

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



Masquerading boys at Baw-Baw beach. Credit: Lawrence Sesay, CITS

**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:**

Friday, 13 November 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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### Local News

...Prisons Officers Cry Foul / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
No New Evidence on Taylor's Cross Examination / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Page 4
Taylor Defence Objects to Cross Examination / <i>Premier News</i>	Page 5
Taylor's Case Suspended / <i>Sierra Express Media</i>	Page 6
Fresh Evidence... / <i>The Spectator</i>	Pages 7-9

### International News

Taylor Trial, Court Adjourns until Monday / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Page 10
Judges Give Prosecution More Time To 'Rearrange Strategies'... / <i>CharlesTaylorTrial.org</i>	Page 11
Taylor's Contact With Lawyers During Cross Examination to Be Limited / <i>Liberian Webs</i>	Page 12
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 13-17
Between The Devil and The Deep Blue Sea / <i>AllAfrica.Com</i>	Page 18
Karadzic's Legal Team Cease Work Over Pay / <i>Radio Netherlands Worldwide</i>	Page 19
Pitfalls of a Parallel Defence / <i>Radio Netherlands Worldwide</i>	Pages 20-21
Witness Protection Unit Seeks Autonomy / <i>Capital News</i>	Pages 22-24
Rwandan Immigrant's Genocide Case Delayed in Canada / <i>Radio Netherlands Worldwide</i>	Page 25
Sarajevo Commander's Sentence Cut / <i>Aljazeera</i>	Page 26
Coming to Terms With a Violent Past / <i>IRIN</i>	Pages 27-28



Awoko

Friday, 13 November 2009

*after accompanying convict to Rwanda...*



*The UN flight that took away the Prison Officers & Special Court convicts to Rwanda*

# Prison Officers cry foul

*after accompanying convicts to Rwanda ...*

# Prison Officers cry foul

*By Samuel John & Betty Milton*

**S**ecurity personnel of the Special Court that accompanied high profile convicts to Rwanda past week have accused their employers of being wicked as they have treated them with contempt after their successful mission.

The disgruntled Prison Officer who stormed Awoko yesterday explained that since they undertook that mission to Rwanda their only reward is a US\$18 package which they have out rightly rejected.

According to the frustrated officers they disclosed that they had to secure their passports on their own accord, and before their departure for Rwanda they were told that they should not disclose the intended mission as it's a top priority with an incentive attached to it.

The officers further alleged that they were given a two week visa but lamented that they only spent approximately nine hours with just a sandwich and soft drink during the trip.

During their 45 minutes spell at Awoko they further alleged that during the journey one of the convicts told them "if I had a grenade I would have blown up this plane so that all of could perish", stressing further "this really made us to panic".

These officers are on secondment from the Prisons Department and they even further alleged that some of the top guns at the Court were afraid to travel alongside the convicts

but only brave it on the return journey.

Furthermore they also alleged that when their counterparts flew over to The Hague they received allowance to the tune of nearly 3,000 dollars per personnel.

The Chief of Public Affairs Peter Andersen reacted to this allegation as non factual. According to the Chief, these men are indeed seconded to the Court by the Prison Department and that they have been paid salaries by the court and that their salary at the Prison Department was also running.

Speaking about the said trip to Rwanda, Peter Andersen said that every staff of the court whenever they are going on a journey within or outside of the country are entitle to Duty Staff Allowance (DSA) which covers lodging and feeding.

He went on, that since they arrived late, and they could not access their money, a senior staff volunteered to take care of logging and they were taken for a buffet where

they took dinner.

He further revealed that the sixteen security personnel who escorted the convicts were reimbursed Le 150, 000 and Van Breda Insurance which is the United Nations standard which is \$92.

The Public Affairs Chief said they were never promised a special package on their return other than the DSA. When the senior staff deducted the money he spent on them, the balance money left was \$18.

Peter further disclosed to Awoko that what the court has done for the security personnel could not be compared to that of other staff working for the court.

Their contract was suppose to end next month when in actual fact there will be no work for them, but that they have received their full salary.

He also disclosed that "there is also a formal way that staff members go through when they are aggrieved about certain issues and that is through the Staff Judge, Justice Ayoola and not to the media."

# Mines Minister tormented in Parliament



## No New Evidence on Taylor's Cross-Examination

As Charles Taylor faced his second day of cross-examination, his defense counsel objected to prosecution attempts to introduce "fresh evidence" after its case was closed, calling it a trial by "ambush." Meanwhile, Mr. Taylor tried to distance himself from the types of acts committed during Sierra Leone's brutal conflict - such as

fighters forcing a mother to laugh while they buried her child - saying that he prevented such acts during Liberia's civil strife.

In a move that led to the proceedings being adjourned early today, lead prosecution counsel, Ms. Brenda Hollis, sought to ask the accused former president questions about certain provisions in the Lome

Peace Accord - a peace agreement signed between the Sierra Leonean government and the country's main rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in the Togolese capital, Lome, in 1999.

In an attempt to present a copy of the Lome agreement to Mr. Taylor to discuss spe-

*Continued page 9*

## No New Evidence on Taylor's Cross-Examination

*From page 2*

cific provisions that benefitted the RUF, Ms Hollis today aimed to establish Mr. Taylor's influence during the peace process. However, Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, objected. He argued it was "new evidence" which was not submitted to the court during the prosecution's own case, not used during Mr. Taylor's direct examination. The defense called it a trial by "ambush" for the prosecution to present "fresh evidence" after it had already closed its case.

Presiding judge, Justice Richard

Lussick, said that the interests of justice require consideration of all evidence against the accused, but it was necessary to "balance such need for justice with the fair trial rights of the accused." The judges ruled that Ms. Hollis could not introduce new evidence in the form of documents which had not been presented as part of the prosecution's case and were not used by the defense in direct-examination of the accused.

Instead, the Prosecution was urged to make a formal written application to allow the defense opportunity to respond about the inclusion of the



# Taylor Defence Objects To Cross Examination

**C**ourteney Griffiths objected to the line of questioning by Senior Prosecuting Attorney, Brenda Hollis based on the bundle of fresh documents she passed on to the judges when she started the cross examination of Taylor.

*By John Kollie*

During cross examination of a witness an opposing lawyer tried to show that the witness had not told the truth during previous testimony.

Griffiths argued that the prosecution should confine its cross examination of the former Liberian President to his previous testimony and other documents known to both parties, not fresh documents.

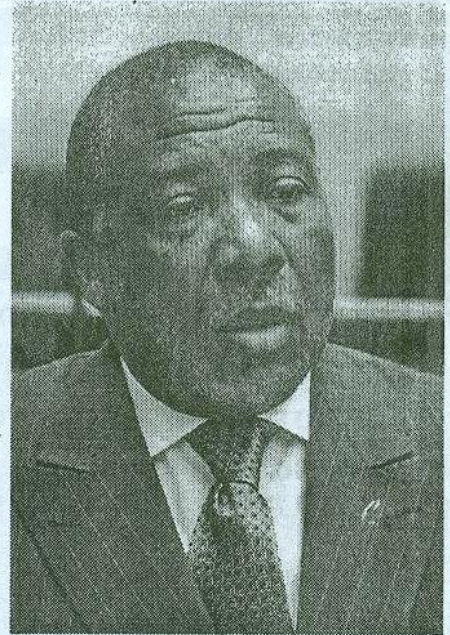
However, Senior Prosecuting Attorney, Brenda Hollis, counter

argued that this was not a new procedure she was adopting.

Presiding Judge, Richard Lussick agreed, but said the 2006 ruling referenced by Miss Hollis was made on a case by case basis.

Considering the case now, Justice Lussick said, care has to be taken into consideration to ensure the interest of justice is served.

He ruled therefore that the prosecution submitted a written motion, which the



defence can respond to in writing.

Until that is done, he held in the ruling, the prosecution is stopped from using the new documents in the cross examination of Mr. Taylor.





Charles Taylor

# Taylor's Case Suspended

**T**he Defence blocked the prosecution cross examination of Former Liberian President Charles Taylor Wednesday when the prosecution began questioning Mr.

Taylor based on documents not previously disclosed. Lead Defence counsel, Courtney Griffiths said questioning Mr. Taylor on fresh documents not previously disclosed amounted

*Cont page 2*

# Taylor's Case Suspended

**From front page**

to ambushing the accused and violated the rule of disclosure. Argument ensued and the court adjourned earlier than usual. BBCWST Producer John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague on the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

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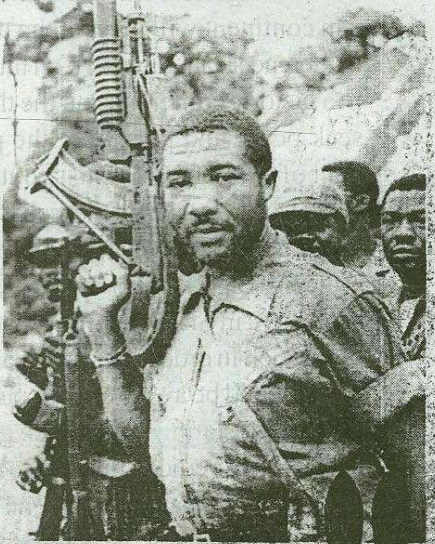
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# "Fresh Evidence!"



## *Taylor Cross-Examination*

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trial by "ambush." Meanwhile, Mr. Taylor tried to distance himself from the types of acts committed during Sierra Leone's brutal conflict - such as fighters forcing a woman to laugh while they buried her child - saying that he

prevented such acts during Liberia's civil strife.

In a move that led to the proceedings being adjourned early today, lead prosecution counsel, Ms. Brenda Hollis, sought to ask the accused



former president questions about certain provisions in the Lome Peace Accord - a peace agreement signed between the Sierra Leonean government and the country's main rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in the Togolese capital, Lome, in 1999. In an attempt to present a copy of the Lome agreement to Mr. Taylor to discuss specific provisions that benefitted the RUF, Ms Hollis today aimed to establish Mr. Taylor's influence during the peace process. However, Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, objected. He argued it was "new evidence" which was not submitted to the court during the prosecution's own case, not used during Mr. Taylor's direct examination. The defense called it a trial by "ambush" for the prosecution to present "fresh evidence", after it had already closed its case.

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prosecution's case and were not used by the defense in direct-examination of the accused. Instead, the Prosecution was urged to make a formal written application to allow the defense opportunity to respond about the inclusion of the Lome Accord. After that, the judges could rule on whether new documents could be introduced as part of the prosecution's cross-examination of the accused.

The judges also rejected Ms. Hollis's request to ask "good faith basis questions" which "will be premised on the documents" but without using the documents themselves. Mr. Griffiths called it "unacceptable."

"It is a back door way of getting into the tribunal," he said.

"You cannot make use of any of these documents until a formal motion is submitted," Justice Lussick ordered.

Ms. Hollis at this stage asked the court to give the prosecution more time to "consider organizing our presentation" while work is being done on the formal motion for the presentation of the documents. The judges ordered that the court will adjourn for the day to give time to the prosecution to re-organize their presentation and continue the cross-examination of the accused tomorrow.

Earlier in the morning, Ms. Hollis sought to cover a few areas relating to Mr. Taylor's direct-examination, Ms.



Hollis referenced Mr. Taylor's July 20, 2009 definition of "acts of terrorism" when he said that "for me, if you went to an innocent family and held them up at gun point and there are women and children there, that is an act of terrorism."

Ms. Hollis asked Mr. Taylor whether he agrees that certain acts like sexual violence, rape, murder, attacking civilians in a village and burning their houses, or forcing a mother to laugh while her child is being buried, will constitute acts of terrorism. Mr. Taylor responded that while some of these acts will amount to acts of terrorism, many of them could be looked at as individual crimes. The accused former Liberian president did concede that if "fighters forced a mother to laugh while they buried her child," that will lead to "fear and anguish."

When Ms. Hollis pushed Mr. Taylor that these acts will individually cause fear in victims, Mr. Taylor explained that he cannot determine how people will respond under certain circumstances.

"You are asking me to hypothetically tell how someone will respond under circumstances? People respond differently. I can say anguish but I can't say fear. I am not a psychiatrist. People respond differently under certain circumstances," Mr. Taylor said.

Mr. Taylor rejected suggestions from Ms. Hollis that he was playing games in his response to questions.

"I am not before this court playing games with my life. I reject the notion of playing games," he said.

"That is why in my civil war we did not have operations like that. Let me make it clear, I did not condone them and that is why I prevented them in Liberia," Mr. Taylor asserted.

Mr. Taylor admitted providing support to RUF rebels in 1991-1992 but rejected notions that such support continued after 1992. The former president also agreed that RUF commander Sam Bockarie visited Liberia in September and October 1998, during which he gave the RUF commander a satellite phone. He agreed that Mr. Bockarie was on a United Nations travel ban list at this time.

Mr. Taylor is responding to charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone from November 30, 1996. The prosecution alleges that Mr. Taylor was involved in a joint criminal enterprise with RUF rebels who fought an 11-year war in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied the allegations against him.



Thursday, 12 November 2009

**Taylor Trial, Court Adjourns until Monday**

By John Kollie

NEWS ITEM

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*The Cross examination of the Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor has been put up until Monday. The Trial Chamber made the decision Wednesday following a motion by lawyer pressing charges against Mr. Taylor to allow them time to readjust their cross examination strategy.*

*Senior Prosecuting Attorney, Brenda Hollis said they could not proceed with the cross examination Wednesday after the Trial Chamber ruled Tuesday that the prosecution should stop using the fresh Lome Peace Agreement document to question Mr. Taylor. BBCWST Producer/ Reporter, John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague on the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor...*

In line with the Trial Chamber order, Brenda Hollis is due to file a written motion Tuesday to justify the use of the new material in questioning Mr. Taylor.

Regarding Wednesday adjournment, Miss Hollis asked the court the prosecution needed time to properly prepare to take on Mr. Taylor.

Taylor`s lead counsel Courteney Griffiths objected to the prosecution motion for a break. He said Taylor had been in detention too long and the defence cannot stomach any more delay in the trial.

However, the court agreed with the Prosecution for the suspension of the cross examination.

Presiding Judge, Richard Lussick said while the Trial Chamber was concerned about speedy trial, the prosecution request was justified.



## CharlesTaylorTrial.org (The Hague)

Thursday, 12 November 2009

### **Liberia: Judges Give Prosecution More Time To 'Rearrange Strategies' For The Cross-Examination Of Charles Taylor**

Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor's testimony was cut short for the second day in a row, as prosecutors asked for more time to "rearrange strategies" for the cross-examination of the former Liberian president on trial for his alleged role in crimes committed during Sierra Leone's brutal conflict.

Today's adjournment follows from yesterday's developments, when Special Court for Sierra Leone judges refused to allow the prosecution to "introduce new evidence" in Mr. Taylor's cross-examination. Instead, the judges asked the prosecution to submit a formal written application to justify why new evidence that had not been part of the prosecution's case – nor part of Mr. Taylor's direct-examination needed to be admitted.

Yesterday, Mr. Taylor's defense team had called the efforts to introduce "fresh evidence" a "trial by ambush." Court was adjourned to allow the prosecution to "rearrange" their "strategies" and to continue their cross-examination of the accused today. When court resumed this morning, lead prosecution counsel, Ms. Brenda Hollis, requested an adjournment until Monday as the prosecution needed more time to plan. The application was granted by the judges.

The accused former Liberian president is facing charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone from November 30 1996. Mr. Taylor is alleged to have supported the rebel forces in Sierra Leone through the supply of arms and ammunition in return for blood diamonds, to have been in a position of control ofver Sierra Leonean rebels so that he could have prevented or punished their crimes during the conflict, and to have joined with them in a joint criminal plan — to install a friendly government in Sierra Leone and exploit its natural resources – which involved the commission of international crimes. The former Liberian president has denied the charges.

Mr. Taylor's cross-examination continues on Monday.



## Liberia Webs

Thursday, 12 November 2009

### Taylor's contact with lawyers during cross examination to be limited

U.N. prosecutors at the war crimes trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor want to limit his access to defense lawyers during cross-examination. Taylor's lawyers say that would violate his right to counsel.

Lead Prosecutor Brenda Hollis wants the U.N. Special Court for Sierra Leone to restrict Taylor's communication with defense counsel during her cross-examination.

"It is very important that this phase of the examination not be susceptible to rehearsal or other preparation," she said.

Lead Defense Counsel Courtenay Griffiths says prosecutors apparently fear Taylor's attorneys may affect the truthfulness of his responses during cross-examination.

"The particular mischief to which my learned friend's application is addressed is the suggestion that whether directly or inadvertently contact between the accused and his counsel might in some way either coach or influence the content of his testimony," Griffiths said. "That is the mischief at which it is aimed."

Taylor is pleading not guilty to an 11-count indictment that includes murder, rape, enslavement, and conscription of child soldiers during Sierra Leone's civil war. While President of Liberia, prosecutors say Taylor acted as the effective leader of the Sierra Leonean rebel group the Revolutionary United Front.

Taylor has spent most of the past 13 weeks on the stand dismissing the prosecution case as a series of lies. With cross-examination now under way, prosecutors say they intend to challenge the accuracy, truthfulness, and completeness of Taylor's testimony.

And for that they say he should not be coached in court by his lawyers. If defense counsel needs to communicate with Taylor on other issues, Hollis wants judges to order that they must first notify the court.

"It may be that other matters arise that would require consultation between defense counsel and the accused - matters not related to the accused's testimony such as the request for instructions or guidance relating to other aspects of the case, " Hollis noted, "perhaps relating to other witnesses, other evidence that the defense may choose or try to bring before the court in the future."

Hollis says she is not asking that defense lawyers disclose the content of their discussions with Taylor, simply the subject matter that they intend to discuss.

Griffiths says even that notice denies Taylor attorney-client privilege.

"The difficulty with notice is that such notice runs up against the brick wall of legal professional privilege," Griffiths said. "That is the difficulty because how is such notice to be provided without lifting the veil of legal professional privilege, which even in these courts exists between a defendant and his lawyers?"

Justice Richard Lussick ordered prosecutors to make a written submission of their request Thursday and the defense to file a written response by next Monday. Until then, he says Taylor's access to counsel will be the same as during direct examination.

"In the mean time, the normal access that has been applicable between the accused and his counsel shall continue," Lussick said. "And of course the caution shall continue to be administered everyday that the accused is forbidden to discuss his evidence with any other person."

Taylor is the last defendant before the U.N. Special Court. The Freetown session of that court has convicted the last of the Sierra Leonean rebels indicted. Taylor's trial is being held in The Hague because of concerns that his supporters might disrupt proceedings in West Africa.





## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 12 November 2009

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Niger's president seeks Liberian help in resolving crisis**

MONROVIA, Nov. 12 (Xinhua) -- Niger's President Mamadou Tandjiof Niger has sent a special message to his Liberia counterpart requesting her to assist him in resolving the political crisis in his country, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's chief spokesperson told Xinhua on Wednesday. Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Wleh Badio said the request of President Tandji was contained in a special message delivered on Tuesday to President Sirleaf by a visiting delegation from Niger headed by Prime Minister Sem Ali Badjo Gamatie. Prime Minister Gamatie delivered the message on behalf of the delegation to President Sirleaf, Badio said. Speaking to Xinhua on the delegation visit here on Tuesday, Badio said when the delegation met with President Sirleaf at her private office in Monrovia they delivered a special message from President Tandji and conveyed his best wishes to the Liberia leader and its people.

#### **Judges Caution Prosecution On The Introduction Of 'New Evidence' In The Cross-Examination of Charles Taylor**

Nov 12, 2009 (CharlesTaylorTrial.org/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- As Charles Taylor faced his second day of cross-examination, his defense counsel objected to prosecution attempts to introduce "fresh evidence" after its case was closed, calling it a trial by "ambush." Meanwhile, Mr. Taylor tried to distance himself from the types of acts committed during Sierra Leone's brutal conflict - such as fighters forcing a mother to laugh while they buried her child - saying that he prevented such acts during Liberia's civil strife. In a move that led to the proceedings being adjourned early today, lead prosecution counsel, Ms. Brenda Hollis, sought to ask the accused former president questions about certain provisions in the Lome Peace Accord - a peace agreement signed between the Sierra Leonean government and the country's main rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in the Togolese capital, Lome, in 1999. In an attempt to present a copy of the Lome agreement to Mr. Taylor to discuss specific provisions that benefitted the RUF, Ms Hollis today aimed to establish Mr. Taylor's influence during the peace process.

### **International Clips on West Africa** **Sierra Leone**

#### **Claims Presidency Interferes With Judiciary**

Freetown, Nov 12, 2009 (Inter Press Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- It may be seven years after the country's civil war, but Sierra Leone is still battling to obtain an independent judiciary. Recent claims that the president's office had inside knowledge of the date a judgment, in a case brought by the media, would be handed down has left many wondering if the country has independent courts. Since the end of the 11-year civil war in 2002, the British Department for International Development (DFID) has been pouring huge amounts of money into helping reform the judiciary which, like many state institutions, had virtually collapsed. Judges and magistrates were provided with luxurious vehicles, the law courts were given a facelift, judicial officials were trained and the prisons system overhauled. But there is still much to be desired. Sierra Leone's 1991 constitution clearly affirms the independence of the three arms of government - the judiciary,



legislature and the executive (presidency) - but the judiciary has often been accused of allowing some of its activities to be interfered with by the executive, eroding neutrality.

## Guinea

### West African Civil Society Organizations Plan Mass Protest Against Guinea Junta

Source: Ghana News Agency 12 November 2009

West African Civil Society Organizations (CSO) on Wednesday initiated moves to galvanise mass social and civil agitation across the region against the military junta in Guinea. The mass social and civil agitation would also target the ECOWAS Commission, member countries and the African Union (AU) to adopt proactive and punitive stand against the Guinean military dictators, Mr Alimou Diallo, Regional Coordinator, West Africa Network for Peace Building (WANEP) stated in Accra. Mr Diallo was speaking at a regional public forum organised by Media Foundation for West Africa on the "Political Situation in Guinea - End Impunity Now." He said the suspension of Guinea from ECOWAS and AU in line with the principle of zero tolerance for unconstitutional change of government was not enough.

## Cote d'Ivoire

### Cote d'Ivoire declares "slight change" of Nov. 29 election date

ABIDJAN, Nov. 12 (Xinhua) -- Cote d'Ivoire has declared a "slight change" of the Nov. 29 election date after a series of delays since 2005, when the first post-war presidential vote failed to take place amid differences. On Wednesday, the scheduled date was "slightly changed," said president of the independent electoral commission (CEI), Robert Beugre Mambe. "Nov. 29 was ideal but with all the never-ending discussions that we have to deal with, we are going to shift a little bit on the date," Mambe declared during a press conference. The CEI on Tuesday officially handed over to the United Nations operations in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI) cartons containing the provisional electoral lists to distribute and display them at the 11,000 centers across the West African country after repeated postponements since Aug. 25. "In the determination of the date, there are legal time limits that we cannot compromise," Mambe explained without giving the new date of holding elections. The display of the provisional electoral list will open the way for administrative and judicial contests which are expected to last for 38 days.

## Local Media – Newspaper

### NEC Releases Preliminary Results from Montserrado County By-Election

(The Inquirer, New Vision, Daily Observer, Heritage, The Informer, The Monitor, The Analyst, National Chronicle, New Democrat)

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) has begun releasing official preliminary results from Tuesday's Senatorial by-election held in Montserrado County.
- According to results from 33 polling places, the candidate of the ruling Unity Party Clemenceau Urey is in the lead with 1,449 votes totalling 36.3 percent.
- Mrs. Geraldine Doe-Sheriff of the Congress for Democratic Change is in second place with 1,257 votes amounting to 31.5 percent while Professor Wilson Tarpeh of the Alliance for Peace and Democracy comes third with 708 votes totalling 17.8 percent, followed by Liberty Party's Darius Dillon with 247 votes totalling 6.2 percent. There are a total of 968 polling places.
- The Commission said the final results of the by-election are due to be announced tomorrow, November 13.
- There are already speculations in the media that a run-off is imminent between the ruling Unity Party and the opposition Congress for Democratic Change.



### **Public Works Construct Bridges in Montserrado, Bong Counties**

(The Inquirer, Daily Observer, Heritage, The Informer, The Analyst)

- The Ministry of Public Works has launched two baily bridges in Careysburg, Montserrado County and Nyanforla in Bong County
- Acting Public Works Minister, Johnson Gwaikolo said the bridges are intended to improve the safety of motorists.
- According to Mr. Gwaikolo, the baily bridge which links Nyanforla Town to Marigibi and Bong Counties will ease transportation difficulties in the area.
- He said other bridges around the country have also been earmarked for construction.
- The two bridges in Careysburg and Nyanforla Town were jointly implemented by the Public Works Ministry and the Bangladeshi contingent of UNMIL.

### **Technical and Vocational Centre Dedicated at Government-Owned Tubman High School**

(Heritage, The Informer The News, The Inquirer, The Monitor)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has paid tribute to the Lebanese Cultural Union of Liberia and the local business community for their tireless efforts in contributing to the reconstruction of the country.
- Speaking yesterday at the dedication of a newly renovated vocational centre at the government-owned William V. S. Tubman High School in Sinkor, the President challenged the Lebanese community to go beyond paying taxes and duties by contributing to life-building capacities of the country's youth.
- The renovation of the vocational centre undertaken by the Lebanese Cultural Union of Liberia is put at cost approximately USD\$350,000

### **NEC Blames Police For Delays in Start of Polls**

(The News, New Democrat)

- The Chairman of the National Elections Commission (NEC), James Fromoyan has blamed the failure to commence polling on time to the default on the part of some officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP).
- Chairman Fromoyan said the failure of the officers to report to their assigned polling centres on time and provide security caused the delay in opening the polls as scheduled.
- Addressing a news conference, the NEC Boss said the UNMIL team working along with Commission had advised against leaving ballot papers at sites where there was visibly no police presence.
- Meanwhile, Mr. Fromoyan has admitted that there were problems during the polls but said some lessons were learned and measures were been put in place so that the irregularities that went on will not be repeated.

### **UN Prosecutors Seek To Limit Taylor's Contact**

(The News, The Monitor, Heritage, Daily Observer, New Democrat, The Analyst)

- UN prosecutors at the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor want to limit his access to defense lawyers during cross-examination.
- Taylor's lawyers say that would violate his right to counsel.
- Lead Prosecutor Brenda Hollis wants the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone to restrict Taylor's communication with defense counsel during her cross-examination.
- Lead Defense Counsel, Courtenay Griffiths says prosecutors apparently fear Taylor's attorneys may affect the truthfulness of his responses during cross-examination.
- Meanwhile, Justice Richard Lussick has ordered prosecutors to make a written submission of their request Thursday and the defense to file a written response by next Monday and said until that time Taylor's access to counsel will be the same as during direct examination.

### **Former Transitional Chairman Bryant and Others Due In Court Soon**

(Heritage)

- The former Chairman of the erstwhile National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), Gyude Bryant along with several former officials are expected to appear before Criminal Court 'C' at the temple of Justice during the November Term of Court.



- They are to answer to charges of economic sabotage and theft of property respectively.
- Mr. Bryant including former Finance Minister Lusinee Kamara, his deputy Tugbeh Doe, Pyne Wallo, Albert Quaaye and Tapla Doe, former Ways and Means Chairman in the erstwhile National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) were indicted by the Liberian Government for theft of property and economic sabotage.

### **MCC Qualifies Liberia For Grant Assistance**

(The Analyst, The Informer)

- Liberia has qualified for grant assistance in the 2010 fiscal year joining 86 developing nations around the world.
- According to the United States Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) country-by-country indicators data, Liberia has shown progress in good governance and providing basic services and improving the economy.
- Planning Minister Amara Konneh said Liberia was selected last December by the MCC Board as threshold eligible.
- Minister Konneh said since then the Ministry has coordinated the development of Liberia's Threshold Country Programme with relevant stakeholders including USAID.

### **Major Renovation Work begins on FDA's Whein Town Facility**

(The Inquirer)

- Property owners of the current office of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), in Congo Town, have given the corporation 90 days to relocate the offices.
- The outgoing Managing Director of the FDA, John Woods said as a result of the ultimatum major renovation works have begun on the FDA Whein Town Office in Montserrado County.
- Mr. Woods said the FDA Whein Town Office was built in the 80s during the late President Samuel Doe administration and the civil war led to the destruction of the facility.
- He said a Liberian Construction company, Afrique Construction and Maintenance Company (ACMC) has won the bid and will pre-finance the renovation work.

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

### **NEC Releases Preliminary By-election Results...Clemenceau Urey Leads**

(*Also reported on Truth FM, Sky F.M., and ELBC*)

### **Public Works Construct Bridges In Montserrado, Bong**

(*Also reported on Truth FM, Sky F.M., and ELBC*)

### **President Sirleaf Asked To Mediate In Niger**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says she has been asked by the President of Niger Mamadou Tandja to help promote dialogue in his country.
- President Sirleaf said President Tandja wants a peaceful settlement of the political stalemate in his country.
- Madam Sirleaf said she welcomes the request by her counterpart but said more needed to be done.
- She spoke after a Presidential delegation from Niger headed by Prime Minister Sem Ali Badjo Gamatie met with her Tuesday at her Foreign Ministry office in Monrovia.

### **LISGIS Starts Validation Seminar Thursday**

- The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services will today Thursday begin a two-day Survey Instrument Validation workshop.
- The workshop is being held in collaboration with the Labor Ministry for the Joint Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ) and Labor Force Survey.
- The according to the release, the validation exercise of the survey instruments is in preparation for the conduct of the joint CWIQ and Labor Force Survey.
- The survey which takes place shortly is intended to gather the relevant statistics that will support the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

(*Also reported on Truth FM, Sky F.M., and ELBC*)

### **Child Protection Symposium Underway**

- The Children Protection Alliance of Liberia is expected to hold a two-day symposium on the rights of the Liberian Child.
- A release said the symposium is an interactive roundtable aimed at developing a Children's Bill to serve the best interest of the Liberian Child.
- Speakers at the symposium including President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will address the most pressing challenges facing Liberian children in contemporary human rights practices.
- The two-day symposium which takes place November 13 and 14 will be held in collaboration with Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy among others.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky F.M., and ELBC)*

### **Educational Consultative Forum Opens In Bomi**

- The Education Ministry has begun a two-day educational consultative forum in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.
- According to Education Minister Joseph Korto, the education sector plan was taken to the county to get the input of the citizens.
- Dr. Korto assured government would do everything possible to provide the needed incentives for rural teachers.
- He said such incentives would maintain teachers in their respective counties.

### **Unidentified 'Rubber Tapper' Rapes 12-year-old School Girl**

- An unidentified rubber tapper has reportedly raped a 12-year-old school girl in Kpako Camp, Bomi County.
- According to reports, the girl was found bleeding excessively in her school uniform.
- The County Education Officer of Bomi, Amos Forley, said the situation was reported to him by the Principal of the Beh Sao Public School in Bomi.
- Details are still being gathered on the incident.

**Truth FM** *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

### **MCC Qualifies Liberia For Grant Assistance**

#### **US Attaches Importance To Montserrado By-election**

- US Ambassador to Liberia Linda Thomas Greenfield says the US Government attaches importance to the Montserrado County Senatorial By-election.
- Ambassador Greenfield said the by-election is about Liberia's proving itself as a democratic nation and the beginning of election season in the country.
- She said she was surprised to see a poor voting turnout.
- The US diplomat said the Embassy dispatched 19 teams to monitor the by-election and will compare notes with other national and international observers.

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AllAfrica.Com

Thursday, 12 November 2009

## Guinea: Between The Devil and The Deep Blue Sea

Joseph Kaifala

### Opinion

The problem with the international community is that it is either acting too slowly, with unnecessary consultations taking the bulk of its time, or acting too swiftly without proper thinking. The latter has been the problem with international response to the situation in Guinea.

While the crisis warranted severe international condemnation, the hasty move to openly commence investigation for crimes against humanity, which means possible indictment for Captain Dadis Camara, has led to serious setbacks in finding solutions to the current political crisis. One would think that the international community is aware of this scenario by now.

Captain Camara knows, from the experiences of Charles Taylor on the one hand and Omar al-Bashir on the other, that the only way one can possibly escape the arms of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is to remain in power, especially when such power is sanctioned by the military. Proper thoughts on the part of the international community would have revealed that one does not invite a handshake with a fist. The international community's call for Camara to be tried for war crimes, even before completing the investigation of the atrocities committed on 28 September this year, seems to me like a sentimental approach to a complex political problem. Their actions risk putting Guinea on track for many more years of military dictatorship.

The hasty actions were spearheaded by former colonial master France, especially by foreign minister Bernard Kouchner. This makes me wonder, as Camara might be thinking, whether the entire condemnation from France is just a 21st century revenge for Guinea's 20th century rejection of La Republique when everyone else was falling for it. The massacre in Guinea obviously warrants judicial action, but the international priority should have been luring Camara out of power and reconstituting a democratic process in Guinea, as they did so well in the case of Charles Taylor and Liberia. But whether it was due to French interest in prosecuting their former recalcitrant child or the recklessness of international thinking, the consequences of their haphazard solutions will be far-reaching for Guineans. One thing is for sure, Camara is not going to offer himself as a sacrificial lamb out of fear from international sanctions.

Here is my revelation to those trying to find solutions to the crisis in Guinea. Camara is in the typical dilemma of standing between the devil and the deep blue sea. He could surrender and join his comrades in The Hague, or stay in power and risk becoming a pariah state. Of course the latter really just affects innocent civilians, such as those in Darfur or Harare. There will still be some clandestine international commercial desperados out there wishing to supply weapons and food in exchange for some of Guinea's precious resources. Therefore, my suggestion to anyone with the goodwill to want to help ordinary Guineans, is to forget the easy and futile talk of sanctions, and focus on attractive solutions that can get Camara to hand over power.

The international community should put a halt to possible indictment for crimes against humanity until they find a solution to the future governance structure of Guinea; otherwise they might as well give up altogether. No amount of outside sanctions is going to threaten Camara, certainly not one from Ecowas or the African Union. A commission consisting of opposition leaders and members of the junta should be established to come up with recommendations for the way forward, and please, while you're at it, no more power sharing deals.

Joseph Kaifala is from Sierra Leone. He is director of The Jeneba Project, a not-for-profit organisation providing educational assistance to Sierra Leone

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Thursday, 12 November 2009

### **Karadzic's legal team cease work over pay**

By Sebastiaan Gottlieb



*The Hague,  
Netherlands*

A number of legal advisers to the former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic have gone "on strike" because of outstanding payments.

Mr Karadzic is being tried at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for war crimes committed in the 1990s in Bosnia. He had been representing himself but boycotted the first three days of trial proceedings, arguing that he needed more time to prepare for a "case of this magnitude and complexity".

Because he is preparing his own defence, his advisers receive an allowance paid for by the United Nations court. The rate is based on that of a "legal assistant". According to the Dutch press agency, ANP, the tribunal has reneged on earlier agreements over rates. The US lawyer Peter Robinson, who leads the legal support team, has suspended work on the case, although he insists he is not on strike. An international team of lawyers, who give unpaid legal advice, are also at the disposal of the former Serb leader.

Mr Karadzic was captured last year in Belgrade after being on the run for 11 years. He has denied all 11 charges brought against him by the ICTY, including crimes committed during the 43-month siege of Sarajevo that began in 1992, in which an estimated 10,000 died.

Meanwhile, Mr Karadzic has appealed against a court ruling last week to adjourn his case until 1 March next year, as he says he needs at least another 10 months before he is prepared.



## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

### Karadzic: pitfalls of a parallel defence

By Sebastiaan Gottlieb



*The Hague,  
Netherlands*

Radovan Karadzic conducts his own defence in his genocide trial, but he has an international team of top lawyers, academics and interns at his disposal. For months they have been preparing the defence of the former Bosnian-Serb leader.

Karadzic's defence team is led by US lawyer Peter Robinson, who is coordinating procedure while Serb lawyer Goran Petronijevic heads up the legal advisers.

Karadzic also has three case managers and two researchers at his disposal, paid for by the UN court. As well as this he can call on around forty international academics and lawyers who work for him unpaid.

The Amsterdam professor of international law Göran Sluiter was one of the academics asked to form part of the team along with other international colleagues. He insisted as a precondition that Karadzic should respect the rules of the ICTY. After he had received assurances, he agreed to the request. Sluiter has also advised prosecutors at the court in the past.

When questioned on his motives for assisting with Karadzic's defence, he replied, "In the first place because I consider that he too has the right to an effective defence. Ultimately, also with the goal of improving the quality of the administration of criminal justice. You can only have good administration of criminal justice if there's also a good defence"

#### **Legitimacy**

The Amsterdam lawyer is studying procedural matters, and working on the question of which documents and statements from other cases may be used in the trial. He is particularly concerned at the question of whether the arrest of Karadzic in Belgrade in July 2008 was lawful.

Professor Sluiter is doing the work on a voluntary basis, and is using students from the University of Amsterdam (UvA) to carry out research. Students have also been recruited in Australia and the former Yugoslavia to investigate matters, which could be important for the defence.

**Cooperation refused**

Sluiter doesn't know how the trial of Karadzic will proceed, especially since the former Bosnian-Serb president refused to cooperate at the start of the trial on October 26th. Karadzic has repeatedly said he needs more time to prepare his defence. Sluiter agrees:

“If you put that to people, the reaction is very often: ‘this man is delaying the business, so you must take strong action’. But if you then explain that it’s about someone who is confronted with millions of pages of documents, and that he wants to study and read them properly, then it’s easy to understand why this can’t be done in the time allowed. I also find it wholly unjust that the trial is already beginning.”

The court has now assigned a stand-by lawyer to Karadzic against his wishes and adjourned the genocide trial until March 1st. Some see this as a minor victory for Karadzic who has once again succeeded in delaying his trial. However, it still does not meet his request for an extra 10 months to prepare his defence and study the 1.3 million pages of evidence and the hundreds of witness statements submitted by the prosecution.

The situation is complicated. The stand-by lawyer appointed by the court will need at least six months to prepare himself and Karadzic has already said he doesn't want to work with him.

Sluiter warns that conducting two parallel defences could be very difficult. It raises the question of whether Karadzic can submit motions and requests, or cross-examine witnesses.



## Capital News

Thursday, 12 November 2009

### Witness protection unit seeks autonomy



BY SARAH WAMBUI

NAIROBI, Kenya, Nov 12 - Seven months after the launch of the State Witness Protection Unit (WPU), its director Alice Ondieki now wants the office delinked from the Attorney General.

Mrs Ondieki said on Thursday that there was great need to transform the Unit into an independent body to allow it to receive funding from other

sources.

“It has become apparent that the Unit cannot function under the AG. The Cabinet memo is ready to be discussed before it is published for the general public. Once the Act is amended and the two offices are split, WPU will be able to access funds from donors and other consolidated parties unlike when it is joined to the AG’s office,” she explained.

Attorney General Amos Wako noted that Kenya’s Witness Protection Act (WPA) was enacted into law in 2006 becoming operational on November 1. He added that the implementation of the Act was promulgated on January 15.

“Since its inception the Witness Protection Unit has experienced some operational difficulties attributable largely to its lack of statutory independence and autonomy under the current legislation. Coupled with the fact that it is difficult for this program to be administered as a unit of government, its ability to recruit personnel and mobilise resources has been very difficult,” he observed further proposing the de-linking of the two units.

He seconded Mrs Ondieki’s sentiments saying that he was pleased the proposals for amendment of the WPA had been finalised and that the draft Witness Protection (Amendment) Bill was awaiting Cabinet approval.

“I expect the Amendment Bill to be debated by the National Assembly by December this year before its publication and enactment. I am confident that once the proposed amendments are enacted into law the witness protection agency will be able to administer the Witness Protection Programme

effectively and in accordance with the best international standards,” he stated.

Mr Wako added that lack of capacity to implement the Act was a major challenge facing the Act.

“This Act is a new law with new concepts. We have limited best practices regionally to learn from. There is urgent need for us to create our internal capacity building process to equip the Witness Protection Unit personnel with skills to facilitate the implementation of the Act. In addition witness protection is a very expensive affair and we continue facing financial constraints to support it,” he held.

He proposed a multi disciplinary approach among the agencies at the national, regional and international levels and a desire for collaboration as the way for dealing with some of the challenges facing the unit.

“The Witness Protection Programme requires close working partnerships and effective inter-agency cooperation between national authorities,” he explained.

Mr Wako who was speaking during the East African regional conference on witness protection recalled that one of the resolutions of the Conference of State Parties at the United Nations Convention Against Organized Crime during its third session was the identification of witness protection as an area which could receive technical assistance and called on everyone to support it.

“Kenya has ratified two protocols of the United Nations Convention and I therefore appeal to all our friends and well wishers to support this initiative whether in the form of financial or technical assistance to enable us achieve the theme of the conference which is ‘Witness Protection in East Africa’.

He added that Kenya was the second African country after South Africa to have a Witness Protection Legislation as well as a Witness Protection Programme.

“The witness protection Act is a land mark legislation in the criminal justice system not just in Kenya but in Africa. Its objective is to protect witnesses and their families from threats, intimidation and even death for cooperating with the law,” he stated.

The multi agency witness protection unit comprises of officers who draw membership from the office of the AG, the Police, Provincial Administration and Internal security, National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS) Kenya Anti Corruption Commission and the Immigration and Registration of persons department.

It was officially launched on March 4 this year.

Its functions under section 4 of the Witness Protection Act and Regulation 3 of the same Act are: To operationalize the witness protection act and regulation by ensuring that proper protective measures



are put in place for a witness; cooperate with other agencies where necessary in providing any of the protective measures stipulated in section 4 of the Act; advise and direct witnesses on where to obtain legal services for the purpose of protecting their rights; and assist witnesses when called to testify before a court of law.

Experts from all over the world including the United Kingdom, the United States, the Netherlands, South Africa, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, International Criminal Court and the Special Court for Sierra Leone have all come in to assist Kenya implement and operationalise its Witness Protection Act.

The highlights of the proposed amendments of the Witness Protection Act include:

Establishment and incorporation of a Witness Protection Agency to replace the existing Witness Protection Unit.

The agency shall be an independent and autonomous agency.

That the funding of the agency is derived directly from the consolidated fund and that the agency may be free to receive grants, gifts, donations or endowments and disburse them therefore having the ability to control and administer its own funds.

For administrative and administrative autonomy, that it shall appoint, control and supervise its own professional and technical staff.

The director, assistant directors and protection officers to have the power, privileges and immunities of a police officer.

That the agency shall perform its function under the act without interference from any authority and to have all powers necessary for that purpose.

For accountability and transparency of the agency, an oversight mechanism is provided in the form of an advisory board as well as an appeals tribunal.

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Friday, 13 November 2009

### Rwandan immigrant's genocide case delayed in Canada

By International Justice Desk



*Ottawa, Canada*

A 37-year-old Rwandan immigrant arrested last week on suspicion of committing acts of genocide appeared briefly via video link in an Ottawa courtroom Thursday.

Jacques Mungwarere was arrested last Friday by Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) at the tail end of an investigation that led authorities from Rwanda -- site of the brutal 1994 genocide -- to the United States and Canada.

His case was adjourned on Thursday for one week to allow Mungwarere time to find a lawyer to represent him in the proceedings.

"I have not retained the services of a lawyer," he said from a detention centre, dressed in bright orange prison garb, explaining to the judge that he has requested legal aid but it has not yet been forthcoming.

Mungwarere is suspected of having committed acts of genocide in the region of Kibuye in western Rwanda, police told AFP. A private citizen tipped off police to Mungwarere's presence in the country.

According to the United Nations, some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred in the 1994 genocide.

### **Munyaneza found guilty**

Mungwarere is the second person to be accused of war crimes in Canada, under the "universal jurisdiction" mandate of the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act, which came into law in October 2000.

Late last month Rwandan militia leader Desire Munyaneza, 42, was found guilty of crimes against humanity, in Canada's first war crimes trial.

He was sentenced on 29 October to life in prison after being found guilty earlier this year of seven counts of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity for the rape, murder and torture of dozens of Tutsis and moderate Hutus in southern Rwanda from April to July 1994.

He received the maximum penalty under Canadian law and will not be eligible for parole until having served 25 years in prison.

Source: AFA



## Aljazeera

Thursday, 12 November 2009

### Sarajevo commander's sentence cut

A former Bosnian Serb general convicted of committing war crimes during the siege of the city of Sarajevo has had his prison sentence reduced by four years.

The International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) on Thursday found Dragomir Milosevic was not liable for several shelling incidents and cut his jail term from 33 years to 29.

However, it upheld most counts against him in connection to the 43-month siege of the Bosnian capital during the 1992-5 war that killed an estimated 10,000 people.

"Milosevic did more than merely tolerate the crimes as a commander," Fausto Pocar, the presiding judge at the court in the Hague, said.

"In maintaining and intensifying the campaign directed at the civilian population in Sarajevo ... he provided additional encouragement to his subordinates to commit the crimes against the civilians."

The ruling came in response to an appeal by Milosevic, who is no relative of former Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic, over his conviction and life imprisonment.

#### 'Central role'

Milosevic, now 67, commanded troops laying siege to Sarajevo from August 1994 to the end of the war in November 1995.

The troops shelled the city and directed sniper fire against civilians as they queued for bread, went to markets or walked with their children.

Milosevic surrendered to the ICTY in December 2004, and was convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity three years later.

During his appeal, which was heard in July this year, judges found no proof that Milosevic had planned and ordered the sniping of civilians.

But they said he was responsible as a commander for failing to prevent and punish such crimes committed by his subordinates.

The judges also said there was no evidence that Milosevic had ordered the shelling of three civilian sites, but they said it did not "diminish his activity and central role in the commission of such crimes".

Milosevic will serve his sentence, which includes time spent at the detention centre in The Hague since his surrender in late 2004, in a yet to be determined country.



Dragomir Milosevic was a commander during the siege of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital [AFP]

## IRIN

Friday, 13 November 2009

### CAMBODIA: Coming to terms with a violent past

#### SVAY KHLEANG



Photo: [Brendan Brady/IRIN](#)

Women in the village of Svay Khleang read a book about the Khmer Rouge war crimes court prepared by the Documentation Center of Cambodia. Most Cambodians have little to no knowledge about the tribunal

(IRIN) - Cambodia marked a milestone in its history when the first of a series of UN-backed trials began in February to hold five Khmer Rouge leaders accountable for crimes during their rule (1975-79).

More than punishing a few individuals, providing answers for a nation still suffering from collective post-traumatic stress may be the most vital function of the specially created war crimes tribunal, known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), say experts.

However, rights groups have questioned the independence of the tribunal and accused the government of interference in its workings.

Meanwhile most of Cambodia's population has had little access to the tribunal and lacks awareness of its proceedings.

According to a survey published in January 2009 by the Human Rights Center of the University of California, Berkeley, 85 percent of those

surveyed had little or no knowledge of the ECCC.

The tribunal, established in early 2006 and based in the capital Phnom Penh, is a welcome but distant phenomenon for most people, since about 80 percent of Cambodia's population of 14.4 million live in rural areas, according to UN figures.

Moreover, half the country's population is under 20 and never lived under the Khmer Rouge, an ultra-Maoist regime.

Much of the younger generation is unfamiliar with the details of the regime's atrocities, in part because of a complete lack of Khmer Rouge history in schools until very recently.

#### Victims' Unit

According to estimates from most scholars, some 1.7 million Cambodians died from overwork, starvation and murder under the Khmer Rouge's vision to transform the country into an agrarian utopia.

As part of attempts to give victims of the Khmer Rouge a chance to participate in the tribunal proceedings, a Victims' Unit started operating under the ECCC in January 2008, although rights groups say it is sorely under-resourced.

To date, 4,460 Cambodians have filed with the court as victims, providing information used by the prosecutors' and court judges' investigating teams to gather evidence and solicit testimony.

"It makes it more accessible for Cambodians to have other lay people sit in the court and explain the horrors and atrocities," Lars Olsen, a spokesman for the UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials (UNAKRT) division, told IRIN.

"It also provides essential information to the investigators as they gather research," he said.

“It reminds me of my experiences then, how my parents were killed. It's good to show everyone but it's also difficult for me to see the children watching such terrible things”



The crimes victims describe range from forced marriage and sexual abuse to the murder of loved ones, according to the Unit.

Around half of this group has also filed for civil party status, which gives victims an official role in the court to provide testimony and request reparations.

### Outreach efforts

Efforts to make the tribunal reverberate in homes throughout this impoverished country include those of the non-profit Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)

DC-Cam, which documents the crimes committed under the Khmer Rouge, is seen as the leading custodian of primary documents on the regime and is providing material to the ECCC.

Last month, in the remote village of Svay Khleang in the eastern province of Kampong Cham, DC-Cam workers spoke to villagers about the tribunal's work and how they could participate by sharing their experiences as victims of the regime.

Going on record rattled 62-year-old Man Maisan - under the Khmer Rouge, having your name on a list meant certain death, and for her, the terrifying association had not faded.

“Are others doing this, too?” she asked. Despite her initial trepidation, she had plenty of reasons to come forward: her parents and only child died under the regime.

Villagers watched clips of court proceedings, including a confession and apology to the tribunal by Kaing Guek Eav, the chief of the Khmer Rouge's most notorious torture centre, codenamed S-21.

Older members of the crowd gasped when images of black-clad Khmer Rouge soldiers appeared during a documentary on the regime's rule - for many, these figures were in the flesh the last time they had seen them.

“It reminds me of my experiences then, how my parents were killed,” said Yim Somlok, 80, who watched the tribunal for the first time like many others in the audience.

“It's good to show everyone but it's also difficult for me to see the children watching such terrible things.”

### Muslim minority

The Khmer Rouge's reign of terror was especially hard on Svay Khleang, which, historically, had been the heart of Cambodia's minority Muslim community.

It was here, after the fall of Phnom Penh in 1975, that the Khmer Rouge implemented with particular fervour their xenophobic campaign to stamp out identities they considered foreign to the country.

“I'm hoping the tribunal will acknowledge the particular suffering of the Muslim people,” said Piyamin Yusoh, 56, the village's current Muslim leader.

bb/ey/ds/cb



Photo: [Brendan Brady/IRIN](#) 

A young girl listens as her father is interviewed by workers from the Documentation Center of Cambodia about his involvement in the Muslim rebellion against the Khmer Rouge