

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



Approaching high tide at Koo Bay.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Friday, 14 December 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Awareness Times
Friday, 14 December 2007

Charles Taylor's Defence Team Set for Trial

By Lamin A. Turay

The Defence Team for former Liberian president, Charles Taylor who is currently awaiting trial in The Hague after he was indicted by the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone on war crimes has said in Freetown that they are well prepared to defend their client. Members of the

team had earlier asked for the factual materials involved in the charges before they could proceed with the defence. Formal president Charles Taylor was indicted in March 2003 for war crimes and crimes against humanity during the country's eleven-year long civil war.

Speaking to press men at the Court's

New England premises on Tuesday after the conference, the Outreach Coordinator of the Special Court, Mr. Patrick Fatoma said everything has been put in place to re-start the trial. According to him, the judges have disclosed that all evidences and materials have been passed on to the defence team by the prosecution, and that the

trial will start very soon.

He concluded by saying that they witness from other countries apart from the ones in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Though he indicated to us that about 300 witnesses have availed themselves, they might reduce the number depending on what the prosecution and others decide on.

For di People

Friday, 14 December 2007

International Human Rights Day on Prison Conditions

SPEAKING ON the celebration of International Human Rights Day on 10 December, UN's Human Rights Officer, Kader Podio said that despite efforts at capacity building, it was lamentable to see juvenile offenders still being kept in the country's prisons together with adult offenders.

by *JAMES COLE*

The Prison's Assessment Report published in June had highlighted this situation and after that report, UN had had talks with the authorities and the training of prisons officers who had commit-

ted themselves not to accept children into the prisons but this had not stopped.

A prisons activist said to address this situation, there is a need to review the Prisons Code which stipulated that offenders as young as 17 years can be accepted into the prisons. He stressed that the

Kenema prisons is the most terrible in the country with poor sanitation, overcrowding, malnutrition and inmates developing skin diseases. He said that out of the 1,199 currently in custody at Pademba Road prisons, only 698 are serving time while the rest are awaiting trials. Some of these prisoners have been at Pademba prisons for about four years now awaiting trials with numerous adjournments.

He lamented that rather than acting as a correctional facility, the reverse has been the case where some prisoners freed on one crime have returned on another crime. Hence, the association of juveniles with hardened criminals was not good as it destroys the lives of those kids as most of them now learn tricks hitherto unknown to them. He however noted that at the Port Loko prisons they are being taught skills of which soap making is a part and that high quality soap is being produced by those inmates and highly depended on by those in the community.

Sheku Jalloh, a 15 year old, one of a good number of juveniles at Pademba prisons said he has been in custody for three months awaiting trial. A pathetic site described by a UN reporter was that of a suckling mother, Fatmata Yayah who is in prison with a two-month old baby. She is alleged to have been remanded on a Le 3m debt case and became pregnant later giving birth to the kid who is now two months old. There are others like her suckling children at Pademba Road awaiting trial.

Where does this leave their human rights, should they end up not being found guilty? Inmates speaking about their food said those in remand are given less food ration than those serving time and prison officers have intimated that those in remand awaiting trial should be provided for by the police as they are only there for safe keeping and not really in the custody of the prison until proven guilty.

They maintained that food is brought only at 2:pm, thus anyone brought in after that time will have to go without food till the next day. It was also learnt that rice and other food supplies are only given to the institution six months late thus, a lot of rationing goes on.

Lamin Ngobeh of Kenema prisons said they had 167 inmates for a building designed to accommodate 80 and this had been due to the slow pace of the judiciary. In such an overcrowded situation, he said disease and its spread could not be ruled out.

20 Liberians To Testify Against Taylor

...As trial resumes next month



Mr. Charles Ghankay Taylor

THE VISITING CHIEF Prosecutor of the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, Steven Rapp, has disclosed that sixty two (62) witnesses have been drawn up by the court to testify against former Liberian leader, Charles Ghankay Taylor.

Former President Taylor faces 11-count charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his alleged role in Sierra Leone brutal civil conflict. He is currently in The Hague, Netherlands, facing trial.

Addressing a news

conference Wednesday in Monrovia, Rapp said twenty (20) of the total sixty-two (62) witnesses are Liberians while the rest are from other neighboring and sub-regional countries including Sierra Leone.

Rapp assured that witnesses of both the prosecution and defense teams will be well protected and made to testify behind the scene when necessary.

"The witnesses of the prosecution as well as the defense will be treated with respect and kept in secured environment in The Hague ahead of the testimony before the court", he noted.

He categorically dismissed claim in some quarters of Monrovia that the Special Court was forcing witnesses to testify against their wish, saying the claim is untrue.

Contrary to the claim, the Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone stated that the

witnesses of the prosecution are eager to testify against former President Taylor.

Asked as to whether those on the United Nations Travel Ban desirous of testifying against or in favor of detained former Liberian leader will be allowed to travel to The Hague, Rapp responded in the affirmative, noting their trip will be facilitated in keeping with the UN resolutions 1688.

"The UN Travel Ban will not serve as an obstacle to individuals wanting to testify in defense of former President Taylor as everything was being done to facilitate their travel to The Hague in collaboration with the defense team of the ex-Liberian leader", he emphasized.

Commenting on the nature of the evidence which will be brought forward by the court against former President Taylor, he said, the evidence will focus on the alleged role

played by the former Liberian leader in the funding and organizing of the disbanded RUF Rebel Group in return of diamond and others.

"The special court has strong and compelling evidence to convict former President Taylor for his alleged involvement in orchestrating mayhem in the sisterly Republic of Sierra Leone beginning 1996 – 2002", he pointed out.

Prosecutor Rapp, who disclosed that the first witness for the defense team of former President Taylor will take the stand on January 7, 2008, said the full trail of the ex-Liberian leader will be screened on the internet as well as other international media outlets.

He added that Special Court will consider no additional indictment against another as all was now set for the resumption of the trial which begins on January 7, 2008.

By Theophilus Seaton

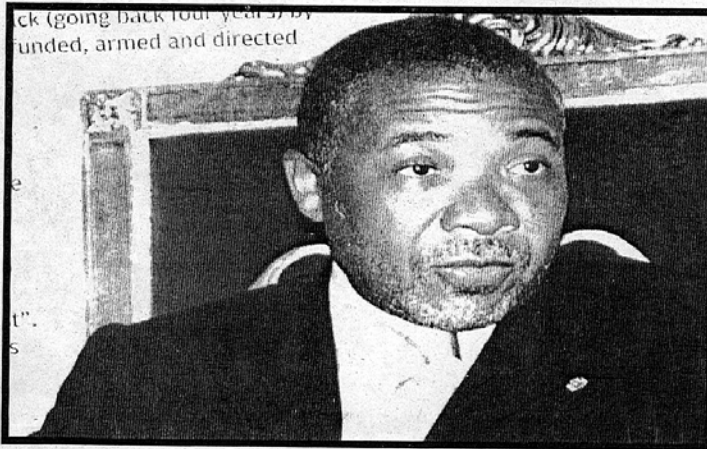
National Chronicle (Liberia)
Thursday, 13 December 2007

CHARLES TAYLOR INNOCENT, NOT GUILTY...

-Says Court's Chief Prosecutor

The chief prosecutor of the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen

Rapp, has revealed that the prosecution has a strong case with supporting evidence.
Cont'd on Page 6



Former Pres. Charles G. Taylor



Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp

TAYLOR

dence against former President, Charles Ghankay Taylor; Ahmed Sheriff reports.

Former President Taylor is currently standing trial at the Special Court, now transferred in The Hague, for alleged war crimes committed against humanity in Sierra Leone during that country's civil war.

Addressing a news conference yesterday at the court outreach secretariat in Monrovia, the court's chief prosecutor said at the opening of the trial on January 4, 2007, together with trial attorney, Mohamed Bangural, in the prosecution, the evidence that will be presented against Taylor during the course of the trial shows that Taylor was in effective control of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), an insurgent group that unmercifully fought the Sierra Leonean war.

"Our evidence shows that Charles Taylor was in control of the RUF from 1991 up to the time the rebel group formed an alliance with the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) in 1997 to 1998," Rapp pointed out.

The Special Court's chief prosecutor who once worked at the Rwanda Tribunal prosecuting war crimes and genocide committed in that country during its political upheaval in 1994, revealed that in 1998 Taylor provided equipment and armed training to RUF rebels in an operation called "operation spear no soul".

When the operation was launched, Rapp said thousands of Sierra Leoneans were killed, raped, amputated to apparently force Sierra Leone into submission.

During this operation, the court chief's prosecutor said evidence with the prosecution indicates that Taylor received good stock of diamonds to finance a cross-border arms trade.

With this evidence, Rapp said, "We in the prosecution believe that we have strong case against Taylor."

However, the court's chief prosecutor said the former Liberian President is presumed innocent, not guilty until the trial is over.

Rapp said Taylor will be accorded an opportunity to screen and cross-examine all witnesses of the prosecution.

He then pointed out that there are 62 witnesses, and out of this number 20 witnesses are expected to come from Liberia.

Charles Taylor Goes to Court January 7

62 Witnesses to Testify

By Julie Noah

The principal prosecutor for the Special Court in

Sierra Leone, Mr. Stephen Rapp, has announced that former president Charles Taylor, who has been accused of crimes against humanity, is in good health and fit to face trial on January 7, 2008.

Mr. Rapp, during a press conference held at the Special Court for Sierra Leone Outreach Section in Monrovia yesterday, disclosed that 62 witnesses would be testifying during the trial.

According to Mr. Rapp, the 62 witnesses of whom 20 are Liberians and close associates of Mr. Taylor, during their testimonies, would be protected and unidentified.

Mr. Rapp pointed out that the witnesses' locations will not be disclosed because of security

reasons, adding that some witnesses will testify behind a screen where people will not know who they are but their voices will be heard. He said Judges at the court will determine who to testify.

The special court, Mr. Rapp pointed out, will give Mr. Taylor free and fair trial.

Speaking further, Mr. Rapp said the special court will be responsible for witnesses' transportation, feeding and housing and allowances for the trip to The Hague where the trial will take place.

"Though our mandate is to prosecute Mr. Taylor on crimes committed in Sierra Leone from 1996 to 2002 we will ask other countries about money Mr. Taylor stole from the Liberian people," Mr. Rapp stressed.

Commenting on witnesses to testify who are close associates to Mr. Taylor and are now on the United Nations (UN)

traveling ban, Mr. Rapp said arrangement is ongoing with United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the Government to enable people who were placed on UN traveling ban to travel to The Hague for the trial.

He said the special court believes that it has a strong and compelling case against Mr. Taylor and will provide all evidence.

He disclosed that Mr. Taylor's team is expected in the country to work with the Outreach Secretariat Center in Monrovia.

The trial according to Mr. Rapp will last for 12 to 18 months.

Mr. Rapp is working with UNMIL, the Justice Ministry and the Outreach Secretariat Center in Monrovia.

In December 2006 the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Stephen J. Rapp as the third prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Rapp was previously



Former Liberian President Charles McArthur Ghankay Taylor

Chief of Prosecutions at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) from May 2005 up to the time of his new appointment. In his previous position, Mr. Rapp was responsible for supervising the prosecution of military, government and political leaders

responsible for the Rwandan genocide in trials at the ICTR in Arusha, Tanzania. Before that, he served as Senior Trial Attorney of what has been called the 'Media Trial', against the principals of RTLM radio and the editor of the *Kangura* newspaper.

In December 2003, the Trial Chamber pronounced each of the defendants guilty of genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, and other crimes. Rapp, the lead prosecutor, became renowned internationally for winning the most controversial case stemming from the Rwandan civil war.

Prior to his service at the ICTR, Mr. Rapp was United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa from November 1993 until May 2001. Rapp was one of the first federal prosecutors to convict repeat abusers under the Violence against Women Act.

Prior to his service as US Attorney, he was in private law practice in Waterloo, Iowa. He also served as a Staff Director and Counsel at the US Senate Judiciary Committee and as an elected member of the Iowa Legislature.



The Monitor (Liberia)
Thursday, 14 December 2007

Taylor lingers in jail...

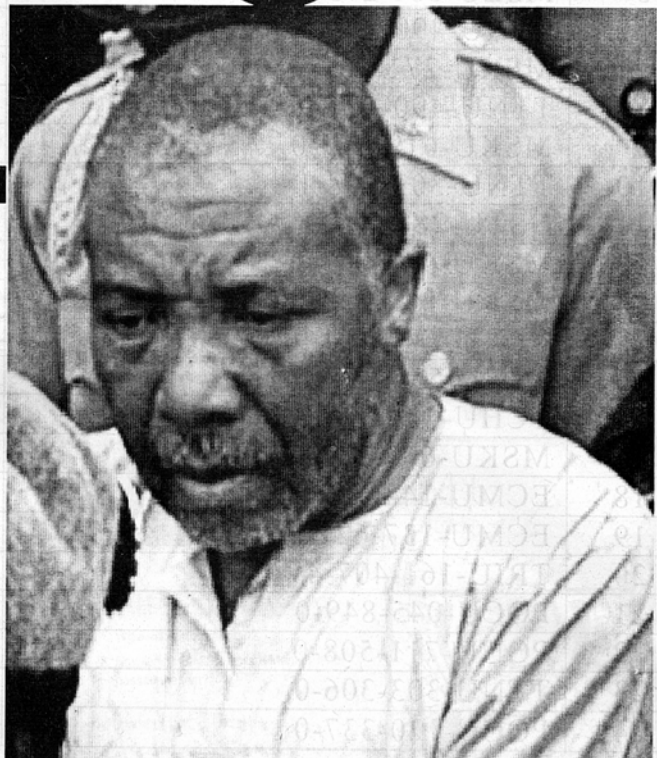
22 Liberian witnesses against Taylor

United Nations backed Special Court Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp revealed here Wednesday that the Prosecution has gathered 22 Liberians to testify

against detained former President Charles Taylor in his high profile war crimes trial. Rapp disclosed the number of witnesses during a press conference he addressed as

part of the prosecution's efforts to up date Liberians on the trial of their ex-President. He announced, the Prosecution had compelling evidence against

See Story on Page 7



Taylor, detained on 11 count charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Taylor's dragging war crimes trial is to resume 7 January 2008 in The Hague.

The Special court had already announced the case would reach verdict in 2010.

He had been given US\$100,000, a Queen's Counsel, Courtney Griffiths plus two other defense counsels and an investigator.

Rapp said the 22 witnesses include individuals with deep seated knowledge of how Taylor allegedly supported the Revolutionary United Front rebels in Sierra Leone. Their identities will however be hidden.

Two of prosecution's witnesses had waived their protection, saying they wanted to give testimonies openly.

At the 7th opening of the trial in The Hague, Rapp said expert witness Stephen Ellis will take the stand to enlighten the court on the make up of the sub region and the possibility of the commission of the crime.

Taylor had earlier sued Ellis for libel after Ellis published the book, *The Mark of Anarchy* in which he accused Taylor of being the epic center of the violence in the region.

In The Hague, Defense lawyers resisted the appearance of Ellis to serve as an expert witness. But the court denied the motion. The court agreed with the prosecution that expert witnesses do not speak to the merits of the case and only serve the purpose to clarify the minds of the judges.

The Chief Prosecutor Reported, "Taylor is well. He will be 60 February, but if you saw him now, he looks younger than his age," Rapp told reporters.

Panapress

Friday, 13 December 2007

<http://www.afriquenligne.fr/news/daily-news/sierra-leone-to-train-serbian-judicial-officers-2007121313346/>

Sierra Leone to train Serbian judicial officers

Freetown, Sierra Leone - Nine senior members of the Serbian judiciary would soon embark on a one-week training at the United Nation-backed special court in Sierra Leone.

During the training, the Serbians will learn from their Sierra Leonean counterparts how to handle serious crimes that have followed the years of conflict in both countries, sources told PANA here Thursday.

The Serbian delegation will include the President of the War Crimes Chamber and President of the Belgrade District Court, Sinisa Vazic, Deputy Chief War Crimes Prosecutor, Bogdan Stankovic, Co-coordinator of the War Crimes Chamber's Witness and Victim Support Service Ms. Slavica Peovic, Outreach Co-coordinator of the War Crimes Prosecutor's office Ms. Jasna Sarcevic-Jankovic and three journalists.

Though the date of the programme was not disclosed, the delegation would meet with judges and special court principals from the registry, the office of the prosecutor and the defence office during their stay in Freetown

They will be briefed by senior staff members on the work of the various sections of the special court and also meet with senior Sierra Leonean government officials.

The visitors will also participate in an outreach programme in Waterloo, 34 kilometres off city centre, to observe officials of the special court interacting with members of the local community.

Another outreach will also be held at a secondary school in Freetown.

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

Friday, 13 December 2007

20 Citizens to Testify Against Taylor

The Lead Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is trying former Liberian President Charles Taylor for crimes he allegedly committed in that country, says the prosecution intends to present a total of 62 witnesses in the case, 20 of whom will be Liberians that would testify against the former President to show the linkages between him and the former rebels of the RUF.

Mr. Stephen Ralph told journalists today that presenting Liberian witnesses in the case against Mr. Taylor is important for the prosecution to show the connection between Mr. Taylor and the crimes he allegedly committed.

Addressing journalists yesterday in Monrovia, Mr. Ralph said the prosecution needed to have people from Liberia who can show to what extent that the former leader communicated from here to the RUF.

"We need to have people from here (Liberia) who knew what were happening on this side in terms of communication with the rebels in Liberia and the kind of assistance he provided to them," Mr.

Ralph said, why he was commenting on why there is a need for the prosecution to produce Liberian witnesses in the case.

According to him, most of the Liberian witnesses are protective witnesses, some of whom live in Liberia while others do not.

The Special Court prosecutor added: "all of these witnesses would appear in person and presumably be subject to various attempt of cross- examination by Mr. Taylor."

Mr. Ralph, who is on a visit to Liberia to hold talks with Liberian justice officials; authority of UN Mission in Liberia and the Outreach Secretariat of Liberia, a branch of the special court that is responsible to ensure that Liberians follow and understand the proceedings of the former President, said "We do not alleged that he ever committed crimes in Sierra Leone. We do not alleged that he was in Sierra Leone and so, it is necessary to have witnesses who will testify to his contacts with the rebels and that involve the linkage witnesses some of whom will be former insiders of Mr. Charles Taylor."

On the issue, as to whether there were plans to indict anyone who were members of Mr. Taylor former army, Mr. Ralph, said "We do not anticipate any further indictment at the Special Court of Sierra Leone."

He said the court has time jurisdictions, which require that the accused can only be prosecuted for crimes committed after November 30, 1996, stressing that most of the crimes for which Mr. Taylor is being prosecuted were committed.

He added, "He (Taylor) is the only one from Liberia that we anticipate of prosecuting." Mr. Taylor unseal an indictment against the former President while he was still Head of States on June 4th, 2003, alleging that he committed heinous crimes such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious human rights violations of international humanitarian law. He was later indicted and subsequently arrested and place under the jurisdiction of the court to answer to the charges.

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 13 December 2007

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

Newspaper Summary

Treason suspect reechoes claims he was tortured to implicate Others

(The News, The Monitor, Daily Observer, New Democrat, The Independent, The Analyst, New Vision, The Inquirer, Heritage and National Chronicle)

- Retired army colonel Andrew Dorbor on Wednesday reechoed his claims that state security officers severely tortured him with the objective of forcing him to implicate key opposition figures including Counselors Charles Brumskine and Varney Sherman, George Weah, Dr. Togba Nah Tipoteh, Alhaji Kromah and Edwin Snowe in an alleged plot to topple the government.
- Dorbor said his conscience could not serve him right to lie on those the NSA asked him to "implicate". He had earlier informed the court that the coup plot was planned by government and he was forcibly recruited. Following the revelation, state prosecution nullified Dorbor's state-witness status and formally charged him as co-conspirator in the alleged plot.

UNMIL Positions Unit along Liberian-Ivorian Border

(New Democrat)

- A 200-strong mechanized unit from UNMIL has been ordered along the Liberian-Ivorian border following the imposition of sanctions on some key loyalists of Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo. The move comes in anticipation of a fresh outbreak of unrest by pro-Gbagbo militiamen once the sanctions are imposed. The UN Security Council on Monday authorized a 200-strong mechanized unit from its mission in Liberia to reinforce ONUCI until late March 2008.

Special Court reassures Liberians of fair trial for Taylor

(The News, The Monitor, Daily Observer, The Parrot, The Inquirer, Heritage, National Chronicle and Liberian Express)

- Addressing a news conference Wednesday, the Chief prosecutor of the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone reassured Liberians that the war crimes trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor would be free, fair and transparent.
- Mr. Stephen Rapp said the prosecution has 62 witnesses including 20 Liberians to testify against Mr. Taylor in the trial. He said Mr. Taylor would have an opportunity to cross examine all of the prosecution witnesses, many of whom would be protected. He said Mr. Taylor would also have an opportunity to produce his own witnesses before the court in The Hague even if some of them are on travel ban. The trial is due to resume in January next year.
- Mr. Rapp is in Liberia on a three-day visit to meet with the Special Court's outreach team, the Justice Ministry and UNMIL.

Steel Company Increases Investment in Liberia to US\$1.5BN

(The Monitor, The Analyst, Daily Observer, New Democrat, Heritage, National Chronicle and Liberian Express)

- The world's largest Steel Company, Arcelor Mittal has announced that it is increasing its investment in Liberia from US \$1-billion to US \$1.5-billion dollars. The announcement was made Wednesday by the Chairman of the Corporation, Mr. Lakshmi Mittal following talks with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Monrovia.
- It can be recalled that the Mittal steel giant in the last few months launched a billion dollar mining venture in Liberia to coincide with the country's 160th Independence anniversary. Under the agreement, Mittal is expected to create at least 3,000 new full-time and generate up to 20,000 more temporary jobs.

Radio Summary

Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

World's Largest Steel Company Increases Investment in Liberia

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Treason Suspect Implicates Key Public Figures in Plot

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Special Court for Sierra Leone Readies Witnesses for Taylor's Trial

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Lebanese Merchant's Lawyers Seek Return of Documents

- Correspondents said that the Monrovia Magisterial Court yesterday heard arguments into a motion filed by Lawyers representing Lebanese businessman George Haddad who asked the Court to order the State to return the documents seized from his premises during the recent State security search.
- Haddad's Lawyers said that the State went beyond the bound of the search warrant by searching places and seizing documents unauthorized by the warrant. However, State prosecutors argued that the motion filed with the Court contravened the rule of law because it is only the Supreme Court which had ruled on such a matter in many times and that the Magisterial Court was not a place for such motion.
- Also, the State contended that its Prosecutors did not go beyond its bound in the search because the places the security searched belong to suspect Haddad.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

BBC Online

Friday, 14 December 2007

Del Ponte leaves 'disappointed'

The outgoing chief prosecutor at the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague says she is disappointed that some fugitives are still at large.

The fact that Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic had not been arrested was a "stain" on the tribunal's "great achievements", she said.

Ms del Ponte was speaking in The Hague at her final press conference as head of the tribunal.

She is due to be replaced next year by Belgian prosecutor Serge Brammertz.

He is heading the investigation into the 2005 killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

'Justice undermined'

"The fact that Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic are still at large is a stain on our work - a stain on all these great achievements. And as you know, I am very disappointed by this," she told reporters.

Ms del Ponte also repeated her plea that the tribunal - set up to try war crimes from the former Yugoslavia - should stay open until its four final fugitives were caught.

It is due to close in 2010.

Ms del Ponte also called for shorter trials and an end to cross-examination of witnesses by the defence, saying they should not be victimised again.

She also condemned the practice of allowing prisoners on trial to go home for the Christmas holidays, from which 12 defendants had benefited this year.

During her eight years as the world's most powerful criminal lawyer, Carla Del Ponte has helped to bring many war crimes suspects to court and has become a champion to victims seeking justice.

She is to become the Swiss ambassador to Argentina in the new year.

Between them, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic face 16 counts of genocide, crimes against humanity and violation of the laws of war in Bosnia-Herzegovina between April 1992 and July 1995.

They were charged and indicted by the UN war crimes tribunal at The Hague in 2005, but remain at large.

Also at large are Stojan Zupljanin and Goran Hadzic.



Ms del Ponte gained a reputation for the ruthless pursuit of fugitives



SUSPECTS STILL AT LARGE
Radovan Karadzic
Ratko Mladic
Stojan Zupljanin
Goran Hadzic

Leaving proud but frustrated
Profile: Carla del Ponte