

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

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Monday 10-Friday 14 March, 2003

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

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A New Breed of Tribunal

The chief prosecutor of Sierra Leone's war crimes court discusses his quest to find those responsible for the nation's atrocities—and whether the tribunal could serve as a model for charging Saddam Hussein.

Quoted from Newsweek Magazine, March 4, 2003



David Crane, chief prosecutor of Sierra Leone's war crimes court

CRANE'S BRIEF IS TO target those behind the terror of the war, which ended last year. But some analysts and U.S. officials believe the Special Court could serve a broader role too: as a model for the future prosecution of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and members of his inner circle.

Washington has been instrumental in creating and funding the Sierra Leone tribunal—which Crane describes as the “next generation” court. The Special Court, created by an agreement between the Sierra Leone government and the United Nations, is intended to be more streamlined and less bureaucratic than the U.N. tribunals created to prosecute war criminals in the Balkans and Rwanda—and to cost much less to operate. Unlike the tribunals for Rwanda and the Balkans, this hybrid court will hold hearings in the country in which the crimes were committed, using both foreign and local lawyers and judges.

Crane and his staff of 40 have spent recent months traveling around the country to seek out witnesses and evidence, and to explain their mandate in town hall-style meetings. While no indictments have yet been issued, those who may face charges include military, political and business figures. The most sensitive indictment could involve Charles Taylor, the president of neighboring Liberia, who traded guns and shelter in his country to rebels in exchange for illicit diamonds. Liberia remains mired in civil war and faces a potentially tense election later this year. Crane, who has three years in which to finish his work, spoke to NEWSWEEK's Eric Lipton in the Sierra Leone capital Freetown. Excerpts:

NEWSWEEK: How do you see your job?

David Crane: My clients are the people of Sierra Leone, the victims both gone and current. Everybody in this country right now is a victim, a witness or a perpetrator, or a combination really. These are survivors. There isn't one human being who lives in Sierra Leone who wasn't affected by this conflict.

How do you define those with the “greatest responsibility” for the crimes committed in Sierra Leone?

It becomes very apparent as you follow the evidence that the conflict was not local. It is not just about Sierra Leone, it is regional and international and in some instances it is worldwide, and it boils down to diamonds. We are not just going after military commanders. We're going after the politicians. We're going after those who financed and supported this conflict through a plan or scheme that was very specific. At any one time in the beginning of December, I had investigators in North America, Europe, West Africa and Sierra Leone. We are dealing with some very, very dangerous people who are involved in this. We are moving witnesses in some instances in life and death situations.

For many people in Sierra Leone, won't the person who bears greatest responsibility be the kid who cut off a hand in their village or who raped and killed there?

These are the very same questions we get in town hall meetings and I tell them: “I do respect and understand what people saw and suffered, but I am going to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law those who created the plan that caused the conditions to allow this to happen. I will do that vigorously. Your justice is that I will go after the big fish or, as they like to call them, ‘the Kakama’—and they understand that.”

At the town hall meetings, what question has surprised you most?

Just two weeks ago, it was: How do we know that you are not on the take? I thought it was brilliant. I said, “Who here thinks that I could be on the take?” Some hands rose. “Who here thinks that I wouldn't?” Some hands rose. “Who thinks maybe?” Some hands rose. It was fascinating. It allowed me to understand how they're looking at it. I consider it an honor and a privilege to, in some small way, seek justice for these people. I see [the damage] everywhere I go. I read about it everyday in the evidence. The horror is beyond public description. The Bush administration has refused to join the International Criminal Court and is impatient with the slow pace of the tribunals for Rwanda and the Balkans. Can the Special Court model be seen as an alternative to the ICC for countries with dysfunctional legal systems?

The ICC is an important organization. We don't compare ourselves to it. And I just happen to be an American, but I was appointed by [U.N. Secretary General] Kofi Annan after going through an international selection process. It is coincidental. It has nothing to do with the United States being behind the Special Court. This is not being touted as an alternative to the ICC. And, unlike Rwanda or Yugoslavia where the tribunals were forced on the region and the country under Chapter 7 of the U.N. charter, this tribunal was actually invited in by the Sierra Leone government.

Given that some people in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda felt detached from tribunals that acted outside of their countries and without their involvement, how is Sierra Leone different?

We are the next generation tribunal in some ways. You have a tribunal that is of the U.N., but not in the U.N., so there is freedom to have an organization that is flexible, focused. And we are putting the court right in the crime scene so that people can see justice right in front of their eyes because they don't really understand justice. They haven't had a real good example. We were able to learn from the past tribunals. I am given flexibility that Carla Del Ponte [head prosecutor at The Hague] is not.

Could the example of this court be applied elsewhere?

One could see situations in Iraq, maybe, at the end of a potential conflict; in Afghanistan regarding allegations of abuses of prisoners of war; in Cambodia. I hate to list these things, but we are going to have these again and a special court arrangement can be very efficient and quick in dealing with an issue that may not fit itself within the framework of the ICC. You said that diamond trafficking was behind the war in Sierra Leone. But dissatisfied youth and government corruption also played a role in hostilities. Corruption is endemic in this country. It certainly is a setback for development, but you have to understand that this is the most black-

and-white, good-versus-evil situation that I have ever seen in 30 years of public service.

They didn't start this conflict for ethnic, political, cultural or religious reasons—not that this excuses anything. This was a cynical attempt to take over a country to control diamonds to make money to buy guns and weaponry to keep them in power so they could influence others in the region. The bottom line is, it boils down to the diamonds in eastern Sierra Leone... [Diamond-buyers should remember that] diamonds are a wonderful gift, but some are dipped in blood.



War victim: Ishmael Dramane

You have said that you are not able to disclose who or how many people will be indicted, but can you give a sense of scale on the number of indictments—a handful, a dozen, dozens?

To even allude to the scale is problematic:

Can you indict anyone no matter where they are in the world and regardless of their nationality?

I intend to do that. There will be international indictments. This case is much bigger than just Sierra Leone.

Could you indict the leader of a neighboring nation?

I have the appropriate legal power to indict those who I think bear the greatest responsibility. You can logically follow that through to wherever you'd like to go.

How will people be arrested?

They will be indicted and arrest warrants will be issued, and we will execute those warrants through appropriate authorities—it could be through the Sierra Leone police or others.

What if it is abroad?

We are making arrangements.

When will indictments come?

I don't want to say when, but this is moving sooner rather than later. When we do pull the trigger, it will be international and it will be big.

Awoko

Wednesday, 12 March 2003

Awoko

Wednesday March 12, 2003

War crimes court to receive judges

The world's first permanent war crimes tribunal is due to be inaugurated at The Hague on Tuesday with the swearing in of its judges.

Eleven men and seven women will preside over the International Criminal Court (ICC), set up to try individuals accused of heinous atrocities.

They will be sworn in by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, in the presence of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan.

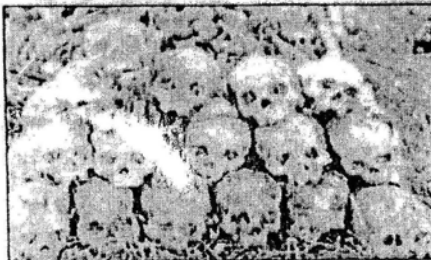
But the court still needs

to appoint a prosecutor, and it is not expected to try any cases for at least a year.

Numerous countries, including the United States, have refused to endorse the new court, fearing it will be used for politically-motivated prosecutions.

Supporters have praised the ICC as an important step forward for human rights.

"The mere existence of the court and the possibilities of being held accountable will hopefully deter the committing of war crimes



The court will try war crimes cases

and crimes against humanity, genocide and other human rights violations," said Navanethem Pillay, one of the court's new judges.

The court has already received more than 200 complaints waiting to be

investigated, although it will be up to a chief prosecutor to decide whether to proceed with any of the cases.

ICC member states are expected to select a chief prosecutor in April, but there will still be a long

way to go before the court sees its first suspect.

"It will be many, many months before you might see a trial or even the completion of a major investigation," said William Pace of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC).

The court has already run into difficulties.

Almost two-thirds of countries which signed the 1998 Rome Treaty to set the court up have not yet endorsed it.

The United States has withheld support, fearing

its citizens might become targets for politically-motivated persecution.

It has signed agreements with 24 other countries guaranteeing immunity for American subjects in those countries.

Russia and China have also refused to ratify the treaty. Despite its wide remit, the ICC will be able to try crimes only committed after 1 July, 2002, and only when states are unwilling to take action against suspected individuals themselves.

Concord Times
Wednesday, 12 March 2003

Concord Times

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Dialogue

David Crane: We're fully prepared

- David Crane faces a unique and enormous task in Sierra Leone. A veteran U.S. Defense Department lawyer with experience in criminal and international law, Crane is now the U.N.-appointed chief prosecutor of a "Special Court" set up to investigate war crimes committed during the latter half of a decade-long civil conflict where child soldiers were commonly abducted, brainwashed and drugged into perpetrating tens of thousands of rapes, executions, and horrific limb amputations. Crane's brief is to target those behind the terror of the war, which ended last year. But some analysts and U.S. officials believe the Special Court could serve a broader role too: as a model for the future prosecution of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and members of his inner circle.

Crane and his staff of 40 have spent recent months traveling around the country to seek out witnesses and evidence, and to explain their mandate in town hall-style meetings. While no indictments have yet been issued, those who may face charges include military, political and business figures. The most sensitive indictment could involve Charles Taylor, the president of neighboring Liberia, who traded guns and shelter in his country to rebels in exchange for uncut diamonds. Liberia remains mired in civil war and faces a potentially tense election later this year.

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ported this conflict through a plan or scheme that was very specific. At any one time in the beginning of December, I had investigators in North America, Europe, West Africa and Sierra Leone. We are dealing with some very, very dangerous people who are involved in this. We are moving witnesses in some instances in life and death situations.

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NEWSWEEK: The Bush administration has refused to join the International Criminal Court and is impatient with the slow pace of the tribunals for Rwanda and the Balkans. Can the Special Court model be seen as an alternative to the ICC for countries with dysfunctional legal systems?

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You said that diamond trafficking was behind the war in Sierra Leone. But dissatisfied youth and government corruption also played a role in hostilities.

Corruption is endemic in this country. It certainly is a seedbed for discontent, but you have to understand that this is the most black-and-white, good-versus-evil situation that I have ever seen in 30 years of public service. They didn't start this conflict for ethnic, political, cultural or religious reasons—not that this excuses anything. This was a cynical attempt to

take over a country to control diamonds to make money to buy guns and weaponry to keep them in power so they could influence others in the region. The bottom line is, it boils down to the diamonds in eastern Sierra Leone... [Diamond-buyers should remember that] diamonds are a wonderful gift, but some are dipped in blood.

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What if it is abroad?
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Courtesy: Newsweek

The Democrat
Friday, 14 March 2003

Special Court Starts hearing Sankoh, Issa Sesay Others Appear Tomorrow

FOUR Special Court indictees, Foday Saybana Sankoh, Issa Hassan Sesay, Tamba Alex Brima (Gullit) and Morris Kallon will make their initial appearance before Judge Benjamin M. Itoe tomorrow.

According to the court's notice of hearing, hearing will take place at different times in accordance with Rule 61 of the Rule of Procedure

and Evidence of the Special Court.

Hearing for erstwhile rebel leader, Foday Sankoh takes place at 10:00a.m. for Issa Sesay at 12:30. Alex Brima (Gullit) at 2:00 p.m and Morris Kallon 3:30 p.m.

Chief Sam Hinga Norman, fugitive member of parliament Johnny Paul Koroma and

The exact time of the hearing, though, is subject to change, the notice of hearing stated.

The document made no mention of high profile indictee.



David Crane: Special Court Prosecutor
the notorious Sam Maskita to be hibernating Bockarie who is believed neighbouring Liberia.

The Democrat
Friday March 14, 2003

The News
Friday, 14 March 2003

Sankoh, 3 Others To Appear As...

Special Court

Opens

Tomorrow

Saturday 15th March, 2003 before judge Benjamin M. Itoe. The hearing will commence at 10:00 am in accordance with Rule 61 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence before the court.
Issa Sesay with case



Maskita - bloody fugitive



Popay Sankoh - time to reap what you sowed



Morris Kallon - another key player



Issa Sesay - remorseful

By Sahr Musa Yamba

Less than a week after the prosecutor of the Special Court, David Crane, indicted seven people to be tried for war crimes, Foday Saybana Sankoh, Morris Kallon, Issa Hassan Sesay and Alex Tamba Brima are to start appearing before the court tomorrow. According to a news release, Foday Saybana Sankoh with case number

SCSL - 2003-02-1 will start his initial appearance tomorrow

number SCSL-2003-05-1 would also be appearing before the same judge but at 12:30 pm; Alex Tamba Brima with case number SCSL-2003-06-1 would be facing the same judge at 4:00 pm and Morris Kallon with case number

SCSL 2003-07-1, also facing the same judge at 15:30 pm. However, contrary to earlier press reports, the Special Court has confirmed that they have currently only issued

warrants of arrest for Kallon, Sam Hinga Norman, Johnny Paul Koroma and Sam Bockarie.

The News
Friday, March 14, 2003

PEEP!

Friday, 14 March 2003

Friday March 14, 2003

PEEP! MAGAZINE

Page 2

SPECIAL COURT HEARINGS BEGIN SATURDAY!

Sankoh, Issa Sesay, Gullit and Kallon to plead "not guilty" to war crimes

Today Sankoh, Issa Sesay, Tamba Brima (*alias Gullit*) and Morris Kallon will appear before the Special Court tomorrow for their preliminary hearing.

According to a Special Court press release the indictees will appear before Judge Benjamin Itoe.

trial date

They will be formally charged and their pleas taken. The judge will then instruct the Registrar of the Special Court to set a date for trial.

At this point it is unknown whether the four men have obtained legal counsel to represent them. The Judge Designate at the preliminary hearing must satisfy himself that the accused have lawyers (*Rules of Evidence and Procedure Special Court 62*

A (i). The court may appoint defence lawyers for the accused if they don't have any. It is not known why Internal Affairs minister Sam Hinga Norman has not been slated to be charged tomorrow.

Norman absent

Sources say Norman is being held outside the country, most likely in Ghana, but will probably appear in court early next week.

The Court has seven days to bring all accused before a

designated Judge for formal charges to be laid and pleas taken. So Norman has to be docked before this Tuesday (*he was arrested on Monday March 10*).

In a related development, sources close to the Court's Registry have informed us that an international advertisement of Johnny Paul Koroma and Sam 'Maskita' Bockarie's war-crimes indictments will be made soon.

"The advertisement will call upon the accused to surrender themselves and invite any person with information on their whereabouts to communicate that information to the Special Court."

If the two men do not surface in the near future, an international arrest warrant will be issued.

Any country still harbouring them may then face sanctions from the U.N Security Council.



President of the court Geoffrey Robertson

New Vision
Friday, 14 March 2003

Special Court Impounds Gov't Documents

By James B. Noah

Detectives and O.S.D. personnel headed by C.P.O. Kalifa Sesay executed search warrant at the residences of Chief Sam Hinga Norman at No. 13 Spur Road, No. 48, Bathurst Street and Villa 20 at Cape Sierra Hotel last Monday.

In their search, several documents pertaining to C.D.F. and other official documents in the Internal Affairs Ministry were also confiscated by the squad which included four Representatives of the Special Court headed by the former Director of C.I.D. Tamba Gbekie who is currently attached to Special Court.

According to family

sources, they pleaded with C.P.O. Sesay who also led the search party that the said cabinet documents which were locked in a silver brief case were to be handed over to government authorities and not Special Court, as these documents contained special information about the government's internal policies, but to their dismay C.P.O. Kalifa

insisted that the documents be handed over directly to the Special Court representatives.

Even the present Director of C.I.D. Mr. Dabo further advised that these documents in connection with Ministry of Internal Affairs should be handed over directly to him and not the Special Court, because they were purely state documents, but Tamba Gbekie and Kalifa Sesay further persisted, that the official Cabinet Documents be handed over to Special Court.

Even though Hinga Norman's relatives kept on pleading for the docu-



David Cran

ments, they were only shown the exit. "Our premises were riddled of personal effects like recorded video cassettes, family documents not having anything to do with C.D.F," they cried."

New Vision
Friday March 14, 2003