opening the floor to questions, Brammertz outlined some of the credibility problems facing the international community. One of the questions has become, he explained, how to establish a more homogeneous system. "We are reinventing the wheel every time," Brammertz said. Other possible options include the establishment of a standing task force to collect evidence whenever a crisis arises and increased reliance upon the international community. As the ICC can only process a limited number of cases, there can still be support of prosecutions at the local level, even in areas lacking a strong judiciary.

"A more objective system will increase the credibility of these mechanisms," Brammertz said.

Whiting's War Crimes Clinical, along with the Human Rights Program and the Bernard Koteen Office of Public Interest Advising (OPIA), hosted the event.