

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



Students from the Milton Margai School for the Blind and members of Sierra Leonean civil society took part in yesterday's launch of the Braille edition of the Special Court's school text "International Humanitarian Law Made Simple". See more in today's *Special Court Supplement*.

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:

Friday, 18 July 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

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Independent Observer
Friday, 18 July 2008

Manifesto 99 joins world in Justice Day celebration

By Alusine Nfa Turay

Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Hon. Abdul Serry-Kamal yesterday gave the keynote address at the one-day symposium of the World Day For International Justice which was observed throughout the world.

Justice and impunity - the way forward in Sierra Leone was the theme in yesterday's celebration organised by the Justice Sector Coordinating Office in

collaboration with Manifesto 99, at the Miatta Conference Hall, Youyi Building.

The day marked the 10th anniversary when international communities adopted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998.

Serry Kamal said his government is committed to ensure justice and that those who bear the greatest responsibility will be brought to justice as the government of the APC recognizes the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Minister of Defence, Hon. Palo Conteh, said that respect for the rule of law is essential, and is the way forward for Sierra Leone, while Acting Chief Justice Umu Hawa Tejan Jalloh, congratulated *Manifesto 99*, because respect for human rights is necessary and access to justice and the rule of law must be observed.

Those who import drugs to destroy our youths and engage our children in trafficking must also be brought to justice," Tejan Jalloh said

Justice Sector Coordination Office Manifesto 99 and civil society celebrate World Day for International Justice

On Thursday 17th July, The Justice Sector Coordination Office (JSCO) of the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with Manifesto 99 and Civil Society is hosting a symposium at the Miatta Conference Hall, to commemorate International Day of Justice in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone joins numerous activities around the globe to celebrate World Day for International Justice, based on the theme "Justice and impunity the way forward in Sierra Leone."

July 17th commemorates the day on which the international community adopted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998. The ICC is the world's first permanent international tribunal capable of trying individuals accused of the most serious crimes of international concern, namely, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes; when the courts in the countries in which those crimes are committed are unable or unwilling to do so. As of 1st June 2008, 106 countries are State Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC. Out of them 30 are African States 13 are Asian States, 16 are from Eastern Europe, 22 are from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 25 are from States. Sierra Leone signed the Rome Statute

on 17th October 1998 and ratified it on 15 September 2000.

Each year, human rights activities around the world use this day to host events and activities to promote international justice, and specifically to raise support for the ICC.

This year in Sierra Leone, the international and in particular, national, implications of justice and impunity would be discussed, taking into consideration the prevailing socio-economic situation in the country. Attention will be drawn to the work of the International Criminal Court, the Special Court, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the JSCO and other organizations, by working with justice sector institution officials, the Chief Justice and various organizations, to make July 17 as International Justice Day.

"Addressing justice and impunity in Sierra Leone is, above all, a great stride towards victory for the protection of human rights, the advancement of human security, and the progress of our national justice sector reform", said Ms. Sarah-Ann Lewis, coordinator of the Justice Sector Coordination Office in the Ministry of Justice.

Awareness Times

Friday, 18 July 2008

Justice Sector Holds symposium on Justice and Impunity for Sierra Leone

By Bintu A Sesay

To mark the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and also in recognition of this all important day in the administration of Justice Manifesto 99, the Justice Sector Coordination Office in the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Justice Sector Development Programme has on Thursday 17th July 2008 held a one day symposium at the Miatta Conference Hall in Freetown.

The anniversary had as its theme, 'Justice and Impunity, the Way Forward for Sierra Leone!'

According to the Acting Chief Justice of Sierra Leone Justice, Umu Hawa Tejan Jalloh, there is a need to deal with the backlogs and delays that continue to beset the formal justice system such as the civil, criminal and juvenile. She said the new institutional arrangements put in place by this

strategy to enhance cooperation, coordination and communication between the many actors involved in bringing even a simple case to the magistrate court, is critical in addressing this. The Chief Justice maintained that this strategy reforms the way the justice sector plans and budgets, adding that by 2010, the aims are to have reduced crime and fear of crime; to have improved satisfaction levels with local courts, Paramount Chiefs and local chiefs; to have speeded up the disposal of criminal cases; to have reduced to proportion of juveniles who have been manhandled in the formal justice system; to have speeded up the disposal of civil cases and to improve confidence in human rights and accountability. These targets are focused on achieving the four goals of the strategy safe communities, access to justice, strengthened rule of law and improved justice service delivery. She

continued that the Justice Sector is working very hard to make available Justice for all and for Sierra Leone to be a safe and less crime place to live. In her concluding remarks, she pleaded to the legislature to make improvement in the administration of law our country.

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the fundamental duties of a Government is to provide an accessible and fair system for dealing with crimes, conflicts, disputes and grievances, in the absence of which, people are said to be robbed off of Justice. At the close of the war, Sierra Leone's Justice System was in shambles. Since then, much has been done to re-build it. The Justice Sector Reform Strategy and Investment Plan builds on that foundation, and aims to take forward a change in justice provision to the people of Sierra Leone through a number of daring reforms.

Awoko

Friday, 18 July 2008

Paramount Chief questions effect of Human Rights messages

The Paramount Chief Mamie Gamanga of Simbaru chiefdom in the Kenema district has raised concerns over the fate of children in her chiefdom. She says that because of the type of Human Rights messages filtering into her chiefdom most parents have abandoned their children and about seventy percent of the children of school going age are not attending schools.

She made this disclosure while addressing her colleagues Paramount Chiefs and members of the Human Right Commission Sierra Leone (HRCSL) during a two day regional workshop meant for Paramount chiefs in the Kono, Kailahun and Kenema districts organized by the Human Right Commission at the Pastoral Centre along Dama road in Kenema.

PC Gamanga explained that her chiefdom is one of the diamond mining chiefdoms in the district. She said there is now a mining system that has been brought by supporters and miners in the mining field in her chiefdom. She disclosed that the process is called 'JAGAJA' meaning

that people work for a day and they are paid Le5,000 or Le6,000 or Le7,000 per person straight after the work depending on the arrangement with the supporter, meaning that the worker has no right or hands in the proceed of the work.

She explained that most children have now abandoned their schooling and are now greatly engaged in such exercise as they get money every day. She added that most of these children do not listen to their parents any longer and the parents do not border to put any punishment on their children saying it is a Human Right violation.

She stated that there is no law existing in her chiefdom anymore because the laws that have been working in the past no longer work nowadays because of Human rights messages in their locality.

Whatever advice, or laws an authority tries to implement in the community, people will start telling you about human rights abuse, which is now the common

saying in the lips of many in her chiefdom.

The Paramount chief explained that in the past youths in the chiefdom were doing communal labours for the benefit of the chiefdom but that does not exist anymore in their communities, thereby preventing development in their chiefdom.

The Paramount chief appealed to the Human Right Commission to go into their communities and educate their people about Human Rights and Democracy if they want to succeed. She appealed to the Human Right Commission not to consider community labour as human right violation. In her view the 'Jagaja' work is the number one enemy of any mining chiefdom, saying it is a human right violation as the future of the children are uncertain, and if immediate measures are not taken to put the situation under control Sierra Leone might be heading for hell. She called on the government and other authorities to intervene to save Sierra Leone from falling.

PAGE 8 STANDARD TIMES Thursday July 17, 2008

ISSUES

BY PROJECT SYNDICATE

Those who follow events in Darfur closely know very well that Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir leads a group of political and military leaders responsible for the serious and large-scale crimes against Sudanese citizens that the country's military forces, with the assistance of paramilitary groups and militias, commit every day in the region. These citizens are guilty only of belonging to the three tribes (Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa) that spawned the rebels who took up arms against the government a few years ago.

Any step designed to hold Sudan's leaders accountable for their crimes is therefore most welcome. Nevertheless, the decision of Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, to request an arrest warrant against al-Bashir is puzzling, for three reasons.

First, if Moreno-Ocampo intended to pursue the goal of having al-Bashir arrested, he might have issued a sealed request and asked the ICC's judges to issue a sealed arrest warrant, to be made public only once al-Bashir traveled abroad. The Court's jurisdiction over the crimes in Darfur has been established pursuant to a binding decision of the United Nations Security Council, which means that even states that are not parties to the ICC statute must execute the Court's orders and warrants.

Having instead made the request for a warrant public, al-Bashir - assuming the judges uphold the request - can simply refrain from traveling abroad and thus avoid arrest. Second, Moreno-Ocampo has inexplicably decided to indict only Sudan's president and not also the other members of the political and military leadership that together with him have planned, ordered, and organized the massive

Flawed International Justice for Sudan

crimes in Darfur. If Hitler had been alive in October 1945, the 21 indictees who were in fact tried at Nuremberg would not have been let off the hook.

Finally, one fails to understand why Moreno-Ocampo has aimed so high and accused al-Bashir of the "crime of crimes," genocide, instead of filing charges that are more appropriate and easier to prosecute, such as war crimes (bombing of civilians) and crimes against humanity (extermination, forcible transfer of people, massive murders, rape, etc.).

True, genocide has become a magic word, and people think that its mere evocation triggers the strong outrage of the world community and perforce sets in motion UN intervention. But this is not so.

Moreover, strict conditions must be met to prove genocide.

In particular, the victims must form

taken individually, but only because they are Kurds; by killing those ten persons he intends to contribute to the destruction of the group as such.

In the case of Darfur, according to Moreno-Ocampo, each of the three tribes does constitute an ethnic group; although they speak the same language as the majority (Arabic) and embrace the same religion (Islam) and their skin is the same color, they constitute distinct ethnic groups because each tribe also speaks a dialect and lives in a particular area.

Under this standard, the inhabitants of many European regions - for example, Sicilians, who, in addition to the official language, also speak a dialect and live in a particular area - should be regarded as distinct "ethnic groups." Furthermore, Moreno-Ocampo has inferred al-Bashir's genocidal intent from a set of facts and conduct that in

would seem more reasonable to infer from the evidence the intent to commit crimes against humanity (extermination, etc.), rather than the intent to annihilate ethnic groups in whole or in part.

The arrest warrant, assuming that the ICC issues it, seems unlikely to produce the extra-judicial effects - the political and moral delegitimization of the accused - that sometimes follow.

This happened in the case of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who, although never arrested, has been removed both from power and the international arena as a result of his indictment in 1995. Instead, Moreno-Ocampo's request may have negative political repercussions by creating much disarray in international relations. It may harden the Sudanese government's position, endanger the survival of the peacekeeping forces in Darfur, and even induce al-Bashir to take revenge by

True, genocide has become a magic word, and people think that its mere evocation triggers the strong outrage of the world community and perforce sets in motion UN intervention. But this is not so. Moreover, strict conditions must be met to prove genocide

an ethnic, religious, racial, or national group, and the perpetrator must entertain "genocidal intent," namely the will to destroy the group as such, in whole or in part. For example, one kills ten Kurds not because they are obnoxious or because the perpetrator has strong feelings against each of them

his view amount to a clear indication of such intent.

However, according to the international case law, one can prove by inference a defendant's state of mind only if the inference is the only reasonable one that can be drawn based on the evidence. In the case of Darfur, it

stopping or making even more difficult the flow of international humanitarian assistance to the two million displaced persons in Darfur. On top of that, Moreno-Ocampo's request might further alienate the Great Powers (China, Russia, and the United States) that are currently hostile to the ICC.

The Court's jurisdiction over the crimes in Darfur has been established pursuant to a binding decision of the United Nations Security Council, which means that even states that are not parties to the ICC statute must execute the Court's orders and warrants

Xinhua

Tuesday, 15 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.

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."

The News (Liberia)
Thursday, 17 July 2008

Catholic Church Proposes War Crimes Court



Catholic prelate Rev. Fr. Andrew Karnley

--For "War Actors Who Bear The Greatest Responsibility"

A special memorial program for more than 700 Liberians killed at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church on July 29, 1990 has been held in Monrovia with a proposal from the Catholic Church of Liberia for the establishment of a war crimes court in the country.

Catholic prelate Rev. Fr. Andrew Karnley said those who bear the greatest responsibility of crimes committed during the country's 14 years armed conflict should face the war crimes court.

He said the establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia, like the one in The Hague where former President Charles Taylor is being prosecuted, would be necessary to address some of the most horrible crimes committed, such as the Lutheran Church massacre and other infamous killings around the country.

Fr. Karnley spoke Tuesday at a special memorialization program held at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church on 14th Street in Sinkor.

The program, organized by the church in collaboration with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), was attended by survivors and relatives of the massacre, representatives of international NGOs, officials of the TRC, the Liberian public and the Nimba County Legislative Caucus led by Senator Prince Y. Johnson, who was then leader of the INPFL when the incident occurred as well as Bong County Senator Jewel Howard-Taylor, the Liberia Council of Churches, among others.

Soldiers of the erstwhile Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) loyal to slain President Samuel Doe were alleged to have carried out the massacre on July 29, 1990 around 1:00-2: a.m. Yesterday's event focused specifically on worship, candle lighting, speeches and testimonies from some of the survivors.

Expounding on the massacre, Fr. Karnley who is acting administrator of the Catholic Church, said attacks on innocent people in the church were gross violation of human dignity and an attack on God.

"If we must avoid the repeat of the past, we must seek the establishment of a war crimes court to ensure that those who bear the greatest responsibility are brought to justice so that what happened must never occur again," the Catholic prelate stressed.

His statement attracted the attention of the audience who nodded in affirmative, suggesting that the call for a war crimes court in the future could become necessary in order to bring to book individuals who may have committed the worst atrocities.

Commenting on the ongoing TRC hearing, Fr. Karnley said the Catholic Church supports the process of truth telling because Liberians need to know what went wrong.

However, he added that more is required in addressing some of the problems facing the commission.

He urged Liberians to be courageous and stand up for justice in order to know the fundamental issues that led to the conflict.

In a statement, Lutheran Bishop Sumowood Harris also supported call by the Catholic Church to set up a war crimes court in Liberia.

He said while the process of truth telling is important, the establishment of a war crimes court was also necessary to bring to justice people responsible for hideous crimes committed during the war.

Bishop Harris believes that a war crimes court would not only adjudge perpetrators guilty for crimes committed, but also stories that Liberians do not know would be told.

The clergyman said he holds leaders of the various warring factions responsible for some of the most awful crimes committed around the country.

However, the Lutheran Bishop called on the TRC to consider the payment of reparation to families of massacred victims.

White House News

Wednesday, 16 July 2008

Press Release

Message to the Congress of the United States

White House News

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, stating that the national emergency and related measures dealing with the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor are to continue in effect beyond July 22, 2008.

Today, Liberia continues its peaceful transition to a democratic order under the administration of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. The Government of Liberia has implemented reforms that have allowed for the removal of international sanctions on Liberian timber and diamonds, and Liberia is participating in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative to ensure that its natural resources are used to benefit the people and country of Liberia, rather than to fuel conflict. Charles Taylor is standing trial in The Hague by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. However, stability in Liberia is still fragile.

The regulations implementing Executive Order 13348 clarify that the subject of this national emergency has been and remains limited to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor and specified other persons and not the country, citizens, Government, or Central Bank of Liberia.

The actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons -- in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources, their trafficking in illegal arms, and their formation of irregular militia -- continue to undermine Liberia's transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. These actions and policies pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, and for these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,

July 16, 2008.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
17 July 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

Armed Robbers Drop Anonymous Letter in Paynesville... Residents Express Fear

(Heritage, The News)

- Residents of the King Gray Community in the Paynesville suburb have alarmed over the discovery of an anonymous letter allegedly threatening to unleash another round of armed robbery attack in the area on July 18, 2008. The discovery of the letter by the residents of the King Gray Community followed a recent armed robbery attack in the area at which time residents blamed an officer of the Liberia National Police (LNP), Yekeh Kolubah of being the mastermind behind the attack. The Police and Officer Kolubah have since denied the allegation and challenged the residents to authenticate their claim.
- Some communities in Paynesville suffered an unprecedented wave of attacks and looting by armed roaming criminals in the last couple of days prompting the recent launch of a security measure by the Liberia National Police to deal with the menace. Additionally, the Liberian Senate on Tuesday approved an Act which makes it mandatory for armed robbers, terrorists and hijackers to be executed once a death occurred during the time of the crime and upon a guilty verdict from a competent court of jurisdiction.

Ex-Soldiers Ganging Up To Protest

(Liberian Express)

- [sic] Unimpeachable source has hinted that de-activated soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) are ganging up to disrupt the July 26 celebrations in protest over unpaid benefits. The ex-soldiers are demanding salary arrears and demobilization benefits, contending that what was given them was too small. They claimed that more than half of the money allocated by donor countries intended to pay soldiers and security officers were unaccounted for. A former AFL soldier vowed that unless their demands are met they would disrupt the peace of Monrovia with massive street protests. Widows of the former soldiers are to also participate in the planned street protest before Independence Day celebrations.

Outgoing UNMIL Force Commander Assures Security Protection

- The Outgoing Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Lt. Gen. Chikadibia Isaac Obiakor has reassured Liberians of the mission's commitment to providing security.
- Speaking at a farewell news conference Wednesday, Lt. Gen. Obiakor said the Force was successful in achieving its objective of maintaining peace in Liberia and noted that it would not have been possible without the collective effort of all Liberians.
- The General is expected to leave Liberia later this week to take up a new assignment as military Advisor to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 8:30 am)*

Defense Minister, Sierra Leone Ambassador Discuss Regional Security

- The Ministry of National Defense says it would collaborate with its Sierra Leonean counterpart to promote peace and security in the Mano River Basin.
- A ministry of Defense statement said Minister Brownie Samukai expressed gratitude to the Sierra Leonean government for assigning one of its finest officers to the Armed Forces of Liberia noting that the gesture will enhance cooperation and minimizing suspicion between both countries.
- Minister Samukai spoke when Sierra Leonean Ambassador accredited to Liberia, Rev. Maria-Jilo Barnett paid him courtesy call.
- Ambassador Barnett called for continuous security cooperation between the two countries for the protection of their common borders.

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

Two Former Finance Ministers Examine Draft Budget, Identify Pitfalls

- Two former Finance Ministers on Wednesday examined the Draft 2008/2009 National Budget and identified what they considered pitfalls in the Fiscal document.
- Dr. Byron Tarr described the Draft National Budget as lacking a medium term expenditure framework and frowned on the current Budget which he said lacks a performance report to explain the expenditure of the past Budget.
- Also, university lecturer and former Finance Minister Wilson Tarpeh identified the lack of strategic coordination in government as the fundamental problem with the Draft Budget saying there was no clear objective in the Draft 2008/09 Budget making it difficult to decide priorities.
- They spoke Wednesday at a two-day civil society public dialogue and debate on the 2008/2009 Draft National Budget.

Truth F.M *((News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

3rd Autopsy Report on Little Angel Expected Today

- Reports say findings of the 3rd autopsy conducted on the body of 13-year old Meideh Angel Togba has been presented to the Justice Ministry and is to be made public today.
- A statement from lawyers representing the accused, in the Angel Togba murder case said the post-mortem examination was conducted on the exhumed body few months ago.
- Prior to the 3rd autopsy, two separate autopsies were performed with the second report contradicting an earlier one that ruled out foul play. The second report indicated that Angel was sexually assaulted before being strangled to death.
- Her guardians, Hans Williams and his fiancée Mardea Paykue were subsequently charged with murder by government.

UNMIL Force Commander Bids Farewell to Liberia

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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Newspaper Summary

Senate Passes Death Penalty Law for Armed Robbers

(The New Liberia, Heritage, The Analyst, Public Agenda, The Informer, The Inquirer, The News, New Democrat, National Chronicle, Daily Observer)

- The Senate has concurred with the House of Representatives in passing into law an Act making arm robbery a non-bailable crime.
- The Act makes it mandatory for armed robbers, terrorists and hijackers to be executed once a death occurred during the time of the crime and upon a guilty verdict from a competent court of jurisdiction.
- The bill now goes to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf before it is enforced. The armed robbery bill gained momentum after the rising spate of armed crimes, which left peaceful residents across Monrovia raped and wounded.
- Critics are particularly keen on whether the stiffer measures against violent crimes will be enforced to the letter. At the same time, there appears to be overwhelming public support for the passage of a bill seeking death penalty for armed robbery and other violent crimes.
- The editorials of The New Liberia, Daily Observer, and The Inquirer newspaper were one of unanimity on the prevailing security condition. The Daily Observer recommended a rapid response action, suggesting that UNMIL and the Liberia National Police set up a camp in the Paynesville suburb with increased security patrols. The Inquirer newspaper lauded the launch of a new security operation to combat crime but proposed that the government and UNMIL “apply extra security strategies that would deal with this unfortunate societal menace.” Similarly, The New Liberia newspaper in an opinion editorial thinks that the recent launch of Operation ‘Disrupt and Dismantle’ will put to rest the unprecedented wave of killing and looting by armed roaming criminals in Monrovia and surrounding communities.
- Key dailies also reported a rigorous crack down on criminal hideouts resulting to the arrest of several hardened criminals.

Police Arrest Two Ex- AFL Soldiers for being in possession of 62 masters keys

(The News, New Democrat)

- The Liberia National Police (LNP) has arrested two former soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) for being in possession of 62 masters keys.
- The suspected criminals were picked up Monday night during police patrol. The former soldiers reportedly used the keys to break into stores and homes at night.
- Addressing a news conference Tuesday in Monrovia, Police Inspector General (IG) Munah Sieh said the two men would be charged and sent to court for prosecution. She also announced the arrest of three other individuals in connection with the stealing of four laptops, four sets of central Processing Unit and four motorbikes.
- Sieh also announced the launching of “Operation Disrupt and Dismantle” intended to reduce the crime rate in Liberia.
- She said the operation comprises all components of the security apparatus and the police are also getting technical support from the legislature to enhance its operations.
- The Police IG called on Liberians to stop politicizing the crime rate as the police are doing everything to minimize it, and urged the citizens to assist in fighting crime by reporting strange movements in their communities to the police.

Seminar on Trans-border Crimes Underway

(The News)

- [sic] The Governance Commission (GC) and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization are expected to hold a one-day interactive seminar on the “Challenges of Border Security and Management in Post-Conflict Liberia.”
- A release issued Tuesday said Liberia’s border security managers as well as three international border security experts from Ghana and Sierra Leone will provide expert knowledge during the seminar.
- The seminar comes in the wake of enormous challenges facing Liberian security agencies that are responsible for border security and management. The country’s porous borders are vulnerable to trans-border crimes such as money laundering, drugs smuggling, child trafficking, illegal immigration and the smuggling of small arms and light weapons are issues that would dominate the seminar, the Governance Commission said.
- The seminar which will take place at the Ministry of Information on Thursday is sponsored by the African Security Sector Network (ASSN) with the endorsement of Justice Ministry.

Catholic Church Supports Establishment of a War Crimes Court for Liberia

(The Inquirer, The News, The Informer, New Democrat, Daily Observer)

- Speaking at a memorial service for victims of the Lutheran Church massacre, the Apostolic Administrator of the Catholic Church in Liberia, Monsignor Andrew Karnley said the Church will support any efforts leading to the establishment of a war crimes court in the country.
- Monsignor Karnley is of the opinion that there can be no genuine reconciliation without justice; saying those who bear the greatest responsibility for economic and war crimes in Liberia must be held accountable.
- According to him, the TRC process can only contribute in some way to bring healing and reconciliation to the country.
- The Memorial Service was organized by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Five Reinstated AFL Officers Complete Senior Leadership Training

(Daily Observer)

- [sic] The Minister of National Defense, Brownie J. Samukai, Jr., has challenged senior reinstated AFL officers returning from the prestigious Armed Forces Command and Staff College in Nigeria to apply their knowledge gained in the best way possible for the good of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL). The Minister made the remarks when he met with the five reinstated senior officers at the Ministry of National Defense. The officers are Lt./Cols. Sekou S. Sheriff, Boakai B. Kamara, Aaron T. Johnson, Daniel K. Moore and Major Andrew J. Wleh.

Radio Summary

Star Radio (News culled today from website at 8:30 am)

Liberia’s Truth Commission Requests Extension of Mandate

- In a communication to the House of Representatives, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has requested a nine-month extension of its mandate.
- The Commission said it was important to extend its mandate beyond the June 30, 2009 period to allow the TRC fully implement its mandate.
- The TRC is tasked with the investigating Liberia’s violent past beginning 1979-2003 and recommend the best way for justice.
- Meanwhile, the House has mandated its committees on Judiciary and Truth and Reconciliation to review the request and advise the body.

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

Catholic Church Declares Support For War Crimes Court For Liberia

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

Government Launches Operation “Disrupt and Dismantle”

- A Ministry of Information release issued in Monrovia said government has launched an operation code named “Operation Disrupt and Dismantle”.
- This follows frequent reports of armed related attacks on peaceful citizens in and around Monrovia.
- The release assured citizens that the impact of the operation would be felt in every part of the country saying government is resolved to fight criminals to maintain peace and stability in the country.
- The government called on Liberians to remain vigilant and report unusual happenings in their communities to security agencies.
- Meanwhile, Police have arrested three men allegedly linked to the recent Neezoe community armed robbery.
- At a news conference yesterday, Police Inspector General Munah Sieh announced the arrest of two other criminals who use several keys to steal from locked businesses.
- According to Inspector General Sieh, the men are former officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

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

Liberia, Namibia Sign Technical Agreement

- Liberia and Namibia have reached an agreement aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.
- The framework agreement on Economic, Technical, Scientific, Cultural and Tourism Cooperation, seeks mutual benefits in the fields of agriculture and fisheries.
- An Executive Mansion dispatch says as part of the agreement, there will be an exchange of data and technical information, experts, specialists and consultants.
- Information Minister, Laurence Bropleh signed for government and the Foreign Minister of Namibia, Dr. Maco Hausiku signed on behalf of his government.
- The signing followed discussions between President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the President of Namibia.

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

Armed Robbery Becomes Capital Offense

Truth F.M *((News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

Senator Prince Johnson to Now Face TRC without Precondition

- Nimba County Senator Prince Johnson says he will face the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on August 26 without precondition.
- Senator Johnson’s statement comes less than a week after he laid a pre-condition to appearing before the Truth Commission.
- The Nimba County Senator said he would fully cooperate with the TRC because it was ratified by law and that no one is above the law but cautioned the commission against leaving “any stone unturned”.

Los Angeles Times
Thursday, 17 July 2008

South African to be next U.N. human rights commissioner



Sandro Campardo / Associated Press

Carla Del Ponte, left, Chief Prosecutor of the War Crimes tribunal in The Hague, and Navanethem Pillay, right, president for the War Crimes tribunal in Rwanda, participate in a press conference in the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2003.

Navanethem Pillay, currently serving on the International Criminal Court, was the first woman of color to become a high court judge in South Africa.

By Maggie Farley, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer
10:42 PM PDT, July 17, 2008

UNITED NATIONS -- -- The secretary-general will name South African Judge Navanethem Pillay as the next U.N. human rights commissioner as early as today, diplomats and U.N. officials said Thursday.

The daughter of a Tamil bus driver in Durban, she experienced human rights violations firsthand. Pillay earned a law degree at Harvard, but for 28 years during apartheid, she was not allowed to set foot in a judge's chambers as a lawyer because of her South Asian origins. In 1995 she became the first woman of color to become a judge on the High Court.

Pillay, born in 1941, also served as a judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda prosecuting crimes related to that nation's genocide. She presided over landmark cases in international law that established rape as a war crime, convicted a former head of state for atrocities committed during his rule and prosecuted media for inciting genocide. She has served for five years on the International Criminal Court at The Hague.

Pillay may not be as outspoken as the current commissioner, Canadian Judge Louise Arbour, who often shamed governments and leaders that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon would not criticize by name.

Arbour took the forefront on issues such as the United Nations' opposition to capital punishment when Ban said he supported each state's right to decide whether to use it, and has criticized the United States for skirting international law in its fight against terrorism.

Human Rights advocates wonder whether Pillay will stand up to big powers when they violate human rights, or push her native South Africa on controversial issues, such as human rights violations in neighboring Zimbabwe and elections there that the U.N. has declared illegitimate.

"The challenge for her will be to use the bully pulpit and be a strong advocate for human rights," said Kenneth Roth, the executive director of Human Rights Watch. "As a judge, she has no experience with that."

But Pillay's colleagues say that she has her own firm, discreet way of achieving results, a quality that fits well with Ban's philosophy of behind-the-scenes persuasion.

"I found her to be a consummate diplomat in fields of law that sometimes challenge diplomacy, but she was always able to deal with grace and strength on very difficult criminal issues in the human rights field," said David Scheffer, the former U.S. ambassador at large for war crimes issues who helped create tribunals for the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone and Cambodia.

"I would expect her to defend the rights of the oppressed and always prioritize the fundamental principles of human rights over the power politics," Scheffer said. "But I think she would know how to use power politics in defense of human rights."

David Crane, a former prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, called her "a strong leader, well respected and well known around the world as an advocate of human rights."

Pillay was selected over two others by a committee that gave weight to geographic origin and gender as well as experience, according to diplomats. Another contender, Hina Jilani of Pakistan, a special U.N. envoy on human rights, did not have the backing of her government, which she often challenged.

Also considered was Juan Mendez of Argentina, a special U.N. envoy on genocide.

maggie.farley@latimes.com

Daily News (Egypt)

Thursday, 17 July 2008

Is international justice the enemy of peace?

By Aryeh Neier

First Published: July 17, 2008

It is only a little more than 15 years ago that the first of the contemporary international courts was created to prosecute those who commit war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Yet there is already a persistent theme in criticism of such tribunals: in their effort to do justice, they are obstructing achievement of a more important goal, peace.

Such complaints have been expressed most vociferously when sitting heads of state are accused of crimes. The charges filed by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court against Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Beshir for crimes against humanity and genocide in Darfur are the latest example. Indeed, the denunciations of the justice process this time are more intense and more vehement than in the past.

The complaints were also loud in 1995 when the prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia indicted the President of the Bosnian Serb Republic, Radovan Karadzic, and his military chief, General Ratko Mladic, and even louder when they were indicted again later in the same year for the massacre at Srebrenica. The timing of that second indictment especially aroused critics, because it came just before the start of the Dayton peace conference. Because they faced arrest, Karadzic and Mladic did not go to Dayton.

But, as matters turned out, their absence did not hinder the parties from reaching an agreement. Indeed, it may have helped as the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, and Yugoslavia negotiated an end to the war in Bosnia.

In 1999, the ICTY indicted Slobodan Milosevic, President of Yugoslavia, for crimes committed in Kosovo. Again, there were denunciations that focused on timing. NATO's intervention in Kosovo was underway, and critics claimed that prosecuting Milosevic made the tribunal an arm of NATO and would prevent a settlement. That prediction was wrong.

Milosevic capitulated two weeks after he was indicted, and the war ended.

The next sitting head of state to be indicted was Liberian President Charles Taylor. Although the prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone indicted Taylor in March 2003 for his crimes in the war that had devastated that country, the indictment was not disclosed publicly until three months later. Again, timing was a principal factor in sparking outrage. The indictment was made public in June 2003, while Taylor was attending a peace conference in Ghana that was intended to settle the civil war in his own country.

As hosts of the conference, the Ghanaians were particularly incensed at being asked to make an arrest under such circumstances, and refused to do so. Though it is possible to sympathize with the Ghanaians, who were placed in a very awkward position, the indictment intensified demands for Taylor's removal. He fled into exile in August, effectively ending the war.

Taylor is now being tried in The Hague, and, after two decades of horrendous conflict, Liberia is at peace and rebuilding under a democratic government.

We cannot rule out the possibility that doing justice in Darfur will make it more difficult to achieve peace there. Justice and peace are independent values. Each is immensely important in its own right. In the long run, doing justice seems a way to contribute to peace, but one cannot be sure that things will work out that way every time.

On the basis of the record so far, however, some skepticism seems in order over the claim that justice will obstruct peace. After all, the conflict in Darfur has been underway for five and a half years. An estimated 300,000 people have been killed by forces ultimately controlled by Al-Beshir, and an estimated 2.7 million have been forcibly displaced. Just a week before the indictment, seven African Union and UN peacekeepers were killed and 22 injured during an ambush by well-armed militiamen. No peace settlement is under serious consideration. So what basis is there for suggesting that the indictment of Al-Beshir is obstructing a settlement? What settlement is there to obstruct?

It should be noted that the Darfur case was referred to the ICC by the UN Security Council. The treaty establishing the ICC empowers the Security Council to delay a prosecution if this is needed to bring about a peace settlement. So critics of the indictment should at least be made to bear the burden of demonstrating to the Security Council that a peace settlement is likely if they wish the Council to act.

The world embarked on the creation of international criminal tribunals a decade and a half ago in order to end the impunity with which heads of state and leaders of guerrilla groups commit atrocious crimes. That effort is gradually succeeding, and the indictment of Al-Beshir, who is as entitled to the presumption of innocence as any other defendant, is an important milestone on the long road that must be traveled to reach the goal that the world set for itself.

Aryeh Neier, the president of the Open Society Institute and a founder of Human Rights Watch, is the author most recently of *Taking Liberties: Four Decades in the Struggle for Rights*. This commentary is published by DAILY NEWS EGYPT in collaboration with Project Syndicate (www.project-syndicate.org).

The Citizen (Tanzania)

Thursday, 17 July 2008

'Quiz Uganda army on war crimes'

By Francis Mugerwa, Citizen Correspondent, Kampala

A top US based human rights body is pushing the International Criminal Court to include the UPDF on its list of those who should be investigated for the commission of atrocities in the war ravaged northern Uganda.

In its latest report, the Human Rights Watch says by omitting the UPDF on the list of those suspected of committing atrocities in the north, the International Criminal Court (ICC) gave credence to reports by politicians and organisations in Uganda that The Hague-based court was biased in indicting the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels.

ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo indicted LRA leader Joseph Kony and five of his commanders on October 14, 2005. Only Kony and Dominic Ongwen are reported to be alive.

The report launched in New York on Friday coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998 which establishes the ICC, the world's first permanent court mandated to bring to justice the perpetrators of the worst crimes known to humankind.

The report analyses and recommends with regard to the ICC's work in Uganda, based on fact-finding by HRW researchers in Kampala and northern Uganda in 2007.

'Representatives of civil society and community-based organisations that we interviewed in Kampala and northern Uganda consistently criticised the ICC's failure to either investigate or prosecute UPDF abuses or to explain why this was not being done,' the rights group said.

'As a result, the prosecutor's work in Uganda is perceived by many of those in affected communities as one-sided and biased,' the report says.

On Monday, Sudanese President Omar al Bashir was indicted on genocide and war crimes charges. It is understood that his indictment followed vitriolic complaints by international relief agencies and rights organisations, of the humanitarian situation in the war-ravaged Darfur region.

If the prayers of the HRW are to be answered, the UPDF would be indicted, so would its senior commanders. According to the group, sources pointed out that despite additional outreach efforts to affected communities in northern Uganda, more could be done to clarify about the ICC's approach to alleged crimes by Ugandan army personnel.

The report said assistance provided by the UPDF to the ICC, such as armed escorts for travel in the region, while understandable at times due to security concerns, may have exacerbated the existing negative perceptions of the ICC in Uganda.

But acting Foreign Affairs Minister Henry Okello Oryem said the HRW should first help secure the release of children and women under constant abuse by the LRA, rather than accuse the UPDF.

“They (HRW) should be concerned about the signing of the Final peace Agreement rather than bringing diversionary issues,” he said. “At the appropriate time Uganda will investigate and examine everything in northern Uganda and other areas of Uganda where there has been conflict,” he added.

Mr Oryem said the government had provided, “the atmosphere, the security and the environment to ICC to do investigations but we could not do investigations for them.” Acting army spokesman, Capt. Chris Magezi said the ICC investigated the UPDF and it is from the investigations that the army was exonerated and the LRA impli

(ENDS)

New Vision (Uganda)

Thursday, 17 July 2008

ICC suffers negative image in Africa

By Barbara Among

TEN years after its creation, the International Criminal Court (ICC) is yet to address the negative perception it bears in most of the African countries in which it operates.

This observation is contained in a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report issued to mark the 10-year anniversary of the Rome Statute establishing the ICC in the Netherlands in The Hague.

The court was created to bring justice to the victims of gross human rights violations around the world.

The HRW report, *Courting History*, said the court's investigations have been quite professional, but there was need for the office of the prosecutor to better its image.

"Despite this considerable progress, our field research in the DRC, Uganda, and Chad in 2007 revealed that misinformation and negative perceptions surrounding the court's work are deeply-rooted and will require more intense and creative efforts by the court to address them effectively," the report read. Released yesterday, the report assessed the court's first five years.

The rights body urged greater international support for the ICC in meeting its political and financial challenges.

The report said the ICC's failure to either investigate or prosecute Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) abuses or to explain why this was not being done, had further tarnished its image.

"As a result, the prosecutor's work in Uganda is perceived by many of those in the affected communities as one-sided and biased."

It said assistance provided by the UPDF to the ICC, such as armed escorts for travel in the region, while understandable at times due to security concerns, has compromised perceptions of the court's independence and impartiality in its work in northern Uganda.

The rights watchdog called upon the prosecutor's office to explain its policy regarding the gravity threshold in selecting cases, as well as the limits imposed by its temporal jurisdiction in pursuing cases against the UPDF.

"The negative perception is aggravated by the office of the prosecutor's failure to communicate effectively with affected communities about its activities with regard to crimes committed by the UPDF."

HRW called upon the UN court to focus on outreach with affected communities in Uganda. It, however, pointed out that the ICC had made progress in bringing justice for the worst crimes despite its mistakes.

The ICC prosecutor has opened investigations in the DRC, northern Uganda, Darfur and the Central African Republic. It is currently considering issuing an arrest warrant for Sudan president Omar al-Bashir.

Special Court Supplement

Launch of the Braille school pamphlet “International Humanitarian Law Made Simple” Wednesday, 17 July 2008 at the Milton Margai School for the Blind

The Braille booklet was officially launched by Christoph Hartmann of the ICRC on behalf of the Special Court. Guests, including civil society members, representatives of UN agencies and journalists, were blindfolded and led to the hall by blind students. Claire Carleton-Hanciles from the Defence Office represented the Deputy Registrar. Excerpts from the Braille book were read out by the blind students. Copies of the booklet will be distributed to all six schools for the blind nationwide.



