

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Monday, 19 November 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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BY SPYUSHE KAMAKA
Between 1991 and 2002, all parties to the conflict in Sierra Leone perpetrated rape, sexual slavery and other crimes of sexual violence against Sierra Leonean women and girls. Overall estimates are that 250,000 women and girls (33 per cent of the total female population) were subjected to these crimes. Sierra Leone's Truth Reconciliation Commission (TRC) concluded: "It is clear that there were deliberate policies systematically to target systematically to rape and sexually violate them. Crimes of rape and sexual violence have been documented by the international community, civil society and the TRC. Crimes of rape and sexual violence have been documented by the international community, civil society and the TRC. Crimes of sexual violence have been investigated and prosecuted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone the Special Courts first judgment, handed down in June 2007, found three Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) leaders guilty of rape and outrages of personal dignity, including sexual slavery.

Women and girls of all ages and across all districts in Sierra Leone suffered a multiplicity of abuses and violations, including rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and other crimes of sexual violence. They were also subjected to abductions, enslavement, torture and forced labour.

Many women and girls and their families were killed lost limbs or witnessed horrendous acts committed against their children, husbands, and other members of their families and communities.

The psychological, physical, social and economic impact on women and girls of this inhumane treatment is immeasurable. Shame has prevented large numbers of them from returning to their communities. Others live in silence, unable to share their painful memories out of fear that they will be rejected by family members and lose their future economic security. Women who have borne children as a result of the violation committed against them are not only unable to escape the stigma, but have to care for their children with limited means of sustaining themselves. These women and children are denied work, home, family and community, and are condemned to exist on the margins of society. In some cases, prostitution is their only means of survival, but this often results in further marginalization. As a result of this, reintegration has been extremely difficult or even impossible for many women and girls who were raped and sexually abused.

Survivors from Sierra Leone's easternmost district, Kailahun, and from villages in the northern districts of Tonkolili and Bombali, shared their experiences with Amnesty International in March 2007. They revealed that, although six years had passed the impact of the rape, sexual violence and sexual slavery they experienced still affected their everyday lives. Few had received the assistance needed and, as a result, they were continuing to suffer terribly.

CASE STUDIES

DISPLACED IN KAILAHUN

Kailahun is Sierra Leone's easternmost district. Situated on the border of Liberia, this area was a stronghold of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed

Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) throughout the conflict. It was not only the scene of significant destruction but was also the place where rebel groups had their main bases. These were dependent on the thousands of women, and girls who served as "wives", cooks, labourers, fighters and sex slaves.

The majority of the women Amnesty International interviewed were abducted from other districts, including Bo, Kenema, Pujehun, Makeni, Magburaka and Bonthe, at a very young age.

Some were as young as four. Their family members had often been killed, and they were forced to live with RUF until peace came in 2002. The majority stayed in Kailahun after 2002, for a variety of reasons.

All the women had been subjected to sexual violence, sexual slavery and torture. Some had children. They were all suffering from physical and/or psychological effects of the crimes they had endured. As well as medical and psychological problems, their experiences have contributed to them suffering from low self-esteem, compounded by feelings of shame and stigmatization as

Women and girls are sometimes accused of not resisted enough, or of having consented to cooperated with

sociated with rape. Some confessed that they had never spoken to anyone about their experiences due to the fear of stigma; others with children complained of being ridiculed and ostracized and said they were shunned by other people, even relatives. Many said they needed medical care, education for their children, land to farm, micro-credit to start businesses and a place to live, but were weary of being labeled as women who had lived with the rebels or been raped.

RETURNING TO MAKENILOL

Makenilol is a small community of approximately 100 houses half-way between Makeni town and Magburaka. During the 11-years conflict it suffered repeated attacks and a period of occupation by the RUF. It is estimated that 40 girls were abducted during the conflict. After disarmament in 2002, approximately 25 returned. Those who did not return had either died or resettled elsewhere. Although many girls were suffering war-related medical conditions, few sought proper medical assistance, as they were fearful that this would expose them to negative judgments and rejection by their parents. Instead they were treated with native medicine. When the girls first returned, many stayed isolated from the rest of the community.

In response to the ridicule and ostracism that many of the girls faced, the mammy queen and the chief explained to members of the community that the girls were not to blame for what had happened to them and said that anyone who harassed them would be fined. While this helped initially, it did

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE SIERRA LEONE conflict and its impact on survivors

not result in long-term acceptance of the girls went to school, while many of the others, who had by now reached adulthood, left Makenilol to resettle in a community where they where they did to know anyone in the hope that they would find husbands to take care of them.

THE IMPACT OF SHAME AND STIGMA

The shame, stigma, discrimination and rejection associated with rape and sexual violence significant influence the choices and decisions of survivors and severely limits the opportunities open to them. Feelings of shame about having been raped affect the physical and mental health of women and this influence whether or not they seek the medical care they need. The stigma of sexual violence also affects where they live: many were too ashamed to return home; others were rejected by their communities if they did attempt to return.

Shame and fear of rejection affected choices women and girls made about who they would speak to about their experiences and the type of information they felt they could share with others. Their reluctance to access services was matched by a general reluctance by girls who had suffered sexual violence to participate in Disarma-

ment, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) processes in the same way as their made counterparts.

Rejection by communities and families also carries enormous economic consequences for the victims, who are excluded from their homes and cut off from possible means of livelihood.

Survivors abandoned by their husbands are unlikely to marry again, leaving them as sole carers and supporters of their children.

1. Access to services
Social isolation and fear of rejection prevent many survivors from seeking help or speaking out about their experiences and needs. The mammy queen of Macomb, villages in the north near Makeni town, told Amnesty International:
"The women in our village did not speak to the TRC because they would have to say that they had been raped not once but many times, and they were not prepared to let others know this truth about what happened to them. This has prevented them from accessing many of the other services they need."
Fearful of being exposed as rape victims, many women and girls did not make use of health centres. As a result, large number received no treatment or relied on native medicine. A health worker from Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) told Amnesty International that, even though the rapes had started in the early 1990s, it was not until the attack of Freetown in 1999 that people really started to speak

about the gang rape and mass rape, and to address the health concerns related to it. She said:
"I don't know the number of women and girls that died because they didn't access any healthcare, or what the long-term impact will be on them of not addressing their medical needs. It is something we do not know. After 1999 the issue was finally exposed but only those with urgent medical needs came out. The majority were too ashamed to go to the health centre and instead relied on native medicine".
2. A girl from Pujehun, was forcibly brought to Kailahun and did not return home when peace came She told Amnesty International:
"They tolerate us here but we are not really welcome. In 2002 we were released from the rebels but, because we all stayed so long with them, when it finally was time to return many did not have relatives left, or they felt that they would not be accepted if they tried to go back; some tried and were rejected. Where we are no one really speaks to us; we have no house and no land to farm. We are occupying more than 40 villages. None of the men are around as most went to the mining areas to find work and have met other women. None of us spoke to the TRC; we were ashamed.
Mamie, originally from Bo and nearly 60 years old, was abducted and brought to Kailahun in 1995. When she tried to return home, her community rejected her. She said:
"I returned to Bo in 2004 and 2006, and both times they called me a rebel. They said that the rebels were killing and eating people so they didn't want anything to do with me. Now to survive I take care of a child and in return the family gives me food. People in the community call me a rebel. Few people will take to me. I need food, shelter, and medicine now."

3. Considered "dirty" and unworthy"
In Sierra Leone there is an assumption among some people that women were somehow responsible for what happened to them. They are often viewed as "shameful" or "dirty" because of the rape, marriage an unlikely future option for many how suffered from sexual violence. Often, shame prevented them from trying to find husbands, and they feared that they would be rejected or abandoned if their experiences were discovered.

When Linda, now 30 returned to Makenilol in 2002, she was well aware of her limited future options. She knew that the community would be unlikely to accept her and that her chances of marriage would be reduced if it were known that she had been with the rebels. So she did not tell anyone what happened to her, and married a man from the community. Soon after her child was borne, her husband abandoned her. She said:
"When I saw that one of the girls that I knew in the bush was rejected by her family, I knew it would not be good to tell too many people in the community, especially the men as they will not accept you. So I did not tell my new husband but later I heard that other men in the community were making fun of him for being married to me. Soon after I had the child he left me."

Women and girls who survive rape are sometimes accused of not having resisted enough, of having somehow consented to sex or of having cooperated with the perpetrators. **TO BE CONTINUED**

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Pademba Road Prison A Health Hazard

BY KOMBA FILIE

The Chief Superintendent of Prisons CSP Cecilia Ellie has called on government's urgent attention to the deplorable state of Prisoners throughout the country with special reference to those in the Western Area that

sleep on bare floor.

CSP Ellie expressed these sentiments at the close of a five days budget discussion organized by the Ministry of Finance at the Youyou building in Freetown.

CONTINUED PAGE 7

Pademba Road Prison A Health Hazard

FROM PAGE 1

Memorial School and Ansarul Secondary School, his message was to work with the school administrators in a bid to ensure quality education at all cost. The Mayor further commended the outstanding Basic Education Certificate Examination results obtained by these schools and admonished staff members and pupils to maintain the good work.

On the part of the pupils, the Mayor and team advised them to work hand and glove with their teachers for the progress of the school.

Commenting on behalf of The Bishop Johnson Memorial School, the Principal of the Junior Secondary

School, Reverend Joseph A M Jarrette narrated the disadvantaged position the school finds itself with regards to criminals infiltrating the school compound and carting away with whatever they could lay hands on as the porosity of the school compound exposes it to criminals who are bent on vandalizing property and making away with valuable items.

Rev. Jarrette recounted the bad effects the war had on the school as classrooms were turned into dwelling rooms by displaced people who in turn destroyed the furniture and learning materials thus hindering education.

Sierra Leone Civil War

Where are they now?

On 13 January 2003 a small group of armed men tried unsuccessfully to break into an armory in Freetown. Former AFRC-junta leader Koroma, after being linked to the raid, went into hiding.

In March the Special Court for Sierra Leone issued its first indictments for war crimes during the civil war. Foday Sankoh, already in custody, was indicted, along with notorious RUF field commander Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie, Koroma, the Minister of Interior and former head of the Civil Defense Force, Samuel Hinga Norman, and several others.

Norman was arrested when the indictments were announced, while Bockarie and Koroma remained at large (presumably in Liberia). On 5 May 2003 Bockarie was killed in Liberia, probably on orders from President Charles G. Taylor, who expected to be indicted by the Special Court and feared Bockarie's testimony.^[1]

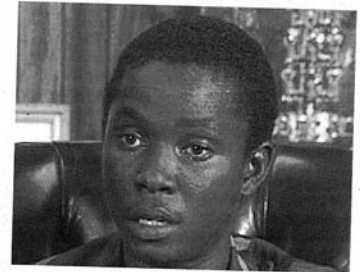
Several weeks later, word filtered out of Liberia that Koroma had been killed as well, although his death remains unconfirmed. In June the Special Court announced Taylor's indictment. Sankoh died in prison in Freetown 29 July 2003 from a heart attack. He had been ailing for some time.



Foday Saybana Sankoh



Johnny Paul Koroma Capt.



Valentine Strasser

In August 2003 President Kabbah testified before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on his role during the civil war.

On 1 December 2003 Major General Brigadier Tom Carew, who had been the Chief of Defence Staff for the Government of Sierra Leone and an important figure in the Sierra Leonean army, was reassigned to civilian duties.

In June 2007, the Special Court found three of the eleven people indicted Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu guilty of war crimes,

including acts of terrorism, collective punishments, extermination, murder, rape, outrages upon personal dignity, conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into armed forces, enslavement and pillage.^[2]

Diamond revenues in Sierra Leone have increased more than tenfold since the end of the conflict, from \$10 million in 2000 to about \$130 million in 2004, although according to the UNAMSIL surveys of mining sites, "more than 50 per cent of diamond mining still remains unlicensed and reportedly considerable illegal smuggling of diamonds continues".^[3]

SALONE ABROAD

News & Views About The Country In The Diaspora

THE CASE AGAINST GADDAFI: WILL CHARLES TAYLOR "NAME AND SHAME" HIM? - (FINAL PART II)

By Professor Hassan B. Sisay, Wisconsin, USA

In 1986 Reagan ordered an attack on Libya following the bombing of La Belle discotheque in West Berlin that caused American casualties. Reagan held Kaddafi responsible for terrorism aimed at America, and approved air strikes on the Libyan capital, Tripoli, that resulted in over one hundred people dead including Kaddafi's adopted daughter, Hanna Kaddafi. Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, once described the Libyan leader as 100% insane, while other Arab leaders suggested that Kaddafi's membership in the Arab League should be terminated. How Kaddafi was morphed by western powers from pariah to patron is a long and complicated diplomatic process.

Bruce Jentleson, a State Department official in the Clinton administration said this to explain America's reversal of diplomatic direction: "the US didn't make this decision because Kaddafi underwent some full transformation; we still don't like him... but he wanted to stay in power and was willing to move on something important to us, so we struck a deal." Further, Jentleson indicated that Western leaders convinced Kaddafi that if he gave up his nuclear programs and "did a policy change, we would not do regime change." Jon B. Alterman, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington D.C. noted: "while some aspects of the Libyan leader's behavior remained objectionable, such as meddling in African politics it never challenged U.S. strategic interests." In other words, although the civil wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia financed by Gaddafi caused the deaths of more than

property, heinous rapes, displaced two million people, and resulted in immense hardship on the civilian populations of both countries, that unambiguous despicable record of human rights violations was not enough to maintain the diplomatic ostracism of Kaddafi. An exuberant Bush Official even proclaimed that Libya "is out of the terrorism business." The Los Angeles Times put it best in its defense of the new policy: "if any atrocious record on human rights were enough to land a nation on the [terrorist] list, then the U.S. would have to add China, Egypt and Uzbekistan and dozens of others." Gamal Nkrumah, son of the fiery Ghanaian Pan Africanist, writing in the Al-Ahram weekly, a leading Middle East newspaper, described what happened between Washington and Tripoli as "a marriage of convenience cemented by business ties." In short, when the rule of law, morality, human rights, and the so-called wider

ter prevails. It is highly possible that the above rationalization and or justification may have influenced the Western powers slow reactions to the horrors in Darfur, Sudan, the Rwandan Massacres; and why the international community took such a long time to end "apartheid" in South Africa. Kaddafi knows too well the strong links in the geopolitical considerations by western powers between the economic, social, political and strategic matters, and how the West is behold to him by its considerable dependence on Libyan oil. Accordingly, he has been unwavering in using his economic power to gain legitimacy in the eyes of the West. But how has Kaddafi been able to pacify Africa to avert any future investigation for his support of rebels in Liberia and Sierra Leone? Again, Kaddafi uses his enormous economic power to soothe African nations that he has openly offended or undermined. Cash-strapped governments such as Sierra Leone, Liberia, Zimbabwe and Malawi receive



Author

sometimes boat loads of rice, obsolete ferries, weapons, and automobiles to be used by government personnel. Such aid is miniscule compared to the billions of dollars the Libyan leader has spent to reimburse European victims of his alleged terrorist acts. He has become the self-appointed spokesperson of African causes such as human rights violations in Darfur, Chad, Somalia, and the plight of African would be migrants to Europe. Kaddafi also got Africa to violate sanctions the western powers imposed on Libya. Mandela visited Libya during the sanction period, and air travel between the rest of the continent to Libya were resumed despite the sanctions. Further, in the late 90s, Kaddafi began a campaign that revived the principles of African unity, as stipulated by the founders of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and these efforts resulted

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Human Rights Commission on sensitization tour

The newly established Human Rights Commission in Sierra Leone has ended a week long sensitization workshop in the northern town of Makeni.

The programme was to acquaint the people in the north about the aims and objectives of the Commission. Speaking to her audience, Chairman, Human Right Commission in Sierra Leone, Mrs. Jamestina King said the UN and ECOWAS encouraged governments to set up national human rights institution to promote a culture of nationalism. She said the Commission was formed through the human right of Sierra Leone Act No.9 of 2004 as provided in Lome

Peace Accord of 1999 and the recommendations of the TRC.

She said one of the functions of the Commission is to investigate or enquire into any allegation of human rights violations adding that when the Commission finds out that there has been a human right violation, it has powers to recommend compensation to victims. Mrs King said the Commission is independent and is not subjected to the control

or direction of any person, authority or government even if such person, authority or government provides material support to the Commission.

Commissioner Joseph Stanley in his contribution said the Commission interacts with NGO's and other organisations working in the interest of human rights. He said they have visited prisons and other detention centres to inspect and report accordingly adding that the Commission has power to intervene in legal proceedings involving any human rights issue.

Paramount Chief of Bombali Shebora chiefdom, Bai Shebora

Kasanga II extended appreciation to the Commission for organizing such programme. He disclosed that rape, early marriage, 'bondo' society and child trafficking are some of the problems they face. He called on government to address the issues as soon as possible.

Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Project Officer, Ibrahim Darany called on parents to encourage children especially girls to go to school. He blamed chiefs for encouraging early marriages. Similar workshops went on in Kambia district

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED OFFICE IN SIERRA LEONE
(UNIOSIL)

Ref.No.UNIOSIL/PIO/101/2007

PRESS RELEASE

**UNIOSIL SUPPORTS REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTING THE TRUTH & RECONCILIATION
COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS IN SIERRA LEONE**

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 19 November 2007 --- The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with UNIOSIL and a number of civil society groups is organizing a Stakeholders Conference on the Status of Implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Recommendations.

This Conference will be held from 19 to 20 November 2007, in Freetown, and is conceptualized around ongoing collective efforts by the Government and people of Sierra Leone and their international partners to disseminate and give greater visibility to the TRC Report, to sensitize the public on its key findings and to facilitate their implementation.

Most importantly, within the context of the post-conflict, nation-building and peace consolidation process currently underway, the Conference is not only to create a forum for interface between the main actors on the TRC but will present the opportunity for all stakeholders to be informed on the recommendations that have been implemented thus far, those still pending and strategize on the way forward.

It is also anticipated that this forum will create the opportunity for greater citizen engagement towards a further strengthening of the legal, judicial, institutional and administrative mechanisms, as well as cultural and democratic values, vital to entrenching the climate conducive to broader respect for, promotion and protection of human rights in Sierra Leone.

It is envisioned that the resolutions reached at this Conference will immensely contribute to greater citizenry interest on the findings of the TRC and further facilitate the implementation of all the recommendations as contained in the TRC Report.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 16 November 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today.

International Clips on West Africa

AP 11/15/2007 12:50:55

New president for diamond-rich Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) - Thousands cheered Thursday as Ernest Bai Koroma was inaugurated as this war-battered country's newest president. He vowed to fight the corruption that has kept diamond-rich Sierra Leone in the ranks of the world's poorest nations. 'I will exercise zero tolerance toward corruption,' the 54-year-old Koroma said.

Local Media – Newspaper

Police Storm Coast Guard Base

(The Analyst)

- Residents of the Coast Guard Base on Bushrod Island, most of them former personnel of the Liberia National Coast Guard and the Armed Forces of Liberia yesterday resisted attempts by members of the Liberia National Police to evict them from the base. About seven officers of the LNP and UNMIL, apparently acting on the orders of the Ministry of National Defense went to the base to have the retired and former personnel of the Coast Guard division of the AFL evicted.

Four Transport Ministry Officials Dismissed

(Daily Observer)

- Four Transport Ministry officials have been dismissed for unauthorized actions and extortion of money from vehicles drivers. Inspectors Christian Cooper, Ralph Jacobs and William Swen were dismissed for setting up road blocks in Kakata and the 15-Gate area. A Transport Ministry release says the inspectors impounded vehicles, removed license plates and extorted money in their unauthorized inspection.

Road Rehabilitation Work Begins

(Daily Observer)

- Government will today formally launch the rehabilitation of the Monrovia-Buchanan Highway and streets in Monrovia. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will grace the ceremony to mark the roads rehabilitation programme to be held in Monrovia. The Ministry of Public Works said it has put in place a traffic management plan in collaboration with the Liberia National Police. In a statement issued by the ministry, vehicles heading to Central Monrovia would travel by way of 19th Street to Russell and Cheeseman Avenues.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

Drug Enforcement Agency Arrests Ex-Soldier for Selling Marijuana

- According to a release, the Drug Enforcement Agency yesterday arrested one Emmanuel Plato, a so-called ex-soldier of the Armed Forces of Liberia for allegedly selling and distributing marijuana at the Fiamah Market in Sinkor. The Agency noted that Emmanuel was

also arrested with 27 wraps of drug valued at LD\$270; a military police helmet and a Motorola handset.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)

Deactivated Soldiers Appreciate Job Creation Initiatives

- An alliance of deactivated security personnel said that it appreciates the initiatives being taken to create jobs but calls for concrete action to settle their arrears. The alliance chairman, Norrison Kanyen told reporters that they would not wave months of arrears owed them by Government.
- Mr. Kanyen assured Government of a peaceful Christmas celebration but called on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to speedily address the issue of the arrears.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)

US-based Law Firm Donates Law Books to Finance Ministry

- The Jim Blake's Law Firm in the United States yesterday donated 14 cartoons of law books to the Ministry of Justice. Mr. Nathan Miller, Program Officer of the International Senior Lawyers Project said that the donation is in appreciation of the hospitality accorded Mr. Blake during his six-week visit to Liberia. According to Mr. Miller, Mr. Blake promised to assist in strengthening the Justice Ministry.
- For his part, Solicitor-General Tiawon Gonglo commended Mr. Blake for the donation and that the Ministry would continue to count on its foreign partners in ensuring improvement in the justice system of post-conflict Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)

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

Associated Press

Monday, 19 November 2007

Former Khmer Rouge leader arrested

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) -- Khieu Samphan, the former Khmer Rouge head of state, was arrested Monday by a U.N.-backed genocide tribunal after being taken from a hospital where he was being treated following a stroke, officials said.

Police escorted Khieu Samphan from a Phnom Penh hospital, where he had been admitted Wednesday. They held his arms for support and led him to a police car, which sped away in a convoy of a half dozen police vehicles.

"Khieu Samphan, the former head of state of Democratic Kampuchea was arrested," said tribunal spokesman Reach Sambath, referring to the official name of Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge regime.

Khieu Samphan's arrest by a U.N.-backed genocide tribunal has been widely expected. The tribunal already has arrested four of his colleagues to face trial for atrocities during the regime's 1975-79 rule that led to the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people.

Justice Initiative

Friday, 16 November 2007

Press Release

Arrests Highlight Need for Reform at Khmer Rouge Court

~ New Report Urges Donors to Lead Improvement of ECCC ~

New York, November 16, 2007—This week's arrest of two high level Khmer Rouge leaders, Ieng Sary and Ieng Thirith, marks a significant step forward for Cambodia's war crimes tribunal, the Open Society Justice Initiative said today.

But in a report released today, the Justice Initiative urges the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) to take immediate action to improve the court's functioning and calls upon donor states and the United Nations to take more assertive action to ensure that needed reform takes place.

"Additional donor funds alone will not contribute to the success of the court," said Robert O. Varenik, the Justice Initiative's acting executive director. "For the court to succeed in its historic task, international donors and the United Nations must take immediate, concrete steps to address shortcomings in the court's administration and leadership."

Ieng Sary and Ieng Thirith, the first husband and wife to be charged by an international court, were arrested at their Phnom Penh home on November 12 and taken into the ECCC's custody. Ieng Sary was deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Democratic Kampuchea during the Khmer Rouge rule between 1975 and 1979. He is charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes. His wife, Ieng Thirith, was minister of social affairs and education and is charged with crimes against humanity.

These arrests come in advance of the ECCC's appeal to donor states for an estimated \$45 million in additional funding to ensure the trials can continue through 2010. They underscore the significant strides the court is making and why it should be supported by the international community. But in its new report, *Critical Issues Surrounding the Fundraising Drive of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia*, available here {http://www.justiceinitiative.org/db/resource2?res_id=103943}, the Justice Initiative urges states to condition future funding on demonstrated results addressing administrative, transparency, and leadership problems at the court.

According to the Justice Initiative's latest report, the ECCC needs to:

- Effectively address corruption allegations, minimize translation backlogs, institute best practices in human resource management, and prepare the courtroom and other physical structures for trial;
- Increase transparency through the more frequent release of public information about the court's operations;
- Develop an active management oversight group to ensure all donor funds are administered effectively and efficiently; and
- Work with a UN-appointed special advisor to the court, to assist with administrative and management reforms and monitor their effectiveness.

"These arrests highlight the urgent need for the ECCC to address crucial issues affecting the court's administrative efficiency and its ability to meet international fair trial standards," said Varenik. "International donors who are supporting the court should link future donations to the court's efforts to address these challenges urgently and effectively."