

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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SPECIAL COURT...

Witness tells how Nigeria supplied weapons to Kamajors

BY THEOPHILUS GBENDA

As more and more facts continue to emerge at the ongoing CDF trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, it has been revealed that the then ECOMOG boss in Liberia, General Abdulai Mohamed Wan did supply arms and ammunition to the Kamajors for the prosecution of the war against the junta.

This was disclosed by prosecution witness TF2-008, who said he happened to have been at a Kamajor high level meeting in Talia, where he heard the then national coordinator of the CDF, Chief Sam Hinga Norman remarking that he has brought in a quantity of arms and ammunition given

to him by his friend, General Abdulai Mohamed Wan.

According to the witness who spoke behind shield, he was in Mano, Jiamia Bongor chiefdom, when he heard of the May 1997 AFRC coup d'etat.

Wasting no time, witness stated that he set off for Bo, Via Koribondo, where he was advised to wait a while as it

CONTINUED BACK PAGE



President Kabbah... Nigerians don't lie

Witness tells how Nigeria supplied weapons

FROM PAGE 1

ness explained that he ventured out to Bo where he observed that the junta had taken total control of the town.

Not pleased with the unfolding situation under the junta regime, the witness noted that a group known as 'concerned group' was formed to strategize ways and means through which the coup could be reversed and the legitimate government re-instated.

The first task of the group, of which he was a member, was to locate the Kamajors that were in disarray and to secure arms and ammunition needed for the prosecution of the war.

The group, according to the witness, did succeed in locat-

ing a good number of Kamajors including the Chief initiator, Allieu Kondewai also known as King Dr. Allieu Kondewai, who was then taking refuge in a village called Tihun.

According to the witness, plans were underway to locate Chief Sam Hinga Norman when they were reliably informed that he and Allieu

Kondewai have already left for Base Zero, a renowned Kamajor headquarter.

At Base Zero, the witness said, the national coordinator Chief Sam Hinga Norman, the Director of War Monina Fofanah and the Chief Initiator, King Dr. Allieu Kondewai were the ones having all the executive power in the Kamajor society.

Initiation into the Kamajor especially after the overthrow was widespread with interested persons even paying to become members.

NRA institute criminal investigation

FROM PAGE 1

As at press time yesterday, the ACC was also being rumoured to be contemplating a robust involvement in the verification process, especially facilitating the process of con-

firmed with BIVAC the authenticity of their claims.

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Nigerian ECOMOG Commander in Kamajor arms supply

By Tamba Borbor

A Nigerian ECOMOG Commander who was in Liberia has been named as the main supplier of arms and ammunition to the Kamajor militia during the conflict. Testifying at the ongoing trial of the CDF at the Trials Chamber of the Special Court, witness TF2-008 disclosed that a Nigerian ECOMOG

Commander named by Chief Hinga Norman as General Abdul Wan Mohamed supplied all the weapons they (Kamajors) were using to prosecute the war. The witness went on to explain that after awaiting Chief Norman's arrival at Base Zero, "Chief Norman arrived from Liberia with an helicopter loaded with assorted arms and

ammunition including food and non-food items." TF2-008 explained further that during a meeting between their delegation and Chief Norman including other senior Kamajor officials, Norman disclosed that the arms and ammunition were given to him by his friend - a Nigerian ECOMOG Commander in Liberia whom he

identified as General Abdul Wan Mohamed. As their delegation was a sort of liaison between the Bo Town community and the Kamajor Headquarters at Base

Zero, the witness disclosed that after the overthrow of the Kabbah Government in 1997, they decided to do all they can to reverse the coup with the help of the Kamajor militia. As their

delegation went to Base Zero, Chief Norman he explained gave them the sum of \$500 to procure petrol for use at the Kamajor headquarters. Continuing his

Contd. Page 2

Nigerian ECOMOG Commander

From Front Page

evidence-in-chief, the witness stated that CDF indictee Allieu Kondewa initiated him into the Kamajor society and that he was in the Administrative level of the Militia; adding that as a result, he never went to the warfront. Allieu Kondewa he noted

had absolute control over all Kamajors, as he was the High Priest with so much mystical powers. "He decides who goes to war on a particular day and no one goes to the battlefield without his blessing," the witness stated, adding that Chief Norman (National Coordinator of

the Kamajor militia), Moinina Fofanah (Director of war) and Allieu Kondewa (Chief Initiator promoted High Priest) formed the core Executive of the entire militia. No one TF2-008 said takes orders on behalf of the Kamajor militia without the knowledge of these three men. The trial continues today.

The Exclusive
Nov 17 2004

Kamajors Get Arms From Liberia - Witness Testifies

By Joseph Turay

Prosecution witness TF2-008 at the Special Court yesterday testified that the Kamajor militiamen received some of their arms and ammunition supply from the capital of Liberia, Monrovia, during the ten-year civil conflict.

The witness, who was led in evidence by prosecution counsel Joseph Kamara, tes-

tified that he was an administrator in the Kamajor movement and that he never went to the war front to fight.

The witness recalled that the first Civil Defence Forces (CDF) accused, Chief Samuel

Contd. page 2

Kamajors Get Arms From Liberia

From front page

Hinga Norman, used to travel to Liberia to secure arms and ammunition for the Kamajors, adding that the arms and ammunition were transported to Sierra Leone by an helicopter to be delivered at the Kamajor base called Talia for distribution.

TF 2-008 further testified the Nigerian Contingent in

ECOMOG also supplied the Kamajors with arms and ammunition, citing an instance where Chief Norman introduced to them one Nigerian ECOMOG General Abdulai Mohamed, who was based in Liberia to facilitate the supply of arms and ammunition to the militiamen. Witness narrated that the Nigerian General held a meet-

ing with the Kamajors at Talia Village where it was discussed how to revert the May 25, 1997 coup and restore the democratically elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. This, according to witness, Chief Norman responded positively to and promised to work with ECOMOG to oust the AFRC/RUF junta.

'Nigerian General Supplied Arms To Kamajors'

By Mohamed Mansaray

A prosecution witness in the trial of CDF indictees of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, TF2-008 yesterday named a Nigerian ECOMOG officer General Abdulai Mohamed Wan as the man who supplied assorted weapons and other logistics to Kamajors prior the overthrow of President Kabbah's government in 1997. General Wan was based in Liberia during that time.

The witness also quoted the former CDF Coordinator and indictee of the court, Samuel Hinga Norman as telling them about the logistical supply in question to Kamajors during a meeting held at a certain school compound in Talia, Yawbeke Chiefdom in the Bonthe district during that period.

He was led in evidence by a prosecution lawyer, Joseph Kamara at Court Room No. 1, New England in Freetown.

The witness testified that the weapons, food and non-food items were ferried by helicopter to Talia from the ECOMOG officer in Liberia

SEE BACK PAGE



Norman



Kondewa

Kamajors Names Nigerian General

by the accused. He further quoted Mr. Norman as telling them at the meeting thus: "I got this supply from a friend of mine called General Abdulai Mohamed Wan and he is an ECOMOG Commander in Liberia".

Testifying in English from the witness protection box, he informed the court about the formation of a Concerned Group in Bo after the take-over of which he was a member and charged with the responsibility of putting in place strategies to reverse the coup. The witness named Charles Pama Juan, A. T. Sheriff, Ibrahim F. M. Kanneh, Albert J. Nallo, Edward Mallah among others as members of the Concerned Group.

He testified that members of the group were divided into sub-groups and sent to Bonthe and in the rural areas of Bo districts to locate Kamajors and inform them about the group's aims and objectives, ie to reverse the coup.

The witness informed the court that it was while they were in Talia to see the CDF National Coordinator Samuel Hinga Norman with respect to the above issue, that they saw him arrive with logistics onboard a helicopter. He told the court that the accused presented the items during the meeting they held at the school compound in the presence of senior Kamajor members.

The witness further testified that members of the Concerned Group were introduced to Mr. Norman in Talia by the former Kamajor Director of War Moinina Fofana. He said he was initiated into the Kamajor society by Alieu Kondewa and was attached to the administrative wing of the CDF.

The witness was born in Mano, Jaiama-Bongor Chiefdom in the Bo district. The trials continue.

peacekeeping to peace building

New Peace Plan For Sierra Leone

The new Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sierra Leone and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, J. Victor Angelo has outlined his responsibilities which include assisting the SRSG and the mission in facilitating the transition from peacekeeping to peace building in an integrated and well-calibrated manner.



J. Victor Angelo

The new DSRSG will also serve as a link between UNAMSIL and the United Nations Agencies, which are part of the UN Country Team, which he also leads, as well as the

humanitarian development and donor partners.

Speaking at a UNAMSIL town hall meeting on 5 October 2004, where the SRSG Ambassador Daudi M...

introduced him, Victor Angelo explained that, his mandate also includes coordinating with the different UN agencies to ensure that they implement joint programmes and

on key priorities for the work of the UN in Sierra Leone. This mandate takes into account Resolution 1562 adopted by the Security Council on 17

New Peace Plan

From front page

mandate takes into account Resolution 1562 adopted by the Security Council on 17 September, which, among other things, underlines the importance of close collaboration between UNAMSIL and the United Nations Country Team in Sierra Leone for a smooth transition after the departure of UNAMSIL.

Victor Angelo stated that, with the significant progress made over the past two years in Sierra Leone, UNAMSIL has become a symbol of success in a rather difficult and uncertain environment of international interventions having addressed complex conflict and post-conflict situations in various parts of the African continent.

"However, the achievements made so far can only be sustained when further progress is made in addressing the root causes of the conflict in an integrated and holistic manner," he said.

Mr. Angelo further explained that the United Nations support and presence in Sierra Leone is now focusing on the transition from peacekeeping to peace

building which, he said, would place greater emphasis on building and strengthening democratic institutions of governance and on supporting the Government's efforts to address the root causes of the conflict in the economic and social fields.

According to the DSRSG, the success of any external support, including that of the United Nations, should be measured by tangible achievements in creating and strengthening sustainable national capacity that would enable national institutions of governance to assume responsibilities for effectively managing the affairs of their country. "This", he said, "will be our guiding principles as we move forward with the transition from peacekeeping to peace building."

The DSRSG said his main areas of interest are governance, Civil Affairs, civil police and the recovery and development aspects of UNAMSIL's work, as well as resource mobilization for national capacity-building. He solicited the cooperation and support of UNAMSIL staff in


the critical task before the mission which he said would determine what kind of legacy the United Nations leaves in Sierra Leone, and serve as a yardstick by which the ultimate success of the United Nations and the international community as a whole would be measured.

Immediately prior to this appointment, the new DSRSG was the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and the UNDP Resident Representative in Zimbabwe since September 2000.

Mr. Angelo served with the United Nations for 26 years. From 1999 to 2002 he was the UN's Special Envoy for East Timor and from 1998 to 1999 he was Deputy Regional Director for Africa at UNDP's New York Headquarters. He has also served extensively in Africa as UNDP Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative in Tanzania from 1994 to 1997 and in a similar capacity in the Gambia 1989 to 1994. From 1985 to 1989 he was the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in the Central African Republic.

His other postings on the African continent were as UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative in Mozambique from 1980 to 1985 and UN Advisor in Sao Tome and Principe from 1978 to 1980.

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BODY:

M2 PRESSWIRE-NOVEMBER 16, 2004-UN: Sufficient resources required for **Yugoslav, Rwanda Tribunals** to complete work on schedule, **General Assembly** told; page 2 of 2 ©1994-2004 **M2 COMMUNICATIONS LTD**

RADZI RAHMAN (Malaysia) said the **Tribunals** had contributed to promoting justice over atrocities and to progressive development of international case law, both in the general and humanitarian categories, not just in matters of procedure and competence but also with regard to substantive issues of greater importance. They had contributed to the field of post-conflict justice and furthered international criminal jurisprudence on matters such as individual responsibility and exercise of jurisdiction over crimes committed during internal conflicts. The present focus of both **Tribunals** on completing their work by 2010 as the Security Council had laid out was welcome, as were the substantial structural changes to facilitate the process.

On the **Yugoslav Tribunal**, he said the most notable reform was the amendment of the rules to allow transfer of cases involving intermediate and lower-level accused to national courts. A durable legacy would be the strengthening of the criminal justice system in Bosnia and Herzegovina. And while the **Tribunal** had made every effort to be more efficient and expeditious, the reluctant cooperation of States in the region had remained a big challenge, particularly in regard to turning over suspects. Only Croatia had made progress in arresting and transferring indictees. The countries concerned must meet the **Tribunal's** call for cooperation.

TOSHIRO OZAWA (Japan) said continuity of work must be made a priority for the **ICTY** with regard to the new permanent judges about to be elected, the ad item judges and scheduling to meeting the completion strategies the Security Council had mapped out. The **Tribunal** had been established so as to bring to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law. It was of concern that key figures were yet to be arrested. Countries concerned must cooperate and provide support not only in the arrest process but in facilitating access to witnesses, archives and other crucial evidence.

With regard to the **Rwanda Tribunal**, he said improvements in communications between the Prosecutor

and the Government were welcome. More regular and substantive talks were being held on the transfer of cases to the national court. Local people had been drawn into the judicial process, which allowed them to achieve justice while also maintaining ownership. However, he said one lesson had emerged from both **Tribunals**: Member States could not fund the expenses for the pursuit of justice unlimitedly. Both **Tribunals** must maximize efforts to address the issue of the current gap between cost and the number of cases processed. The operation and cost of the **Tribunals** should be phased down according to the completion strategies set out.

SHIN KAK-SOO (Republic of Korea) said the two **Tribunals** had provided valuable lessons for the International Criminal Court and for the other **special courts**. A **seamless web** of transnational justice must be built to embrace both international and domestic jurisdictions together, so as to prevent any impunity gap. A consulting mechanism should also be established among the various judicial bodies to share experience and information. Also, fragmentation of international jurisprudence must be addressed now.

He said an important lesson of the **Tribunals** was the wisdom of mapping out a division of work between international and domestic jurisdictions early in the trials, with international criminal courts concentrating on the most important cases.

Assistance must be provided to domestic courts to enable transparency in judicial functions and neighbouring States must cooperate in bringing the accused to justice. The practice of negotiating guilty pleas, as introduced in 2002, was helpful in economizing costs. However, the **Tribunals** must strike a delicate balance between preserving a sense of justice, for victims and the **international community**, and delivering justice in a cost-efficient way. States must exercise jurisdiction over cases to maintain visibility of justice and engage in outreach activities, both on their own and in cooperation with the **Tribunals**.

ZORAN LONCAR (Serbia and Montenegro) said national elections had caused technical delays in his country's cooperation with the **Yugoslav Tribunal** but a National Council to promote that cooperation had become fully operational in July. As a result, the country was providing effective assistance in tracking down, interviewing and taking testimony from witnesses and suspects. All requests for waivers on state secrets mentioned in the report had been met. Twenty-one requests for documents had also been granted since the National Council was constituted.

The obstacles encountered in fulfilling requests for documents needed mention, he said. Some documents from 1991 and 1992 were unavailable. When due to negligence or misconduct of officials, criminal proceedings were instituted. Documents stored in military and police facilities were destroyed in the 1999 air strikes by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the region. Some requests needed clarification. Overall, however, the pace of providing documentation had improved in recent months. Recent high-level meetings had also improved cooperation between the region and the **Tribunal**.

He said the essential precondition for meeting the Security Council's strategy for the **Tribunal** was the existence and ability of domestic jurisdictions to try the referred cases and meeting international legal standards in the proceedings.

A number of cases were now being tried in the War Crimes Panel of the Belgrade District Court in consultation with the **Tribunal**. A new law had been drafted and sent to Parliament regulating witness protection and recognition of evidence.

His country was willing and prepared to prosecute referred cases in its own courts. Capacity could be improved with further training opportunities for judges and prosecutors, and with experts' assistance in amending domestic criminal legislation in line with **Tribunal** standards.

MIRZA KUSLJUGIC (Bosnia and Herzegovina) underlined the role of the **Tribunal** in individualization of war crimes as a precondition for sustainable inter-ethnic reconciliation.

Those who had pleaded guilty, and expressed remorse to the victims of crimes, represented a milestone in the reconciliation process. The increase of guilty pleas had particular significance to the hundreds of thousands of war victims. Bosnia and Herzegovina was determined to meet its obligations regarding

cooperation with the **ICTY**. Its record in respect to the arrest and transfer of those who had been indicted but were still-at-large, requests for documents and access to archives and the availability of witnesses had improved in the past year. In spite of its cooperation with the **Tribunal**, many of the indicted war criminals had not been apprehended, which created a major obstacle to inter-ethnic reconciliation. It was clear that the failure to cooperate fully with the **ICTY** was now the main obstacle to Bosnia and Herzegovina becoming a stable, peaceful and prosperous European democracy.

He went on to say that criminal files against some 5,908 persons had been submitted to the Prosecutor's office for review, but only some 90 persons had been brought before the courts. Therefore, thousands of perpetrators of serious war crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina had not even been charged. Turning to its exit strategy, the **ICTY** intended to transfer to the domestic courts dossiers of unfinished investigations and investigative materials. It would then be up to the domestic judicial and prosecutorial authorities to act on those cases. That would begin next year and would represent a serious test for the maturity of the domestic courts. That was an important step in the building of institutions of justice, which would contribute to the progress towards the creation of a society based on the rule of law and respect for human rights. In that respect, it was important to complete staffing and budgeting for the Special Chamber for War Crimes of the State Court.

Furthermore, he welcomed **ICTY**-Office of the High Representative cooperation in the process of establishment of Special Chamber for War Crimes Prosecutions in the State Court and called upon Member States to provide necessary technical and financial support. He also supported the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) missions in the region to promote rule of law.

WEGGER C. STROMMEN (Norway) said that while the two **Tribunals** had played a crucial role in advancing the cause of justice in both **Rwanda** and the former Yugoslavia, the panels had also had a broader significance: they represented effective systems of international criminal law and left a legacy of international jurisprudence that could guide other courts, including the International Criminal Court (**ICC**), and deter the commission of crimes against humanity. In addition, the **Tribunals** contributed to the development of international criminal justice and the fight against impunity for mass atrocities in general. He went on to commend both **Tribunals'** efforts to achieve the Security Council mandated completion strategies, and applauded enhanced cooperation between the **Tribunals and the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the ICC**.

But he **joined** others in expressing concern about the **Tribunals'** financial situations, noting that some 60 per cent of Member States were behind in their payments. He was deeply worried that that might affect the **Tribunals'** completion strategy deadlines. The resultant hiring freeze had prevented both courts from replacing essential personnel, and Norway therefore appealed to all States to honour their commitments and to pay their assessed contributions as soon as possible.

For its part, Norway had been pleased to finance the construction of a fourth courtroom at the **ICTR**, which would further enhance its trial capacity. Norway also welcomed the Security Council's adoption last March of a resolution reaffirming the need to intensify efforts to arrest and transfer fugitives indicted by both the **ICTY and the ICTR**.

Unless the highest-ranking indictees were brought to justice, the **Tribunals'** main mission would not be fulfilled, he said.

Norway applauded the improved cooperation of the Croatian Government during the period under review, and expected that to continue in order to ensure that General Ante Gotovina was brought to the Hague-based **ICTY**. Norway would call on all States to honour their international obligation to cooperate with regard to requests for access to archives and documents, surrendering indictees, providing full and effective assistance with regard to witness, giving financial and material support, and not least, in providing practical assistance in the enforcement of sentences. Norway had expressed its willingness to consider applications from the **ICTY** concerning the enforcement of sentences and, in conformity with international law, to receive a limited number of convicted persons to serve their sentences in Norway.

SUSAN MOORE (United States) appreciated the work of both **Tribunals** in bringing to justice those most responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law. With regard to the **ICTY**, the **international community** must work together to ensure success of the Security Council-endorsed

completion strategy that sought to conclude investigations by the end of **2004**, trials by 2008 and all work by 2010.

However, to fulfil that programme, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia must fulfil their legal obligations to cooperate fully with the **ICTY**. Such cooperation included the apprehension of all fugitive indictees and their transfer to The Hague. In that regard, he noted that the Republika Srpska had failed to render a single fugitive indictee to the **Tribunal** and Serbia and Montenegro's cooperation had deteriorated to a standstill in the past year.

She went on to say that Serbia and Montenegro's lack of cooperation with the **ICTY** also undermined the confidence of the **international community** that it was willing and able to prosecute fairly and effectively perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Until Serbia met its cooperation obligations, her nation did not see domestic trials of **ICTY** indictees as a realistic option. She called on all authorities in Serbia, especially the Prime Minister as head of the Government, to act immediately to apprehend and render to The Hague all fugitives hiding in the country. The United States supported efforts to help create the capacity for credible domestic trials of low and mid-level cases throughout the region, and noted the significant work being done in Sarajevo in that regard. The United States had completed the transfer of all of its assessed contributions for the **ICTY** to the United Nations. With regard to the **ICTR**, she commended the increased pace of trials there under the leadership of its President.

FELIX AWANBOR (Nigeria) said that with the establishment of both the United Nations **Tribunals**, the **international community** had resolved to stop the perpetuation of genocide and other heinous crimes against humanity. Nigeria was pleased to note that the cooperation between both the **ICTY** and the **ICTR** had expanded to include the **Special Court** for **Sierra Leone**, as well as the **ICC**. The exchange of experiences and the initiation of joint activities between the bodies had greatly contributed to the strengthening of international criminal justice, he added, saying that the work of the **Rwanda Tribunal** had made a significant contribution to the enrichment of international jurisprudence and the rejection of impunity.

The **ICTR's** decisions were already creating a solid body of case law, which was being acknowledged by many courts around the world, as well as the **ICTY**.

Concerning the **ICTR's** completion strategy, Nigeria was gratified that the panel was on schedule to wrap up its work by the Council-mandated 2008, and would call for the cooperation of all States to facilitate the arrest and transfer of the 17 indictees and 16 suspects who remained at large. To that end, he called for the strengthening of national legal systems in the effort to ensure the smooth transfer of identified individuals to national jurisdictions for trial. As for the **ICTY**, Nigeria noted that panel's internal reforms, which had been geared toward the timely completion of its work. It was also noteworthy that the **Tribunal** was continuing to prepare States in the region to be ready to prosecute war crimes cases. He stressed that both **Tribunals** needed sustained international support, particularly adequate financial resources, which would allow them to complete their work on time.

ANDY MWANDEMBWA (United Republic of Tanzania) commended the work of the **Rwanda Tribunal** during the period under review and welcomed the most recent version of its completion plan.

Hoping that the **Tribunal** would get the much needed resources to facilitate the implementation of that plan, he called on Member States to pay their contributions to facilitate its work. He also commended Prosecutor Hassan Bubacar Jallow for his efforts to increase the number of prosecutions and conduct speedy trials. Also under his leadership, the tracking team had been revamped and greater cooperation had been sought from countries in which some of the fugitives were known to be located. As host country, Tanzania had closely worked with the **Tribunal**.

Now that the **Tribunal** was working towards completion of its work by 2008, he invited the United Nations and the **international community** to use the facility after completion of the **ICTR's** work. Much had been invested in putting up that infrastructure and it was only reasonable to start thinking on how best to re-employ the facility to better use for the benefit of the **international community**.

STANISLAS KAMANZI (**Rwanda**) recognized the commendable work done by the **Rwanda Tribunal** so far. Nevertheless, when the **Tribunal** was established 10 years ago, the country had hoped that by now

more progress would have been achieved. He noted that originally the Office of the Prosecutor had identified in excess of 300 "big fish" for prosecution before the **Tribunal** completed its work. Today, the **Tribunal's** completion target was significantly more modest. If it apprehended and put on trial the suspects still at large, and completed the trials of the suspects still awaiting trial and those whose trials were still in progress or waiting appeal, the **Tribunal** would have completed the trials of 77 individuals when it concluded its work.

He recalled that the transfer of cases from the **Tribunal** to Rwandan jurisdiction was envisaged as central to the objective of bringing the perpetrators to justice when the **ICTR** was set up a decade ago. Although the process of transfer of cases had not yet begun, he was hopeful it would get underway very soon, pledging that **Rwanda** stood ready to facilitate the process wherever possible. With respect to the concern expressed about the death penalty, he reiterated that the death penalty would not be exercised with respect to cases transferred from the **ICTR**.

He also noted that **Rwanda** required the **international community's** support in training its investigators, lawyers and judges, as well as upgrading its court facilities and infrastructure, in order to handle those trials with the highest level of professionalism and efficiency. He was thankful for the **international community's** support in enabling the country to construct a detention facility that met international standards. He expected that convicts would now serve sentences in **Rwanda** as a result, and believed that that would contribute to the process of reconciliation and healing, as well as the eradication of a culture of impunity.

He was also concerned that late payment or non-payment of assessed contributions by Member States to the **Tribunal** had resulted in serious financial difficulties, which had led to recruitment freezes and a slow-down in its work. That slow-down came at a time when the **Tribunal** was expected to work steadily towards implementation of its completion strategy. It was imperative that Member States made their contributions on time, in full and without conditions, if the goals outlined in the completion strategy were to be realized. He noted that many of the survivors of the 1994 genocide lived in conditions of enormous hardship. Most of them, particularly the orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence, were poorer and more vulnerable today than they were ten years ago. The Assembly should note the plight of thousands of women who contracted HIV/AIDS as a result of being raped during the genocide, he added.

ROSSETTE NYIRINKINDI KATUNGYE (Uganda) said that last year the Security Council heard how the **ICTR** had been plagued by insufficient funding and inadequate staff while trials were unduly delayed - the latter causing consternation to victims and their families, as well as the **international community**.

Having seen the negative impact insufficient staffing had caused in the past, it was rather puzzling that the Comptroller had proceeded to freeze the recruitment of new staff in the period under review. The reason given was not adequate. Failure by Member States to pay their contributions to the **Tribunal** was not new and might even be caused by a genuine inability of the concerned countries to do so, especially those experiencing development challenges. Holding the **Tribunal** to ransom on those grounds was unacceptable. The United Nations' regular budget should meet the needs deficiency. One could not overemphasize the necessity for the **ICTR** to be provided with **sufficient** resources to allow it to complete its cases within the allotted timeframe.


The **ICTR's** report talked of eight defence counsels being withdrawn "for reasons constituting exceptional circumstances", she noted. Perhaps in the spirit of transparency, and to help draw important lessons, it might have been useful for the report to have elaborated on that further. Addressing progress, she said that while positive advances had to be lauded, "we need to caution that the figure of 48 accused persons being subjected to trials may appear insignificant in a situation where hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children were brazenly killed". She urged all States that were required to do so, to arrest and transfer all indictees and suspects still at large. Further, the Prosecutor for the **ICTR** needed to be facilitated to transfer the individuals in national jurisdictions identified by him for trial.

The Government and people of **Rwanda** had demonstrated through the "Gacaca" legal system that they were capable of handling some of the perpetrators of genocide within their national jurisdiction, she noted. Therefore, she urged that the Government of **Rwanda** be facilitated where necessary to strengthen its country's judicial system. Both the **ICTR** and **ICTY**, together with the **ICC** and the **Special Court for Sierra Leone**, were evidence that the **international community** was determined to

bring to justice the perpetrators of genocide, war crimes and grave crimes against humanity. "Prevention, however, is better than cure and we have to put in place early warning systems that alert the world on events that lead to such crimes taking place. We can no longer afford to sit on the fence in the wake of genocide or other such grave crimes", she said.

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November 16, 2004

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HEADLINE: UN: Secretary-General, in International Day message, stresses need to protect women, eliminate violence against them

BODY:

M2 PRESSWIRE-NOVEMBER 16, 2004-UN: Secretary-General, in International Day message, stresses need to protect women, eliminate violence against them ©1994-2004 M2 COMMUNICATIONS LTD

Following is Secretary-General Kofi Annan's message on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, observed on 25 November:

Violence against women is global in reach, and takes place in all societies and cultures, affecting women no matter what their race, ethnicity, social origin, property, birth or other status may be.

Gender-based violence is particularly pervasive in situations of armed conflict, when women and girls become victims of rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and are vulnerable to trafficking. Last May, in an important step towards ending the impunity with which such crimes are committed, the Trial Chamber of the **Special Court for Sierra Leone** approved a motion to add a new count of "forced marriage" to indictments against six defendants. Thus, for the first time, forced marriage will be prosecuted as a crime against humanity.

Violence against women is a challenge in itself, but comes with an added deadly dimension: the risk of HIV infection.

Sexual violence increases women's vulnerability to the virus.


All too frequently, the threat of violence forces women to have unprotected sex. Violence can also make it impossible for women to seek information, follow treatment or even raise the subject for discussion.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the human rights treaty body that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, continues to play a dynamic role in ensuring that this issue is a high priority for the international community. The Optional Protocol to the Convention gives women and groups of women the right to petition, and has the potential to become a highly effective tool for addressing gender-based violence and other violations of women's human rights.

On this fifth International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, let us be encouraged that there is a growing understanding of the problem. But let us also pledge to do our utmost to protect women, banish such violence, and build a world in which women enjoy their rights and freedoms on an equal basis with men.

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Scotland on Sunday, November 14, 2004

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November 14, 2004, Sunday

SECTION: Pg. 23

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HEADLINE: THE **SHOCK TROOPS OF GLOBAL WARFARE**

BYLINE: Ian Mather Diplomatic Correspondent

BODY:

BERNARDO should have been kicking a ball around with his mates, but the games he got to play turned out to be far more deadly.

"They give you a gun and you have to kill the best friend you have," he told aid workers. "They do it to see if they can trust you. If you don't kill him, your friend will be ordered to kill you. I had to do it because otherwise I would have been shot."

Bernardo is a boy soldier, recruited by Colombian paramilitaries at the age of seven. Enticed away from his family by promises of a better life, he became one of the world's growing army of child combatants whose plight will be exposed by humans rights campaigners this week.

The Child Soldiers **Global Report 2004**, published by groups such as Amnesty International, provides country-by-country evidence that governments and armed groups are using children to fight wars, exposing them to violence, injury and death.

They call on governments to campaign for the prosecution of child recruiters, restrictions on military assistance and training and sanctions to curb the actions of the worst abusers.

Children have fought in significant numbers in 20 of the world's major conflicts since 2001. There are now as many as 300,000 child fighters in conflicts in different parts of the world, compared with 200,000 in 1998.

In sub-Saharan Africa there are at least 120,000 children involved in armed conflicts.

Aid workers highlight Uganda, where an estimated 10,000 children are serving as soldiers in the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which is in conflict with the Ugandan government, as a particular black-spot.

Led by Joseph Kony, a mystical former altar boy whose aim is to rule Uganda under the Ten Commandments, the LRA recruits by abduction. It is estimated that over two decades more than 20,000 children have been abducted by the LRA in what aid workers have declared the world's biggest neglected emergency.

Children are ideal targets because they are mobile, unquestioning and easy to convince of the leader's spiritual powers, aid workers say.

The situation is just as grim in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where tens of thousands of children - some as young as seven - have been forced to fight with government-armed forces and in other armed political groups.

"From the beginning to the end of their military service, these children are subjected to harrowing and dehumanising experiences, including beatings, rape and other forms of torture," the report says. "They are forced into combat and to commit serious human rights abuses. A generation is being traumatised."

International law is constantly being flouted. Under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court the recruitment of children under the age of 15 as soldiers is a war crime. The governments of the Congo and Uganda are among those that have also ratified an additional protocol that sets the minimum voluntary recruitment age as 18.

Liberia, where child soldiers were used by all sides during the **14**-year civil war, which ended last year, is another country where the laws have been ignored.

With little or no training child soldiers were sent directly to the front line, where many were killed or wounded. Those resisting recruitment or refusing to obey orders risked being beaten or killed. Girls have since described how they were abducted and raped, often by several soldiers.

In an earlier report, Amnesty claimed: "The lives of Liberia's children have been blighted by **14** years of almost continuous conflict. They have been killed, made orphans, maimed, abducted, deprived of education and health care - and recruited and used as child soldiers."

Only now is some form of amendment being made with a UN appeal for dollars 58m to help provide education and job training for former fighters. Last week, a delegation from Livingstone College in North Carolina started work on retraining 200 demobilised children.

Amnesty says that the problem of child soldiers is also acute in South America, particularly in Columbia, where over a third of the fighters in the country's long-standing civil war are children.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) has about 6,000 children, who are used on the front lines and as spies, instruments of torture and sex slaves.

The guerrillas call them "little bees" when they are on the front line because they sting before the enemy realises it is under attack. Deployed in defensive positions they are renamed "little bells" because they warn the adults of an attack.

Unlike in Africa, the children are not kidnapped or recruited by force. Born in the poorest areas of the country, they join FARC in exchange for promises of a better future. FARC even extends its recruitment drives to neighbouring countries such as Venezuela.

Asia is far from immune. The forthcoming report highlights the plight of child soldiers in Myanmar (formerly Burma), where the army continues to recruit large numbers of child soldiers despite government statements to the contrary.

Children may account for 35-45 per cent of new recruits into the national army.

One **14**-year-old boy, who had been abducted while on his way to school, said that child soldiers who tried to escape were beaten with a bamboo stick on their hands and feet and then put in shackles and repeatedly beaten.

In Sri Lanka the Tamil Tigers, who fought a long civil war against the government, are accused of continuing to recruit thousands of child soldiers by force despite a truce in the conflict that claimed over 60,000 lives.


The report makes clear that even after their servitude ends, the torment continues for the youngsters involved, with many former child soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

One of the authors of the forthcoming report said: "The difficulties don't end when the conflict ends."

"Often the children have been forced to terrorise their own villages and even their own families, the very people they should be returning to."

"Often there is no counselling or pastoral care in place."

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