

**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:

Tuesday, 2 October 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Awoko

Tuesday, 2 October 2007

Special Court Chief Prosecutor visits Port Loko

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court of Sierra Leone - Stephen Rapp has concluded a one-day visit to the Northern District of Port Loko.

The visit was organized by the Port Loko branch of the prosecution outreach section of the Special Court, with the aim of providing information on the proceedings of the court to the people of the area.

He was received by the Moforki Chiefdom Regent Chief- Pa Tamba Kamara and accorded warm welcome at the Port Loko Town Barray, where a galaxy of local dignitaries and other stakeholders were in attendance.

The Chief Prosecutor informed the gathering about war crimes, convictions in the CDF Trials and said the trial chamber has convicted Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, whilst the case against the third accused-Sam Hinga Norman was halted after his death in February this year. He further explained how the former AFRC leaders were sentenced for their part in the war - 50 years for Tamba Brima, 45 years for Brima Bazzy Kamara and 50 years for Santigie Borbor Kanu. On the RUF case Stephen Rapp said Foady Sankoh has died, while Sam Bokarie was killed by Charles Taylor's men in Liberia.

He said the trial of Issa Sesay and others will continue next Thursday, and that the witnesses to testify against Mr Charles Taylor will be ready against the 1st January 2008, adding that the court is devoted to bring in justice to those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30th November 1996.

Premier News
Tuesday, 2 October 2007

Special Court Preview

INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth Annual report of the Special court for Sierra Leone, prepared pursuant to Article 25 of the statute of the Special Court (Statute), which states the President of Special Court shall submit annual report on the operation and activities of the Court to the Secretary-General and to the Government of Sierra Leone.

The report covers the period from January 2006 to May 2007, when the 9th plenary meeting of the judges took place in Freetown.

The report examined the activities of all sections of the court, including chambers, the Registry (including the Office of the Principal defender) and the office of the Prosecutor (OTP).

Drawing upon the previous Annual Reports, it also reflects the significant steps taken by the court during this period in respect of creating, defining and implementing policies to ensure a sustainable legacy.

The report will explain the court's funding situation and illustrate the work undertaken in cooperation with the management committee during this period in relation to its funding and administration duties.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was created pursuant to Security Council resolution 1315 of 14 August 2000 by an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone dated 16 January 2002, to which the statute is annexed.

The Special Court is a unique institution in that it is located in the territory where the alleged crimes were committed and is funded on the basis of voluntary contribution from interested States and foundations, rather than assessed contributions.

The reporting period saw the Special Court achieve several key milestones in the completion of its mandate.

The Court also met significant challenges and

prepared for what promise too to be the most intense period of the court's lifespan as the Taylor trial commences in the Hague and the Court's operations in Freetown begin to wind down in accordance with its Completion Strategy.

The trial stages of two cases have been completed and a third case is at an advanced stage. The CDF trial before Trial Chamber I was closed on 30 November 2006, and the AFRC cases were closed in December 2006 before Trial Chamber II.

The trial judgment in the CDF case is expected to be delivered in July 2007. On 14 May 2007, Trial Chamber II ordered that the trial judgment in the AFRC case shall be pronounced on 20 June 2007.

The Defence phase of the RUF trial began on 2 May 2007 before Trial Chamber

The apprehension and transfer of Charles Taylor represents a watershed in the history of the Court. The 11-count indictment against Charles Taylor was amended on 16 March 2006, and alleges that he was at the head of a joint criminal enterprise responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

On 3 April 2006, Charles Taylor made his initial appearance before Justice Richard Lussick. He pleaded not guilty to all counts in the indictment.

Immediately following the transfer of Charles Taylor to the custody of the Special Court on 29 March 2006, the President of the Court sent a letter to the Government of the Netherlands requesting him to be tried in The Hague.

The Dutch Government responded to the request favourably.

On 13 April 2006, the Registry immediately concluded a memorandum of Understanding with the ICC regarding administrative arrangements.

This agreement allows the Special Court to use the courtroom and detention facilities of the ICC for the purposes of the Taylor trial.

Although the trial will be held in The Hague, the Special Court retains exclusive jurisdiction over the trial.

The Special Court also retains full legal control and authority over Charles Taylor and assumes full legal responsibility for his custody.

All operations in The Hague will be supported from Freetown and all costs associated with the trial will be borne exclusively by the Special Court.

On 16 June 2006, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1688 which paved the way for the court to conclude a headquarters agreement with the Dutch Government on 19 June 2006.

On that same day, the President of the Court ordered Taylor proceedings to be conducted in The Hague and the accused was accordingly transferred on 20 June 2006. On 12 March 2007, the president

dismissed a Defence motion for reconsideration of the order changing venue.

On 7 May 2007, a Pre-trial Conference was conducted and the trial is set to begin with open remarks on 4 June 2007.

The presentation of the evidence will begin on the 25 June 2007. The trial is expected to last for 18 months (end of 2008) judgments in the course of 2009.

The Hague sub-office has been established and is fully operational.

The Court has given several steps to ensure that the Taylor trial in The Hague remains accessible to the people of Sierra Leone and the West African region.

Journalists from Sierra Leone and Liberia will be present in The Hague and all radio programming produced will be disseminated throughout the two countries by a project of the BBC World Service Trust and Search for Common Ground. Additionally, civil society members from Sierra Leone will travel to The Hague on a periodic basis to witness the trial first hand.

Premier News
Tuesday, 2 October 2007

CDF Special Court Sentencing Today

Chief, Press and Public Affairs Officer of the Special Court for Sierra Leone Peter Anderson has disclosed that the court will now pronounce sentence on two kamajor convicts on Tuesday October 8 2007.

The sentencing which had earlier been fixed for Monday October 8 was postponed to today because of requests made by the defense lawyers. He said Moinina Fofanah and

Allieu Kondewa with case No. SCSL 2004-14-J will face Justice Benjamin Muanga Itoe, Justice Bankole Thompson and Justice Pierre Boutet in trial chamber No.1 for

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Special Court

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delivery of sentence.

Prosecutor of the SCSL, Stephen Rapp also told Premier News that in seeking to leave a tangible legacy, the Special Court is motivated by several factors. He explained that as a court operating

in a context such as Sierra Leone, the prosecution of individuals must be pursued along with other transitional justice strategies such as the development of national judicial institutions in order to achieve the desired objective of

strengthening the rule of law and maintaining peace and security in the country.

He pointed out that his office has successfully worked on three sets of trials in Freetown, concluding the trial phases of the CDF and AFRC cases within a week of each other in

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Special Court

From Page 6

late November and early December and in August, the Prosecution closed its case in the RUF trial.

It will be recalled that Stephen Rapp was appointed early this year by the UN Secretary General to replace Desmond Da Silva who served in the role for a

year.

Despite these successes, many Sierra Leoneans are skeptical about the usefulness of the Special Court. They point to the fact that many of those who committed the atrocities are walking in the streets as freemen and only a few people have been tried.

Contrary to this widely

held view, the National Director of Amnesty International Sierra Leone, Brima Sheriff, believes the Special Court for Sierra Leone is a good legacy. He argues that thousand of Sierra Leoneans were killed, maimed and raped during the war, and that bringing to trial those who did this will be a step in the right direction for the dispensation of justice.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 1 October 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

Sierra Leone restricts travel of ex-officials for corruption probe

FREETOWN, Oct 1, 2007 (AFP) - Sierra Leone's two-week-old government said Monday it would restrict officials from the previous administration from leaving the country while it carries out a department-wide corruption probe. Everyone from ex-cabinet ministers to state company chiefs will require police clearance to travel abroad while a 60-strong team of experts carries out an audit of the last government, officials said. Sierra Leone's newly-elected president, Ernest Bai Koroma, was sworn in on September 17 after storming to office vowing to stem widespread corruption. The outgoing government of Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, in office for 10 years, is blamed for widespread corruption and economic mismanagement in the resource-rich but desperately impoverished west African country.

Envoy Wants More Engagement

Kae Matundu-Tjiparuro

Windhoek, Oct 01, 2007 (New Era/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Nigeria is striving towards more engagement in concrete economic projects between her people and Namibia. This entails, among others, increased direct trade links between the two brotherly countries especially in fish, salt and other agricultural products, as well as increased exchange of knowledge in animal husbandry. To give impetus to this the Nigerian High Commissioner to Namibia thinks it is imperative for the two countries to convene urgently the 3rd session of the Namibia-Nigeria Joint Commission that would fashion out bankable projects to actualize economic dreams to their mutual benefit. The High Commissioner, Prince Adegboyega Christopher Ariyo, is determined to push this agenda during his ambassadorial tenure in Namibia. This is part of concrete economic projects that the High Commissioner wishes to promote that also includes establishment of an oil refinery and supply of petroleum products. Mr. Ariyo shared his vision of an intense bilateral economic cooperation with Namibia on the eve of the 47th independence anniversary of this African economic giant. He wants to see more engagement between the two countries on the economic front, especially in view of the fact that hitherto this bilateral economic engagement has not been as intense as it could be. Regionally, the country has been involved in peace-keeping efforts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Sudan. However, its involvement in international affairs has not been confined to West Africa alone and neither has it been a new preoccupation.

Local Media – Newspaper

UNMIL Renovates School for Christian and Muslim Children

(The Informer, Liberian Express, Public Agenda and Heritage)

- A school building rehabilitated by the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to cater for about 1,500 Christian and Muslim children has been handed over to a community in the Sawegbeh, on the western outskirts of Monrovia.
- The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance, Mr. Jordan Ryan who served as key speaker stressed the importance of education in Liberia's development.

- Mr. Ryan said it was now time the Ministry of Education takes the responsibility to make sure the school works well and expressed the optimism that the school would be a "beacon of hope" for those interested in joining the Islamic and Christian religions together in peace.
- Education Minister, Dr. Joseph Korto said one of the main priorities of the government during this recovery process is to provide access to education for young people.

Peacekeepers Launch Clean Up Campaign at key markets

(The Inquirer)

- The Nigerian Contingent of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) over the weekend launched a massive clean-up campaign in the Red Light Market in Paynesville and the Duala Market on the Bushrod Island. The campaign was among several activities marking the 47th independence anniversary of Federal Republic of Nigeria on today, 1 October.
- Speaking to a team of reporters shortly after the exercise, the Commander of Sector One, Olayemi Abdoye said his contingent would do whatever it takes to assist Liberia in its rebuilding process. According to him, over 100 soldiers from a Nigerian Battalion (NIBATT 13) took part in the campaign which is intended to give the markets a face-lift.

Clergyman Ask Liberians to Keep Baccus Dream Alive

(New Democrat, The Informer, Liberian Express, Public Agenda, The Inquirer, Heritage, The Analyst and Daily Observer)

- The media reports that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was among hundreds of Liberians who attended the funeral service of the late veteran politician, Gabriel Baccus Matthews at the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia at the weekend.
- In an official Gazette, the government recounted the dedicated and committed services the late Baccus rendered the country in various capacities he served in government. The statement noted that by his passing, the government and people of Liberia have lost a Statesman and an astute politician. In a funeral discourse, Catholic Prelate, Father Robert Tikpor described the late Baccus as a lone voice in the wilderness, whose footprints will forever remain enshrined in the Liberian political history. Father Tikpor said the death of the fallen political activist should serve as a rallying point to unite all Liberians. Speaking on the theme "Mission Accomplished," Father Tikpor paid tribute to the fallen politician for his advocacy in bringing about multiparty democracy in the country.

Vice President Boakai Renews Call for Debt Relief

(New Democrat, The Informer and Liberian Express)

- Vice President Joseph Boakai has told world leaders attending the United Nations 62nd General Assembly of the United Nations that Liberia continues to be burdened by huge debts owed bilateral and multilateral creditors. In his address to the Assembly he renewed his government's plea for international empathy and consideration of the country's debt cancellation request.
- In a dispatch from New York, the Vice President said servicing Liberia's debt which is estimated at US\$ 3.7 billion remains a priority of the government but stressed that the government's capacity to make payment is hampered by severe resource challenges arising out of nearly two decades of civil conflict.

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

Key Development and Investment Bank Opens Branch in Rural Liberia

- At the opening in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, of a branch of the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment, the Bank's President Francis Dennis announced that plans were underway for the institution to relocate its headquarters to its new complex in Sinkor. He added that the Bank will provide services including saving and checking accounts as well as loans to its customers.

President Sirleaf Congratulates Countries on Independence Anniversaries

According to correspondents, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said Liberians join the friendly people of China to celebrate another milestone in the nation's history and hope that the bonds of friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries will continue.

- In a message to Nigerian President Umaru Yura'adua, the Liberian leader conveyed sentiments of best wishes on behalf of the people of Liberia and their deep gratitude for the heroic and pivotal role Nigeria played in restoring peace and security to Liberia. While for Guinea, she extended to President Lansana Conteh and Guineans her warmest felicitation and hoped that as Guineans celebrate their 49th anniversary, the two countries will continue to work for peace and stability in the region.

Journalists Asked to Officially Complain of Alleged Police Brutality

- Correspondents said that Information Minister Laurence Bropleh asked journalists who claimed they were beaten by Government Security officials at the Roberts International Airport when Sierra Leonean President Ernest Bai Koroma visited Liberia, to officially reduce their complaints into writing to allow the Government to investigate and deal appropriately with such security officers in keeping with Law.
- Minister Bropleh assured that he would personally ensure the dismissal of any security officer who would be guilty of beating any journalists, specifically calling on BBC Correspondent Jonathan Paylayleh who alleged that he was slapped, to identify the security officer who committed the act for prompt.

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.

BBC Online

Tuesday, 2 October 2007

UN warning on Cambodia tribunal

By **Guy De Launey**

BBC News, Phnom Penh

A United Nations report criticising the Cambodian administration of the Khmer Rouge trials has been made public.

The report says the special courts are employing unqualified staff at inflated salaries, without a proper recruitment process.

It recommends that the UN pull out of the process if changes are not made.

The courts are probing allegations of genocide by the Khmer Rouge. More than one million people are thought to have died during the regime's 1975-79 rule.



More than a million people died under the Khmer Rouge

'Unbalanced account'

The audit says the courts are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on staff who should not have been employed.

It described more than 50 as "excess" hirings beyond the original budget and it said that more than half of the courts' Cambodian employees did not have the required qualifications or experience.

All Cambodian staff contracts should be cancelled and the recruitment process re-started from scratch.

The United Nations Development Programme says that "serious consideration should be given to withdrawing from the project", if the Cambodian administration refuses to address its concerns.

In response, the Cambodian side has called the audit an "unbalanced account" and its recommendations "out of proportion".

It says that great achievements have been made despite major difficulties and that many problems could have been averted with more assistance from the UN.

The Open Society Justice Initiative, which is monitoring the courts, has welcomed the report's publication.

But the organisation said it was disappointed that the report had not looked into other allegations of corruption.

The Justice Initiative claimed in February that Cambodian staff were paying part of their salaries to superiors in return for being hired.

KHMER ROUGE TRIBUNAL
 Will try cases of genocide and crimes against humanity
 Five judges (three Cambodian) sit in trial court
 Cases decided by majority
 Maximum penalty is life imprisonment
 Budget of \$56.3m

Voice of America

Tuesday, 2 October 2007

Rwanda Government Sets Conditions to Restore Relations With France

By Peter Clotey
Washington, D.C.

Rwanda's government says it will only restore normal diplomatic relations with France, if France addresses concerns raised by Rwanda before ties between the two countries went sour. This comes after France reportedly said Monday it was in exploratory talks with Kigali on restoring diplomatic links. Rwanda severed ties with France in November, last year, after a French judge called for Rwanda's President Paul Kagame to stand trial for alleged complicity in the death of his predecessor in April 1994, which spiraled an event that unleashed the country's genocide. Scores of ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus lost their lives in the fighting.

From the capital, Kigali, Rwandan Foreign Minister Charles Murigande tells reporter Peter Clotey that Rwanda wants to live in peace and harmony with all nations on earth.

"I think we've been saying repetitively, that there are reasons that led Rwanda to sever relationship with France. And we shall have to sit down and go through all these reasons and see what France is ready to do to address those pending issues," Murigande explained.

He reiterated Rwanda's position on the rationale behind the move in cutting diplomatic ties with France.

"We believe unless they (France) address that past baggage, we wouldn't be building a strong relationship for the future. So that is why we shall have to look back critically at what the relationship between France and Rwanda has been, and what went wrong. And there should be a commitment to avoid such past mistakes," he noted.

Murigande explained some of the conditions set by the Kigali government for restoring diplomatic ties with Paris.

"We stated clearly when we cut off relationship that Rwanda was willing to have normal relationship with France on condition that the attitude of France vis-à-vis Rwanda exhibited in the past change. And if that is to happen, we wouldn't have any problem to have excellent relationship with France. That is our desire. We desire to live in excellent relationship with every country on this planet," Murigande said.

He said he recently had a very positive meeting with the French foreign minister at the United Nations.

"We had an excellent meeting, very cordial, and they know what is our bottom line. And they are looking at ways of addressing these issues when their mission came here to meet with us (some time ago)," he said.