

**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:

Friday, 19 October 2007

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

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Positive Change
Friday, 19 October 2007

Margai Beats Special Court Prosecution

Erudite Lawyer and Leader of the opposition People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), Charles Francis Margai, has shown his qualities yet again by almost freeing the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) inditees facing serious war crimes charges at the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Moinina Fofanah (CDFs former Director of War) and Allieu Kondewa (CDFs former High Priest) were charged alongside the late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman (CDFs former National Coordinator), who later died in the custody of the court, while awaiting judgment.

Charles Francis Margai



served as Lead Counsel for the Allieu Kondéwa Defense Team, but was also providing professional and techni-

cal assistance to the Defense Team for Moinina Fofanah.

The Prosecution had recommended to the Trial Chamber

Contd. page 10

[Note: Positive Change is the official newspaper of the People's Movement for Democratic Change.]

Margai Beats Special Court Prosecution

From front page

that the accused persons be given long prison terms, but Mr. Margai quickly bulldozed their submission and overturned them to very minimal sentences - much to the frustration of the Prosecution which is now threatening to file in an appeal against the judgment.

The argument Mr. Margai put on was that the CDF was a duly constituted force that contributed in no small way to the re-establishment of the rule of law in the country that was almost becoming a death zone.

The two men are expected to spend less than two more years behind bars, and that would not have been possible had Mr. Margai not been around to defend them.

Colleagues in the legal profession are now more than ever before jittery to stand face-to-face with Mr. Margai in any court appearance, fearing that he would easily bulldoze his way to victory as usual.

Little wonder why scores of clients who have been frustrated by their lawyers are now running after him for representation.

Cotton Tree News
Wednesday, 10 October 2007

Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo



Written by Jamea Lebbie

Wednesday, 10 October 2007



The media in Sierra Leone should ensure that the violence and impunity that visited the country never occur again. Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists and nominee as Minister of Information and Communication was speaking on Tuesday at a one-day media decision makers' discussion forum at the Kimbima Hotel. He was speaking on the topic "Challenges in reporting transitional justice issues in Sierra Leone" He said the TRC was vital for the sustenance of peace in the country that has been torn apart by a violent war. He added that the TRC was relevant because the whole issue of the deliberate destruction of the state, law and order and the violation of human rights should be seen to

be corrected once and for all. Peter Andersen, Spokesperson of the Special Court spoke on the role of the court, its legacy and the way forward. He said the special court was established after lessons learnt from the two international tribunals in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. He said the Special Court in Sierra Leone had achieved what the other two tribunals had not achieved. He added that the legacy of the court was its contribution to transitional justice in Sierra Leone. The BBC World Service Trust organized the forum on the topic "Transitional Justice, Accountability and the role of the media in post Conflict Sierra Leone."

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 18 October 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

10/18/2007 12:18:51

UN chief names new special envoys to DR Congo, Ivory Coast, Liberia

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 18, 2007 (AFP) - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has appointed three new special representatives to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia and Ivory Coast respectively, the world body announced Thursday. Alan Doss of Britain, currently the UN special representative to Liberia, is to take up the same post in DRC, succeeding William Swing of the United States, UN spokeswoman Michele Montas said in a statement. Doss is to be replaced in Liberia by Ellen Loj, Denmark's former UN Ambassador and an ex-chair of the UN Security Council's sanctions committee on Liberia. And Ban named Choi Young-Jin, a former South Korean Ambassador to the UN, as his new special envoy to Ivory Coast, a post left vacant since February after the departure of incumbent Pierre Schori of Sweden.

10/18/2007 11:44:27

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH HOLDS A MEDIA AVAILABILITY WITH LIBERIAN PRESIDENT ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF

Source: Political Transcript Wire Date: October 18, 2007

PRESIDENT BUSH HOLDS A MEDIA AVAILABILITY WITH PRESIDENT JOHNSON SIRLEAF OF LIBERIA, AS RELEASED BY THE WHITE HOUSE

SPEAKERS: PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

PRESIDENT ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF OF LIBERIA

[*] BUSH: It is such an honor to welcome back to the Oval Office the President of our friend and ally, Liberia. Madam President, thanks for coming, and thanks for your very strong spirit and your deep desire to enhance democracy and improve the lives of your people in Liberia. We had a good discussion. I want to emphasize a couple of points that we discussed. First of all, we are committed to helping you relieve your debt. This weekend, IMF will be meeting in Washington, D.C., and it's very important for our friends in the IMF to recognize that debt relief is -- for Liberia is a part of our agenda, and I would hope that they would help you -- help you with debt relief. I think it's important. And so Secretary Paulson will be taking that message to the IMF.

International Clips on West Africa

10/18/2007 03:04:22

Ivory Coast president promises to protect coffee, cocoa sector from corruption

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (Thomson Financial) - Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Ivory Coast, said he would not allow the African country's crucial coffee/cocoa sector, one of its key resources, to become corrupted. Describing coffee-cocoa as 'the biggest part of the Ivory Coast's economy', he told public television the area is not well managed -- it has been shaken by allegations of misappropriations of funds -- but he would not allow it to fester.

AP 10/18/2007 12:08:00

Federal judge orders Sierra Leone detainee released

SAN ANTONIO ___A federal judge has ordered the release of an immigrant from Sierra Leone who has been jailed for nearly a year while fighting deportation. The State Department accuses Samuel Kambo, a fuels analyst for a central Texas utility, of being involved in the summary executions of 29 counter-revolutionaries in his home country. Twice, immigration judges had ordered him released because of a lack of evidence.

Local Media – Newspaper

Liberia Takes 86th Place in World Press Freedom Index

(The News)

- In its recent report, Reporters Without Borders placed Liberia in the 86th position while Eritrea replaced North Korea at the bottom of 169 countries sampled for practicing press freedom.
- The report pointed out that while Liberian journalists endured assaults in the past, the ushering in as President of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was seen as a breakthrough for journalists, and expected to mark a new era for journalists who experienced suppression during the reign of despots like Samuel Doe and Charles Taylor.

Newspaper Stumbles on Extradition Treaty Between Liberia and the US

(The News)

- According to its front-page story, *The News* newspaper said that it stumbled on a "1937 Extradition Treaty" between Liberia and the United States. The paper added that having ratified the document in 1939, it was only valid for 5 years and that it would have been by 1944. However, based on Article 13 of the same Treaty, the Supreme Court of Liberia was of the opinion that the agreement was still valid. Therefore, a Magisterial Court in Monrovia on Tuesday ordered the extradition to the United States of two Liberians for prosecution for money-laundering and health-care fraud.

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

Elections Commission Receives Applications for By-Elections

- In an interview yesterday, National Elections Commission Information Officer Bobby Livingstone said that the Commission has received and opened 11 applications out of 14 persons who declared their interest in the Gbarpolu County Senatorial by-election slated for December 4. He said that the 11 applications have been opened for vetting, inviting claims and objections from the public after which the Commission's Board of Directors will publish the final list of candidates for the poll which would cost the Commission more than US\$300,000.

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

Pro-UP Media Team Objects Political Parties' Position on Appointment of Mayors

- The spokesman of the so-called Rapid Media Response Team of the ruling Unity Party, Mr. Nyan Tuan-Nyan thought the Liberty Party and the Congress for Democratic Change erred by claiming that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf violated the Liberian Constitution when she appointed the City Mayor of Zwedru and asserted that the Liberian leader acted in line with the Law. *(Also reported on SKY FM, Truth FM, Star Radio and ELBS)*

Government Gives Fraudulent Businesses Ultimatum

- Speaking to reporters, Commerce Minister Frances Johnson- Morris declared that the Ministry gave a week's ultimatum to the Liberty Trading Company, Hassaou Business Center and Aroun Brothers to pay into Government revenue excess money generated from the sale of copybooks above the stipulated price.
(Also reported on SKY FM, Truth FM, Star Radio and ELBS)

Vice President Boakai Refutes Media Report

- Liberia's Vice President Joseph Boakai said that the statement attributed to him by media institutions and human rights groups that the Unity Party was not elected to provide jobs was taken out of context. In a release, he clarified that his true statement was that the Unity Party Government was not elected just to create jobs for its citizens but to step up the reform agenda so as to transform the Liberian society.
(Also reported on SKY FM, Truth FM, Star Radio and ELBS)

Gender Mainstreaming and Analysis Workshop Opens in Nimba

- Correspondents said that a workshop on gender mainstreaming and analysis focusing on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse opened in Nimba County with UNDP National Consultant Othello James assuring that the training would enhance the skills and knowledge of county authorities on integrating gender issues into the development process.
(Also reported on SKY FM, Truth FM, Star Radio and ELBS)

Muslims Challenged to Preach Peace and Reconciliation

- According to Radio Veritas, Grand Cape Mount County Senator Abel Massallay challenged Muslims in Liberia to reflect on the Religion by preaching peace and reconciliatory messages, adding that by doing so, they would be considered as God's true servants by giving God's message to the common people.
(Also reported on SKY FM, Truth FM, Star Radio and ELBS)

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.

United Nations

Thursday, 18 October 2007

Congolese war crimes suspect turned over to International Criminal Court

18 October 2007 – The International Criminal Court today announced that suspected war criminal Germain Katanga, former senior commander of the militia group Force de Résistance Patriotique en Ituri (FRPI) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), was surrendered to its detention centre at The Hague.

The latest suspect joined Congolese suspect Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, who will be tried on crimes relating to the recruitment of children as soldiers in what is widely viewed as a milestone in international attempts to fight immunity on the issue.

In a statement today, ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said more action can be expected. “We are selecting a third case. The DRC is still engulfed in violence. There is forced displacement of people, sexual violence of shocking brutality, and killings. It must stop. Perpetrators must know they will be prosecuted. The ICC is at work in the DRC.”

In sealed documents submitted to the judges on 22 June, the Office of the Prosecutor presented evidence against Germain Katanga and charged him with three counts of Crimes against Humanity and six counts of War Crimes.

“Today we are prosecuting Germain Katanga, leader of a militia group and who we allege is personally responsible for the brutal crimes his forces committed,” said Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor in charge of the Prosecution of the case.

“His name will forever be associated with the name of Bogoro: an ordinary village, which he ordered fighters under his command to 'wipe out.' Hundreds were slaughtered. Women were forced into sexual slavery.”

Between January 2002 and December 2003, more than 8,000 civilians died and more than half a million people were displaced from their homes in Ituri as a result of this conflict. In today's statement, the Prosecutor said evidence will show how civilians were the target of massive crimes in the course of the conflict in the Ituri region of the DRC between the FRPI forces of Germain Katanga and other armed militia groups.

The charges include the attack on Bogoro on the morning of 24 February 2003, members of Germain Katanga's militia entered the village and began an indiscriminate killing spree, the ICC said. At least 200 civilians died in the attack, while survivors were imprisoned in a building filled with corpses. Women were abducted and sexually enslaved. The village was pillaged by the FRPI forces.

The Prosecutor alleges that Germain Katanga is responsible for Murders, Inhumane acts and Sexual Enslavement at Bogoro village, constituting Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes, and for Cruel Treatment at Bogoro village constituting a War Crime. The Prosecution's evidence will also show that Germain Katanga committed the War Crime of using Children to Participate Actively in Hostilities, the War Crime of launching an Attack against the Civilian Population of Bogoro village and the War Crime of Pillaging the village of Bogoro.

Also known as “Simba,” the 29-year old suspect in 2003 emerged as the top commander of a group which began calling itself the FRPI, the ICC said. Later in 2003, he assumed the title of FRPI President. On 11 December 2004, he was appointed to the rank of General in the DRC Army. He was then arrested by the DRC authorities early March 2005, together with eight other militiamen from various Ituri armed groups, in relation to an attack against peacekeepers serving with the UN peacekeeping mission (MONUC) in Ituri on 25 February 2005 in which nine peacekeepers were killed, and sent to the CPRK detention centre in Kinshasa.

The Office of the Prosecutor began investigating crimes committed in the DRC in June 2004. The Prosecution's first case in the DRC is against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo for the crimes of enlisting and conscripting children under 15 and using them to participate actively in armed hostilities in Ituri. The Court's Pretrial Chamber I has confirmed the charges against him; he will be the first person to stand trial at the ICC.

United Nations

Monday, 15 October 2007

More international cooperation crucial, say UN judges investigating atrocities

15 October 2007 – Senior officials from the United Nations courts set up to try those responsible for the 1994 Rwandan genocide and the atrocities committed during the Balkan wars today appealed for bolstered cooperation from Member States to apprehend perpetrators of these horrendous crimes and bring them to justice.

The Presidents of both the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) expressed frustration that several fugitives are still at large, as they presented the reports of their respective bodies to the General Assembly.

Although two of six longstanding fugitives of the ICTY have been apprehended in the 12-month period from 1 August 2006 to 31 July this year, several key fugitives – Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic – have yet to be arrested.

“We do not believe that nobody knows where these fugitives are and consider the continued failure to effect their arrest... to be an affront to justice and the rule of law over impunity,” said ICTY President Fausto Pocar.

“Indeed, that failure stands in contradiction to the very principles that were proclaimed by the international community and upon which the establishment of the International Tribunal was based,” he added.

ICTR President Dennis Byron also urged the assistance of the international community to secure the arrests of the 15 accused still at large.

“The nations represented today must recognize the risks posed to achieving international justice if they remain fugitives,” he declared.

Both judges also underscored the problem in retaining their respective staffs, calling for support for retention policies.

The Hague-based ICTY, Judge Pocar noted, is “operating at unprecedented speed with seven trials running simultaneously in its three court rooms,” and its “efficiency results directly from the commitment and dedication of the individuals who carry out its activities.”

However, given that working at the ICTY is “not without its pressures,” he said there are problems in retaining staff. In anticipation of its work wrapping up in 2010, “talented members of the staff are leaving the International Tribunal for more attractive employment in other institutions dedicated to the cause of international justice, including on offers from other UN bodies.”

At the ICTR, based in Arusha, Tanzania, “staff departures are on the rise” and the vacancy rate – reaching 20 per cent for professional staff and above as of the end of this September – is also increasing, Judge Byron said.

The situation is being exacerbated by the impending close of the Tribunal as staff seek more stable jobs, and “unless something is done to slow down this trend there is the likelihood that this could negatively impact on the completion strategy,” he stated.

Under the completion strategy that the tribunals reached with the Security Council, they are aiming to complete all trials at first instance by the end of next year and all appeals by the end of 2010.

Institute of War and Peace Reporting

Tuesday, 16 October 2007

Opinion

Lubanga Just a 'Small Fish'

Institute for War & Peace Reporting (London)

By Eugène Bakama Bope

Kinshasa

The International Criminal Court, ICC, is considering the possibility of holding some of the Thomas Lubanga trial in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC. This praiseworthy initiative has some advantages but also difficulties.

Among the advantages is the necessity to bring international justice closer to the population concerned by international crimes. It is in the country where crimes have been committed that the victims, suspects and evidence are located. It is therefore legitimate and easier that justice be rendered where the crimes have been committed. Also, holding trials in the Congo educates the whole society and allows the work of the ICC to be made credible.

Lubanga was the president of the Union of Congolese Patriots, UPC - a militia whose objective was to protect the interest of the Hema ethnic group in the Ituri region. This group was involved in ethnic massacres, acts of torture and rapes.

He was transferred to the ICC on March 17 and charged with war crimes, including the recruitment of child soldiers. Judges confirmed the charges in January, and we are now expecting the trial.

The ICC will have to make all necessary efforts to explain to the inhabitants of the DRC the important legal procedures which are currently taking place in The Hague.

So why not do that by holding part of the trial in the Congo itself?

For one thing, the security situation in the northeast could lead the ICC to give up this idea to organise part of the Lubanga trial here.

It would be difficult, perhaps impossible, for the Congolese government to ensure the security of all parties during a trial in Ituri, even with the intervention of MONUC, the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. How can the victims and witnesses be protected?

That's why some observers propose that the trial be held in the capital city Kinshasa.

The arrest and transfer of Lubanga to the ICC triggered great hopes for victims in particular and the Congolese population in general.

However, Lubanga is for us a "small fish" compared to others who continue to enjoy impunity in the Congo.

The "big fish" are not bothered by international or national justice. This is the reason why the population is sceptical about the ICC.

Indeed, the Congolese people hope that the big fish will be held accountable for their deeds before the ICC, but the reality in the field causes doubts.

Crimes were committed in Ituri with the blessing of some of the militia leaders of the region. All these persons are not involved in any legal procedure so far and some of them are even members of the new national army.

Human Rights Watch said in its 2002 Ituri report that acts of cannibalism, rape and massacres were committed by armed groups notably Ngili and Lendu militias, Hema forces of the UPC, and the RCD-N (Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie- National) and the RCD-ML (Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie - Mouvement de Liberation).

The ICC still hasn't issued any arrest warrants against Lendu militia leaders, despite their alleged involvement in a number of serious crimes. And the public is still waiting, after three years, for the names of other people who could be targeted by international arrest warrants.

"There is no justice anymore in our country", is a cry that constantly comes from the people. What stability, what future can be expected in a nation where citizens do not trust justice anymore?

It is clear that to build a democratic and peaceful society, the DRC will have to overcome huge challenges. One of the most important will be to fight against the tradition of impunity.

The question for the ICC is whether it will be able to help with those challenges ahead by hitting higher and harder.

Eugène Bakama Bope is the president of the organisation Friends of Law in the Congo.

Hirondelle News Agency

Wednesday, 17 October 2007

The End of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) Mandate is a "Daunting Challenge"

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) must complete within 15 months the trials of 42 currently held defendants and arrest and try 15 fugitives, which constitutes a "daunting challenge", stated Monday, before the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, the president of the tribunal, Denny Byron.

Presenting the 12th assessment of the tribunal, the president made the point that between July 2006 and June 2007 five judgments in first instance had been delivered. Five other judgments are awaited for the beginning of next year; and 22 persons are currently on trial and six others should start in 2008, he said. Since its creation in 1994, to try the organizers of the genocide in Rwanda, the ICTR has tried 33 persons. It has arrested 75 out of 90 that have been indicted.

"The tribunal might be judged as a success or failure by certain political criteria", he said. "But there are legal criteria by which it must be judged as a court" Judge Byron clearly stated. "While the tribunal has introduced measures to speed up trials, it is critically important to ensure that essential fair trials are not prejudiced so that no reasonable onlooker could regard the process or the end result as unfair", underlined Byron.

President Byron in his speech made only one allusion to the completion strategy which the ICTR has adopted for the last few years and which, in accordance with the wishes of the Security Council, schedules the end of first instance trials for 31 December 2008. He also briefly evoked the transfers to national courts, planned to resolve the case of the last defendants. He, however, explicitly did not ask for an extension of the tribunal's mandate. But the defendants at large, if they are arrested, will have to be tried before this tribunal, he said.

The ICTR judgments and the jurisprudence which it creates influences international justice and contributes to justice for the people of Rwanda and the Great Lakes region, also explained Judge Byron. The ICTR president also insisted to the General Assembly that the personnel of the tribunal be incited to remain until the end. According to him, 20 % of the personnel have already left.

Reuters

Thursday, 18 October 2007

Khmer Rouge deputy picks Dutch defense lawyer

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) - Khmer Rouge "Brother Number Two," Nuon Chea, has chosen a Dutch academic with experience in war crimes trials in Bosnia and Sierra Leone as his defense lawyer, Cambodia's "Killing Fields" tribunal said on Thursday.

Michiel Pestman, a partner in an Amsterdam-based law firm and university lecturer, will represent Pol Pot's right-hand man jointly with his Cambodian lawyer, Son Arun.

"I will do everything that I can to ensure that our client receives a fair trial," he said in a statement released by the \$56 million tribunal on the estimated 1.7 million victims of Pol Pot's four-year reign of terror in the 1970s.

"It is essential that he has a proper defense."

Pestman represented Bosnia at the International Court of Justice in its genocide case against Serbia, and from 2003 defended Moinina Fofana, a Sierra Leone pro-government militia leader convicted of war crimes in August.

Now well into his 80s, Nuon Chea has pleaded innocent to charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, although the ultra-Maoist regime's chief jailer has said he received direct orders from Nuon Chea to kill hundreds of people.

The trial, conducted under Cambodia's essentially French legal system, is not expected to begin until well into next year.

Agence France-Presse
 Wednesday, 17 October 2007

Jailed KRouge leader Nuon Chea appeals detention

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The senior surviving Khmer Rouge leader on Wednesday appealed his detention by a UN-backed tribunal in Cambodia that will prosecute him for his alleged role in the genocidal regime, officials said.



Nuon Chea, who has been charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity, had previously said the tribunal's detention center was comfortable, his lawyer Son Arun told AFP.

"But now he has changed his mind... we cannot say why he wants to be released on bail, but it is his will," the lawyer said.

Tribunal spokesman Reach Sambath confirmed that Nuon Chea had filed a bail request with the court's co-investigating judges.

The 81-year-old man's family had earlier demanded that he be released into their care, saying they were concerned about his health.

Nuon Chea has suffered at least one stroke and has high blood pressure, raising fears he could die before going to trial.

Son Arun said Wednesday that his client's health had not changed. He also said Nuon Chea had hired lawyer Michiel Pestman, who has extensive experience in international war crime proceedings, as his foreign co-counsel.

Nuon Chea, who was Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot's closest deputy and was the alleged architect of the regime's sweeping execution policies, was arrested at his home in the former rebel stronghold of Pailin, near the border with Thailand, in mid-September.

He is the second former Khmer Rouge leader to be arrested by the tribunal. Khmer Rouge prison chief Duch was detained in July.

Three other people, whose names have not been made public, are under investigation for crimes committed during the communist regime's 1975-1979 rule.

Up to two million people died of starvation and overwork, or were executed under the Khmer Rouge, which abolished religion, schools and currency, and exiled millions to vast farms in its bid to create an agrarian utopia.

Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot died in 1998.

A tribunal to try the regime's top leaders got under way last year after some ten years in the making. Trials are expected in 2008.