

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH 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:**

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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Awoko

Tuesday, 15 July 2008

## **Special court prosecution to Co-Host Film screening today**

**B**eing the first country that has handed down convictions on the enlisting of children during conflict, Stephen Rapp the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone will today co-host advance screening on child soldiers, “Johnny Mad Dog”.

“This last year the Special Court for Sierra Leone rendered the first convictions in world history for the crime of enlistment and use of child soldiers.

This film shows how this crime victimises both the enlisted children and the innocent persons who are subjected to their acts of brutality. It strengthens our resolve to end impunity for this crime and to do all we can to repair the harm that it does to human beings” said the prosecutor.

The “Johnny Mad Dog” premiered at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival, where it was awarded the Prize of Hope. It was filmed entirely in Liberia and features a cast that includes former child soldiers. Immediately after the screening which will take place in New York there will be a panel discussion on the enlistment and use of child soldiers and the panelists will include the director of the film, Jean-Stéphane Sauvaire, Prosecutor Rapp and SRSG Radhika Coomaraswamy and they will also be joined by the Permanent Representatives of the UN Missions of Sierra Leone, Liberia and France.

The UN’s Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict and the French Mission to the United Nations together with the Special Court will be members of the screening.

Tuesday July 15, 2008

# \$60m Cocaine deal backfires

By Kelvin Lewis

In what read like a Hollywood movie script a small 20 seater Cessna aircraft dramatically landed at the Freetown International Airport under cover of darkness at around 3am Sunday morning.

The pilots and other occupants of the aircraft are reported to have jumped into a waiting vehicle which had crashed through the gate at the far end of the perimeter fencing and driven straight to the far end of the airport along where abandoned aircrafts are packed. They apparently exited the same way, leaving behind 5 rifles which were found to be 4 AK-47s and 1 AK-58 with around 369 rounds of ammunition. These were found in the bush close by the gate.

When searched, the aircraft was found to contain 24 cartons of which each carton contained 25 packets of a white substance believed to be cocaine, 35 white Jerry cans (10 gallon capacity), 2 Motorola phones, a Global Positioning System, first aid kit, and a quantity of fire extinguishers.

Airport Authority officials disclosed that the aircraft had three registrations, and possibly

that "the irregular aircraft is apprehended" and it is now left with the Office of National Security (ONS) and the Police to do their job.

Later the cocaine was then offloaded from the aircraft to a waiting military vehicle and the airport ambulance and taken to the UN facility

6 people are "The Head of the Police here (Lungi) the General Manager, the Head of the control tower and another Police Officer for failing to take pre-emptive measures to get the culprits arrested" adding "because we understand they had information regarding the unauthorized



AIG Francis Munu

came from Venezuela. On the aircraft itself there were two different registration marks on either side. On the left side of the aircraft was YV 1647 and on the right side was SQ 2261. The drama did not end there. The tail fin of the aircraft carried the Red Cross sign. The 24 cartons are reported to have weighed



L-R Minister Kemoh Sesay, ONS Boss- Kelly Conteh, Perm. Sec. AR Warie & DIG Somasa

(MOVCON) where they were weighed and then placed onboard a UN flight to Freetown. Unconfirmed reports say that orders had been given for the drugs to be kept in the custody of the UN police team and the IMATT.

At the airport, the Assistant Inspector General of Police in-charge of Crime Services Francis Munu said that "6 people are being interrogated in respect of this incident and we are questioning them to see whether they have any involvement in the whole affair."

Questioned further AIG Munu disclosed that the

landing at least some few hours before the aircraft landed."

A little later it was reported that a dark metallic green Tacoma pick-up truck with registration ADJ-105 had been intercepted at Gbere Junction (approx. 50 miles) by Police and a Guinea Bissau national arrested. It was further reported that a white man who was also in the vehicle jumped down and fled into the bush.

A further 7 foreign nationals Mexicans and Colombians were also arrested in Port Loko.



Right side registration shown & Red Cross sign (circled)



Left side registration shown & Red Cross sign (circled)

around 725kilos with an estimated street value of around \$60 million.

President Koroma reportedly inspected the scene when he arrived from The Gambia. They say he was visibly angry and ordered that the guns be placed in his convoy of vehicles.

At the airport on Sunday afternoon Transport and Aviation Minister Kemoh Sesay said that he "flew over here under emergency circumstances that an irregular aircraft with irregular commodities in the aircraft" adding that as Minister his business is to make sure



The entry and exit gate, showing damage



The get away vehicle

Standard Times  
Tuesday, 15 July 2008

FRONT PAGE TO STANDARD TIMES Tuesday July 15, 2008

Science fiction became a reality at Freetown's Lungi International Airport over the weekend when an unidentified airplane loaded with drugs (cocaine) made what now appears to be a pre-planned unauthorized landing at the airport. Reports indicate that the pilot of the aircraft requested permission to land without giving the "call-sign" of the aircraft. Following what was alleged to be a refusal of the air control tower for the plane to land, the pilot then proceeded to fly over the airport several times before making the very bold decision to land without permission and parked in an area that only a pilot who is familiar with the layout of the airport would have selected.

The crew and other personnel onboard were immediately whisked away unmolested by a black jeep that had penetrated the inner sanctum of the airport.

Fortunately for the government and people of Sierra Leone ultimately led to the arrest of the jeep and some occupants. All of these happened in the wake of the much publicized reports that West Africa in general and Guinea Bissau in particular are now the favoured drug transshipment points to Europe and the United States of America. This is really scary.

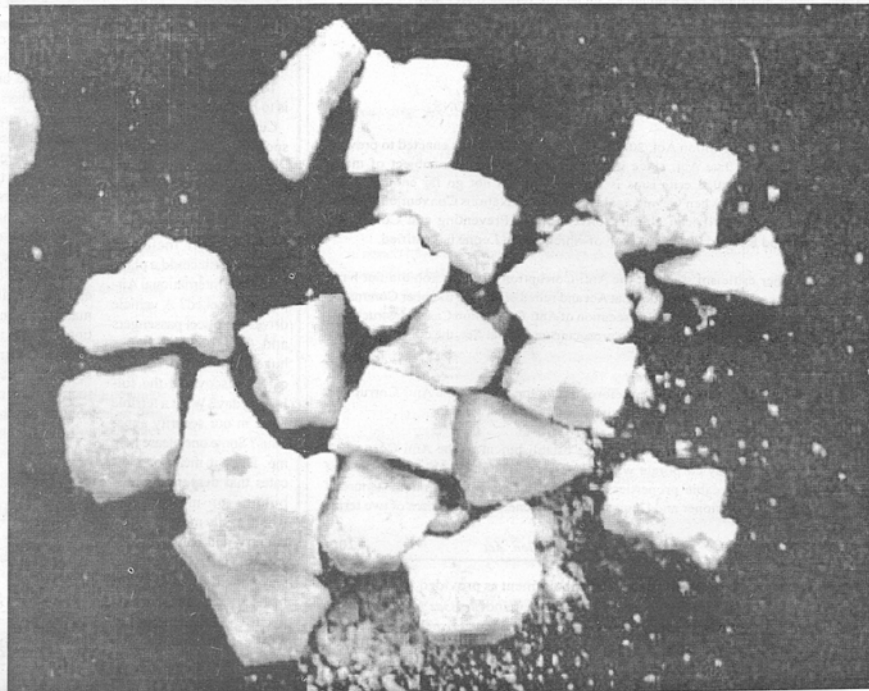
The above information begs for answers to these questions by the administrative and security leadership at Lungi, which is Sierra Leone's gateway to and from the outside world.

- Do the airport personnel have any prescribed guidelines in existence to deal with situations like an unauthorized landing? Were the procedures adhered to?
- Following the alleged refusal of the air traffic controllers to allow the aircraft to land, did they inform the Airport Manager and security (police and army) about the continuous circling of the airport by the unidentified plane?
- Who gave permission for the jeep to enter the inner area of the airport?
- Were the two gates (main and inner sanctum gates) closed and manned by the appropriate personnel?
- When did the police and other security personnel realize that an unauthorized plane had landed at the airport?
- What did the security personnel do to deter the escape of the jeep?
- How many personnel were on duty at the time of the unauthorized landing?
- Does the air traffic control tower have a recording of the conversation between them and the unidentified plane?

## Something To Think About

BY JOE SAWAN

# Unauthorized landing of unidentified Plane?



What was the atmosphere like at the airport and Lungi town following the unidentified plane's unauthorized, landing?

as it violates of all aviation protocols. Some have even proffered the viewpoint that it is a violation of the human rights of all Sierra Leonean citizens and

most disconcerting. As always, the heroes in this saga are the truck driver and the police at Gbera Junction/Port Loko. On the hand, the villains for now

**The unauthorized landing of an unidentified aircraft is synonymous to the invasion of the territorial integrity of a sovereign state. It is a criminal offence, as it violates of all aviation protocols. Some have even proffered the viewpoint that it is a violation of the human rights of all Sierra Leonean citizens and other nationals residing in the country. It could have been mercenaries**

Did the airport personnel consider it to be highly unusual for a plane that had been refused permission to land and continue circling the same airport? If so, what did they do to address the situation?

The unauthorized landing of an unidentified aircraft is synonymous to the invasion of the territorial integrity of a sovereign state. It is a criminal offence,

other nationals residing in the country. It could have been mercenaries.

Sierra Leoneans spent the weekend discussing the unfavourable effects of the dastardly action by the crew and other personnel of the unidentified plane.

They are war weary and the idea of Martians dropping from the sky on their territory unannounced has been

are the airport personnel who are perceived to have been security unconscious.

Finally, the Ministry of Transport and Aviation should undertake an immediate overhaul of the procedures governing the management of the airport because the security of Sierra Leone should be viewed as a collective responsibility.

## \$100M Cocaine Plane Impersonated Red Cross

*48 hours on, mystery still surrounds the sudden appearance of an unidentified airplane at the tarmac of the Lungi International Airport. In the ensuing is a comprehensive report as filed in by our Internet correspondents and our local reporters.*

At about 3:30 a.m. of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2008 a small jet plane with a fake Red Cross Sign is said to have forced its way onto the tarmac of the Lungi International Airport allegedly without the permission of the Control Tower. The plane was later identified as a Venezuelan registered aircraft.

### RED CROSS DISOWNS PLANE

In an exclusive interview with the ICRC's Communications Head, Abu Bakarr Kamara, he told this press that the ICRC is downrightly dismayed over the incident at Lungi and would want the general public and the world to know that the plane in question is not owed by the ICRC nor by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS).

### APC MINISTER IMPLICATED

Meanwhile, in a disturbing twist, the names of both Transport & Aviation Minister Hon. Kemoh Sesay and his younger brother Ahmed Sesay (who is the Team Manager of the National Football Team, Leone Stars) are being floated as having some knowledge of the drugs dealing. Unconfirmed information as we went to press is that Ahmed Sesay is being detained for questioning at the Police's CID.

### FORCED LANDING?

According to police sources, the plane allegedly landed far away from the main terminal building in an area known as Runway 3.0 at Kasongna Gate. Immediately the plane landed, the crew members allegedly disembarked and boarded a waiting black jeep which then forced its way out of the Airport by breaking a sealed gate in the airport perimeter and driving through it.

Security personnel were then alerted who later forced the plane open and found 703.5kg of Cocaine inside. When the police mounted a cordon search of the airport perimeter area, they discovered five AK47 rifles in the possession of an ex combatant named Ibrahim Kargbo.

### 100 MILLION DOLLARS

According to the United States Drug Enforcement Agency, a single gram of pure cocaine was selling for around \$140 last September 2007. Thus, the street value of the 703kg of Cocaine that landed at Lungi Airport last Sunday is almost \$100,000,000 (One Hundred Million Dollars). This is a clear indication that the operation is not a small one but one in which very senior members of the Government and Security Agencies might be giving their blessings to.



"There is no way an international drug dealer is going to risk a cache worth 100 million dollars landing into a country where he does not have some serious high level connections and protection," a retired Police Commissioner told Awareness Times.

### DISAPPEARANCE OF ONE BOX

Strengthening these allegations is the fact that after the boxes had been offloaded from the plane, one of the boxes of cocaine simply disappeared from right under the noses of the security personnel.

### VENEZUELA TO SALONE

Just a fortnight ago, Investigative Journalist David Blair in Caracas, published in the Telegraph Newspaper in London that a crucial change in the global pattern of narcotics smuggling is now underway.

According to Blair, in the past, most narcotics from Columbia were smuggled directly to Europe but today the cocaine is more likely to be loaded onto long-range aircraft and flown across the Atlantic to small West African countries. Blair particularly cited Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Sierra Leone, as key transit points where the cocaine is offloaded before being shipped into Europe.

Venezuela's President Chavez is accused of fully backing these operations. In 1998 - the last year before Mr. Chavez came to office - Venezuela's security forces made 11,581 drug-related arrests. By 2005, this had plummeted to only 1,082. It is also reported that last June 2007, four smugglers were arrested at the main airport on Venezuela's Margarita Island while loading 2.2 tons of cocaine onto an aircraft bound for Sierra Leone. They did not expect to be caught because senior security operatives had escorted them into the airport in Venezuela.

### UMARU SITTA TURAY

It will be recalled that local journalist Umaru Sitta Turay had last year June

2007 strongly protested at a Police Briefing that he had been an eye witness to a mystery helicopter that landed at the Choithram's Hospital's Helicopter Pad from which it had offloaded strange items for well over two hours. Sitta Turay had blasted the Police that despite him making numerous calls for the police to investigate the mystery scene, not a single police officer had turned up at the scene. According to Sitta Turay, Hon. Kemoh Sesay and his younger brother, Ahmed Sesay had been present during the offloading of this mystery helicopter at Hill Station last June 2007 but the police turned a blind eye back then.

### INVESTIGATION ORDERED

Meanwhile, President Koroma and his entourage landed at the Airport from an official visit to the Gambia few hours after the incident. The President upon arrival reportedly instructed that the investigation should be jointly conducted by the local United Nations Mission and the Sierra Leone Police (SLP).

The immediate investigation set up is being headed on the side of the SLP by Assistant Inspector General Francis Munu under whose tireless leadership, arrests were effected that same Sunday. Initially, three of the suspects were arrested and the other three were apparently later intercepted in the Port Loko area. According to police sources, the arrested Crew constituted two Mexicans, one American, one Venezuelan, two Colombians and one Bissau Guinean.

Sierra Leoneans presently helping the police in their investigations are Chemor Bah, an air traffic controller; Santos Bangura, Acting LUC Lungi Airport Police Station; O.C. Hazeley also of the Lungi Police Station; Acting Managing Director Lungi International Airport, Mr. John Brima and John Sesay, Acting Operations Manager.

### 'COCAINE SPEEDBOAT'

Special Investigations by Awareness Times has revealed that at around

1:30am (two hours before the plane forcibly landed at the airport), a mystery speedboat had crossed over from Freetown into Lungi environs. The speedboat which contained six men (Four white men and two Nigerians) missed its desired target which we have learnt was the Landing Pad at Lungi Mahera used by the Diamond Hovercraft. Awareness Times interviewed a fisherman who explained that his colleagues and himself were awoken by the sound of the speedboat which had berthed a distance from the Hovercraft Pad. These passengers explained they were lost and requested for assistance. Speaking in Krio, the fisherman told Awareness Times that after they were each paid ten thousand leones, they took the speedboat to land at the Hovercraft site. He reveals that they met a brand new jeep parked at the site in the pitch darkness and with two white males sitting waiting. One male was described as "very hefty".

The fisherman's story was also corroborated by a driver of the Hovercraft Bus which usually transports passengers from the landing pad to the airport. The driver, Ibrahim Kamara, explained that his house was near the landing pad and he heard the sound of the speedboat at around 1:30am. Ibrahim said he was curious as the Hovercraft had finished operations for that day and so he came out of his house and met local fishermen who had brought the Nigerians and White men over in the lost speedboat. Another eye witness to the scene is a local handyman named Brima Bah who also confirmed to this newspaper's investigators that he was woken up by the sound of the speedboat and came outside to see a brand new jeep with plastic still covered on its seats, parked at the Hovercraft landing pad.

"I helped some of the strangers off the speedboat and they all got into the jeep and drove off in the direction of the airport. It was not yet 2am but it was past 1am," Bah explained to Awareness Times adding that he was given Le10,000 for his assistance.

### NIGERIAN WITH €11,000

Meanwhile, a Nigerian national known as Ofodilay Chicozee Chikeluba was arrested by the police on suspicion of being part of the drug plane saga. According to the police, the Nigerian was in possession of 11,000 Euros suspected to be for use in the operation. However, whilst in police custody (Chicozee), a Detective Police Constable, Musa Lansana who was in charge of the suspect was seen in the company of the suspect in a restaurant in town. Police have however re-arrested the suspect and Officer Lansana has also been detained for further investigations.

Xinhua

Monday, 14 July 2008

### **UN court prosecutor notes progress made on trial of former Liberian president**

UNITED NATIONS, July 14 (Xinhua) -- The chief prosecutor of the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) noted on Monday the progress made so far on the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

Speaking to reporters at the UN Headquarters, Stephen Rapp said that many commentators have referred to the court, which is trying Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity, as a model for international justice.

"It shows that the trial of a former chief of State can be conducted openly and fairly and we're very proud to date of the progress that's been made," Rapp said.

Taylor is facing 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law - including mass murder, mutilations, rape, sexual slavery and the use of child soldiers - for his role in the decade-long civil war that engulfed Sierra Leone, which borders Liberia. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges against him.

Rapp said the prosecution's case is that Taylor aided and abetted two rebel groups, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary United Front, which committed numerous atrocities during the civil war.

He noted 59 insiders, people who were at one time very close to the former Liberian president, are providing evidence as witnesses to support his case.

Taylor "was behind the planning of this campaign of terror and atrocity, that he did various steps to order and instigate those crimes and, at a bare minimum at least, he aided and abetted these crimes by providing crucial arms and materiel in return for diamonds, at a time when all the world knew that these rebels were committing horrendous offenses against human beings," he said.

Currently the SCSL is hearing its 35th prosecution witness, Rapp said, adding that he expected that the trial would wrap up within a year after the defense has also made its case.

In 2006, the Security Council authorized the staging of Taylor's trial at The Hague, Netherlands, citing reasons of security.

CNN

Monday, 14 July 2008

## Sudanese president charged with genocide

(CNN) -- The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has filed genocide charges against Sudan's president for a five-year campaign of violence in Darfur.



Luis Moreno-Ocampo on Monday urged a three-judge panel to issue an arrest warrant for President Omar Hassan al-Bashir to prevent the deaths of about 2.5 million people forced from their homes in the war-torn region of Darfur and who are still under attack from government-backed Janjaweed militia.

The five charges against al-Bashir include masterminding attempts to wipe out African tribes in the war-torn region with a campaign of murder, rape and deportation.

In an exclusive interview with CNN's Nic Robertson in the Dutch city of The Hague, the prosecutor said he had a responsibility to bring charges against al-Bashir.

"The (U.N.) Security Council referred the case to me and requested me to investigate," Moreno-Ocampo said. Read a transcript of the interview

"After three years I have strong evidence that al-Bashir is committing a genocide. I cannot be blackmailed, I cannot yield. Silence never helped the victims. Silence helped the perpetrators. The prosecutor should not be silent."

The judges must now decide whether to issue the warrant, and it is widely expected that they will; the judges have approved all 11 of Moreno-Ocampo's previous submissions to the court.

If issued, the warrant would make al-Bashir the first sitting president to be indicted by the ICC for genocide. Video Watch as ICC prosecutor targets al-Bashir »

In his request, Moreno-Ocampo says there are reasonable grounds to believe that al-Bashir bears criminal responsibility for five counts of genocide, two counts of crimes against humanity, and two counts of war crimes.

The alleged crimes stem from a brutal counter-insurgency campaign the Sudanese government conducted after rebels began an uprising in Sudan's western Darfur region in 2003. The United States and much of the world has already characterized the campaign as genocide.

The authorities armed and cooperated with Arab militias that went from village to village in Darfur, killing, torturing and raping residents there, according to the United Nations, western governments and human rights organizations. The militias targeted civilian members of tribes from which the rebels draw strength.

About 300,000 people have died in Darfur, the United Nations estimates, and 2.5 million have been forced from their homes. Video Watch a tour of Darfur's deserted Northern Corridor »



Moreno-Ocampo says al-Bashir targeted three ethnic groups living in the region -- including the Fur group, for whom Darfur is named -- solely on account of their ethnicity.

Al-Bashir bears responsibility, Moreno-Ocampo says, because he sat at the apex of the government.

"For such crimes to be committed over a period of five years and throughout Darfur, al-Bashir had to mobilize and keep mobilized the whole state apparatus; he had to control and direct perpetrators; and he had to rely on a genocidal plan," Moreno-Ocampo wrote as background for arrest warrant request.

Sudan's ambassador to the United Nations has already condemned the charges. Watch how some are concerned by the move [Video](#)

"It is a criminal move that should be resisted by all," Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad said Friday amid reports that the charges were imminent. "We will resist it by all possible legal means."

Mohamad accused Moreno-Ocampo of "playing with fire."

In Khartoum, a crowd of about 2,000 people greeted al-Bashir, who seized power in a 1989 coup, when he arrived for an emergency meeting of his Cabinet Sunday to discuss the charges.

When he saw the crowd, al-Bashir climbed onto a pickup truck and pumped his fist in the air, whipping the group into a frenzy.

Some held signs saying, "You are joking... Ocamp-who?" and "Death to America."

A high-ranking ambassador at the presidential palace called the possible prosecution stupid and malicious, and warned that the Sudanese people would see it as proof of a larger conspiracy against the country. [Video Watch why Sudan's leader has support in China »](#)

In 2005, the Security Council cleared the way for possible war crimes prosecutions related to Darfur by the ICC, a permanent tribunal set up to handle prosecutions related to genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The court is based on a treaty signed by 106 nations -- excluding Sudan.

In addition to Sudan, ICC prosecutors are investigating offenses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and the Central African Republic.

The attacks in Darfur over the past five years have followed a common pattern, Moreno-Ocampo's evidence says.

Members of Sudan's armed forces, often acting together with the militias and under al-Bashir's command, singled out villages and towns inhabited by tribal groups. Troops and militia members shot and killed civilians, and sometimes the Sudanese air force was called in to bomb villages and towns in support of the ground forces, the prosecutor's evidence says.

Residents who fled were often chased and attacked or left to fend for themselves in the wilderness, the evidence says.

The attacks, it says, undermined the ability of the targeted groups to survive in Darfur. The destruction of their homes scattered entire communities, and the pervasive rape and sexual violence against girls and

women -- who are often targeted when they are out collecting firewood or water -- has torn families apart. Watch how UNICEF is trying to prevent rape in Darfur Video

"They are raping women, raping girls, raping in groups -- raping to destroy the communities," Moreno-Ocampo told CNN. "Rape is a tool in the genocide -- the most important tool today."

The chief U.N. humanitarian coordinator, John Holmes, said Friday that aid workers were already preparing for the effects of an arrest warrant against al-Bashir, making sure staff members are safe.

Moreno-Ocampo said any attacks on peacekeepers would be another reason to bring al-Bashir to justice.

The ICC has already indicted two men for Darfur crimes -- Ahmad Harun, Sudan's former minister of the interior who is now in charge of humanitarian affairs for the Sudanese government and militia leader Ali Kushayb -- but neither has been brought to justice.

Once the ICC indicts someone, authorities in that person's native country -- or the country in which the indicted person is located -- have the power to detain the indicted person for trial at the Hague.

Kushayb and Harun both remain in Sudan where they enjoy the protection of al-Bashir, Moreno-Ocampo said. Since they have not been arrested, the prosecutor says, it is unlikely al-Bashir will be -- and he says it will probably take a U.N. Security Council resolution for al-Bashir to be brought to justice.  
advertisement

Senior Sudanese government leaders have previously told CNN that reports of atrocities in Darfur are exaggerated.

"Yes, there has been a war and some people have died, but it's not like what has been reflected in the media," Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid said last month.

## Voice of America

Monday, 14 July 2008

### Former Charles Taylor Prosecutor Praises ICC Action Against Sudanese President

By Joe De Capua

Washington

The prosecutor for the International Criminal Court's has filed charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes against Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo accuses Mr. Bashir of masterminding a campaign of murder, rape and forced deportation against the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa peoples in Sudan's Darfur region. Moreno-Ocampo asked the court to issue an arrest warrant for Mr. Bashir, saying it would help prevent the deaths of those still under attack in Darfur from the government-backed Janjaweed militia.

Among those following developments at the international criminal court is David Crane, former chief prosecutor at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. He signed the indictment against former Liberian president Charles Taylor. Taylor is now on trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Professor Crane spoke to VOA English to Africa Service reporter Joe De Capua about the significance of filing charges against Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

"It's very significant...being the second African head of state to be indicted for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. It shows the people of Africa that their lives matter and that's so important in that part of the world," he says.



Asked how these charges could be proved, Crane says, "It's a careful investigation. You have to consider...the facts, the law, even the politics as you move forward in your investigations. I did this when I was investigating President Charles Taylor of Liberia. And I know that my good friend Luis Moreno-Ocampo carefully sorted through the facts, considered the law and the politics and the diplomacy of the issue - peace versus justice - before he moved forward. A good prosecutor has a solid case against a head of state before he actually issues an indictment. You can't make a mistake."

Some say an indictment of the Sudanese president could destabilize the country. Crane responds, "This is a short term view... But if they use the Charles Taylor case as a good case study, you'll see that five years after I unsealed the indictment against Charles Taylor...despite the condemnations, despite the calls that this would hamper peace, Liberia now is on a road of potentially a sustainable peace under the leadership of the first female head of state ever in Africa to be elected in a free and open and fair election there in Liberia."

He calls the indictment of Taylor the "cornerstone by which true peace could have happened in Liberia." He adds, "In my opinion, the same thing will happen in Sudan."

He says there are many political and procedural challenges that have to be overcome to try a sitting president. And it may take some time before a trial could begin. "At the end of the day it's a political

decision... It took the international community, after I indicted Charles Taylor, three years before they actually handed him over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone for a fair trial."

Crane says the ICC prosecutor has to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt by showing a "widespread systematic, governmental program by which President Bashir, as the head of state, was implicit, either added and abetted or as another theory goes had command responsibility over the actions being taken by his subordinates."

The former prosecutor says, "The beginning of the beginning of the end of President Bashir as far as his place as a leader in Africa ended today."

## Reuters

Monday, 14 July 2008

### **Fates of other leaders show chance of Bashir arrest**

By Alexandra Hudson

AMSTERDAM, July 14 (Reuters) - Sudan's president may not be delivered swiftly into the arms of international justice, but the fate of former leaders of Liberia and Yugoslavia suggests he might not evade the law indefinitely.

The International Criminal Court's (ICC) prosecutor accused Sudan's president Omar Hassan al-Bashir on Monday of plotting a campaign of genocide in Darfur, including the killing of 35,000 people and asked judges to issue an arrest warrant.

"It is extremely unlikely that Bashir will end up in a court room any time soon," said Nick Grono of the rights body International Crisis Group.

The indictment, now issued, takes on at very least a symbolic significance in Sudan, for better or for worse. Bashir retains a firm grip on power and may seek to use the ICC involvement to bolster support further. Rebel opponents, for their part, say the indictment will galvanise resistance.

Bashir is the first sitting head of state charged by an international court since Liberia's Charles Taylor and Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic, both of whom were eventually transferred to the Hague. Milosevic died before a verdict could be issued in his four-year-old trial.

The fate of the two, indicted by special war crimes tribunals set up to investigate the break-up of Yugoslavia and civil war in Sierra Leone, established the international courts as a force to be reckoned with in the handling of war crimes.

The Hague-based ICC was set up in 2002 to continue the work started by the special tribunals on a permanent basis.

"International justice is a relatively recent trend which goes back to the creation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in 1993," said Richard Dicker of rights group Human Rights Watch.

"IN A CORNER"

"In a relatively short period of time that trend has come a long way, surprising critics and supporters alike in the way it has brought sitting heads of states to account."

Milosevic was ousted as Yugoslav president in October 2000 after a popular revolt in which the war crimes charges filed against him a year before were a factor.

Six months later, after a 36-hour siege of his Belgrade villa, Serbian authorities arrested him, initially on domestic corruption charges. Reformist Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic later surrendered him to The Hague.

A new political regime also played a key role in Charles Taylor's delivery to international justice.

Taylor fled Liberia for Nigeria in 2003 after his political foes took power. New Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf later asked that Nigeria arrest him and transfer him to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he faced charges of orchestrating violence and abuse.

His trial began in the Hague in 2007 after fears it would stoke unrest if held in West Africa. Taylor now finds himself in the prison were Milosevic had been housed.

But Bashir's position differs markedly from that of Milosevic and Taylor. He has a far stronger grip on the reins of power and those who would deliver him to the Hague remain at a safe distance for him.

"There is no real prospect of Bashir being ousted soon," Grono, of the International Crisis Group, said.

However Suleiman Sandal, deputy chief of staff of the most militarily powerful darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said the prosecutor's move would help spur change.

"We in JEM will put all our forces to the service of the International Criminal Court to help bring him to justice... this decision will put Bashir in a corner and will help us now to overtake this regime."

HRW's Dicker cautioned that although all kinds of factions in Sudan would seek to use any arrest warrant to their advantage, Bashir could also use it to shore up his support, portraying the ICC action as foreign interference.

If judges issue an arrest warrant it will certainly constrain Bashir, making international travel for the head of state practically impossible and high-level diplomatic contact difficult.

The ICC said it had planned to arrest Ahmed Haroun, Sudan's humanitarian affairs minister also wanted by the ICC, when he went on a Muslim pilgrimage last year by diverting his plane, but he heard about the scheme and abandoned the trip.

ICC prosecutors scored a victory in May however when former Congolese rebel warlord and vice-president Jean-Pierre Bemba was detained by Belgian authorities acting on an ICC arrest warrant. (Editing by Ralph Boulton)

## Time

Monday, 14 July 2008

### Choosing Justice Over Peace in Darfur

By Simon Robinson / London

The indictment of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes over the slaughter in Darfur is a step as bold and historic as it is fraught with practical and political peril.

The charges were announced Monday by prosecutors from the International Criminal Court (ICC), set up six years ago under U.N. auspices to pursue war criminals and those responsible for genocide. Established in the wake of the horrific bloodshed in Rwanda, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and the Balkans in the last decade of the 20th century, the court was designed to answer the need for the international community to take a more active role in preventing massacres and holding the perpetrators to account. The problem, of course, has always been that pursuing justice against bad guys who still hold power can impede or even imperil the pursuit of peace — as it may do in the case of Darfur.

When news first leaked last week of the ICC prosecutors' case against al-Bashir, the government in Khartoum reacted angrily. Khartoum does not recognize the ICC and says that any case against al-Bashir — who seized power in a military coup in 1989 and has ruled Africa's biggest country ever since — or any other Sudanese citizen will jeopardize ongoing peace talks over Darfur. The indictment may hamper efforts to expand a peacekeeping mission in the region, and African Union peacekeepers fear they may come under attack from Sudanese soldiers and militias loyal to the government. Observers are also concerned that the indictment could embolden the rebel militias who have rejected the peace process. And aid workers worry that they could be kicked out of the country altogether, leaving the millions of people forced to live in displacement camps unfed and exposed to more violence.

Some critics even argue that the international community's post-conflict pursuit of war-crimes charges against figures such as former Liberian warlord Charles Taylor (who is being tried by a Special Court for Sierra Leone) has prolonged suffering in places like Zimbabwe, where leaders face a similar fate if they surrender power. Taylor was persuaded to accept exile in Nigeria in 2003, a move that helped end Liberia's bloody civil war. Three years later, however, he was arrested and put on trial. Taylor's experience may be the reason that Mugabe and his generals appear to have rejected any deal involving exile. "The Old Man is staying," a senior member of Mugabe's Zanu-PF party told Canada's newspaper *Globe and Mail* last month, "because I'm not ending up in the Hague."

The ICC is a legal body with no connection to any political or diplomatic authority — its focus is necessarily limited to laws and evidence. And based on the testimony and evidence gathered in Darfur, ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said this week that "al-Bashir masterminded and implemented a plan to destroy in substantial part the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa groups. ... His alibi was a 'counterinsurgency.' His intent was genocide."

Moves to hold al-Bashir accountable before the conflict has ended, however, will clearly complicate the situation on the ground. The International Crisis Group, a respected mediation group led by retired diplomats from dozens of countries, argued in a paper in March that the international community should "acknowledge the tensions between peace and justice and to recognize that pragmatism and recent history indicate that justice cannot always claim primacy." As former U.S. special envoy for Sudan Andrew Natsios wrote recently, prosecuting al-Bashir now "may well shut off the last remaining hope for a peaceful settlement for the country." Avoiding justice altogether creates a sense of impunity among those, like Mugabe and his security men, who unleash violence against civilians. But to avoid even more bloodshed, argue the pragmatists, justice may be best deferred — at least until the guns go silent.

BBC

Monday, 14 July 2008

## Sierra Leone police arrest drug crew

**Police in Sierra Leone have arrested six people in connection with the seizure of a plane loaded with cocaine at the airport outside the capital.**

The six are from Latin America, and include Colombians and Mexicans.

The 700kg cargo, worth an estimated \$60m, was abandoned on the runway shortly after arriving in the dark in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The BBC's Umaru Fofana in Freetown says the pilots were rescued by a vehicle that drove through the perimeter fence.

Our correspondent says it was a dramatic and daring escape, but they appeared to experience no resistance from security at the airport.

The incident comes after a recent warning from the US embassy in Freetown that some members of the police force in Sierra Leone are working with organised criminals, our reporter says.

The seized drugs are now with the United Nations and British-led International Military Advisory Training Team.

Last month, the United Nations warned that West Africa was under attack from international gangs seeking new routes to smuggle cocaine from South America to Europe.

After years of war, Sierra Leone is one of the world's poorest countries and corruption is major problem.

Guine-Bissau, another weak West African state, has also been targeted by Latin American drugs cartels.



The UN has warned that West Africa is the new route for cocaine smugglers



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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
14 July 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Tension Brews in Nimba as Angry Youth Set Houses Ablaze at key Rubber Plantation**

(Daily Observer)

- Reports from Cocopa rubber plantation in Nimba County speak of brewing tension at various camps of the plantation where residents and other management team have reportedly fled for fear of being attacked by marauding armed men that are said to have besieged some portions of the area.
- Angry youth on over the weekend set two houses ablaze and damaged two security booths at the Cocopa Rubber Plantation.
- Reports say the youth's action followed the death of one of their kinsmen who was arrested and beaten by the company's security on allegation of theft. Four security officers have been arrested in connection with the act.

**“Uniformed Armed Men” Raid King Gray Community**

(The News, The Monitor, The Independent, New Democrat, Liberian Express, Public Agenda)

- Men wearing Police uniforms have allegedly raided the King Gray Community in Paynesville stealing thousands of dollars, cell phones and other valuables.
- The affected residents said the men heavily armed with cutlasses, pistols and automatic riffles broke into every house they came across.
- They said for nearly three hours the community was tense with the sound of automatic gunfire being heard throughout the town.
- At the same time, a group of armed men early Saturday morning attacked ELWA, a Christian Mission Compound on the Roberts International Airport (RIA) highway wounding a female expatriate.
- The gunmen broke into the guest house where the foreign nationals were residing.
- Reports say the compound experienced similar series of armed robbery attacks in the past week.

**Lutheran Church Massacre Commemoration Begins**

(The Inquirer, Daily Observer, National Chronicle, Heritage)

- The Lutheran Church in Liberia, in collaboration with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia, will Tuesday begin a special commemoration programme for survivors of the July 29, 1990 St. Peter's Lutheran Church Massacre.
- During the programme which will convene from July 15-17 at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Sinkor, survivor witnesses most of whom still bear the physical scars of the killings will recount their experiences. Already members of the NGO and international community amongst dozens of other organizations have been invited for the ceremony.
- The commemoration programme will bring together sympathizers, families of victims and survivors to honor those who were killed and share their experiences.
- Thirty survivors or witnesses in Montserrado County, Monrovia and towns and villages in Nimba County will participate in the programme.
- Hundreds of women, children and men who sought refuge in the church were massacred on Sunday, July 29, 1990.

- Initial reports at the time of the massacre put the death toll at 200 to 300 but survivors of the attack said troops broke into the church and indiscriminately killed men, women, children and babies with knives, guns and cutlasses. Witnesses said at least 600 refugees were killed putting the number of refugees killed in the church at 2,000.
- Reports said a group of 30 soldiers firing machine guns stormed the church and fired point-blank at some of the 2,000 refugees who were there since the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel forces reached the capital.

### **Opposition Politician released on US\$1,500 bail bond**

(The Inquirer, The Analyst)

- The Monrovia City Court has granted a bail bond of US\$1,500 for the release of the Secretary General of the former ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP), Mr. John Whitfield.
- Mr. Whitfield was released over the weekend when the court granted the bond shortly after he was arraigned before the court to answer to the charges of "Illegal Possession of Fire Arm and Ammunition."
- Mr. Whitfield's lawyer, Cllr. T. C. Gould working with the Overseas Economic Insurance Company, secured the bond on behalf of Mr. Whitfield before the court released him after being held in police custody last Thursday.
- The NPP Secretary General was last Thursday arrested by the police for allegedly being in possession of a firearm and ammunition.
- Mr. John Whitfield, while appearing on the Truth Radio Breakfast Show last Wednesday morning as a studio guest, openly said that he was in possession of a firearm and was using it to protect himself.
- He said in the show that he was possessed the arm and would not turn it over to the government or UNMIL, because since the government had said that the security situation is bad, it then suggests that it can not provide protection for its people and as such, people need arms to protect themselves.

### **Government Warns Against Price Hike**

(The Inquirer, The News)

- The Liberia Government has vowed to institute stern action against anyone caught hiking the prices of rice, gasoline and other basic commodities on the Liberian market above government's stipulated prices.
- Commerce Minister Frances Johnson Morris, who issued the warning, said no one is above the law and as such, the business community must abide by the government stipulated prices.
- Speaking over the weekend at the official launching of the Government's Consumer's Education Awareness campaign held in Paynesville, Minister Morris warned that the government would prosecute anyone or business houses caught importing sub-standard goods and fake drugs into the country.

## **Radio Summary**

**Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

### **Angry Youths Set Houses Ablaze at Rubber Plantation**

### **King Gray Residents Accuse "Uniformed-Men" of Armed Robbery**

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

### **Lawyer for Detained Margibi Senator Alleges His Client is "Illegally" Held**

- The lawyer for the detained Senator Roland Kaine said his client is being held illegally.
- Cllr. Francis Garlawolo on Friday described the arrest and detention of the Senator as politically motivated saying the state was using his client as a scapegoat.
- The statement followed a state submission which brought to the court's attention Garlawolo's allegation that Kaine was targeted by politicians interested in his position.
- State lawyers have meanwhile dismissed the claim as "outrageous" and urged the court to dismiss it.

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

**National Health Confab Opens Today**

- The Ministry of Health and its partners will today begin a National Health Conference in Monrovia to review the implementation of the National Health Plan over the past twelve months.
- Over 200 international and local health care specialists will examine the development progress of the plan's four pillars which include basic health package of health services, human resource, infrastructure and support system.
- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia, Health Minister Dr. Walter Gwenigale said the review will however not include activities of social welfare.

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