

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



New banknotes, beware of counterfeit!

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:

Wednesday, 19 May 2010

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

Local News

Prosecution Accuse Witness of Lying / <i>Premier News</i>	Pages 3-4
Ratify International Humanitarian Law / <i>New Vision</i>	Page 5
Need to Address Past Violations Extends Beyond TRC Process / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 6

International News

Territory Controlled by Taylor's Rebels Was The Safest Place... / <i>Charlestaylortrial.com</i>	Pages 7-8
Prosecutors Say Witness Lied To The Liberian TRC About His NPFL... / <i>Charlestaylortrial.com</i>	Pages 9-10
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 11-15
Two Justice-Working Groups Differ on TRC report / <i>Star Radio</i>	Page 16
OTP Delegation to Visit Guinea / <i>International Criminal Court</i>	Page 17
Balthasar Garzon Wins Permission to Work at International Criminal Court / <i>The Telegraph</i>	Page 18
Gov't Slams ICTR Lawyers for Ties to Genocide Fugitives / <i>The New Times</i>	Pages 19-21
Nzirorera: I Had No Powers to Control Killings in Rwanda / <i>Hirondelle News Agency</i>	Page 22
Kenya: Protect Human Rights Defenders in Criminal Investigations / <i>AllAfrica.com</i>	Pages 23-24

Charles Taylor's Trial

Prosecutors Accuse Witness Of Lying

Prosecutors Yesterday sought to impeach the credibility of Charles Taylor's defense witness by pointing out that he has not been truthful about how he was recruited into Mr. Taylor's Liberian rebel group, as well as the positions he claims to have held in the rebel group during the early days of the Liberian conflict.

Timan Edward Zammy, a former member of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) has spent more than a week testifying for Mr. Taylor, focusing his testimony mainly on the conduct of the NPFL in Liberia and refuting claims that the Liberian rebel group was best known for committing heinous crimes against civilians. Prosecutors say that the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group which Mr. Taylor is accused of supporting in Sierra Leone copied their tactics from the NPFL. Mr. Zammy has said that civilians were protected in areas under NPFL control. As his cross-examination continued today, prosecutors focused mainly on pointing out areas in the witness's testimony where they believe he has not been truthful.

One area of focus today was Mr. Zammy's account about how he was recruited into the NPFL. What he has told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges is different from what he told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Liberia. During his direct-examination last week, Mr. Zammy told the court that he was recruited into the NPFL in the 1980s by one Alfred Mehn, popularly known in the NPFL as the "God Father." Prosecution counsel Katherine Howarth pointed out to the witness that he had told the Liberian TRC that it was Mr. Taylor who recruited him into the NPFL while he was in Ivory Coast. Noting the discrepancy, the witness said that his testimony before the TRC was a mistake.

"So when you told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Charles Taylor recruited you from the Ivory Coast, you got that wrong, correct?" Ms. Howarth asked the witness.

"It is not wrong, it is an error. I am repeating it, it's an error, it's a mistake," the witness responded.

Asked directly whether he was saying that he had "made a mistake when giving evidence to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission," the witness said "yes."

"A mistake is not a lie, a mistake is allowed to be made, anybody can make a mistake," Mr. Zammy said.

Ms. Howarth also pressed the witness hard on his evidence in direct-examination that in 1991, Mr. Taylor appointed him as Battalion Commander for the sixth Battalion of the NPFL, which was stationed in Bomi Hills. Ms. Howarth pointed out that other defense witnesses who testified about the NPFL command structure did not mention Mr. Zammy's name as Commander of the sixth Battalion. These defense witnesses included Yanks Smythe, Karnah Edward Mineh and Mr. Taylor himself.

"Yanks Smythe does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander," Ms. Howarth told the witness.

"Yes, he does not mention me but I was sixth Battalion commander in 1991. Maybe he does not know," Mr. Zammy said.

In Mr. Smythe's testimony, he said that the sixth Battalion commander in 1991 was Mr. Oliver Varney. Mr. Zammy insisted that Mr. Smythe probably made a mistake, insisting that he succeeded Mr. Varney as the sixth Battalion commander.

Another defense witness Mr. Mineh also testified that Mr. Varney was sixth Battalion commander. Mr. Zammy insisted that these witnesses were mistaken.

"This is a mistake. It was in 1990 that Oliver Varney was Battalion Commander and I succeeded him," the witness said.

Reading from a January 2010 transcript, Ms. Howarth again pointed out that Mr. Taylor, while he testified on his own behalf, only referred to Mr. Zammy as "an Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) officer" and as "one of the Special Forces."

"This is all he [Taylor] had to say about you. He doesn't mention you as sixth Battalion commander. Another defense witness Yanks Smythe does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander and your one time friend Edward Mineh does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander. Were you actually sixth Battalion commander?" Mr. Howarth asked the witness.

"I will not tell lies. I served as sixth Battalion Commander in 1991...I was commander of the sixth Battalion from February 1991 to November 1991," the witness responded.

Ms. Howarth also pointed out to the witness that he failed to tell the TRC that he served as sixth Battalion of the NPFL and that when he made statements to defense lawyers in Liberia, he also did not tell them that he occupied such a position. The witness explained that at the TRC, they did not ask him about any command positions that he occupied and that when he spoke with defense lawyers, he told them that he indeed was the sixth Battalion commander in 1991.

Prosecutors believe that pointing these flaws in Mr. Zammy's testimony will impeach his credibility and make him a witness whose account cannot be relied on.

Mr. Zammy's cross-examination continues tomorrow.

New Vision

Wednesday, 19 May 2010

“Ratify International Humanitarian Law”

-ICRC, Red Cross

By Vincent J. Momoh

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Sierra Leone Red Cross last Wednesday called for the ratification and implementation of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the country.

The ICRC Country Representative for Sierra Leone and Guinea Perine Louart made this appeal last Wednesday during an information sharing session on the implementation of the international humanitarian law in Committee Room No. 1.

Md. Louart expounded on the four Geneva Conventions aimed to abolish the concept of “total war” as witnessed during the Second World War by establishing a legal framework to place limits on how war is waged. She noted that the conventions constitute the bedrock of international humanitarian law, adding that they are among the most important treaties governing the protection of victims of armed conflict.

Md. Louart stressed that the country needs to take a strong national approach to the application of IHL, adding that Sierra Leone is a party to all IHL treaties except the 2005 additional protocol III relating to an additional distinctive emblem.

She pointed out that Sierra Leone is engaged in promoting respect for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action during armed conflicts and national legislators and courts must live up to their responsibilities of ensuring that domestic legislations are recognized.

The Country Representative appealed to the government to continue to treat as a matter of priority the implementation of and compliance with these conventions.

In his opening statement the Speaker of Parliament Hon. Justice Abel Nathaniel Bankole Stronge said the Sierra Leone Red Cross over the years has supported various communities in becoming stronger and safer

through a variety of development projects and humanitarian activities. He added that they have also been working in cooperation with government, donors and other aid organizations to assist vulnerable people around the world.

The Speaker explained that the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society was established in 1962 by an Act of Parliament, and some of their activities have been helping victims of the country’s civil war.

He noted that ICRC had been providing assistance to civilians with food and non-food items and have supported several hospitals in treating the war wounded during our civil war in Sierra Leone.

Justice Stronge thanked ICRC and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society for the several strides they have undertaken in the country while assuring them of parliament’s continued determination to always work with them.

Need to address past violations extends beyond TRC process

Despite serious weaknesses in the Liberia Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report, accountability and victims' rights are critical to Liberia's recovery process and the TRC's recommendations must still be debated and taken forward, said the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) Tuesday in the release of its report: 'Beyond the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Transitional Justice Options in Liberia.'

"The issues raised by the TRC process, including the need for justice, accountability, and reconciliation, are critical to the country's future and its possibilities for sustained peace," said Suliman Baldo, director of ICTJ's Africa Program.

The ICTJ report is based on extensive research and monitoring. It reviews the truth-seeking process, examines the TRC final report, and suggests a number of steps that Liberians can take to meet the needs of victims and account for past violations.

Among the TRC report's weaknesses are a lack of evidentiary data, coherence between and within sections, specificity, and the unanimous support of all commissioners, two of whom refused to endorse it. These factors have raised doubts about the viability of the TRC's more controversial recommendations on prosecutions and lustration, with questions about whether and how these can be implemented.

Since its publication in December 2009, the TRC report and its recommendations have received wide media coverage and have generated diverse responses from the public, civil society, the government, and the international community. Most of these reactions have centered on the recommendations dealing with prosecutions and lustration.

The ICTJ report emphasizes the need for a comprehensive debate on the TRC recommendations, one that is inclusive of all stakeholders.

Charlestaylortrial.com

Tuesday, 18 May 2010

Daily Summary

Territory Controlled by Taylor's Rebels Was The Safest Place For Civilians, Witness Says

By Alpha Sesay

Areas controlled by Charles Taylor's rebel forces were the safest zones for civilians during the Liberian conflict, according to a witness testifying in defense of the former Liberian president today.

Timan Edward Zammy, a former commander in the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group, also dismissed as "lies" claims that the NPFL was involved in looting civilian property, killing of civilians, rape and sexual slavery – at least in his area.

"Civilians came to NPFL controlled areas because it was only the NPFL areas that were safe," Mr. Zammy said.

When put to him that the NPFL committed more crimes than any of the other rebel factions during the Liberian conflict, Mr. Zammy responded that such an assertion was wrong.

"No. NPFL was the best for civilians compared to all other factions because NPFL areas were the only place where they could move freely and were taken care of," he said.

Prosecution counsel, Katherine Howarth, accused the witness of downplaying heinous crimes such as rape, sexual slavery and the killing of civilians which she said were committed by NPFL rebels, of which the witness was a commander.

Asked specifically whether he saw or heard of NPFL rebels committing these crimes, Mr. Zammy said he neither saw nor heard of such crimes being committed by NPFL rebels.

On allegations of looting, the witness asserted that "no NPFL soldier looted," and when asked about crimes of rape and sexual slavery, he said that "I did not see it. If I saw it, I would have said it. I did not see it and so my answer is no."

"I only know that soldiers who were enemies to us were killed and not civilians," Mr. Zammy said.

When pressed with reports of more abuses allegedly committed by NPFL rebels against the civilian population of Liberia, the witness clarified that his knowledge of NPFL conduct was limited to places which were under his control.

"I am not saying that within the whole of Liberia there was no violation, I am talking about my controlled area. I did not control Grand Jida, I did not control Lofa. The things that happened there I can't tell. But within my controlled areas is what I am talking about," he explained.

Ms. Howarth pointed out that the Liberian TRC report documented the killing of over 28,000 civilians and that the said report ranked the NPFL as the worst of the warring factions in Liberia as far as the commission of crimes was concerned. Mr. Zammy dismissed the TRC report as incorrect, insisting that the Chairman of the TRC, Jeremy Verdier, was biased since he had previously accused the NPFL of victimizing him.

“The TRC report is not correct. Members of the TRC, even the chairman said he was victimized by the NPFL. What do you expect him to say about the NPFL?” the witness asked.

“The chairman was supposed to be neutral but if he makes such a comment about the NPFL, what do you expect him to say? The TRC report is not correct,” he insisted.

Mr. Zammy denied allegations that Mr. Taylor and his NPFL commanders used children for combat purposes under the title of Small Boys Unit (SBU). Mr. Taylor himself in his testimony denied these allegations, saying that small boys were made to stay with commanders with whom they were related and that some small boys who had been orphaned by the war were taken by commanders who treated them as their own children. Today, Mr. Zammy corroborated Mr. Taylor’s account, telling the court that he (Zammy) personally rescued some young children who eventually stayed in his household. He said that the children in the SBU sometimes wore military fatigue but this was done “just for fun.”

The defense also called their next witness, a Liberian national and former radio operator and Colonel in the NPFL, Joseph Menson Dehmie. Mr. Dehmie said he was also nicknamed “Bearcat” by his colleagues in the NPFL.

Mr. Dehmie told the court that he joined the NPFL willingly because he wanted to be part of a revolution to remove the government of former Liberian leader Samuel Kayan Doe from power — a government which he accused of oppressing the Liberian people and persecuting the people of the Gio and Manor tribes in the country.

“I became a member of the NPFL purposely to participate in the removal of the dictatorial and oppressive regime of Samuel Kayan Doe,” Mr. Dehmie said.

Mr. Taylor is on trial for allegedly supporting Revolutionary United Front rebels in Sierra Leone. His trial is being conducted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague. Mr. Dehmie is the twelfth witness who has testified for Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Dehmie’s testimony continues tomorrow.

Charlestaylortrial.com

Tuesday, 18 May 2010

Daily Summary

Prosecutors Say Witness Lied To The Liberian TRC About His NPFL History

By Alpha Sesay

Prosecutors today sought to impeach the credibility of Charles Taylor's defense witness by pointing out that he has not been truthful about how he was recruited into Mr. Taylor's Liberian rebel group, as well as the positions he claims to have held in the rebel group during the early days of the Liberian conflict.

Timan Edward Zammy, a former member of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) has spent more than a week testifying for Mr. Taylor, focusing his testimony mainly on the conduct of the NPFL in Liberia and refuting claims that the Liberian rebel group was best known for committing heinous crimes against civilians. Prosecutors say that the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group—a group which Mr. Taylor is accused of supporting in Sierra Leone—copied their tactics from the NPFL. Mr. Zammy has said that civilians were protected in areas under NPFL control. As his cross-examination continued today, prosecutors focused mainly on pointing out areas in the witness's testimony where they believe he has not been truthful.

One area of focus today was Mr. Zammy's account about how he was recruited into the NPFL. What he has told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges is different from what he told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Liberia. During his direct-examination last week, Mr. Zammy told the court that he was recruited into the NPFL in the 1980s by one Alfred Mehn, popularly known in the NPFL as the "God Father." Prosecution counsel Katherine Howarth pointed out to the witness that he had told the Liberian TRC that it was Mr. Taylor who recruited him into the NPFL while he was in Ivory Coast. Noting the discrepancy, the witness said that his testimony before the TRC was a mistake.

"So when you told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Charles Taylor recruited you from the Ivory Coast, you got that wrong, correct?" Ms. Howarth asked the witness.

"It is not wrong, it is an error. I am repeating it, it's an error, it's a mistake," the witness responded.

Asked directly whether he was saying that he had "made a mistake when giving evidence to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission," the witness said "yes."

"A mistake is not a lie, a mistake is allowed to be made, anybody can make a mistake," Mr. Zammy said.

Ms. Howarth also pressed the witness hard on his evidence in direct-examination that in 1991, Mr. Taylor appointed him as Battalion Commander for the sixth Battalion of the NPFL, which was stationed in Bomi Hills. Ms. Howarth pointed out that other defense witnesses who testified about the NPFL command structure did not mention Mr. Zammy's name as Commander of the sixth Battalion. These defense witnesses included Yanks Smythe, Karnah Edward Mineh and Mr. Taylor himself.

"Yanks Smythe does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander," Ms. Howarth told the witness.

"Yes, he does not mention me but I was sixth Battalion commander in 1991. Maybe he does not know," Mr. Zammy said.

In Mr. Smythe's testimony, he said that the sixth Battalion commander in 1991 was Mr. Oliver Varney. Mr. Zammy insisted that Mr. Smythe probably made a mistake, insisting that he succeeded Mr. Varney as the sixth Battalion commander.

Another defense witness Mr. Mineh also testified that Mr. Varney was sixth Battalion commander. Mr. Zammy insisted that these witnesses were mistaken.

"This is a mistake. It was in 1990 that Oliver Varney was Battalion Commander and I succeeded him," the witness said.

Reading from a January 2010 transcript, Ms. Howarth again pointed out that Mr. Taylor, while he testified on his own behalf, only referred to Mr. Zammy as "an Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) officer" and as "one of the Special Forces."

"This is all he [Taylor] had to say about you. He doesn't mention you as sixth Battalion commander. Another defense witness Yanks Smythe does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander and your one time friend Edward Mineh does not mention you as sixth Battalion commander. Were you actually sixth Battalion commander?" Mr. Howarth asked the witness.

"I will not tell lies. I served as sixth Battalion Commander in 1991...I was commander of the sixth Battalion from February 1991 to November 1991," the witness responded.

Ms. Howarth also pointed out to the witness that he failed to tell the TRC that he served as sixth Battalion of the NPFL and that when he made statements to defense lawyers in Liberia, he also did not tell them that he occupied such a position. The witness explained that at the TRC, they did not ask him about any command positions that he occupied and that when he spoke with defense lawyers, he told them that he indeed was the sixth Battalion commander in 1991.

Prosecutors believe that pointing these flaws in Mr. Zammy's testimony will impeach his credibility and make him a witness whose account cannot be relied on.

Mr. Zammy's cross-examination continues tomorrow.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary

18 May 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

FAO, Agriculture Ministry Break Ground for US\$50,000 Fish Post-harvest Unit

[Daily Observer]

- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture Thursday, May 13, 2010 broke ground for Fish Post-harvest Technological Platform Unit near Banjor Beach, Lower Virginia outside Monrovia.
- When constructed, the Fish Post-harvest Technological Platform Unit will help fishermen and other farmers store and preserve their products before they are put on the market.
- FAO resident representative in Liberia, Dr. Winfred Hammond, said the FAO remains supportive of government's quest to address the needs of its people.
- According to Dr. Hammond, FAO is not only interested in fishing, but also in varieties of agriculture products including cash crops and livestock.
- He said the Fishing Platform Unit is not restricted only to Montserrado County, but will also be extended to other parts of the country where there are fishing and farming activities.
- The FAO resident representative in Liberia said the aim of the project is to ensure that farmers and fishermen yield the maximum benefits from their labor.

Local News on Liberian issues

Auditor General Snubs Senate's Committee

[Heritage]

- Auditor General John Morlu has for the second time failed to appear before the Senate's Committee on Public Accounts and Audit.
- Reasons surrounding the action of Mr. Morlu were not made public by the Committee.
- Mr. Morlu was invited Monday by the Committee to address key issues raised in the controversial HIPC audit reports but failed to attend.
- Members of the Senate's Public Accounts and Audit Committee are concerned over the lack of standards and the narrative nature of the audits.
- Meanwhile, reports say the Committee is to submit a briefing to the Senate, complaining against the non-cooperation of the Auditor General.

House Convenes Public Hearings on Freedom of Information Act

[The Informer, Heritage]

- The House of Representatives will Wednesday May 19, 2010 convene public hearings on the Freedom of Information Act.
- The hearing is an outcome of a second review process that led to a revision of the Freedom of Information Act with technical assistance from the Carter Center.
- The internal local review and re-drafting was led by the Liberia Coalition on Freedom of Expression with support from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa.
- The bill has been before the Legislature since April 2008 and was initiated by the Liberia Media Law and Policy Reform Working Group with support from the Partnership for Media and Conflict Prevention in West Africa.

- The right to access to information and freedom of expression is a critical lynchpin to a functional democracy and necessary precondition for the fulfillment of other fundamental human rights.
- The Liberia Coalition on Freedom of Expression comprises five civil society organizations including, the Center for Media Studies and Peace Building, Liberia Media Center, Action for Genuine Democratic Alternative, Liberia Women Media Action Committee and the Center for Transparency and Accountability.

Ghana-Liberia Business Forum Takes Off May 27

[Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The Informer, National Chronicle, The News, Heritage]

- The Second Ghana-Liberia Business Forum will be held in Monrovia in May 27-28, 2010, Mr. Rudolf P. von Ballmoos, Liberia Ambassador to Ghana, has disclosed.
- The Second Forum dubbed 'Monrovia Forum' will take the form of an exhibition and a Business Forum.
- According to Ambassador von Ballmoos, the success of the First Business Forum held in Accra, February 20, 2010, as part of the State Visit to Ghana by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, February 19-20, 2010, has encouraged the Liberian Embassy in Accra and the National Investment Commission, under the auspices of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Sharp Eye Media Ltd, a Ghanaian multi-national communications company and Empretec Ghana, to organize the Monrovia Forum.
- Some 50 Ghanaian entrepreneurs from Manufacturing, ICT, Tourism, Construction, Mining, Real Estates Development, Finance, Engineering, etc are expected to join their Liberian colleagues in partnering for the development of both countries.

Finance Ministry Begins Course on Chart of Accounts System, Several Controllers in Attendance

[Daily Observer, In Profile Daily]

- The Liberian government through the Finance Ministry has finalized a chart of accounts for Liberia, the first time in the country's history.
- The Ministry along with the establishment of a chart of accounts for the country has also finalized a financial statement system to be used by government.
- The disclosure of the new systems in the country's financial sector was made Monday by Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan.
- Minister Ngafuan speaking at the opening of a two-week workshop on the use of the new Chart of Accounts said the workshop is important to the country in that it strengthens the country's financial sector.
- He observed that any country in the world that does not have a good financial system stands the risk of bad financial practice.
- According to the Finance Minister, the training of financial personnel in the Chart of Accounts will ensure transparency and international accounting standards in government.

Liberia To Benefit From WTO

[The Inquirer, Heritage, The News]

- Stakeholders in the country have begun brainstorming to incorporate Liberia into the World Trade Organization (WTO) member countries.
- Already there are 153 members of the WTO and 29 countries in accession process of various sizes and level of development.
- According to the organizers of a one day validation workshop on Liberia Foreign Trade Regime, the country is just at the infant stage of the entire process and if Liberia successfully completes the process and form part of the WTO members, the country stands to benefit immense economic and international trade boost.
- The one day memorandum validation workshop was organized by the Integrated Framework with funding support from the European Commission.
- The WTO is a negotiation forum on trade between governments.

“Big Hands” Behind Sexual Harassment Claims, ECOWAS Women Plan Protest if...

[New Democrat]

- Members of the ECOWAS civil society women in Liberia, have plan a “protest” against Mrs. Ruth Yeaher, a suspended employee of the General Auditing Commission (GAC) who accused Auditor General John Morlu of harassing her sexually.
- Ms. Oretha Dennis, head of the ECOWAS women said she investigated Mrs. Yeaher's claim of sexual harassment against Mr. Morlu and that such is meant to undermine the critical and fearless approach of the Auditor General in his fight against corruption noting that such should not deterred him from pursuing his course.

- Ms. Dennis also said this is not the first time that allegations of such magnitude have been levied against the Auditor General since his inception into office stressing “we will stage a protest against this woman and all those who are backing her if she fails to prove her claims of sexual harassment before international investigators.”

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

Vice President Boakai Welcomes Reactivation of LOIC

- Vice President Joseph Boakai says new companies will be compelled to import skilled manpower if Liberians are not trained in required skills.
- Vice President Boakai welcomed the reactivation of the Liberia Opportunities and Industrialization Centre (LOIC).
- According to the Vice President, the LOIC would help address the shortage of skilled manpower plaguing the country.
- He recalled the centre was the leading skill training institution before the war.
- He said youths who could not attend school as a result of the war, would now be able to learn skills that would enable them earn a livelihood.
- The Vice President spoke Monday when he met a three-member delegation from the US based OIC International, which operates in 18 African countries, Haiti and Poland and has been in Liberia since 1977.

Vice President's Office, Lottery Workers in Clash

- Conflicting accounts have emerged from a closed-door meeting between Vice President Joseph Boakai and a group of workers of the Liberia National Lottery.
- The contradiction surrounds the outcome of the meeting which discussed the continuous closure of the entity.
- A spokesman of the Lottery workers, John Kennedy said Monday's meeting with Vice President Boakai was not fruitful.
- However, the Press Secretary to the Vice President, Terrence Sesay insisted that the meeting was rewarding.
- The Lottery workers carried placards calling on the Vice President to stop monopolizing the Liberia National Lottery.
- Meanwhile, the Office of the Vice President says all is being done to revitalize the Liberia National Lottery with a foreign company set to take over the entity.

Auditor General Snubs Senate's Committee

Carter Center Starts Capacity Building for Five Counties

- The Carter Center says it is launching an 18-month USAID-funded project to strengthen the capacity of Liberia's local indigenous leaders.
- It is intended to help the leaders manage local disputes and also provide members of the National Traditional Council enhanced ability to respond to major disputes.
- The project is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Traditional Council.
- A release issued said the project will train local leaders in five counties including Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Maryland and Margibi to be conducted by an expert member of the UN Mediation Response Unit from New York along with staff of Carter Center.

GAC Worker Accuses Auditor General But...GAC Boss Issues Defense

- A suspended employee of the General Auditing Commission (GAC) Ruth Yeaher has maintained sexual advances were made against her by Auditor General, John Morlu.
- Mrs. Yeaher told a news conference the form and manner of the sexual advances would be described when she faces an investigative panel.
- She however alleged some of the interactions happened through text messages and phone calls and believes she was suspended by the Auditor General because she refused to give in to his alleged romantic requests.
- But Mr. Morlu in his defense said he was unaware of the allegation being made by Mrs. Yeaher and encouraged her to seek remedy in the law.
- Meanwhile, the Auditor General has released more than 100-page dossier clarifying Mrs. Yeaher's sexual allegation against him.
- In the dossier, Mr. Morlu believes the issue at stake relates to Mrs. Yeaher's demotion at the GAC and the audit findings indicting her husband Alexander Yeaher of stealing.

Missing Schoolgirl Resurfaces in Monrovia

- The 14-year old school girl who mysteriously disappeared in the Sime Darby Rubber Plantation in Bomi County has resurfaced.
- Fatu Ville reportedly reappeared Sunday afternoon in the Doe Community vicinity near the Free Port of Monrovia and she is with her grandfather.
- According to the schoolgirl's father, Ansu Ville, the girl is yet to give details of how she vanished from her campus on the faithful day of April 8 this year.
- She however told her father she has been living with a woman only identified as Bendu in Bomi County.
- Fatu, a fourth grade student of the Sime Darby Central High School in Bomi County disappeared in her uniform and was not seen until Sunday May 16.

International Clip on Liberia

Liberia: Sexual violence projects could suffer post-UNMIL

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89127>

MONROVIA (IRIN) - Humanitarian workers in Liberia worry that as the UN and NGOs scale down aid operations, the fight against sexual violence will suffer, given a limited capacity in national institutions to take it on. The fight against sexual violence, led by the Ministry of Gender and Development, is part of a wider four-year national plan to implement Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security; the resolution was passed in 2000 but Liberia - where a 14-year war ended in 2003 - began implementing it just last year. The action plan relies heavily on aid agencies and on international donors for funds, said the Norwegian Refugee Council's coordinator for sexual and gender-based violence, Anna Stone. "But after the [presidential and legislative] elections next year many international NGOs, including the NRC, will scale down operations in Liberia." Many aid agencies, including NRC and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) - also active in the fight against sexual violence - are gradually cutting their programmes in Liberia. And the post-election role of the UN mission (UNMIL), which has supported much of the government's anti-sexual-violence programmes, is uncertain.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Israel fines firm for dealing with Guinean junta

Associated Press - An Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman says Israel has fined a security consulting firm for negotiating a deal to provide arms and military training to Guinea's military junta without the state's approval. Shlomo Dror says the ministry fined Global CST for dealing with the West African nation's military government last year. He would not disclose the sum of the fine but said Israel intervened before a deal was concluded. Global CST is run by Yisrael Ziv, a retired Israeli general whose career included commanding the Gaza Strip area. Ziv's firm says the matter was a technical error. Israel has a history of sending mercenaries to African countries. But today, Israel says it denies permits to operate in nations with questionable rights records.

Ivory Coast

Ivorian voters asked to prove citizenship

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?click_id=68&art_id=nw20100517223230247C435061&set_id=

Abidjan - Ivory Coast's electoral commission began vetting a hotly disputed voter registration list on Monday, restarting a process that has been delayed since mid-February and is crucial to holding the presidential poll. More than a million people on the list are being asked to present documents proving their Ivorian citizenship, amid accusations by President Laurent Gbagbo's government that the list has been stacked with opponents. "The operation has begun and it will last 15 days," said Yacouba Bamba, spokesperson for the electoral commission. Ivory Coast elections, meant to heal the country after a 2002 - 2003 civil war that divided it in two, have been delayed repeatedly since 2005. Elections preparations were most recently halted in mid-February after Gbagbo dissolved the electoral commission and the government, sparking violent street protests across the West African country. Analysts have said smooth elections are key to reviving investment in the West African nation.

'Trafigura paid drivers to lie about Probo Koala waste', says Volkskrant

http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2010/05/trafigura_paid_drivers_to_lie.php

Amsterdam-based oil trader Trafigura bribed nine Ivory Coast lorry drivers to make false statements about the dumping of chemical waste from the ship Probo Koala, the Volkskrant and TV programme Nova claim. The drivers say they were paid almost €3,000 each to make statements in which they said the waste was not dangerous to their health, the paper states. Now environmental organisation Greenpeace has made a formal complaint to the public prosecution department in Rotterdam and urged officials to investigate Trafigura for encouraging false statements and influencing witnesses. In a statement, Trafigura strongly denies offering the drivers money and says the claims are 'dishonest and malicious'. But the company's law firm does say some drivers were paid expenses.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leonean leader begins a visit to Nigeria

APA - Abuja (Nigeria) The President of Sierra Leone, Mr. Ernest Koroma, on Tuesday arrived in Abuja on a solidarity visit following recent happenings in Nigeria, especially the death of President Umaru Yar'Adua and the appointment of Goodluck Jonathan as Nigeria's new President. Jonathan accompanied by the new Vice President Namadi Sambo, whose nomination was on Tuesday confirmed by the country's Senate and House of Representatives, received Koroma from the airport in Abuja. Koroma told his hosts that he was in the country to congratulate his counterpart on his appointment and also to condole with the people and government of Nigeria on the demise of President Yar'Adua. Noting the importance of Nigeria in Africa, Koroma said that Nigeria needed to pep up its leadership role in the continent and ensure a fast track of processes for the economic prosperity of the continent.

Star Radio (Liberia)

Tuesday, 18 May 2010

Two justice-working groups differ on TRC report

Written by Robert J. Clarke, Jr.

The Transitional Justice Working Group has reacted to a recent report released by the ICTJ on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final report.

ICTJ is the International Center for Transitional Justice.

The Transitional Justice Working Group said the ICTJ report is intended to relegate the TRC report to a mere historical account leading to the civil conflict.

At a press conference Tuesday, the working group questioned the role of the ICTJ in the TRC process and wondered about the specific intent and timing of its report.

The group accused the ICTJ of dedicating more explanations to the limitations of the TRC final report while a few lines were written on its merits.

The group also frowned on the recommendation of the ICTJ calling for a fresh impartial professional investigation to be initiated by government.

The Transitional Justice Working Group believes such a recommendation suggests that the TRC final report is unprofessional.

The group however agreed that there were weaknesses within the TRC report but said the report provides the best framework for Liberia in addressing human rights violations.

International Criminal Court

Tuesday, 18 May 2010

OTP delegation to visit Guinea

From 19 to 21 May 2010, a delegation from the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC) will be in Guinea to follow up on the mission carried out by the Deputy Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, in February this year. The OTP made public its preliminary examination in Guinea in October 2009. At the same time the international community unanimously called for accountability either through ICC or Guinean proceedings. Since then, the OTP has benefited from the full support of Guinean authorities as well as Regional and International Organizations. The purpose of this second visit is to liaise with Guinean judicial authorities and gather updated information on the on-going national investigation into the events of 28 September 2009.

Guinea has been a State Party to the Rome Statute since 14 July 2003. As such the ICC has jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide possibly committed in the territory of Guinea or by nationals of Guinea. Other situations under preliminary examination by the Office include Afghanistan, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, and Palestine.

The Office of the Prosecutor is currently investigating in four situations: The Democratic Republic of Congo, Northern Uganda, the Darfur region of Sudan, and the Central African Republic, all still engulfed in various degrees of conflict with victims in urgent need of protection.

The International Criminal Court is an independent, permanent court that investigates and prosecutes persons accused of the most serious crimes of international concern, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes if national authorities with jurisdiction are unwilling or unable to do so genuinely.

For more information, please contact:

OTP Public Information Officer

Florence Olara

florence.olara@icc-cpi.int

+31 (0) 70 515 8723 (office)

+31 (0) 6 5029 4476 (mobile)

Source: Office of the Prosecutor

The Telegraph (UK)

Monday, 18 May 2010

Balthasar Garzon wins permission to work at International Criminal Court

Balthasar Garzon, the controversial Spanish judge currently suspended from his duties in his home country, has won permission work at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.



Judge Balthasar Garzon is well known for taking on high-profile terrorism and war crimes cases

Photo: AP

Spain's top judicial panel had suspended Mr Garzon on Friday pending his trial on charges he exceeded his authority by ordering an investigation into mass killings by the forces of former dictator Francisco Franco.

The suspension from his functions as a judge was widely thought in Spain to be an obstacle to a transfer to a foreign court but the judicial panel approved Garzon's request to spend seven months at The Hague court.

"Legal reasons could not be found to prevent the hiring of the judge as a consultant", Gabriela Bravo, spokeswoman for the judicial panel told reporters.

The Spanish judge, who won fame for his attempt to extradite former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet for human rights abuses, faces three separate charges in Spain's Supreme Court.

The charges which have divided Spain and caught the attention of the rest of the world is the case against Garzon for trying to investigate the deaths and disappearances of some 100,000 people who were shot and buried in mass graves during Spain's 1936-39 Civil War and Franco's ensuing rule, which ended in 1975.

Thousands of demonstrators have taken to the streets to support him, saying the case is a politically motivated ploy by the right wing and that his trial amounts to granting impunity for mass killings. Conservatives say he is reopening old wounds and diverting attention from Spain's deep recession.

If found guilty, he could face up to 10 years in prison and a life ban on working as a judge.

While human rights organisations and Civil War victims associations say it is time Spain properly investigated a bloody chapter in its history, critics say Garzon's move flouted a 1977 amnesty law on political crimes passed during the country's tense transition to democracy.

Mr Garzon dropped his investigation after a month following criticism by state prosecutors, but passed responsibility for exhuming mass graves to regional courts.

The proceedings stem from a lawsuit brought against Mr Garzon by the rightist union Manos Limpias, who were later joined by the group Libertad e Identidad and the far-right Falange party, which was powerful during the Civil War but is now marginalised.

The New Times (Rwanda)
 Wednesday, 19 May 2010

Gov't Slams ICTR Lawyers for Ties to Genocide Fugitives

Felly Kimenyi

Kigali — The government has condemned some defence lawyers at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the several jurists mainly based in Europe, for their continued provision of platforms to indicted Genocide fugitives.

The condemnation was triggered by a conference slated for this week in the Belgian capital Brussels, which is expected to feature some Genocide fugitives as key speakers.

The International Criminal Defence Conference that starts on May 21 under the theme; 'lessons from the defence at the Ad Hoc UN Tribunals and prospects for International Justice,' was organised by defence attorneys at the ICTR.

"For a few years now, some defence lawyers at the ICTR have so badly deviated from their professional duties and turned into activists and advocates of Genocide denial," said Martin Ngoga, the Prosecutor General, when contacted yesterday.

Among the speakers is Eugene Rwamucyo a medical doctor residing in France who was indicted by Rwandan prosecution for his role in killings of thousands in the former Butare Prefecture, now in the Southern Province.

He was late last year suspended by a hospital he was working for in France after it was established that he was on an Interpol Red Notice for Genocide charges he is facing in Rwanda.

"That this movement is now shamelessly inviting Genocide suspects who are indicted to join them in conferences, only serves to show how far they can go in the pursuit of their agenda," added Ngoga.

"It also means that they can no longer camouflage their zeal it is very absurd and in a very bad taste."

According to Gerard Ntwari, Rwanda's Ambassador to Belgium, the mission in Brussels sent a Note Verbale to the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in protest.

"We were surprised to see on the list of speakers, people indicted for Genocide. We immediately notified the government here through the Note Verbale, with the names of these suspects," said the envoy in a telephone interview from Brussels.

"We are however yet to receive feedback."

Another fugitive on the list of participants is Charles Ndereyehe, who was recently sighted in Holland and prosecution has since sent his indictment to the Dutch government.

According to prosecution, Ndereyehe, a former Director General of ISAE-Rubona, an agricultural research institute based in the Southern Province, is accused of bankrolling the killings in Butare town; using his personal wealth and money he forcefully trimmed from salaries of the institute's employees.

A programme of the meeting that The New Times has obtained shows several lawyers known for their efforts to negate or trivialise the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

They include American lawyer, Peter Erlinder, a former defence attorney of Genocide mastermind, Col. Theoneste Bagosora, who is currently serving a life sentence handed to him by the ICTR. Erlinder does not bother to hide his advocacy for genocidaires.

Others include Jean Paul Puts who is very active on internet social networks of genocide deniers and goes by the pseudonym 'Agacurama.'

Sources from the Belgian capital say that civil society organisations in Europe are gearing to protest against the conference.

The government has condemned some defence lawyers at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the several jurists mainly based in Europe, for their continued provision of platforms to indicted Genocide fugitives.

The condemnation was triggered by a conference slated for this week in the Belgian capital Brussels, which is expected to feature some Genocide fugitives as key speakers.

The International Criminal Defence Conference that starts on May 21 under the theme; 'lessons from the defence at the Ad Hoc UN Tribunals and prospects for International Justice,' was organised by defence attorneys at the ICTR.

"For a few years now, some defence lawyers at the ICTR have so badly deviated from their professional duties and turned into activists and advocates of Genocide denial," said Martin Ngoga, the Prosecutor General, when contacted yesterday.

Among the speakers is Eugene Rwamucyo a medical doctor residing in France who was indicted by Rwandan prosecution for his role in killings of thousands in the former Butare Prefecture, now in the Southern Province.

He was late last year suspended by a hospital he was working for in France after it was established that he was on an Interpol Red Notice for Genocide charges he is facing in Rwanda.

"That this movement is now shamelessly inviting Genocide suspects who are indicted to join them in conferences, only serves to show how far they can go in the pursuit of their agenda," added Ngoga.

"It also means that they can no longer camouflage their zeal it is very absurd and in a very bad taste."

According to Gerard Ntwari, Rwanda's Ambassador to Belgium, the mission in Brussels sent a Note Verbale to the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in protest.

"We were surprised to see on the list of speakers, people indicted for Genocide. We immediately notified the government here through the Note Verbale, with the names of these suspects," said the envoy in a telephone interview from Brussels.

"We are however yet to receive feedback."

Another fugitive on the list of participants is Charles Ndereyehe, who was recently sighted in Holland and prosecution has since sent his indictment to the Dutch government.

According to prosecution, Ndereyehe, a former Director General of ISAE-Rubona, an agricultural research institute based in the Southern Province, is accused of bankrolling the killings in Butare town; using his personal wealth and money he forcefully trimmed from salaries of the institute's employees.

A programme of the meeting that The New Times has obtained shows several lawyers known for their efforts to negate or trivialise the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

They include American lawyer, Peter Erlinder, a former defence attorney of Genocide mastermind, Col. Theoneste Bagosora, who is currently serving a life sentence handed to him by the ICTR. Erlinder does not bother to hide his advocacy for genocidaires.

Others include Jean Paul Puts who is very active on internet social networks of genocide deniers and goes by the pseudonym 'Agacurama.'

Sources from the Belgian capital say that civil society organisations in Europe are gearing to protest against the conference.

Hirondelle News Agency

Tuesday, 18 May 2010

Nzirorera: I had no powers to control killings in Rwanda

Former Secretary General of MRND then Rwandan ruling party, Joseph Nzirorera, told the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) Tuesday that he had no any administrative powers in 1994 to either control or punish perpetrators of killings within and outside his party.

He, therefore, questioned the rationale behind the prosecution's plea for him and other two senior party leaders, President Mathieu Ndirumpatse and his Vice-President Edouard Karemera, to be held responsible for crimes allegedly committed by their members.

"We were just political leaders. MRND members were not employed under me or Mathieu Ndirumpatse or Edouard Karemera. I do not know whether a political party can be considered like a firm. We had no control of their salaries we could deduct in case they defy our instructions," Nzirorera told the UN Tribunal.

Nzirorera was testifying for his own defence when he maintained that as secretary general of a political party he had no any coercive measures that he could take against members who misbehaved.

"What I can do is to note such misbehaviour with regret. I had no powers in the Rwandan administrative set up. My duty was to advice to stop the crime. That is what I did and I was so sincere," he testified.

He testified further that like any other person with humanity, leaders of the MRND party were concerned with the war situations prevailing in Kigali and its environs before and after the death of President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6, 1994 and, therefore, they acted by calling members of the population to restore peace and security.

"We would not have acted in such manner if we were not sincere. In addition five political parties issued a communique to appeal to the members of the population to restore peace and youths not to kill each other and commit rape... We tried perhaps we did not succeed. But here we are now," he testified.

In the trial, Nzirorera is tried jointly with Ndirumpatse and Karemera with crimes committed by members of their party. Karemera has already completed his defence. Nzirorera's defence testimony continues Wednesday.

FK/SC/GF

© Hirondelle News Agency

AllAfrica.com

Friday, 14 May 2010

Kenya: Protect Human Rights Defenders in Criminal Investigations

Months of diplomatic wrangling ended last month with the decision that the International Criminal Court (ICC) will now open an investigation into the post-election violence that rocked Kenya in 2007-08.

An advance team has already started laying the groundwork in Kenya and the ICC prosecutor will start the formal investigations this month. Now that he has been authorised to investigate the violence, Luis Moreno-Ocampo has said he will try for an expeditious investigation with a focus on those most responsible. He has also spoken of witness protection and the duty of both the ICC and the Kenyan government to protect them.

There is, of course, cause for more than concern when it comes to the safety of witnesses in Kenya. There have been all-too-frequent reports of witnesses to the Waki Commission, and those who have simply reported crimes to the police, being threatened. Numerous people have left the country, too afraid for their own lives and the safety of their families to stay in Kenya. The killing of a witness' cousin was reported earlier this year. And while parliament has recently passed amendments to the Witness Protection Act, they have not yet begun to fix the inadequate protection program. The debate over who can and should protect witnesses who give evidence in the course of Moreno-Ocampo's investigation and possible prosecutions fails to consider another, vital group of citizens who will be involved in this process - human rights defenders.

Kenya has already seen the slaying of two such citizens: Oscar Kamau Kingara, of the Oscar Foundation Free Legal Aid Clinic, and his colleague John Paul Oulo in March 2009. The clinic had published reports on police violence and abuses, and those men had cooperated with Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions during his ten-day investigation in Kenya. There can be little doubt that their deaths were linked to the information and allegations they had published, and the assistance that they had provided to Alston.

With the impending investigation of the ICC, however, the stakes are much higher for some in power than when the special rapporteur visited Kenya in early 2009. It is clear that the prosecutor believes he will be able to collect sufficient evidence against a number of people to prosecute at least two cases. What will be a vital part of the ICC investigation - as it was also for the special rapporteur - is the assistance of human rights defenders and their organisations.

Many people do not report the simplest of crimes or seek the assistance of police in Kenya - distrust and fear runs deep. Add to this the involvement of police in the post-election violence and it is not surprising that the country's human rights institutions are some of the main repositories of complaints, witness details and other evidence. The team from the ICC has already said it will meet with organisations such as the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the Kenya Human Rights Commission during the course of investigations. With no arrest for the murders of the two men during the special rapporteur's investigation, and other human rights defenders having left the country, who then, will ensure that the people who speak out this time are protected?

The definition of a witness in Kenyan law - including in the bill that is currently awaiting presidential assent - extends only to cover those persons required to give evidence before a court, tribunal or commission. There is also provision to protect persons related to witnesses, those who might be in need of protection because of the evidence given by a witness and any other person who may require protection for reasons seen as sufficient by the director of the Witness Protection Agency, countenanced in the new

bill. Yet this is clearly not enough to even seek to cover in law those persons who are not witnesses but rather assist witnesses and the investigators.

The mechanisms of the ICC are also insufficient to protect human rights defenders. The court has a unit devoted to the needs and protection of victims and witnesses but it states that the protection of people such as human rights defenders is the responsibility of the state. In the case of Kenya this is something that the government has, thus far, absolutely failed to do. Even if the current bill becomes law immediately, new procedures and processes take time to become properly established - and the ICC team has landed in Kenya.

The authorities need to start the process of full and proper protection of both witnesses and human rights defenders now. Regardless of the status of the bill, the government should publicly state its commitment to the ICC investigation in general, as well as to the specific issue of protection. Those in power need to publicly declare that intimidation, threats and harm to those who assist the investigation will not be tolerated. Words, then, need to be supported by action - the government needs to put its support behind the human rights organisations, as well as the ICC team. Reports note that security has been established for Moreno-Ocampo and his team as they travel throughout Kenya, but it is not apparent that this is for the protection of both the investigators and those citizens who assist them. Finally, in the event that there are reports of harassment or threats as the ICC process unfolds, there needs to be swift and decisive action by way of proper investigation and consequences for those found to have interfered with the law.

In this investigation the human rights defenders of Kenya will likely be essential intermediaries; without the information they have from their own investigations and the assistance they provide to witnesses, Moreno-Ocampo's task will be much more difficult, if not impossible. Human rights defenders should not be silenced, nor should they be left to face the threats, intimidation and danger that could follow.

Tennille Duffy is the programme officer for Access to Justice (East Africa), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

PAMBAZUKA EDITOR'S NOTE

At the time of publication, the sudden death of Simon Gatiba Karanja, director of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), on 9 May is reported to have been caused naturally. The autopsy was conducted by Moses Njue, the government chief pathologist, but documentary results have not been made public. The Standard reported Gatiba Karanja was in good health prior to his death early on Sunday. It was denied Gatiba Karanja had met with Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo. That a meeting was in line with the CID boss was also denied by Moreno-Ocampo at a press conference in Nairobi on 12 May.