

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



The National Power Authority power plant in Kingtom. Just beyond is the Historic King Tom Cemetery, the final resting place of many British war dead.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Wednesday, 18 July 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Standard Times
Wednesday, 18 July 2007

Where Are The Reparations?

On the 23, March 1991 a civil conflict broke out in Sierra Leone when a group of rebels crossed the border from Liberia into Bomaru in the Kailahun district in the Eastern province of the country. Apparently, the former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) claimed responsibility for the incursion and declared that their objective was to overthrow the government of the All People Congress (APC) headed by late President Joseph Saidu Momoh.

During the rebel war, women and children were forcefully abducted and recruited into various warring factions.

Women and young girls were sexually abused and even forced as "bush wives". There were also reports that the abducted victims were injected with psychotropic substances that made them commit barbaric acts against humanity.

According to the TRC findings, the amputations did not occur throughout the conflict but during notable periods following the 1996 elections, the expulsion of the AFRC from power and the January 1999 attacks on Freetown.

The report also indicates that RUF was responsible for the highest number of amputations during the war. "Operation stop elections" was conducted as a campaign of violence in 1996 by hacking off limbs of civilians in order to prevent them from voting. According to the findings, Tamba Amara, an adult farmer, had his limb amputated in a village in Bo Ngleya and several others.

However, since the war officially

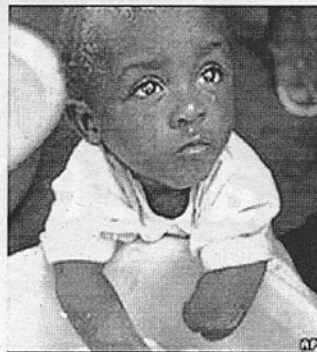


ended in 2002, much has not been achieved by the victims who are still visibly seen in the streets of Freetown begging for a living.

As a result of this impotency, a considerable number of them are now unemployed, others have become destitute and cannot have the basic necessities of life.

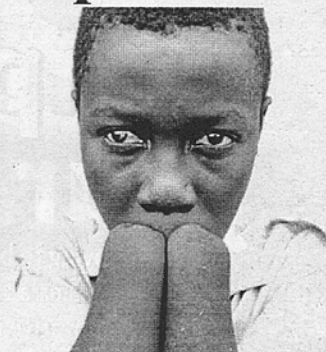
The African (Banjul) Charter on Human and People's Rights adopted on 27th June, 1981 and which came into being on the 21st October, 1986 was effected as a result of Decision 115 (XVI) of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments at their Sixteenth Ordinary Session held in Monrovia, Liberia, from 17 to 20th July, 1979.

Article 16 of the Charter states that (1) every individual shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical and mental health.



Charter on Human and People's Rights clearly states that "every individual shall have right to education". But most doubtful is how the much desired educational process can take place considering the high cost of the education. This makes it a point that these people and their children will spend their entire lives on the streets begging whilst their perpetrators are engaged in meaningful development.

Therefore, the TRC recommendation mentioned about the reparations



Nevertheless, it is evident that the perpetrators are now basking in the realm of pleasantness whilst those who suffered immensely at their hands of extremism and madness are now languishing.

The victims such as the amputees have been totally marginalized. Are they entitled to the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? However, it is imperative for the next coming government and the international community to look into the

If the government succeeded in training and educating the perpetrators, why have they abandon the victims? This question definitely needs an answer. Therefore, the issue of reparation should not be kept under the carpet but to be addressed

(2) States parties to the present Charter shall take the necessary measures to protect the health of their people and to ensure that they receive medical attention when they are sick. Even though Sierra Leone is a signatory to this Charter, she has failed to implement this provision.

In fact, most of the amputees can't afford a square meal a day much more to talk about health insurance. Where does the money come from to pay for the high medical fees charged by the doctors?

Article (18) of the Charter indicates that "the family shall be the natural unit and basic of society. It shall be protected by the state which shall take care of its physical health and moral.

In essence, there are women and children amputees whose family cannot afford them the opportunity to be educated due to economic difficulties. Most of them have instead resulted to doing odd jobs such as apprentices or bus conductors on lorry parks, or drug peddlers in the streets while others have become beggars and others endure with the times in schooling.

Article 17 of the African (Banjul)

of the victims of the war. It may be recalled that through the support of the donor countries, the government established the DDR which successfully demobilized, disarmed and rehabilitated these wicked actors of the war theater.



question of the reparations because the victims are human beings with very large families that needed compensation. As Article 22 of the Charter states that "All People shall have the right to their economic, social and cultural development with due regard to their freedom of identity, and the enjoyment of the common heritage of mankind", it is the belief that the victims have a right to social development. They were not born amputees rather it's as a result of their predicament encounter with the war which caused them to suffer today.

The establishment of the TRC was an agreement between the SLPP government and the international community to ascertain what brought about the war and to create the necessary atmosphere for reconciliation. Also, the commission was mandated to put forward the necessary recommendations.

If the government succeeded in training and educating the perpetrators, why have they abandon the victims? This question definitely needs an answer. Therefore, the issue of reparation should not be kept under the carpet but to be addressed.

Awareness Times

Wednesday, 18 July 2007

Special Court Workers boost Indictees

Reports have it that employees of the Special Court for Sierra Leone last Wednesday donated food items and different kind of games devices to the court's detention centre. Presenting the items, the Coordinator for the Court employees said she was moved by the pathetic stories of the inmates when she last visited the centre.

The Spectator
 Tuesday, 17 July 2007

Remand home enjoys wind-fall

The Remand Home at King Tom in Freetown received food items and games last Wednesday July 11 this year.

The items were gifts from Special Court workers' Co-coordinator, Miss Miatta Abu.

In presenting the items, Miatta Abu said she was moved by the pathetic stories of the inmates when she once visited the home.

Miss Abu had been informed by the Matron of the home, Mrs. Gertrude Sesay, about the constraints government was facing in providing food for the juvenile delinquents.

Because of the huge debts government owes to contractors, the Prison Department, including the Remand Home, has been curtailing diets to inmates for about two months now, and it is expected that the situation will remain so until after the elections.

Therefore Matron Gertrude Sesay and

Mr. Turay have embarked on making requests for humanitarian assistance to the Remand Home.

She was grateful that Miss Miatta Abu responded by offering a bag of rice and a ludo game for the 35 inmates, including two girls of the home.

Miss Abu promised to do more as and when she is financially blessed, but urged the delinquents to behave themselves and change from the conduct, which has landed them into the Remand Home. She encouraged them to regard their incarceration as a means of correction rather than punishment.

The delinquents complained of delays in justice and complained that apart from the fact that they are not adequately fed these days, the justice system has not been kind to them.

"Our cases are unnecessarily adjourned any time we go to court; and as if to add insult to injury, prison

officers were asked to escort us to court in handcuff."

The delinquents protested at this action and all of them almost escaped after court sitting last week.

Miatta Abu holds a Second Class Honors Degree in Science (Bsc. Hons.) She started her working career as a Laboratory Technician at the Connaught Hospital in Freetown but found herself in humanitarian and social work when she began working with the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

"I worked for the IRC in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and in taking up cases of indecent assault against children. I felt sorry for them especially when adults used money to seduce their victims".

Matron Gertrude Sesay explained that a four-year old child found at Susan's Bay was in her custody since nobody had come to claim it.

She has named the child Mohamed because he is Fullah.

Cotton Tree News

Tuesday, 17 July 2007

Special Court for Sierra Leone

Written by Ndeamoh Mansaray

Defense Lawyers for the three convicted AFRC persons said prison sentences for their clients should not be too long. They said they wanted a shorter term of imprisonment for all three of them.

The three appeared before a trial chamber on Monday presided over by Justice Julia Sebutinde of the Special Court. The defense lawyers argued that even imprisonment for genocide cases did not exceed fifteen years. The Prosecution is asking for a longer term of imprisonment for each of the three accused persons.

In its submission the prosecution team pointed out that all three accused people committed very serious crimes during the war. They said there were no mitigating circumstances that would allow a lighter sentence for any of the accused. They said the accused had showed no sign of remorse for any of the crimes committed. They added that the accused did not cooperate with the prosecution.

The three were convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the country after the thirtieth of November 1996. The court was adjourned to Thursday to consider the submissions and to give judgments.

Concord Times (Freetown)

Tuesday, 17 July 2007

Sierra Leone: AFRC Indictees Await Judgment

Ibrahim Tarawallie
Freetown

Judgment is expected to be passed on the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) indictees: Alex Tamba Brima, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara and Santigie Kanu who have been found guilty of 11-count charge for crime against humanity on Thursday at the Special Court.

The prosecution counsel asked for either a single "global sentence" of 60 years for Brima, 60 years for Kamara and 50 years for Kanu or multiple sentences to be served consecutively.

Karim Agha of the prosecution counsel stated that none of the three accused persons accepted responsibility for their crimes and none of them have shown any remorse.

The prosecution argued that there are no mitigating circumstances that will call for a lighter sentence for any of the three convicted persons adding that they did not commit the crimes under duress.

They also argued that the second accused played a major role in the various crimes committed and their roles in the crimes was the gravity of the offence.

The prosecution thereby submitted that the second accused played a lesser role in the offence than the first accused and pointed out that none of the accused persons are identical.

They also submitted that the gravity of the offence is the most important part of the sentence.

Defense counsel for the first accused pleaded that the judges should temper justice with mercy saying: "To err is human but to forgive is divine" as they asked the court to promote the course of reconciliation.

In his plea, the first accused person, Alex Tamba Brima said, "I pray that the honourable court will use this trial to bring peace and reconciliation in the country." The defense counsel for Ibrahim Bazy Kamara said Bazy was a poor and ill-educated teenager who risked his life to fight against the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels to restore peace in the country.

The defense counsel submitted that Bazy did not, directly, participate in the crimes he is being convicted for by the court.

Defense counsel for the third accused Santigie Kanu submitted that the accused did not receive substantial military training and added that he felt betrayed by the government. They recommended that the prosecution's submission against Kanu be dismissed.

The Patriotic Vanguard

Wednesday, 18 July 2007

Gullit, others, to be sentenced Thursday

According to a Special Court press alert, sentencing in the trial of three convicted former leaders of Sierra Leone's Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) will take place on Thursday, 19 July 2007 at 11:30 a.m.

Alex Tamba Brima, aka: "Gullit", Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu, aka: "Five-Five" were convicted last month on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Oral arguments on the sentencing were heard on Monday.



The hearing will be held at the Special Court's courthouse in Freetown. Overflow seating will be available, but members of the press are advised to arrive early.

Brief bios of the three:

Alex Tamba Brima(photo) was born on 23 November 1971 in the village of Yaryah in the district of Kono in Sierra Leone. In April 1985, he joined the Sierra Leone Army, where he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Alex Tamba Brima is alleged to have been a member of a group of 17 soldiers (including Santigie Borbor Kanu and Brima Bazzy Kamara) which took power by force on 25 May 1997 in Freetown and overthrew the democratically elected government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah.

Brima Bazzy Kamara was born on 7 May 1968 in the village of Wilberforce, Freetown. On 20 May 1991, he joined the Sierra Leone Army, where he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Santigie Borbor Kanu was born in March 1965 in Freetown. On 27 November 1990, he joined the Sierra Leone Army (SLA), where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Program

Monday, 16 July 2007

AFRC Sentencing Hearing

By Joseph A.K Sesay and Zoila Hinson

This morning at 9:30 am, parties in the trial of accused AFRC leaders Alex Tamba Brima, aka Gullit, Ibrahim Bazzy Kamara, aka Bazzy, and Santigie Borbor Kanu aka 55, presented oral submissions to Trial Chamber II of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) as part of the Chamber's determination of an appropriate sentence. The parties made their oral arguments in addition to written briefs submitted 28 June 2007. In its written submission, the Prosecution asked for the Chamber to impose a sentence of sixty years on Brima, sixty years on Kamara and fifty years on Kanu. The submissions at the hearing were intended to respond to the opposing side's arguments and supplement those in the briefs, but not to reiterate the briefs themselves. The Accused are being sentenced based on their convictions on eleven counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other violations of international law, handed down on 20 June 2007.

That the SCSL held a sentencing hearing at all was unusual for an international tribunal. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) do not conduct separate sentencing hearings, but instead announce sentences along with judgments. This separate sentencing hearing generated a new question for the Trial Chamber: whether the Prosecutor could submit new factual evidence including statements from alleged victims that had not been submitted at trial. The Defence submitted that such evidence was inappropriate because the Defence could not cross-examine these alleged victims and because it was not always clear the statements came from victims of crimes for which the accused had been convicted. The Prosecutor countered that it would be inappropriate to submit evidence relevant only to sentencing during the trial and pointed out that the Accused submitted evidence of their own in the form of character statements.

The Prosecution divided its argument between a general discussion of the law, presented by Christopher Staker, and a more specific discussion of the mitigating and aggravating factors relevant to each accused, presented by Karim Agha. Mr. Staker accepted that while the Prosecution must prove its submissions beyond a reasonable doubt, the Defence would be held to a standard only of a balance of probabilities. He submitted, however, that in asserting mitigating factors the Defence had not met that burden, but merely asserted facts without evidentiary support. He further argued that comparisons to relatively short ICTR and ICTY sentences were not particularly useful and that if the Chamber chose to look to the ICTR or ICTY it should note that while low sentences did occur, they always reflected the specific facts of a given case. He further contended that that the Chamber's findings of criminal responsibility under Article 6(3) should be considered in its sentence, even though the accused were not convicted pursuant to article 6(3) on all counts. He also asserted that sentencing rules under the Sierra Leone national system, where the accused would have received a mandatory death sentence after their convictions, pointed to lengthier sentences.

In his specific submissions, Mr. Agha emphasized the sentencing aims of retribution and deterrence over that of rehabilitation. He also countered the Defences' written submissions about mitigating factors, and asserted point blank that there were no mitigating factors relevant to any of the accused. He specifically countered Defence submissions that their participation in the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace should be considered a mitigating factor, but instead submitted they used the post-war peace process as a way to regain political power. Instead, he listed aggravating factors, including the premeditated nature of the crime and the vulnerable status of the unarmed civilian victims, and generally stressed the heinous nature of the crimes and the gravity and scale of the offenses.

Defence Counsel for Alex Tamaba Brima, Mr. Kojo Graham spoke only briefly. He touched on the issue of "greatest responsibility," pointing out that Brima was convicted of crimes in only two of Sierra Leone's districts, though he was charged with crimes in twelve. He mentioned that he had heard a BBC interview with former AFRC member Allieu Kamara that suggested reconciliation should be a goal of the sentencing process, but had no specific response to Justice Sebutinde's question of how the trial chamber might promote reconciliation. Brima himself uttered but a few sentences, and also underlined the goal of reconciliation for Sierra Leone.

Kamara's lead counsel, Andrew Daniels also emphasized the goal of reconciliation. He pointed out that UN Resolution 1315, which created the Special Court, listed reconciliation as a goal for the court and suggested that the trial chamber's imposing a light sentence would allow Kamara to be reintegrated into society and seek victims' forgiveness. To substantiate his argument, he pointed to empirical research that suggested contact between victims and perpetrators promoted post-conflict reconciliation. After identifying the gravity of the offence, the individual circumstances of the accused and mitigating factors as the three factors to be considered during sentencing, he focused his arguments on the last two.

He asserted that Kamara's illiteracy and early poverty, his youth, his work to promote peace after the conflict, and his family circumstances all tended to mandate a shorter sentence. In terms of mitigating factors, Mr. Daniels asserted that, contrary to Prosecution submissions, Kamara should receive a lesser sentence than Brima because he held a lesser responsibility and did not directly participate in crimes. Finally he countered two Prosecution points. He first asserted that Kamara's participation in the May 1997 military coup should not be considered because such participation was not criminal. He then claimed that rehabilitation should be the SCLS's sentencing goal arguing deterrence was irrelevant because the chance that conflict would resume in Sierra Leone did not exist. In his own statement, Kamara emphasized his lesser responsibility compared to Charles Taylor, Johnny Paul Koroma and Foday Sankoh, and said that he joined the military to fight for his people rather than against them. Unlike Brima, he said was sorry for those who died during the war, but did not apologize for the particular crimes for which he was convicted.

Finally Kanu's attorney, Geert-Jan Knoops used his full hour to outline thirteen mitigating factors relevant to his client including absence of a prominent position within the junta government, the collapse of command control and his good behavior in detention. In particular, he emphasized that Kanu was not trained to command troops, received no training in military ethics, and believed based on his experience with the Sierra Leone Army that recruiting child combatants was acceptable.

Mr. Knoops strongly countered the Prosecution's argument that it should be allowed to submit new factual evidence and objected to the Prosecution's use of the Truth and Reconciliation Report because the Prosecution itself had previously objected to the report as mere opinion. In a creative argument based in part on the Special Court rule banning life sentences, Mr. Knoops argued that if the Court were to impose the fifty-year sentence requested by the Prosecution, it would constitute an effective life sentence and thus violate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Moreover, it would stymie the Court's goal of reconciliation. In conclusion, he asked for either time served or a limited sentence with credit for time served pursuant to Rule 100(d). Mr. Kanu gave a relatively lengthy statement that suggested that the Special Court itself was a political institution and that he and the other accused were going to "pay the price for peace" because other AFRC leaders were not indicted. He called on the justices to use their wisdom and specifically called on Justice Sebutinde as a fellow African.

Associated Press

Wednesday, 18 July 2007

London lawyer appointed to defend Liberia's Charles Taylor at war crimes trial

A London-based lawyer has been appointed to defend Charles Taylor against charges of arming and supporting murderous Sierra Leone rebels, according to an order by the U.N. court trying the former Liberian president.

The order issued Tuesday and released early Wednesday appointed Courtenay Griffiths to lead Taylor's defense against charges of arming and supporting rebels who murdered, raped, tortured and mutilated thousands during Sierra Leone's savage 10-year civil war, which ended in 2002.

Taylor, who has pleaded not guilty to all charges, plunged his trial at the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone into turmoil last month by boycotting the first two days. He said he was not receiving enough money for his defense and fired his lawyer.

Since then the court, which is funded by voluntary contributions, has increased the amount Taylor receives for his defense to US\$100,000 (€138,000) per month.

Taylor is accused of organizing Sierra Leone rebels when he was president of Liberia, training them and shipping them arms, alcohol and drugs — often used to desensitize child soldiers before they were sent to the front lines — in return for diamonds often mined by slave laborers.

His trial is scheduled to resume Aug. 20, when the first prosecution witnesses are expected to take the stand.

Griffiths agreed to Taylor's request to lead his defense "after consultations" between the two men and court officials, according to the court order. It was not immediately clear if that meant that Griffiths had visited Taylor in his cell in a special war crimes unit of a Hague seaside jail.

Griffiths was born in Jamaica and raised in England. He has worked on high-profile British cases including the 1984 bombing by the Irish Republican Army of a hotel in the British south coast resort of Brighton where then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was staying, and a deadly IRA bombing outside London's Harrod's store in 1983.

Griffiths was not immediately available for comment.

Agence France Presse

Wednesday, 18 July 2007

Taylor gets new lawyers

The Hague - Former Liberian president Charles Taylor has been assigned a new team of lawyers to defend him against war crimes charges at a UN-backed court in The Hague, a court document revealed on Wednesday.

Taylor's acting defence counsel "named Mr Courtenay Griffiths as chief lawyer for Mr Taylor, Mr Andrew Cayley as assistant lawyer and Mr Terry Munyard as assistant lawyer from July 17", the document said.

Taylor, 59, the first African head of state to stand trial before an international court for war crimes, had boycotted the opening of his trial and sacked his lawyer, arguing that he had no chance of receiving a fair trial.

The judges at the UN-backed Sierra Leone tribunal later ordered that a new defence team be put together and that the court's registry make more money available for Taylor's defence.

The former president's main complaint was that he does not have enough money to attract the kind of top lawyers needed to defend him in such a long and complicated case.

The former president, once one of Africa's most feared warlords, has pleaded not guilty to all 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity including murder, rape and using child soldiers during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone.

Up to 200 000 people were killed in the Sierra Leone conflict, with rebels mutilating thousands more, cutting off arms, legs, ears or noses.

Taylor allegedly armed, trained and controlled the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), responsible for many of the mutilations, in exchange for still-unknown amounts of diamonds used to fund warfare.

Taylor, who was president of Liberia from August 1997 before yielding to massive international pressure and stepping down in August 2003, has denied all the charges.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone moved the trial to The Hague after fears from the Sierra Leone government that a trial in Freetown, the official seat of the court, would cause unrest in the region. - Sapa-AFP

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 17 July 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberian probe fingers police chief for port clashes

MONROVIA, July 17, 2007 (AFP) - An enquiry into last week's violent clashes between Liberian police and port workers has pinpointed responsibility on the country's police chief and has called for her sacking, a minister said Tuesday. "On consensus, the investigation board has called for the dismissal of police inspector-general Beatrice Munnah Sieh for bearing the greatest responsibility," Information Minister Lawrence Bropleh said.

International Clips on West Africa

Sierra Leone's ex-militia chief died of heart attack: probe confirms

FREETOWN, July 17, 2007 (AFP) - An inquiry into the death last February of Sierra Leone's former defence minister Sam Hinga Norman, who was on trial for war crimes, has confirmed that he died of a heart attack, a court said Tuesday. The UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) ordered an independent probe into the death of Norman at a Senegalese hospital where he underwent a hip surgery. The inquiry led by independent pathologists, whose full report was published Monday, found that his death was unrelated to the treatment he received in Dakar, but was due to myocardial infarction -- a heart attack.

UN extends peacekeeping mandate for Ivory Coast

By Claudia Parsons

UNITED NATIONS, July 16 (Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council voted on Monday to extend the mandate of a peacekeeping force in Ivory Coast until January to help create peaceful conditions for elections that have been repeatedly delayed. Ivory Coast's fragile peace process was dented by an attack on Prime Minister Guillaume Soro last month that raised tensions as authorities prepare for elections early in 2008.

Top UN Election Monitor Eliminated

Dakar, Jul 16, 2007 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Two months after President Laurent Gbagbo demanded the removal of the UN High Representative for Elections, the Security Council passed a resolution on 16 July that terminated the post. "The UN will still certify the elections and this is what has been paramount for us," a Western diplomat who speaks only on condition of anonymity told IRIN.

Local Media – Newspaper

Probe Committee Recommends Dismissal of Police Chief

(The Forum, The Inquirer, The News, The Informer, Heritage and Daily Observer)

- An enquiry by a Special Presidential Committee into last week's scuffle between officers of the Liberia National Police and the Liberia Sea Port Police blamed the Liberia National Police Inspector-General, Munnah Sieh, for the incident and has recommended her dismissal.
- Information Minister Laurence Bropleh told a news conference Monday that the recommendation by the investigation board is on the basis that the Inspector-General violated law enforcement code of ethics and bears the greatest responsibility as such.
- However, *The Informer* newspaper said that a member of the board of inquiry, John York, has expressed his opposition to the recommendation, saying he prefers her to be strongly reprimanded, even though he gives no specifics.
- The panel headed by National Security Advisor H. Boima Fahnbulleh was recently set up to investigate circumstances that led to last Monday's clash between officers of the Liberia National Police and the Liberia Sea Port Police which left at least one person dead and several others wounded.

Ex-Combatants Storm UN Offices in Monrovia

(The Inquirer)

- Scores of ex-combatants on Monday morning stormed the head offices of the United Nations Development Programme in Monrovia to protest the alleged attempts by the UN agency to sideline them in the implementation phase of the RR component of the Disarmament Demobilization Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme.

Health Workers on 'Go-Slow' Action at Major Referral Hospital

(The News)

- Normal activities at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medical Center were disrupted on Monday following a go-slow action by nurses and doctors demanding the reinstatement of the Nursing Administrator, Jackie Brown. The JFK Medical Center is the major referral hospital in Liberia.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

Presidential Committee Finds Police Inspector Culpable

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Senator Queries IMF Representative for Interference

- In an interview, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, Sumo Kupee said that the International Monetary Fund Representative to Liberia over-stepped his duty as IMF Technical Advisor by asking the National Legislature to quickly pass the National Budget. He added that the IMF official was using the seal of the international financial institution to interfere in Liberia's internal matter.
- Radio Veritas pointed out that ever since the budget was submitted to the National Legislature by the Presidency, it has been shrouded in controversies with Auditing-General John Morlu and other Lawmakers pointing out serious flaws which they believe must be corrected before it can be passed.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Journalists Union dissociates itself from President's Statement

- The leadership of the Press Union of Liberia said that it was dissociating itself from a statement attributed to the Union's President George Barpeen in which he gave the United Nations a 10-day ultimatum to provide evidence against Liberians on the travel ban and asset freeze list.
- In a release, the Union said that the pronouncement was Mr. Barpeen's personal opinion and should not be attributed to it, adding that it cherishes the contributions

the United Nations makes in the restoration and consolidation of peace in Liberia and would never issue such an instruction to it because of its travel restriction on the Liberians.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Universal Postal Union Seconded Consultant to Liberia Postal Sector

- The Consultant of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) seconded to the Liberia postal services arrived in the Country and would formally launch the Union's US\$6 million project for Liberia's Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.
- Mr. Guenter Boehm was contracted by the UPU in 2006 to assess the damage done to Liberia's postal sector and later to build 100 post offices throughout Liberia and renovate the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Opposition Party Wants Government Address Hike in Prices

- In a statement, the True Whig Party called on the Government to address the increase in the prices of basic commodities, stating that it was happy with the level of consultations between the Government and opposition political parties.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

Voice of America

Tuesday, 17 July 2007

International Police Organization to Work with Genocide Court for Rwanda

By Arjun Kohli
Nairobi

INTERPOL is working with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to step up efforts to capture the remaining 18 genocide fugitives. As Arjun Kohli reports for VOA from Nairobi, Rwandan officials say 13 years is already too long for the genocide suspects to remain free.

The international police organization, INTERPOL, says it is taking sterner measures to capture criminals at large, 13 years after the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The brutal killings between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes in Rwanda left hundreds of thousands dead.

A list compiled by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, better known by its acronym ICTR, says there are 18 fugitives it would like to put on trial.

A Rwandan presidential advisor, Alfred Ndahiro told VOA the International Criminal Tribunal in Arusha has completed just 34 genocide cases. This, he says, is inexcusable.

Ndahiro says the INTERPOL effort is being stepped up just one year before the self-imposed U.N. deadline for the court's closure.

"I think it is too little too late," said Ndahiro. "They have had 13 years to arrest those people. They are somewhere. They are not out there in the sky. So really, I think too little too late. I think they are under pressure now that they should be winding up very soon and they have to say something I guess."

Rwanda recently asked France to extradite Isaac Kamali, a French citizen who was arrested for genocide crimes.

ICTR spokesman Roland Amoussouga says the Kamali arrest highlights the importance of the court's agreement with INTERPOL.

"This kind of pledge came just a few weeks after INTERPOL assisted in coordinating the 36 hour arrest of Rwandan genocide fugitive by the name of Isaac Kamali in France," said Amoussouga. "He was arrested initially in the USA on a French passport, so he was sent back to France and he was arrested."

"This is a very important development, which underlines the importance of the future cooperation that we are going to get from INTERPOL in apprehending the remaining 18 fugitives, who are wanted by the ICTR before the closure of the tribunal in December 2008," he added.

Amoussouga says the 2008 deadline for trials makes it even more important to capture fugitives for trial. The court will hear appeal cases until 2010.

"We have been able to finish complete the trial process for 34, and 26 are currently going through the trial process, and less than 10 remain to be tried by us," he said. "Out of the 18 at large, we do intend to have trial process for some of them, given the time frame we have remaining, and the

remaining fugitives will certainly be transferred to member states to stand trial. We want to ensure that nobody will escape justice by the end of the lifetime of the tribunal."

The International Tribunal is not the only body bringing criminals to justice for their genocide crimes. Ndahiro says the Rwandan judiciary and the community based gachacha courts will work until justice is reached.

"We cannot just allow them to wander the world with blood of innocent people on their hands," said Ndahiro. "I do not think that would be acceptable. So it will go on for as long as it takes. But I think the Rwandan government is determined to bring them to book."

The international community established the ICTR with a mandate for all war crimes committed in 1994, in Rwanda and elsewhere. INTERPOL says efforts by each of its 200 member countries to arrest genocide suspects are crucial for justice to be served.