

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Friday, August 20, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Cokorioko website (formerly Daily News Inquirer)

Peter Halloran, the Special Court Investigator, who is in trouble for allegedly trying to debauch the morals of a child, has finally been charged with Carnal Knowledge. Our reporter, Olu Faulkner, reports on the court case and relates how it was discovered that Halloran was allegedly sleeping in the same bed with the 13-year-old child, after she was hired by him to be a domestic worker on the recommendation of her elder brother, who was Halloran's Yard Boy.

Special Court Worker Charged With Sexual Misconduct

By Olu Faulkner in Freetown

August 20, 2004

An employee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has been charged with sexual misconduct by the police. According to a press release issued by the court on Wednesday, August 18, 2004, Mr. Peter Halloran, who is fifty-six years old, was alleged to have involved in a sex act with a minor some time in June this year.

When news of his act broke out, the Registrar of the Special Court, Robin Vincent, immediately suspended Mr. Halloran, and called for the formation of a Board of Enquiry comprising senior staff "who were independent of his section" to investigate the matter.

The release further explained that the Registrar also notified the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Brima Acha Kamara about the allegation and his proposed action. "based on the information and statements presented to the Board of Enquiry, it was concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support the allegation against Mr. Halloran," the statement read. However, police interviewed and later arrested Mr. Halloran on July 26th, and even though he was not taken into custody, he voluntarily remained in Freetown pending further investigations.

Emphasizing the cooperation of the Special Court with the police, the statement reiterated that copy of the internal report, together with all supporting documents were made available in order to expedite the police's own investigation. However, the Special Court's Registrar stressed that inasmuch as the Court does not condone any form of misconduct by its employees, Mr. Halloran has always maintained his innocence, and that he should be presumed to be innocent "while the charge against him is subjected to the judicial process".

Mr. Peter Halloran, the Investigations Commander at the Special Court, was accused of having sexual relations with a thirteen-year old girl whose elder brother was working as a gardener in his residence at Wilberforce village in Freetown.

According to some sources, the elder brother was asked to find a nanny for Mr. Halloran, and he brought his younger sister, who it is alleged, slept with him on the first night of work during which he fondled the girl's breasts and allegedly performed lewd acts on her.. This act continued for some time until a female worker in the house became suspicious, and had to interview the girl who acknowledged that she had been sleeping with Mr. Halloran on the same bed.

The matter was reported to the Special Court which immediately instituted a commission of enquiry. This commission did not however found Mr. Halloran wanting, but the case was transferred to the Sierra Leone Police for further investigations.

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Child sex charges for UN cop

By Padraic Murphy

August 20, 2004

A SENIOR Victorian police officer working for the United Nations in Africa has been charged with child sex offences after a fellow investigator allegedly discovered a 13-year-old girl in his bedroom.

Superintendent Peter "Prong" Halloran, who took leave from Victoria Police earlier this year to work as a war crimes investigator in Sierra Leone, has been charged with carnal knowledge involving the 13-year-old girl he employed as a housekeeper.

The Australian has confirmed that Mr Halloran was suspended from his position with the UN's Special Court in June after a female officer, believed to be Australian, discovered the girl drinking tea in his bedroom early one morning.

The female officer is believed to have encouraged the girl to give a statement to local police, and then complained to her superiors.

According to a report in Sierra Leone's *Concord Times* newspaper, Mr Halloran, 56, met the alleged victim earlier this year after approaching a gardener at the UN's Special Court in Freetown, telling him he needed a house girl.

The man offered his 13-year-old sister after Mr Halloran agreed to pay for her tuition fees until she graduated from university, as well as paying her family about \$150 a month.

The paper claims police had difficulty pursuing the assault allegations because the girl's family refused to co-operate, and even wrote a letter of apology to Mr Halloran.

The paper also claims the alleged victim told police she was sexually assaulted by Mr Halloran. "He plays with my breasts and makes love to me at night," the girl is reported to have told police.

The allegations were initially investigated by Special Court officials but they could not substantiate the allegations.

Mr Halloran was only charged on Wednesday after the investigation was formally taken over by Sierra Leone police last month.

Mr Halloran, who is now in custody awaiting trial, faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

The former head of Vicpol's homicide squad and protective services unit denies the allegations. Two of the alleged victim's brothers have also been charged with obstructing the course of justice and procurement-related offences.

Mr Halloran was able to travel to Africa even though Vicpol's Ethical Standards Department had received detailed allegations he had maintained relationships with Melbourne criminals beyond his police duties.

Sierra Leone is one of the poorest nations in the world and has been decimated over the past decade by a brutal civil war.

There have been numerous cases in the country of families who have sold their daughters to foreigners.

The Australian

This report appears on NEWS.com.au.

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia) August 20, 2004 Friday

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Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

August 20, 2004 Friday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 268 words

HEADLINE: Officer on sex charges

BYLINE: Holly Lloyd-McDonald

BODY:

A FORMER head of Victoria's homicide squad was in custody in Africa last night charged with sex offences against a 13-year-old girl.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, who has been working for the United Nations, was arrested as he left hospital after being treated for pneumonia in the war-torn west African country of **Sierra Leone**.

He has been charged with unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years old.

Mr Halloran, who will face court in the nation's capital, Freetown, on Monday, has been serving as a UN **Special Court** war crimes investigator.

He has denied the charges, but could face up to 15 years in jail if found guilty.

He took the **Sierra Leone** posting in January after going on unpaid leave from Victoria Police.

The **Special Court of Sierra Leone** was set up to deal with war atrocities committed during the country's civil war from November 1996.

Special Court registrar Robin Vincent confirmed local police and an independent board at the **Special Court** investigated the incidents in June.

Mr Vincent said Mr Halloran, a 30-year Victoria Police veteran, was cleared by an independent board, suspended from his UN posting, and re-arrested by local police on July 26.

"Let me also stress the **Special Court** does not condone any form of misconduct by members," Mr Vincent said.

"At the same time, Mr Halloran has maintained his innocence throughout this matter."

A Victoria Police spokeswoman said it was aware **Sierra Leone** police had charged a superintendent.

Mr Halloran's lawyer, Paul Duggan, could not be contacted yesterday.

LOAD-DATE: August 19, 2004



Policeman denies sex offences

By John Silvester and Andrea Petrie

August 20, 2004

A policeman working for the United Nations in West Africa has sworn to fight charges that he had sex with an under-age girl.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, who is on unpaid leave from Victoria Police, was charged with unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years during court proceedings in Sierra Leone on Wednesday.

Halloran, 56, was charged after he was released from hospital where he was being treated for pneumonia. He was remanded to appear in court next Tuesday.

Halloran's Melbourne-based lawyer, Paul Duggan, said his client denied the charge. He said the allegation made by a teenage girl in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, had been investigated by a United Nations board of inquiry and found to be unsubstantiated. He said the alleged victim has made three separate and conflicting statements of complaint to authorities. Mr Duggan said Halloran was co-operating with the investigation.

Halloran, a former head of the homicide squad and a former senior investigator with the National Crime Authority, is on a one-year contract with the United Nations as part of an international taskforce investigating war crimes. He received the prestigious Australia Police Medal in the 2003 New Year's honours list.

Mr Duggan said Halloran had previously surrendered his passport and undertaken to remain in Sierra Leone until the case is heard.

In a statement, the war crimes court registrar, Robin Vincent, said the Sierra Leone police inspector general was notified as soon as the allegations were made in June but was content with a special court inquiry into the matter. The war crimes court immediately suspended Halloran from his duties.

Mr Vincent said the internal investigation found "insufficient evidence to support the allegation". But Halloran was arrested and interviewed by local police on July 26 before being charged.

Mr Vincent said officials of the UN-backed tribunal and Halloran were co-operating with police.

"The special court does not condone any form of misconduct," he said. "Mr Halloran has maintained his innocence throughout and is entitled to a presumption of innocence whilst the charge against him is subjected to the judicial process."

The UN tribunal is trying both rebels and government-allied fighters for abuses committed after late 1996 in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 insurgency.

Thousands of civilians were killed, raped, kidnapped and hacked to pieces in the fight over Sierra Leone's rich diamond fields.

More news

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The Independent

Tuesday August 20, 2004

Court awaits witnesses to prosecute Special Court official for rape

By Isata Lebbie

The Freetown magistrates' court presided over by Mr. Shyllon is waiting for witnesses to start prosecution of Mr. Reater Hallowan, a Special Court official charged with raping a 14-year-old girl.

His other charges include "Unlawful carnal knowledge" and "Indecent assault". The incident is alleged to have taken place at 6 Wilberforce Barracks West of Freetown on May 31st this year.

Mr. S. K. Bah senior state counsel told the court

Thursday when Hallowan was taken to court that he could not proceed with the matter because all the witnesses were not around. He objected to bail, while the Lawyer defending the accused J.B. Jenkins-Johnston appealed for bail.

"My Lord, as you can see he is a responsible person and a senior prosecutor of the Special Court of Sierra Leone. He has tendered his passport", Mr. Jenkins-Johnston pleaded. Bail was refused him and the matter has been adjourned to August 24, 2004.

ROBIN VINCENT IN DILEMMA

An Investigative Police Commander of the Special Court, Peter Halloran, has been charged to court by the police in connection with an allegation of sexual involvement with a minor, a development that has clearly rocked the Special Court questioning the credibility of some of its personnel.

Special Court Registrar,

Robin Vincent, has informed the press that the allegation against Peter Halloran first came to his attention in June this year and that he immediately suspended Peter Halloran and ordered the formation of a high-level Board of Inquiry, composed of senior staff members independent of his section to investigate the matter.

He went on, "on the same day, I voluntarily notified the Inspector General of the Sierra Leone Police of the allegation. He was content with my proposed action".

Robin Vincent further disclosed that based on the information and the statements presented to the Board of Inquiry, it was concluded that there was

insufficient evidence to support the allegation against Peter Halloran.

On 26th July, the Special Court Registrar went on, "the accused was interviewed and subsequently arrested by members of the Sierra Leone Police. He was not taken into custody at that time and he has remained in Freetown voluntarily pending the dis-

position of the case".

Robin Vincent stressed that the Special Court has cooperated with the Sierra Leonean authorities since the beginning of the investigation just as Paul Halloran has also cooperated with the Sierra Leonean authorities. He revealed that the Special Court provided a copy of its internal report, to-

gether with all supporting documents and statements in order to facilitate the police's own investigation adding, "I personally made a full statement to the police in respect of our internal inquiry".

Robin Vincent further revealed that the Police Inspector General and the Attorney General have

CONT. BACK PAGE

FROM PAGE 1

ROBIN VINCENT

been kept fully informed at all stages and that they have acknowledged the extent of the cooperation they have received from the Court without the need even to ask for it.

"Let me stress that the Special Court does not condone any form of misconduct by members of its staff and that we take such

matters very seriously. At the same time, Paul Halloran has maintained his innocence throughout this matter and is entitled to the presumption of innocence whilst the charge against him is subjected to the judicial process", Robin Vincent concluded. The development which has led to the arrest of the

Special Court Investigator and his subsequent appearance before a local Magistrate in Sierra Leone, even though the Special Court had concluded investigations that suggested that Paul Halloran was innocent, has clearly put the Registrar of the Special Court in a state of unenviable dilemma.

The New Citizen

Friday August 20, 2004

HALLORAN SHOULD FACE SPECIAL COURT!

WHEN AUSTRALIANS woke up yesterday the news that screamed in front of them was the incarceration in Sierra Leone of one of their best police detectives. Peter Halloran, for having carnal knowledge with a minor.

by

JIA KANGBAI

Halloran, 56, Australian sources say is one of the best that country has produced. A meticulous investigator and a man with "upbeat and straight forward manner." But in Sierra Leone today, our local laws are preying upon him. Having carnal knowledge with a minor anywhere in this globe is a crime.

part

The case itself is very interesting judging from the fact that Halloran is here as part of an international UN investigating team probing cases of rape, murder, termination as well as other forms of human rights abuses some which have been committed with or against minors. Halloran's crisis is beyond satisfying one's sexual appetites for it provokes one's memory way back to the formative years of the UN-backed Special Court on Sierra Leone. But what institute a case of having carnal knowledge with a minor? According to legal parlance, a minor is believed to be someone below the age of 18. If Halloran is detained today then it was due to the fact that the girl he tampered

with must be below that age.

hide

Time and again well-meaning adults have asked why demand sex from a minor when you can get it from an adult. And this brings one to the impulse that drives adults to wreck the lives of infants. I understand that, that same impulse also force people to hide behind a fallacy of virgin myth, which says that sex with minor most of whom are virgins reduces the risk of catching a sexually transmitted disease.

But thank God, many now are aware that such an act does not support low prevalence of HIV-Aids in some countries.

Forced sex with a minor or even a compromised one is very traumatic for a child. While a significant controversy remains as to the construct of preverbal traumatic experiences and recovered memory of those experiences, it is widely accepted that traumatized children from the age birth to 2 years can show behavioral memory of their traumas hence amplifying that traumas from such infant with carnal knowledge will not go away easily.

brain

The highly simplified neurobiology of infant trauma involves two significant brain events.

First, the amygdale is the center of primitive emotional reactions and triggers emotional reactions independent of the hippocampus, which triggers cognitive reactions. As the amygdale is more fully formed during the first year of life than the hippocampus, precognitive emotional signals may be registered and neuronal memories of those signals may be stored in the brain from earliest infancy.

There is also the relationship between brain memory (cognitive and affective) to traumas since all areas of the brain and body are recruited and orchestrated for optimal survival tasks during a threat.

impact

This total neurobiological participation in the threat response as in the case of forced or compromised sex with a minor is important in understanding how a traumatic experience can impact and alter functioning in such a pervasive fashion. Cognitive, emotional, social, behavioral and physiological residue of a trauma may impact an individual for years - even a lifetime.

Halloran if found guilty will remain in the mind eyes of the abused for years to come.

But it is the concept of transformation parenting which is the crisis in Sierra Leone today. Why do parents allow their kids to get close to strangers? Why do some parents will allow their kids to go out with older folks in society these days?

blame

Even as we blame the over-advantage and male dominance in every aspect of our lives in our society as the root cause of child



Peter Halloran

HALLORAN: being led to court last Friday for trial rape and compromised sex with a minor, yet such masculinity factor is also good news. Male identity formation is undergoing transformation and is currently quite fragile which is the good sign.

Thus, this leaves open the door for a redefinition of roles and norms and the reinforcement of adaptive behaviors and traits by parents in our society. In many respects one is seeking answers to what's the new role of parents in our society.

The girl, who was allegedly involved in the act with Halloran, was reportedly lured into it by a connection created by her elder brother.

macro

Such an act could be termed as the criminalization of gender violence, which believes that both structure (macro level) and agency (individual level) provide opportunities for such action (sex with a minor). One becomes more suspicious to those who wish that if women can only play mi-

and that we continue to model ourselves into perfect human beings by learning from others.

act

One man's humanity is entangled in another man. The alleged act of Halloran is despicable and nasty. Here is someone (hunter) supposed to investigate a group of people for different crimes are now being tried (hunted) for the some of those crimes. Is nature not so funny and interesting?

Is the legal matter of Halloran going to teach us anything about those currently docked for various offences at the UN Special Court? Many lessons will get from it.

Many including the Hinga Norman, Issa Sesay, Moinina Fofanah, etc may be facing trial simply for having carnal knowledge with infants. The Special Court are refusing to understand that the men in their possession allegedly committed those offences simply because they are humans.

dock

They never vouched that they will commit those alleged crimes when they were toddlers? Did they? They are not God. If they are God, who would have dreamt that Peter Halloran will be in the dock for having alleged carnal knowledge with a minor?

This is also a lesson for the Special Court greets: the likes of the Cranes, Jeffersons, etc. It's time they putting on their re-thinking caps again. For in this world of ours, we are not fully formed even when we are placed in our graves.

Friday August 20,

2004

International Enforcement Law Reporter September, 2004

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International Enforcement Law Reporter

September, 2004

SECTION: IX. LAW OF WAR; Vol. 20, No. 9

LENGTH: 1043 words

HEADLINE: B. U.S. Imposes Economic Sanctions and Freezes Assets of Former Liberian Leader

BYLINE: Bruce Zagaris

BODY:

On July 23, 2004, President George W. Bush issued an executive order freezing the assets of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, as well as his family and top aides, accusing them of undermining Liberia's tradition to democracy.(fn. 1)

-----Start of Footnote-----

(fn. 1) For more information and the executive order, see The White House, Executive Order Blocking Property of Certain Persons and Prohibiting the Importation of Certain Goods from Liberia , Office of the Press Secretary, July 23, 2004; Assets of Liberia's Ex-Leader Frozen, Washington in Brief , Wash. Post , July 24, at A7, col. 1.

-----End of Footnote-----

The executive order criticized said the actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons, stating that"their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources and their removal from Liberia and secreting of Liberian funds and property have undermined Liberia's transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions."(fn. 2) The executive order explained that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on August 18, 2003, and the related cease fire, ending the civil war in Liberia, have not yet been universally implemented throughout Liberia. The order observes that the illicit trade in round logs and timber products is connected to the proliferation of and trafficking in illegal arms, which perpetuate the Liberian conflict and fuel and exacerbate other conflicts throughout West Africa. Hence, these actions, policies and circumstances constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the U.S., whereby President Bush declares a national emergency to deal with the threat.(fn. 3)

-----Start of Footnote-----

(fn. 2) The White House, Executive Order Blocking Property of Certain Persons and Prohibiting the Importation of Certain Goods from Liberia , supra .
(fn. 3) Id.

-----End of Footnote-----

The executive order forbids the direct or indirect importation into the United States of any "round log or timber product" from Liberia.(fn. 4)

-----Start of Footnote-----

(fn. 4) Id.

-----End of Footnote-----

The economic sanctions and asset freezes are directed at the property of 28 people close to Mr.

Taylor, including his wife, ex-wives, children, former ministers and legislators in Liberia, a member of Parliament of Gambia, various business and alleged dealers and transporters of weapons and mineral (e.g., Viktor Anatolijevitch Bout), former Liberian high-level officials in the maritime sector, and businessmen dealing with wood products. In addition, the order includes Foday Sankoh, who is deceased.(fn. 5) Most likely, the U.S. believes that bank accounts and/or other property may be traceable to Mr. Sankoh.

-----Start of Footnote-----

(fn. 5) Office of Foreign Assets Control, U.S. Department of Treasury, Recent OFAC Actions (<http://www.ustreas.gov/offices/eotffc/ofac/actons/20040723.html>).

-----End of Footnote-----

During the last few months Mr. Taylor has fought other efforts to prosecute him for crimes against humanity and related crimes in Liberia and **Sierra Leone. The Special Court for Sierra Leone** has denied Mr. Taylor's claims that it does not have jurisdiction. Mr. Taylor is trying to keep Nigerian courts from revoking his asylum in Nigeria. The executive order illustrates the breadth of the trouble (e.g., interference with peacekeeping in Liberia implicates U.S. foreign policy and causes a national emergency), how targeted U.S. sanctions may be in terms of coverage of economic products (e.g., the wood products industry) and persons. These sanctions are most effective if they are multilateral.

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LOAD-DATE: August 19, 2004

Eldred Collins not on the run

...the former RUF spokesman says
THE EXCLUSIVE newspaper lied

"Are You on the run?" was the question **Radio UNAMSIL's Tea Break** presenter asked erstwhile RUF spokesman Eldred Collins yesterday morning in an interview on the daily current affairs program.

"On the run? Why should I be on the run. I am a Sierra Leonean and this is my country," Collins fired back. He was reacting to a front page story in **THE EXCLUSIVE** newspaper the previous day which he described

as a "heap of rubbish."

Collins explained that he runs the Western Area Progressive Association, a fishing project financed by NCDDR and those he is working with are ex-combatants. According to him, these boys woke up one morning and insisted they sell the

fishing boat, through which they earn their living.

"We are not in the bush where they think they can do whatever they like," Collins went on. He said he told them it was not possible. He also clarified that the fishing boat is still operating with the same ex-com

batants incharge whilst he is trying to get funding for a second boat.

Collins said he was shocked by the newspaper's report because the day before the publication, he saw Arthur Caulker, the author of the story.

Independent Observer

Friday, August 20, 2004

**Build. Your business.**

Liberia: One Year After Peace Deal, Klein's Peace Ship is Sailing On

Concord Times (Freetown)

NEWS

August 19, 2004

Posted to the web August 19, 2004

By Sulaiman Momodu
Freetown

He calls a spade a spade. Most diplomats don't. Consequently, the number one UN diplomat in Liberia has garnered for himself a crowd of admirers as well as a sprinkle of critics. His admirers say he gets results; his critics feel he is abrasive - the word often used. However, for the Special Representative of the Secretary General in Liberia Ambassador Jacques Paul Klein, there is a sense of fulfillment in guns being silent in most of this war-ravaged country. The up to 15,000 UN troops and other staff have done a heck of a good job generating optimism for Liberians.

It is exactly one year since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in Accra, Ghana. The Agreement was the result of protracted negotiations by stakeholders including parties to the conflict. That Agreement paved the way for President Charles Taylor's final political demise and brought on ex businessman Charles Gyude Bryant as leader of an amorphous band of mostly ex-killers claiming to be in power now. Taylor is now exiled in the quiet city of Calabar in Southern Nigeria and indicted by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Bryant has a task blending his team of strange bedfellows. Constant stories of a fractious LURD for example are only symptomatic of the larger problem in dealing with groups whose only aim was to grab power at all cost.

But Klein has been doing the shouting and the threatening and pulling the punches and this seems to have worked - it has to work with a band of terrorists; using kid gloves would have been disastrously ineffective.

Disarmament had since caught on like wild fire: millions of ammunition are said to have been collected from more than 60,000 ex-combatants who have entered the program. These ex-combatants whose lives were battered and survived on hard drugs will now, under the DDRR provide, have to be rehabilitated. This is where the challenge is enormous.

But the UN mission and the larger international community have refocused the country. There are still stories of the interim government behaving as though it is business as usual. There have been reports of corruption with each top member of government actually in a scramble for the available national cake. Liberia is still recognized as a State and it would appear such a mind-boggling scramble can hardly perturb the UN system in Liberia lest it be misconstrued as undue interference.

But the chunk of the money should come in through the UN system and international Non Government Organizations which have got in-built accountability mechanism. With level of corruption quite high, there must be a reluctance to funnel such funds through government. The consequence of this is a country where some government functionaries including lamentably a press gasping for survival breath now think of the UN as playing out a neo-colonial agenda. This is translated into unwarranted anger and sometimes media attacks. Ironically, ordinary Liberians also quite accept things have changed and hope is now on the horizon

thanks to the UN and the international community.

But the prevailing respite seems ominously temporary.

Disarmed ex-combatants will need to be rehabilitated.

Since figures have gone well beyond initial estimates of 38,000 some fearing they might kiss the 100,000 mark, the midwives of the peace process are justifiably apprehensive.

Rehabilitating the ex-combatants will therefore be a huge challenge as is ensuring basic social services like water, electricity and telephones come back to life. Most of Liberia's schools are dilapidated and the human capacity is abysmally absent. Jobs are unavailable. Ex-combatants have been promised juicy jobs and skills training upon graduation from the disarmament camps. BBC reported a couple days ago ex-combatants were rioting on the streets of Liberia demanding rehabilitation. Such flashpoints though a recurring decimal with newly demobilized ex-combatants have become too explosive to be left to peter out with time. Perhaps, it will have to take the intervention of Major General (rtd) Klein to resolve.

The UN Mission will have to deal with the leadership crisis in some of the factions. While disarmament is smooth-sailing, a shoddy reintegration program has the tendency to reverse its gains.

Fighting began in Liberia in late 1989, and by early 1990, several hundred deaths had occurred in confrontations between government forces and fighters who claimed membership in an opposition group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), led Taylor. By 2003 nearly 300,000 Liberians are reported to have died in the war. The deaths have ceased and so is fear of Taylor's terror. The peace process is on course. The tough-talking Klein is moving on, living up to his Balkan reputation as a goal-getter.

Liberians are smiling again and drinking beer. Even ex-combatants are realizing life without guns can be exciting. The world is watching how the DDRR program will end, how elections will be conducted and how a state totally accepted as failed and dead is being resurrected and made to claim a place among the comity of nations.

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The Washington Post August 19, 2004 Thursday

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August 19, 2004 Thursday
Final Edition

SECTION: A Section; A22

LENGTH: 828 words

HEADLINE: WORLD IN BRIEF

BODY:

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- The body of an Afghan cleric who died in police custody in Pakistan on Wednesday had signs that he had been tortured, an intelligence official said.

Pakistani security forces arrested Qari Mohammad Noor and three associates last week in a raid on an Islamic religious school in the central city of Faisalabad. Intelligence officials said that Noor, who was suspected of helping al Qaeda members find housing in Faisalabad, died in police detention and that an autopsy found wounds on his body.

Noor was arrested as part of a crackdown that followed the arrest in July of an alleged al Qaeda computer expert, Mohammad Naeem Noor Khan, whose computer records yielded surveillance data that led U.S. authorities to raise the terrorism alert level to orange, or "high-risk," for financial sites in Washington, New York and Newark.

EUROPE

* LONDON -- Eight British subjects appeared in court under extraordinary security, accused of plotting radiation, chemical and biological terrorist attacks in the United States.

Prosecutor Sue Hemming told the court that the men's "strong and deeply held ideology" meant they would be prepared to carry out "extreme acts," and said the police investigation was still at an early stage.

The men included Dhiren Barot, 32, also known as Eisa Hindi, suspected as an al Qaeda operative who conducted surveillance of financial buildings in the United States.

The men, who were not asked file a plea, were to appear again in court on Aug. 25. Kirsten Johnson, a spokeswoman for defense attorneys representing six of the men, said all the charges would be "fully contested."

-- Glenda Cooper

* ZURICH -- About \$500 million siphoned into Swiss banks by former Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha will be returned to the oil-rich African country, Switzerland's Federal Office of Justice said. The return caps a six-year search for as much as \$3 billion embezzled by Abacha and his inner circle from 1993 to 1998. After an embarrassing probe revealed that Swiss banks had accepted funds from the ruler before his death in 1998, Switzerland froze the accounts.

THE AMERICAS

* CARACAS, Venezuela -- Maintaining that a referendum to oust President Hugo Chavez was rigged against them, opposition leaders refused to participate in a partial audit of results. The opposition's refusal to accept Chavez's overwhelming victory in Sunday's vote threatened more upheaval in Venezuela.

* SANTIAGO, Chile -- Former dictator Augusto Pinochet ordered the army to dig up and burn the bodies of slain political prisoners in the late 1970s to destroy evidence, according to a criminal complaint filed by a human rights attorney. The case joins hundreds of others lodged by victims and relatives against Pinochet for human rights abuses during his 17-year rule. They are being investigated by a special judge.

The complaint is based on court testimony by two former military officers who said army intelligence units in 1979 received a coded message from Pinochet ordering them to "withdraw the televisions." They said that in the military code used at the time, "televisions" referred to the bodies of hundreds of dissidents killed after the 1973 military coup that put Pinochet in power.

AFRICA

* JOHANNESBURG -- South African authorities raided a suspected mercenary outfit thought to have illegally recruited hundreds of people for operations overseas, officials said. South African police raided the Cape Town office of International Intelligence Risk Management, said police spokesman Sipho Ngwema.

"The suspicion is that the company has recruited hundreds of mercenaries," Ngwema said. He said three people had been detained.

News reports said scores of South African soldiers have abandoned their posts for lucrative private security contracts in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion last year.

* FREETOWN, **Sierra Leone** -- **Sierra Leone** charged an investigator at the country's U.N.-backed war crimes court with sexually abusing a young girl, prosecutors said. Peter Halloran, an Australian police officer assigned to the Freetown court, was charged by a magistrate with "unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years," prosecuting lawyer Suliaman Bah said. He could face up to 15 years in prison if found guilty.

The **special court** was set up to bring to justice those responsible for atrocities during the West African country's 10-year civil war.

* BUJUMBURA, Burundi -- Police in Burundi's capital fired water cannons and tear gas at crowds protesting Friday's massacre of at least 160 Congolese Tutsis at a U.N. refugee camp in the west of the country. About 100 Congolese Tutsis, known as Banyamulenge, gathered outside the Congolese Embassy to denounce the attack.

African leaders at a summit in Tanzania designated the Burundian Hutu rebel group that asserted responsibility for the massacre a "terrorist organization," but did not impose sanctions on the group.

-- From News Services

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