

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:

Monday, June 21, 2004

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Sierra Leone's war trials

by Sebastiaan Gottlieb, 18 June 2004

After a somewhat difficult start, this week finally saw the first trials at the Special Court for Sierra Leone get fully underway. At his own trial, former deputy defence minister Sam Hinga Norman gave the opening speech in his defence, and the prosecutor called the first witness.



Still under construction: the Special Court for Sierra Leone

While opinions about the Special Court differ considerably, there is a great deal of interest in the court's proceedings. Each time Sam Hinga Norman enters the courtroom he receives an enthusiastic welcome from dozens of his supporters as they sit behind glass in the public gallery. Those of them that get a personal nod of acknowledgement from him then take their seats with satisfaction as they await yet another self-assured court performance from their "hero".

Causing a commotion

Since the proceedings against him began on 3 June, Sam Hinga Norman has managed to create a commotion on various occasions. On the very first day of his trial, he announced that he was dropping his entire legal team, informing the judges that he would henceforth handle his own defence.



Chief Sam Hinga Norman

That announcement immediately led to a considerable delay in proceedings. After considering Mr Hinga Norman's decision for several days, the court finally acquiesced, but ruled that a "standby" lawyer was to be appointed. This decision is much in line with the ruling given by the Yugoslavia Tribunal in The Hague when Slobodan Milosevic also decided to conduct his own defence. It was not until the accused himself had, in turn, accepted the Special Court's decision that the proceedings could get going with the opening defence statement.

A popular hero stands trial

Chief Hinga Norman is regarded by most people in Sierra Leone as the man who rescued the country from the RUF rebels who terrorised the population for years on end, often carrying out the grossest of atrocities such as chopping off arms and legs, but also ears, noses and lips. The fact that "their" chief is now facing prosecution for war crimes alleged committed by Kamajor fighters from his Civil Defence Front (CDF) has,

therefore, been met with considerable anger and consternation.

Mr Hinga Norman is standing trial together with two fellow CDF leaders, Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. However, three people from the infamous RUF are also facing trial as are another three from the third group involved in the violent conflict, the AFRC. On the question of whether more suspects are likely to be brought to trial, David Crane - a US citizen who is a prosecutor at the Special Court - has the following to say:

"Probably not [...] we're largely done with our work. We're still investigating, but largely done".



listen to the interview with David
Crane: 4'39

David Crane describes the court's mandate as one which can be accomplished, because it calls for only those who bear the greatest responsibility to be tried. The Special Court appears to have satisfied that requirement, but it's clear it will not be able to meet that part of the United Nations resolution whereby it was established, which calls for the trials to be concluded before the end of next year. That also raises the issue of continued funding for the court, as David Crane confirms:

"That's true [...] these things take on a life of their own. [...] funding is always a challenge for an organisation such as this".

Donors fund the court

In comparison with the other special tribunals - for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda - Sierra Leone's special court is actually proving to be a good deal less expensive, with a budget of about 80 million dollars for three years, as opposed to more than 100 million dollars each for the Yugoslavia and Rwanda tribunals. This money is coming from around 30 donor nations, with the United States making the largest contribution and the Netherlands the second largest (about 3.8 million euros per year).

The registrar of the Special Court, Robin Vincent, has words of praise for the Dutch contribution: "Not only the money [...] but their support in other areas, such as supporting us in our plans for legacy".



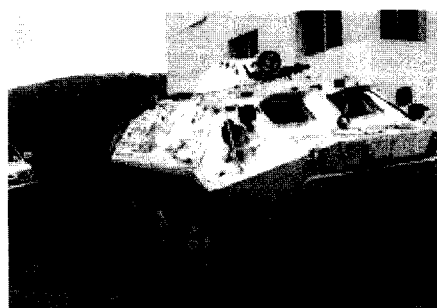
listen to the interview
with Robin Vincent: 5'05

Leaving something behind

The legacy aspect relates to the idea of leaving Sierra Leone with something permanent after the court's finished its work. In that respect, Robin Vincent sees one possibility in the court being transformed into a regional centre for the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Mr Vincent would prefer to see people brought to trial in the country where the war crimes actually take place.

That's now happened for the first time in Sierra Leone because, as he says, the court has been able to operate in a relative safety thanks to the



UN peacekeepers have created a situation in which the Special Court can operate safely

presence of the 17,000 troops that make up United Nations peacekeeping force UNAMISIL; currently the largest peacekeeping force in the world.

That kind of safe situation doesn't exist in, for example, Uganda, which recently asked the International Criminal Court to investigate war crimes committed by the Lord's Resistance Army which is still terrorising the northern part of the country.

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The secrets of the Kamajors of Koribundo

► FRANCE TOO SLOW

TO TRY RWANDANS, SAYS ECHR

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) dealt a firm rebuke to French justice on 10 June for dragging its heels over prosecutions against Rwandans living in France who are suspected of taking part in the 1994 genocide. Human rights groups and post-genocide associations have long criticised French courts for failing to deal swiftly with the handful of cases filed since 1995. Most notably, they complain about the length of proceedings against the priest Wenceslas Munyeshaka, which are still in preparation after nine years. The Strasbourg court ruled unanimously that French courts have violated the rights of the complainant Yvonne Mutimura to be heard promptly and her right to receive compensation. Apart from Rwanda and the Arusha international court, only Switzerland and Belgium have tried Rwandans for genocide.

► COMPLAINT IN NIGERIA AGAINST CHARLES TAYLOR

The exile granted to Charles Taylor ten months ago by the Abuja authorities is not proving very popular. Between 1990 and 2000, Nigeria lost hundreds of men in the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Responsibility for this is mainly attributed to the former Liberian president. On 14 June, two Nigerian victims of the Sierra Leone rebellion in 1999 illustrated the resentment felt over the losses by lodging a complaint against Taylor. In it, they contest the exile granted to the former dictator and call for him to be extradited to the Special Court in Freetown. According to the UN information agency IRIN, the two men, both victims of amputations, argue that the exile accorded to Taylor, who stands accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes, is a violation of international law.

A ten-minute preliminary statement by key defendant Sam Hinga Norman, national coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) from 1997 to 2002, kicked off the trial proper of the former CDF leaders in Freetown. Declaring that he had been "under tremendous stress so [he] decided to take up the battle against the Army and the RUF [Revolutionary United Front]," the ex-minister of the interior, who told the court he had joined the Sierra Leone army decades earlier at aged 14, was unequivocal. He would "not respond to any dramatic pieces the prosecutors might have brought before the court against [him] to incite sentiments and they have no reason to hold anything against [him]." Deputy prosecutor Charles Caruso responded by calling the first witness.

Torture and assassinations

The 52 year-old man, known to the public by the pseudonym TF2/198 and protected behind a screen, had lived for many years in Koribundo, a township near Bo in the southern part of the country. He described the arrival of soldiers after the start of the war and the first attacks by RUF rebels that were put down by the army. The rebels were later aided by the Kamajors, traditional fighters from the Mende country who would eventually become the backbone of the

CDF. The army controlled the region during the military junta of Johnny Paul Koroma (1997-1998). But on 13 February 1998, the witness saw soldiers packing who told him that their leader had been overthrown so they were travelling up to the North, to Makeni. He was advised to leave, and TF2/198 did so immediately. He and his family arrived in Bo at 6 o'clock the next morning.

After several days, explained the witness, the Kamajors started looking for people who were from Koribundo. He was discovered and beaten. When his brother heard his cries, he was also captured by the militia. They were both taken to a junction where they were further beaten and stripped of their clothing. The witness then said that the Kamajors set alight a plastic bag and dripped the melting, burning plastic onto his bare back. But there was worse to come. He said he was beaten with rifle butts and his head held tight so that he could watch them cut his brother's throat. He said he was then released and told that he was being freed so that he would take the message to the people about what they were doing.

At this point the defence lawyers objected that the prosecution had not told them about this evidence and that it should be struck from the records. The prosecutor replied that this was not necessary in such a trial and the judges deferred their ruling to a later date. [...]

The twists and turns of Hinga Norman's defence

After publicly sacking his defence team, Sam Hinga Norman now has lawyers again. However, Norman seemed to fail to understand the principle of a standby lawyer appointed by the court and the judges were obliged to explain the role of the latter several times. In the end, presiding Judge Benjamin Itoe intervened. "You were clearly granted by this chamber the right of self-representation," he told Norman, adding that, "the whole concept of a standby counsel is to protect the right of the accused" in case there were things he did not understand during the judicial process. After more confusion, the registrar finally assigned a team of five lawyers. This did not prevent Sam Hinga Norman from assuming the role of "lead counsel", and requesting a computer, a telephone, and stationery to help him conduct his defence.

► MAURICE PAPON DENIED NEW TRIAL

The former Vichy civil servant Maurice Papon, 93, will not be allowed a new trial. On 11 June, the French court of cassation rejected the appeal lodged by the ex-secretary-general of the Gironde prefecture (southwest France) against his ten-year prison sentence for complicity in crimes against humanity. The punishment, handed down in 1998, sanctions his responsibility for the deportation of Jews between 1942 and 1944.

► MILOSEVIC ASKS TO CALL 1400 WITNESSES

The ex-president of Yugoslavia Slobodan Milosevic, who will be conducting his own defence from 5 July, filed a list of 1400 defence witnesses on 17 June to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Among them is the former US president Bill Clinton and British prime minister Tony Blair. The judges deferred their ruling on the motion, and asked Milosevic to justify his request in writing, which he refused to do. In fighting spirit, despite twice delaying the defence phase of his trial for health reasons, Milosevic repeated his request to be given more time to plead his case. The judges refused and he will have 150 days to plead. The previous day, the judges also threw out the motion to annul the count of genocide filed by the amicus curae of the former head of state. The charge will be the most difficult to prove, and the prosecutor has been criticised for attempting to do so. But the judges considered that "there was a common criminal undertaking that included Bosnian Serb leaders [...] who committed the crime of genocide" in seven Bosnian towns and that there could be sufficient evidence for a court to conclude that Milosevic took part in the genocide, according to Agence France Presse.

[...] Hinga Norman was the Regent Chief of Koribundo. The witness recalled two town meetings in which Norman allegedly said that the Kamajors should not be blamed because he had sent them himself. According to the witness, Chief Norman asked the Kamajors, who numbered over a hundred at the township meeting: "Why are you afraid of killing? Soldiers killed and nothing happened, Kapras [another militia] killed and nothing happened, so why are you afraid of killing?" He allegedly

continued: "I told you I want only three houses, the court barray [where community meetings were held], the mosque and the house I will stay in, but look at all these houses!" On hearing this the witness said he went silently to his house and told his mother "trouble had come again."

A second witness, TF2/157 corroborated the fact that Norman had accepted the blame for the actions of the Kamajors at the infamous Koribundo gathering.

REPORT

Crimes committed in former Yugoslavia

Republika Srpska recognises the Srebrenica "massacre"

The report published by the commission in charge of investigating the massacres committed in Srebrenica in July 1995 has put an end to nearly nine years of denial of responsibility by the Republika Srpska (RS). On 11 June, the RS government, a Serbian entity in Bosnia-Herzegovina, finally admitted that "several thousand Bosnian (Muslims) were liquidated in a manner representing a serious violation of international humanitarian law" in Srebrenica by Bosnian Serb forces, and that "the perpetrators covered up their crimes," reports the news agency Agence France Presse.

In its report, the commission, made up of Bosnian-Serb judges and lawyers, a victims' representative, and an international expert, says it "has established that military and police units, including special units of the interior ministry in Republika Srpska," took part in the massacres. In 1995, Serb troops massacred around 7000 Muslims men and teenagers in the Srebrenica enclave, which the UN had declared a safe haven. Bosnian Serbs have always been thought responsible for the massacre, but until now no local authority has been willing to accept any form of responsibility, or even to acknowledge that the killings actually took place. The about-turn, however, did not extend to recognizing the massacres as genocide – as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) did.

When it affirmed General Radislav Krstic 35-years sentence for complicity in genocide on 19 April, the ICTY Appeals Chamber confirmed that "the Bosnian Serb forces committed genocide against the Bosnian Muslims." The remains of around 6000 people have so far been discovered in mass graves in the east of Bosnia, and new corpses are regularly unearthed. In 2002, the RS government provoked public indignation when it published a report downplaying the number of victims killed during the Srebrenica massacres.

"A dynamic of cooperation"

Vedran Persic, the spokesperson for Paddy Ashdown, the High Representative of the international community in Bosnia-Herzegovina, told Associated Press that Ashdown welcomed the report. It indicated that "a dynamic of obstruction with regard to war crimes had been replaced by a dynamic of greater cooperation," he said. Paddy Ashdown was recently forced to sack several high-ranking Bosnian Serbs, including the head of the army, General Cvjetko Savic, for obstructing the commission's work. Yet in spite of this Bosnian Serb turnaround, cooperation with the ICTY remains difficult. The RS has not yet handed over a single suspect wanted by the tribunal – least of all, the former military leader of the Bosnian Serbs Ratko Mladic and the ex-political leader Radovan Karadzic, who have both been accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Exclusive

Monday June 21, 2004

Kamajors Threaten Special Court



Kamajors: during their struggle to restore democracy

A group of irate members of the disbanded Kamajor militia wing has vowed to disrupt court proceedings at the Special Court if their former National Coordinator and Internal Affairs Minister, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who is first accused of the ongoing trial, is not given a fair treatment in detention. The former Kamajors made the threatening remark last Thursday after the accused complained to the trial chamber of maltreatment in the prison cells of the Spe-

cial Court.

Our reporter who was at present when the threatening remark was made interviewed some of the ex-Kamajors after the court was adjourned for this week.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the ex-Kamajors expressed their dissatisfaction with the poor treatment meted out to their former boss by the Special Court.

They opined that both the United Nations and the SLPP government are ungrateful because, according to them, Chief

Norman fought for the restoration of democracy after the overthrow of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's government in May, 1997.

The irate ex-Kamajors also said the indictment and trial of Chief Norman is unjust because the role he played in ousting the AFRC/RUF junta brought about the relative peace Sierra Leoneans are enjoying today.

They however warned that if anything happens to Chief Norman in detention they will hold the United Nations and the SLPP government responsible.

Meanwhile, the ex-Kamajors have disclosed that they are planning to demonstrate against what they referred to as "the unlawful indictment and trial of Chief Hinga Norman."

Norman begs for computer, extra phone in Jail

By Abdul Karim Koroma

War Crime indictee and erstwhile coordinator of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), Chief Sam Hinga Norman Tuesday requested that the Court provides him with a Computer, an extra telephone and a constant supply of stationeries to help him facilitate his process of self-defence.

Norman made the request according to article 17 of the Special Court Rules



Hinga Norman
wants to talk

of Procedure and also asked for a modification of his detention so as not to hamper with the conduct of his defence team.

"I need a telephone completely different to the one I am using as I need to communicate at home and abroad," he said.

According to him, he is locked up at 10:00 P.M every day and opened at 7 A.M.

The former Kamajor coordinator explained that he needs time to consult with his defence team and the time he has for dinner, bath, cleaning of his toilet bucket are not enough for him.

He adds that he also has to prepare himself to attend court sittings.

Presiding Judge Benjamin Itoe said the issue raised by Norman would be addressed in the near future.

While cross examining the prosecution witness TF2-157 about an attack on Tellu, the head quarter town of Jaiama Bongor, Norman said, "If I am found guilty I will spend the rest of my life in jail," and disclosed that the court is not a place to make jokes.

He described the case as very serious and it must be treated with all seriousness.

(Concord Times

Friday June 18, 2004

Special Court's ruling sets off alarm bell



David Crane



children in hostilities." The Court's ruling comes at a critical time

The Special Court for Sierra Leone recently ruled that the recruitment or use of children under age 15 in hostilities is a war crime under customary international law. This landmark ruling may result in the first ever conviction for the recruitment of child soldiers. UNICEF welcomes the Court's decision as a bold effort to hold perpetrators accountable for serious crimes against children.

The decision by the Appeals Chamber came in response to an assertion by one of the accused that he was immune from prosecution because the recruitment or use of children under 15 in hostilities was not

established as a war crime during the period of the Special Court's authority, dating back to 1996. The Appeals Chamber dismissed the motion by a majority of 3-1.

Responding to the Court's decision UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said, "This ruling is an important milestone because it holds

perpetrators criminally responsible. It should set off alarm bells to armed groups around the world and act as a deterrent to future recruitment and use of

when both girls and boys continue to be recruited to fight as soldiers in adult wars. Tens of thousands of child soldiers across the globe are forced to commit atrocities or are used as cooks, porters and for sexual

Contd. page 3

purposes. These groups is actually much children are often higher. subjected to extreme brutality - including physical torture, sexual violence and rape. An estimated 6,000 children were demobilized at the end of the civil war in Sierra Leone. It is widely believed that the number of children (especially girls) who served in various capacities in the armed

Eleven persons from all three of Sierra Leone's former warring factions have been indicted by the Special Court. They are charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international law. All of them have been accused of the recruitment or use of

children as soldiers. The Special Court for Sierra Leone was jointly created by the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations in January 2002. It is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the country since 30 November 1996.

New Vision

Monday June 21, 2004

INDICTEE NOT SATISFIED WITH PRISON CONDITIONS

NORMAN ASKS FOR BETTER FACILITIES

...REQUESTS PHONE, COMPUTER, STATIONERIES

By Mohamed Mansaray

The first accused of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) indictees of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Samuel Hinga Norman has requested for a review of conditions under which he is currently detained.

Mr. Norman made the request in court yesterday during

cross-examination of the second prosecution witness (name withheld) TF2-157, at Jomo Kenyatta Road, New England in Freetown.

Mr. Norman told the court that a review of his detention condition would be necessary so as not to hamper his self defence. According to the indictee, he is locked up in

cell at 10 pm and opened at 7 am, and informed the court that he does not have much time to discuss with his standby counsel before appearing in court. "My Lord, I am on trial for my life and no one should joke about it."

Mr. Norman also requested for computer set, telephone and

SEE BACK PAGE

Norman Wants Better Conditions

regular supply of stationeries in accordance with Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the Special Court. Rule 54 states that "at the request of either party or of its own motion, a Judge or a Trial Chamber may issue such Orders, Summonses, Subpoenas, Warrants and Transfer Orders as may be necessary for the purpose of an investigation or for the preparation or conduct of the trial."

"I am solely in your custody my Lord because the warrant for my arrest was signed by a Judge and not a Prosecutor and it is you that I must turn to for anything", Mr. Norman further told the court.

Responding, the trial attorney and member of the prosecution, Charles Caruso told the court that Mr. Norman should communicate his concern in writing and to be argued in court. "The Prosecution will definitely respond to that concern," the trial attorney said.

Ruling on the concern raised by Mr. Norman, the Presiding Judge, Benjamin Itoe said: "We will keep this issue on hold and we will revisit it in the near future," adding that the Chamber will do everything possible to protect not only the rights of the accused but also those of the Prosecution.

Salone Times

Friday June 18, 2004



"jsk"
<jsk34@erols.com>
Sent by:
owner-leonenet@listproc.umbc.edu

To: "leonenet" <leonenet@listproc.umbc.edu>
cc:
cc:
Subject: U.S. Immunity Demand Could Divide U.N.

20/06/2004 14:13

Renewing US peacekeepers' immunity? Gee, how do these people expect any respect for international laws when some nations seek and are granted immunity. I hope the Special Court will rethink their slogan of "no one is above the law". It seems we are back on "Animal Farm".

Gorglei.

U.S. Immunity Demand Could Divide U.N.

17 minutes ago

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By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS - Secretary-General Kofi Annan ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) told Security Council ambassadors Friday that renewing U.S. peacekeepers' immunity from international prosecution for war crimes would undermine international law and send "a very unfortunate signal" to the world.

Annan stepped up his campaign against a U.S.-sponsored resolution renewing American immunity from prosecution by the International Criminal Court for a third year, and opposition in the council appeared to be growing.

Despite intensive lobbying, Washington does not have the minimum nine votes of support on the 15-member council to approve a new exemption, council diplomats said.

On Thursday, Annan urged the council not to shield American peacekeepers, citing the recent abuse of Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) prisoners by U.S. forces.

He kept up the pressure Friday, handing council ambassadors a written note at their monthly luncheon that raised "serious doubts" about the legality of an exemption and warning against dividing the Security Council.

It warned that granting immunity would "contradict" U.N. efforts "to promote the rule of law in international affairs."

The note, obtained by The Associated Press, "strongly urges the council not to renew this measure." It also stressed that a new exemption "would be a very unfortunate signal to send at any time — but particularly at this time."

Annan said after the luncheon, "We have some very difficult challenges ahead of us and the council needs to be able to work together and speak with one voice."

France, Germany, Spain, Brazil and Chile already said they would abstain on a new exemption, and Romania and Benin indicated they were likely to join them, council diplomats said.

China's U.N. Ambassador Wang Guangya said Friday that Beijing also will abstain. Algeria's U.N. Ambassador Abdallah Baali said his country — which was considered to be in the U.S. camp — was reconsidering its position.

Russia, also considered a U.S. supporter, called Friday for a compromise.

Earlier, U.S. deputy ambassador Stuart Holliday noted that the exemption was an issue for the council — the diplomatic way of saying the United States was unhappy about Annan's pronouncements.

But after the luncheon, Holliday was more conciliatory.

"The secretary-general shared his view and I think he expressed his concern for the unity of the council," Holliday said. "We're taking that on board."

The current exemption expires June 30. The United States introduced a resolution authorizing a one-year extension last month, but has delayed calling for a vote.

Asked whether Washington was going to put the resolution to a vote, Holliday said that between now and Tuesday "we're going to talk to our Security Council colleagues about that very question."

Germany's U.N. Ambassador Gunter Pleuger strongly backed Annan and expressed hope that other council members "will see it the same way."

The International Criminal Court can prosecute cases of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed after it was established July 1, 2002, but it will step in only when countries are unwilling or unable to dispense justice themselves.

The Bush administration argues that the International Criminal Court — which started operating last year — could be used for frivolous or politically motivated prosecutions of American troops.

Besides seeking another year's exemption, Washington has signed bilateral agreements with 89 countries barring any prosecution of American officials by the court and is seeking more such treaties.

The 94 countries that ratified the 1998 Rome Treaty establishing the court maintain it contains enough safeguards to prevent frivolous prosecutions.

Human rights groups and supporters of the court argue that nobody should be exempt from prosecution for war crimes.

Human Rights Watch

Embargoed for Release:
Monday, June 21, 2004
At 00:01 GMT
(for Monday's papers)

U.N.: Press Nigeria to Hand Over Charles Taylor

(New York, June 21, 2004) The U.N. Security Council should use its mission to West Africa to call on Nigeria to surrender Charles Taylor, the indicted former Liberian president, to Sierra Leone's U.N.-backed court for war crimes, Human Rights Watch said. The mission arrives in the region today on a seven-nation visit.

In a letter to the Security Council, Human Rights Watch said the mission presents an opportunity for the United Nations to reaffirm its commitment to human rights and the struggle against impunity in West Africa. In 2000 the Security Council passed the resolution that established the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The court has indicted Taylor on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war. Last year Nigeria granted Taylor asylum when the Liberian capital Monrovia came under siege by rebel forces.

"The Security Council established Sierra Leone's court for war crimes, but has remained silent on Charles Taylor," said Peter Takirambudde, executive director of Human Rights Watch's Africa Division. "Security Council members made a commitment to the victims of Sierra Leone's brutal war, so they need to explicitly call on Nigeria to hand over Taylor to the court."

Led by Britain's ambassador to the United Nations, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, the Security Council mission aims to identify and implement strategies for conflict prevention and peace-building in West Africa. Human Rights Watch also urged Security Council members to take specific steps to press human rights concerns in three other countries on the mission's itinerary: Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In Côte d'Ivoire, despite a peace agreement meant to bring an end to the country's conflict, a return to war seems more possible, Human Rights Watch said. The peace process, initiated almost 18 months ago, is now deadlocked. Today Côte d'Ivoire is effectively split in two regions, with government-held areas in the south and territory controlled by rebels in the north. Civilians continue to suffer abuses by both sides and their associated militias, and from the economic hardship caused by the conflict.

"A return to all-out war in Côte d'Ivoire would have disastrous human rights consequences across West Africa," said Takirambudde. "The international community made serious efforts to bring about peace and stability in the region, but a chain is only as good as its weakest link. Today that link is Côte d'Ivoire."

The flow of arms to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire has greatly heightened assaults on human rights as well as risks to regional stability. The Security Council should consider imposing an international arms embargo against all parties to the conflict and establishing a panel of experts to monitor the implementation of the embargo.

The military, gendarmes and police—joined by pro-government militias and youth groups—continue to commit abuses in the capital Abidjan and other parts of the country with total impunity. In March, a demonstration by opposition groups in Abidjan was met with a violent crackdown by the security forces and unidentified "parallel forces" that lasted for days. According to a U.N. report, at least 120 people were killed, many of them by indiscriminate fire by government security forces.

In early June, youth groups allied to and supported by President Laurent Gbagbo's political party staged violent demonstrations against the United Nations and French citizens in Côte d'Ivoire, threatening civilians and resulting in considerable loss of property. Security Council members should insist that pro-government militias and youth groups be disarmed and held accountable for criminal acts, Human Rights Watch said.

The conflict in Côte d'Ivoire also has the potential to draw in combatants—including child soldiers—from neighboring countries including Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso. Credible sources have reported that both the Ivorian government and the rebel coalition known as the New Forces (Forces Nouvelles) have been recruiting foreign combatants. The accounts also noted that state and non-state actors alike have easily bought the allegiance of these individuals with the promise of looted goods or a few dollars. These militias, private armies of thugs and itinerant groups of fighters reportedly commit abuses against—and often terrorize—civilians on a routine basis.

In Sierra Leone, Human Rights Watch urged Security Council members to privately and publicly pressure the government to take more concrete steps to combat corruption, which remains endemic in country. The government has largely failed to address the deep-rooted issues that gave rise to the conflict-endemic corruption, weak rule of law, crushing poverty, and the inequitable distribution of the country's vast natural resources.

"If the government doesn't take steps to combat corruption and bolster the rule of law, Sierra Leone could once again slide back into conflict," said Takirambudde.

In Liberia, Security Council members should insist that the National Transitional Government oppose a general amnesty to members of former warring factions, Human Rights Watch said. The Security Council mission should also speak out on the urgent need for a genuine accountability process for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Liberia's internal conflict.

Finally, Security Council members should demand accountability and action by West African governments that support armed groups responsible for recruiting and using child soldiers. Human Rights Watch welcomed the April 22 adoption of a U.N. Security Council Resolution 1539, which addresses the state and non-state actors named in the

U.N. Secretary-General's 2003 report on children and armed conflict. The resolution calls on these parties to prepare concrete action plans by July 22 to end their recruitment and use of children as soldiers.

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UNMIL Public Information Office
LATE Press Clips 18 Jun 04

06/18/2004 15:01:32

Sierra Leone police arrest 30 for attempted arms smuggling into Liberia

FREETOWN, June 18 (AFP) - Police in Sierra Leone's second city Bo said Friday they had arrested 30 people who tried to smuggle weapons into eastern neighbor **Liberia** by pretending to be football players.

Sierra Leoneans, Liberians and Guineans were represented among the youth, many of them believed to be ex-combatants from Sierra Leone's decade of rebel war, stopped at the Zimmi Makpele bridge near the border and arrested when their cars were found packed with weapons and ammunition.

Police sources said it appeared that the men were going to try and hand in the weapons and ammunition under the ongoing 50 million-dollar UN campaign to disarm fighters from **Liberia's** back-to-back civil wars.

Each disarmed fighter is offered a 300-dollar cash stipend in two parts as well as vocational training or schooling -- just as they had been in Sierra Leone under a disarmament and rehabilitation operation that ended earlier this year.

The arms and ammunition were taken by secure transport to the capital Freetown, while the vehicles, plastered with posters advertising a purported charity match in which the young men were to play, remained in Bo.

Arms smuggling in troubled west Africa is a major concern of the three neighboring UN missions along the Atlantic coast.

Fighters and weapons slipped easily across the porous borders during the Liberian and Sierra Leonean conflicts that raged throughout the 1990s, as well as to Ivory Coast which has been mired in 20 months of crisis even as **Liberia** and Sierra Leone struggle to emerge from their devastating wars.

UN military chiefs meeting last week to plot strategies to thwart arms trafficking insisted that joint air, land and sea patrols were keeping border areas tightly sealed, but rumors are rampant that weapons are passing easily in and out of **Liberia**.

A status report about **Liberia's** security situation released earlier this month by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan spoke of "worrying signs" that heavy weapons are not being turned in under the 50 million-dollar disarmament process, but "in several instances, have been smuggled across the borders."

06/18/2004 14:58:33

Sierra Leone, Guinea to hold talks on border dispute

FREETOWN, June 18 (AFP) - President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah said Friday that a Guinean presidential envoy was expected in Sierra Leone soon to negotiate in a long-running border dispute over the diamond-rich Yenga region claimed by both of the west African neighbors.

"President Lansana Conte has offered to send an envoy to work with Sierra Leone's minister of internal affairs to seek to finally resolve this long-outstanding boundary issue of Yenga," Kabbah said to rousing cheers at the opening session of parliament.

"The resumption of dialogue highlights our collective desire to build regional peace and security."

It was from Yenga that the Liberian-trained Revolutionary United Front (RUF) launched an onslaught on Kailahun in the early years of the rebel war that began in Sierra Leone in 1991.

When Guinea offered troops in 1998 to beat back the marauding RUF, around the time it began to fund an insurrection in **Liberia**, Sierra Leone's pro-government Civil Defense Forces militia asked them to go to Yenga.

The dispute over Yenga, a hilly area in eastern Kailahun district on the banks of the Makonnen River, has its roots in the colonial era, when France and England were demarcating the borders of their respective territories.

A 1912 map drawn under the protocol gave the Makonnen River to the French protectorate Guinea but did not specifically delineate the river's "flood stage," which can swell its banks by up to a quarter-mile -- right to Yenga.

It is that flood plain that Guinea tried to claim in 2002, when the border dispute flared again after Sierra Leone soldiers tried to deploy to Yenga, only to find a battalion of Guineans already stationed there.

Sierra Leone paramount chiefs complain their subjects are regularly harassed and subject to extortion by AK-47 toting soldiers who regularly ford the river border at any one of 36 illegal crossing points into Yenga, bearing contraband goods to exchange for local produce or fish pulled from the Makonnen.

International organizations including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) tried to mediate, mindful of the destabilizing effect such a border dispute could have on Sierra Leone's nascent peace.

Conte's offer of dialogue came during the May meeting in Conakry of the Mano River Union that gathers the two countries as well as war-battered **Liberia**, which is eastwards over the porous Sierra Leone border from Yenga.

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VERDICT

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Thirty years for the Nyarubuye massacre

Sylvestre Gacumbitsi, the former mayor of Rusumo, Kibungo province (eastern Rwanda), has been sentenced to 30 years in prison for genocide and crimes against humanity (extermination and rape). "Gacumbitsi led the attacks on the Tutsi civilians gathered at the Nyarubuye church and personally took part in these attacks," concludes the judgement, which was delivered on 17 June by Senegalese judge Andréia Vaz, presiding over trial chamber 3 at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

The 60-year-old former mayor was chiefly convicted for his part in the massacre that took place at the church in Nyarubuye in mid-April 1994. The judges found that Gacumbitsi had ordered the attacks at the church where between 20,000 and 30,000 Tutsis were killed on 15 and 16 April 1994. As a result of numerous documentaries by western journalists, the church has become a symbol of the Tutsi genocide. The court also recognised "rapes reported by prosecution witnesses," after a number of women testified in court to having been raped or subjected to other forms of sexual violence on the orders of the former mayor.

Annoyed reactions in Rusumo

In Rusumo, most people were labouring in the fields when the radio announced the conviction of their former town leader. Gacumbitsi's wife Marguérite Mukasamayombi was one of the few inhabitants of Rusumo

expecting a conviction. "It is unfair. I was not always with him during the genocide but I know that he could not do that. He was indicted because he was an official. I know for sure that he used to drive around the town calling for calm and responding to calls for help from people under threat," she calmly protested. Since her husband's arrest in 2001, his wife says she has not had the money to visit him. She claims to work hard as a farmer to feed her children, some of whom are already at university.

Good relations with Tutsis prior to the genocide

"What do you expect her to say?" retorts a survivor, Donata. "People sought refuge at his house, his own friends. Where are they today? He's the one who handed them over to the Interahamwe. And who doesn't know that Gacumbitsi personally ordered the Nyarubuye massacre? Thirty years for a killer of that category, that's really taking people for fools." The ICTR judges decided not to impose the maximum sentence of life imprisonment, considering his good relations with the Tutsis prior to the genocide as mitigating circumstances. By so doing, they broke with case law established in earlier, comparable trials before the Arusha court.

Similar dissatisfaction was also expressed by the Rwandan leadership. The sentence is "too indulgent for one of the most notorious killers of the genocide," according to Martin Ngoga, deputy chief prosecutor in Rwanda, who until the end of last year represented his country at the ICTR. Ngoga also called for

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Gacumbitsi "to be the first convict to be sent [to Rwanda] to serve his sentence." Rwanda and the ICTR administration have been discussing the possibility of transferring confirmed convicts to Rwandan prisons. However, current detainees, backed by their families and the Association of Defence Lawyers at the ICTR, have all strongly criticised this negotiation.

Rwanda's reaction came in stark contrast to that of the ICTR prosecutor, Hassan Bubacar Jallow, who announced his satisfaction with both the verdict and the sentence. For his part, M. Kouenhouta, the Cameroonian lawyer who represented the former mayor, said he would be seeking leave to appeal. "I am completely disappointed. We have the impression that the tribunal tends to bend to the will of the prosecutor," said Kouenhouta.

The fifth mayor convicted by the ICTR

Sylvestre Gacumbitsi is the fifth ex-mayor to be tried by the Arusha tribunal. Three of his former colleagues were found guilty and only one, the former mayor of Mabanza (Kibuye, western Rwanda) Ignace Bagilishema, was acquitted. The ex-mayor of Rusumo is the ICTR's fourth conviction so far this year. The former finance minister Emmanuel Ndindabahizi will soon be the next defendant in the Arusha detention center to hear his verdict. These two trials will have proved that the ICTR is capable, in some cases, to process individual trials rapidly: the judgement was delivered less than a year after the start of the trial and three months after the deliberations began.

American immunity: the unjustifiable resolution

► WASHINGTON SEEKS MAJORITY VOTE ON RESOLUTION 1487

After it was due to be submitted to the Security Council on 21 May, the proposal to renew Resolution 1487 has still not been lodged by the US, in spite of a 30 June deadline. Sources indicate that Washington has still not secured the nine votes out of fifteen needed for renewal. If the US fails to achieve a majority, the exemption on US citizens working for UN missions from being prosecuted by the International Criminal Court could be lifted on 30 June.

► ARGENTINA TO SEARCH FOR CHILDREN KIDNAPPED DURING THE DICTATORSHIP

The Argentinean Secretary of State for human rights, Eduardo Luis Duhalde, announced on 9 June the creation of a special search unit charged with finding the children who disappeared during the military dictatorship of Jorge Videla (1976-1983). An estimated 500 children were kidnapped from parents suspected of being political opponents. Only 77 have been identified to date. This is the latest measure in the Argentinean government's task of documenting this sombre period. Parliament has already repealed the amnesty laws that protected the former torturers of the dictatorship. The news has been welcomed by the association of Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who are fighting to trace those who disappeared.

For the third year in a row, the Bush administration is tabling a UN Security Council resolution that grants immunity from the International Criminal Court (ICC) to US personnel participating in UN authorized missions. This resolution, which was first adopted in July 2002 as Resolution 1422 and renewed in June 2003 as Resolution 1487, is due to expire on June 30.

Beyond placing one group of people above the law, this resolution has also been deemed unlawful by many international legal experts. Numerous governments have agreed with Amnesty International's analysis that the immunity resolution clearly "violates the Rome Statute of the ICC, the UN Charter and other international law."

Annan weighs in

This year, amidst growing concerns about international justice in light of the allegations of torture and abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison, it seems particularly inappropriate for the Washington administration to try to renew this resolution. During a press briefing on June 17, 2004, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed this sentiment when he commented, "[I]t would be unfortunate for one to press for such an exemption, given the prisoner abuse in Iraq... and it would be even more unwise on the part of the Security Council to grant it. It would discredit the Council and the United Nations that stands for rule of law and the primacy of rule of law."

Despite the fact that over 140 countries, including most of the United States' closest allies, support the ICC Treaty, the administration in Washington has clearly indicated – through this UN resolution and through a series of bilateral ICC immunity agreements it has negotiated with smaller, more economically vulnerable countries – its intent to fight for blanket US immunity from the ICC. At a time when the US needs to

show its support for international justice more than ever, such tactics are ill-conceived. Additionally, the Bush administration's professed fears that the US will be a target of politically motivated ICC investigations were always without merit in light of the protections built into the ICC Treaty. The ICC is meant to be a court of last resort. Rather than superseding national jurisdiction, the ICC's mandate allows it to act only in cases where an individual state is unwilling or unable to try alleged criminals itself. As long as the US judicial system does its work, US citizens and personnel will never be brought before the ICC.

Withdrawing Resolution 1487

By bringing to justice individuals responsible for the greatest human rights crimes, the ICC has the potential to become an effective deterrent against future atrocities, and represents an unprecedented level of global consensus on the need to create universal legal standards. Renewal of UN Resolution 1487 threatens to undermine this significant step forward for international justice. The US should withdraw the resolution now before it tarnishes its standing in the international community even more than the last year and a half has done.

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Annan Opposes U.S. Renewal Of Blanket War Crimes Immunity

Close Window

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan yesterday expressed his opposition to a U.S.-sponsored resolution that would renew immunity for U.N. peacekeepers from select countries, including the United States, against prosecution by the International Criminal Court, the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal.

"(The) blanket exemption is wrong. It is of dubious judicial value, and I don't think it should be encouraged by the [Security] Council," Annan told reporters.

The proposed resolution, introduced last month, shields U.N. peacekeepers from countries that have not ratified the Rome Statute — the treaty that created the ICC — from investigation or prosecution by the court. The Security Council has approved the move twice before at Washington's behest, in July 2002 and again last year. The 2003 resolution expires June 30.

Yesterday Annan suggested that the U.S. torture scandal in Iraq made it more difficult to justify U.S. immunity.

"For the past two years I have spoken quite strongly against the exemption, and I think it would be unfortunate for one to press for such an exemption, given the prisoner abuse in Iraq," Annan said. "I think in this circumstance it would be unwise to press for an exemption, and it would be even more unwise on the part of the Security Council to grant it."

Annan added that such a move "would discredit the council and the United Nations that stands for rule of law and the primacy of rule of law" (U.N. release, June 17).

Washington says the ICC could be used as a venue for politically motivated prosecutions of U.S. troops, but the 94 countries that have ratified the Rome Statute say it has enough safeguards to prevent frivolous actions.

The court has no jurisdiction over events in Iraq because neither the United States nor Iraq ratified the Rome Statute and because last year's Security Council resolution therefore grants them immunity from the court (Edith Lederer, Associated Press/Yahoo! News, June 17).

Annan is expected to press his case today at a lunch meeting with council ambassadors ahead of next week's vote, when more than 40 nations will debate the resolution's merits, Reuters reports (CNN.com, June 18).

Washington does not yet have the nine "yes" votes required to pass the resolution. Of the council's 15 members, France, Germany, Spain and Brazil have said they will abstain. China, Romania, Chile and Benin are also reportedly contemplating abstention (Lederer, AP/Yahoo! News).

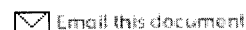
Russia, Algeria, the Philippines, Pakistan, Angola and the United Kingdom are expected to approve it (Reuters/CNN.com).

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Security Council mission heads for West Africa to observe peace operations

With the United Nations Security Council spending at least half of its time on African issues, the Ambassadors of 14 of the 15 Council members will leave New York on Sunday for a 10-day fact-finding visit to seven West African countries, the leader of the group said today.

Among the mission's goals was to observe the UN peacekeeping operations in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry of the United Kingdom said at a press briefing. The other countries in the itinerary are Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria.

The Russian Federation was not being represented, according to a list Mr. Parry issued, but the Chairman of the UN Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, South African Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, would join them in that country.

The 20 to 29 June mission would raise awareness of all UN activities in the region and ensure that the removal of a problem in one country did not result in its arrival in another, Ambassador Jones Parry said.

In Nigeria, the group would discuss West African issues with President Olusegun Obasanjo, but would not meet with exiled former Liberian President Charles Taylor since the Council's views on the need to bring Mr. Taylor to justice were fairly clear.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the Council would deliver a tough message that all signatories of the Linas-Marcoussis peace agreement must live up to their responsibilities and keep the national reconciliation process on track.

In Liberia, the Council would discuss the criteria the Transitional Government needed to meet to have Security Council sanctions lifted.

Top

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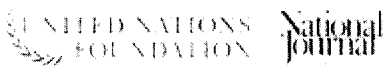
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U.N.WIRE

Liberia Peace Process On Track For Now, UNMIL Chief Says

Close Window

By Caroline Preston, *U.N. Wire*

WASHINGTON — The U.N. Mission in Liberia has made significant progress in disarming rebels and laying the groundwork for elections scheduled for next fall, but obstacles such as widespread illiteracy and lack of national solidarity could prevent the country from securing a full transition to peace, special U.N. envoy to Liberia Jacques Klein said yesterday.

UNMIL was deployed Oct. 1, less than two months after former President Charles Taylor stepped down after 14 years of conflict and went into exile in Nigeria. The 15,000-strong force — the largest of any U.N. mission — has now expanded well beyond the capital and along parts of Liberia's borders, according to Klein.

"Even 15,000 ... disappears very quickly in a country that size," but security is generally improving, he told an audience at the [Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars](#).

Disarmament programs aimed at Taylor's fighters and the rebel groups Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia have been on track since April, after an initial program last December was overrun by pro-Taylor fighters.

"We got 13,000 en masse," Klein said of the Taylor supporters, blaming December's problems on ex-government leaders who told their supporters to flood the camp. "We ran out of food, ran out of stock" and had to shut down after 10 days, he recalled.

The relaunched program had reached more than 70 percent, or 38,000, combatants as of the end of May and Klein said he hoped to have "most of the weapons scooped up" by September.

Thirteen percent of the participants are children and 18 percent women, groups requiring particular attention. Ex-rebels receive an initial \$150 followed by another installment later, but with children, Klein said, UNMIL workers try to locate relatives to receive the cash.

"That's who we give the money to for that child. Do you think we grew up yesterday?" he said.

Identifying relatives has not always been easy, Klein added. UNMIL is successful in only about 75 percent of the cases, while the remaining children are placed in temporary care programs.

UNICEF and aid agencies are working to develop long-term reintegration programs but funding is short, as it has been for the mission.

A donors' conference in February led to promises of \$520 million, "but that's pledging — I need to see the money," Klein said, noting that hundreds of civilian positions remain unfilled.

A successful long-term program would have to address two of the biggest hurdles to lasting peace in Liberia — the lack of employment and educational opportunities. The World Bank estimates the illiteracy rate at 44 percent, while the unemployment rate is 85 percent, particularly worrisome because so much of Liberia's population is young.

"The illiteracy rate scares me," said Klein. "There's no money in any budget for any university education I've seen."

Klein has petitioned the Security Council to lift sanctions on Liberia, which he says could spur job creation, particularly in the timber industry. Although the council rejected his call earlier this month, it approved yesterday the establishment of a panel to assess the country's compliance with sanctions, a possible step toward easing them.

Both the European Union and the United States are funding two massive vocational programs, but even if jobs are found, there is no guarantee that ex-rebels will remain in civilian life, Klein warned.

If "you have an AK-47 and you can rob, steal and murder," giving that up for a job as a gas station attendant is not always realistic, he said.

The United States has also pledged to help restructure the army, which Klein sees as a way to help build a sense of national identity. He introduced the idea of a state border service which would be compulsory for two years — the first six months devoted to basic education, followed by six months of vocational training and a year of military service.

"The fragmentation still exists between the American-Liberians and the native Liberians," Klein said, referring to descendants of freed American slaves who moved to Liberia in the 1800s. With compulsory service, Liberians could say, "What is it that we have in common? You know, we did the military together."

The fractured nature of Liberian society also makes preparing the country for elections next fall more difficult, according to Klein.

A National Elections Commission was established in April to work alongside UNMIL, and Klein said the country is so far on track for the October 2005 elections.

He has been vetting candidates but everyone he has seen thus far is American-Liberian, more intent on power than rebuilding the country, and likely unable to inspire the kind of support necessary for successful leadership.

"I need the Liberian who walks in and says ... I'm a Liberian first," Klein said. "I can guarantee you a free and fair election, but I don't know what's going to come out."

Meanwhile, much of Taylor's family, including his wife, remain in Liberia and on Wednesday, the Security Council issued a list of close family and associates whose assets are to be frozen under a resolution adopted earlier this year.

UNMIL's mandate runs out at the end of September, but Klein said yesterday that given all the obstacles, even another year beyond that "may be too early to leave."

Continued instability in neighboring Sierra Leone could also add to problems that could make an extension necessary, he said. It also raises the stakes for UNMIL.

"If we don't fix Liberia, West Africa is doomed," Klein said.

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HEADLINE: CONFLICT RESOLUTION REMAINS ECOWAS STRONG POINT

BYLINE: Segun Adeyemi, PANA Correspondent

BODY:

Lagos, Nigeria (PANA) - The decision by some member States of the Economic Community of West African States (**ECOWAS**) to intervene in Liberia in 1990, though not with the blessing of all members, has changed the perception of the organisation within and outside the sub-region.

It has also re-defined the role of the 15-member organisation, set up in 1975 to forge economic and political co-operation in the sub-region of 230 million people.

After subsequent successful interventions in **conflicts** in Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau and Cote d'Ivoire, **ECOWAS** is better known globally for its peacekeeping role than its achievements in the core area of economic integration.

Perhaps, it was in anticipation of its new role that West African leaders decided, in a revised **ECOWAS** Treaty signed in July 1993, to formally assign the Community the responsibility of preventing and settling regional **conflicts**.

ECOWAS Executive Secretary Mohammed Ibn Chambas sought to justify the organisation's redefined peacekeeping role in a recent interview with PANA.

"The truth is that without a solid base of stability, peace and security, our efforts (at economic integration and political co-operation) will not take off," he stressed.

But critics have tried to draw a parallel between the 1975 Treaty which set up **ECOWAS** with the aim of promoting trade, co-operation and self-reliance in West Africa, and the revised Treaty designed to accelerate economic integration and increase political co-operation.

"**ECOWAS** is an economic community, not a military pact," Ghana's senior Minister Joseph Henry Mensah told a meeting of the Community in Accra last December.

"The price that we pay for security as a necessary background condition for economic progress should not overshadow the economic benefits themselves," he added.

However, even the critics will agree that such role has become more important, at a time many regard the West African sub-region as a hotbed of political, economic and social agitation, which experts blame for the proliferation of insurgent and revolutionary movements.

Underscoring the level of instability is the fact that West Africa is today the only region of the world with three concurrent UN peacekeeping missions (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire).

Against this background, regional leaders in 1999 signed the protocol on the Mechanism for **Conflict** Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security to stem internal and inter-State **conflicts** and also maintain and consolidate peace, security and stability within the community.

The mechanism is an enhanced version of the Protocol on Mutual Defence Assistance, signed by **ECOWAS** leaders in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in 1989.

That Protocol was invoked by supporters of the deployment in Liberia in 1990 of the non-standing military force, ECOMOG (**ECOWAS** Ceasefire Monitoring Group), to deal with the security problems that followed the collapse of formal State structure in that country.

Under the new protocol, the Mediation and Security Council is saddled with the responsibility of taking decisions on issues of peace and security in the sub-region.

The council is to be assisted by the Defence and Security Commission, which comprises defence chiefs and officials responsible for internal security in member States, and the Council of Elders, made up of eminent personalities who are expected to use their good offices to help resolve **conflicts** in the sub-region.

The protocol also endorses ECOMOG, which is expected to continue playing its peacekeeping role, and an early warning system designed to help anticipate and resolve **conflicts** before they get out of hand.

"It is a regional framework to address what we see as a recurring but unfortunate issue in the sub-region - insecurity," an **ECOWAS** official said.

"This protocol has given us a legal basis to do some of the things we've been doing since 1990 in Liberia," the official said, adding: "We found out that some of the instruments we had were obviously inadequate to be able to cope with the dynamics of regional peace and security."

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Liberia Key to Stability of West Africa, U.N. Envoy Says

United States Department of State (Washington, DC)

NEWS

June 17, 2004

Posted to the web June 18, 2004

By Tara Boyle
Washington, DC

If sustainable stability is not brought to war-ravaged Liberia, the region is "doomed," U.N. special envoy to Liberia Jacques Klein said June 17.

Weighing the benefits and dangers of the high-stakes international peacekeeping effort he is leading in West Africa, Klein bluntly told an audience at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, "This has to work, and it's probably our last chance."

Klein, a former U.S. Foreign Service officer and Air Force major general, talked in detail about the progress that has been made in Liberia since the United Nations officially took over peacekeeping operations there in October 2003. The U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is feeding more than 600,000 people a day and has disarmed 46,000 ex-combatants, he said. In addition, more than one million children under the age of 15 have been immunized against measles, and nearly 18,000 refugees have returned to Liberia from Sierra Leone, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

At the same time, the nation's school structure has "broken down," three-fourths of the population lives below the poverty line and unemployment is rampant, said Klein, who blamed former President Charles Taylor for undermining Liberia's economy and social structure.

"He criminalized all of Liberia. He criminalized Liberian society. When you don't pay a nation for two years -- schoolteachers, clerks, police, medical staff, educators -- people live on bribes and corruption." Klein also said Liberia's healing process will not begin until Taylor, who is currently in exile in Nigeria, is brought to Sierra Leone, where he has been indicted for crimes against humanity.

A further impediment to recovery in Liberia has been the failure of donors to meet the pledges they made in February. Klein urged donors to fulfill their commitments when he

met the U.N. Security Council in New York two weeks ago and reiterated that message during his presentation in Washington, noting that only a small portion of the \$520 million pledged has been received.

"I need to see the money. We need these pledges fulfilled," he said. "To put in a water system, a 40-inch pipeline into Monrovia [the capital of Liberia] would cost \$142 million. To rebuild the electrical grid, which is totally destroyed throughout the country, that will be \$65-\$70 million. And it goes on and on."

Some problems, such as the overcrowded penal institutions, have been particularly difficult to address because donors have little interest in paying for new prisons, he said, while some programs, such as those to protect the environment, are well intentioned but do not meet Liberians' basic needs.

Klein urged the international community to focus on programs that improve the quality of life for Liberians. "People have to survive. They have to eat and they have to have drinking water. Those are the first concerns," he said.

Despite the slow flow of aid to Liberia, a number of specific improvements have been made, Klein noted. Two courts are up and running, a civilian police academy is due to open in July, a 911 emergency phone system has been set up, and 19 prison wardens have been trained. An FM radio station is broadcasting nationwide and a free press has been established, with 25 newspapers and two Monrovia-based television stations.

Major challenges still remain, including the creation of a strong judiciary, which will be particularly crucial to the nation's future economic growth, Klein said. "We will not have foreign investment, obviously, until foreign investors are convinced that there's a safe and secure environment, that a lawsuit can be adjudicated properly."

Finding jobs for former combatants and the nation's large youth population is also critically important, he noted. The United States is sponsoring a nearly \$28 million job-creation program inspired by the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave jobs to unemployed Americans during the Great Depression. The new program will assist 20,000 people, including 10,000 ex-combatants. Specific reintegration programs have also been created for women, children, and youth.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

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U.N. council heads to West Africa

By EDITH M. LEDERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

UNITED NATIONS -- A Security Council mission heads to West Africa Sunday night on a 10-day trip to seven countries to assess U.N. operations and promote peace efforts.

Diplomats from the 15 council nations are expected to arrive in Accra, Ghana, on Monday night and will then visit the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Nigeria and Guinea-Bissau.

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry, who is leading the mission, said the council spends between 50 and 60 percent of its time on African issues "and West Africa currently occupies a lot of that time."

The United Nations has major peacekeeping operations in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast.

Jones Parry said the council will deliver "a very tough message" in Ivory Coast that all parties must live up to a 2003 agreement between government loyalists and rebels aimed at ending a civil war.

He said he would like to bring all the signatories to the agreement together to reinforce the message.

The council also plans to deliver "tough messages about disbanding the militias, the armed groups, and actually moving forward," he said.

In Sierra Leone, where the situation is "much improved," Jones Parry said the council will be assessing progress toward long-term security and looking at benchmarks for the reduction of the U.N. force in 2005.

The council voted unanimously Thursday to establish a new expert panel to assess Liberia's compliance with U.N. sanctions, including timber and diamond embargoes which the interim government wants lifted.

Earlier this month, the council decided that peace in Liberia is still too fragile to lift sanctions, but acknowledged that the country has made progress toward meeting the conditions to end the timber and diamond embargoes.

Jones Parry said he expects sanctions "to be a big subject of discussion in Monrovia."

"What we want to try and do is facilitate the lifting of sanctions, but before that can be done we need to be sure the conditions are met. And what are they? That in lifting them, the resources made available should be put at the disposal of the government for the betterment of Liberia," he said.

Jones Parry said the council wants "to underline our support for the positive progress being made" in Guinea-Bissau in promoting national reconciliation and restoring democratic institutions.

In Nigeria, he said, the council will hold talks with President Olusegun Obasanjo but has no intention of seeing former Liberian president Charles Taylor who is living there in exile.

Impoverished Guinea borders Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast but managed to avoid the civil wars that consumed its southern neighbors. The conflicts have had a spillover effect, however, and that will be on the council's agenda.

France and Britain have been closely coordinating their policies in Africa and French Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere is also going on the trip. The United States will be represented by Sichan Siv, the ambassador to the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

TACY LTD. DIAMOND INDUSTRY CONSULTANTS**RESEARCH MATERIALS****GLOBAL WITNESS LABELS 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT AS 'WRONG'****June 20, 2004**

Non-governmental organization Global Witness has expressed fears that unscrupulous elements of the diamond trade will use a draft report by the 9/11 Commission that stated that Al Qaeda did not "fund itself through trafficking in diamonds from African states engaged in civil wars" to undermine genuine and serious efforts being made by groups such as the US Department of Treasury's FinCEN and diamond financing banks such as ABN Amro to ensure that money laundering and terrorist financing are taken more seriously by the diamond industry.

Following revelations by the Washington Post newspaper in 2001, Global Witness conducted a yearlong investigation into Al Qaeda's involvement in the diamond trade, and last year released an investigative report detailing how Al Qaeda cells had strategically used diamonds for profit and to launder targeted funds. Evidence contained in the report came from the US government and FBI itself, with notebooks and business cards taken by the FBI from Osama bin Laden's personal secretary, Wadiah El Hage, showing a deep involvement in the diamond and precious gem trade. Similarly court transcripts of trials in the USA and Germany in 2000 and 2001 show that Al Qaeda members in East Africa were involved in the diamond and gem trade.

In 2003 and 2004 the FBI undertook investigations into the links between Al Qaeda operatives in West Africa and their involvement in the diamond trade. According to classified briefings given to Congressional members by the FBI's Terrorist finance team they confirmed that Al Qaeda operatives were in Liberia and Sierra Leone in order to gain access to the lucrative diamond trade. "The FBI should release an unclassified version of their report as soon as possible," says Alex Yearsley of Global Witness.

Furthermore, the Chief Prosecutor of the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone, David Crane, a former Pentagon General Counsel and a former Defence Intelligence Agency Counsel has repeatedly and consistently confirmed that key Al Qaeda operatives were in Liberia. Further credence comes from a US four star Air Force General, General Charles Wald, Deputy Commander of European Central Command who publicly stated during an interview at the Pentagon his belief regarding Al Qaeda's use of diamonds, "There's no doubt in my mind that's a truism. They may be connected through Lebanese or Hezbollah or whatever the case may be but the fact of the matter is that I think that's a source of income for al-Qaida."

Global Witness is preparing a detailed submission to the 9/11 Commission on the involvement that Al Qaeda operatives had in the diamond trade. "Until all sectors of the diamond industry, particularly the medium to small rough diamond traders based in west and central Africa with buying partners in Europe, take this issue more seriously the continued possibility exists that terrorist groups will use the highly profitable and lucrative rough diamond trade to launder money and raise funds," explains Yearsley.

**Tacy VIPs Site**

IN THE CASE OF LEONARD FOFANAH

Witness Says Kamajors Killed Micheal Kpulun

TESTIFYING IN the murder case of John Michael Kpulun in High Court No1 presided by Judge Patrick Hamilton in June 17th 2004,

by

ALPHA KAMARA
police detective Sgt Yenda Pesto K Kamara of Block 7 police barracks Kenema, said he recognized both accused persons former minister Leonard Fofanah and Jacob Mohamed Idrissa.

He said sometime in April 1997, he was on duty at the CID office Kenema when Kpulun and his family brought the corpse of John Michael Kpulun in his office and reported murder against Leonard Solomon Fofanah. He said in May 23, 1997, he obtained voluntary caution statement from first accused Fofanah in the presence of Sgt 1895 Massallay.

crime

He further told the court that he did not visit the scene of crime at Tonge village because of the coup d'etat in 1997 and also intelligence report of kamajor threat against any police officer who tried to investigate the matter in Tonge village.

He said their boss wrote a letter to the provincial secretary to help them get the suspect and that through him first accused was escorted to Freetown. He also informed the court that

he cannot tell how many suspects were arrested. CID Sgt Alex Sheku Bao and ex-detective police Sgt Moinina Massallay testified knowing first and second accused persons.

Sgt Alex Sheku Bao has earlier stated that Idrissa was brought in Kenema with the help of the regent chief and the chieftom speaker of Tonge village while Massallay told court that as NCO-In-Charge, he had cause to charge the two accused persons for the offence of murder.

stand

The state prosecutor Lawyer Monfred Sesay told the court that both accused stand charged with the offence of murder contrary to law. He said both accused and others unknown will be known.

He informed the court that section 136 of the Criminal Procedure Act of 1965 as repealed and replaced by the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act No1 of 1970 which requires consent of a judge in writing for the accused to be charged. He said the order by Honourable Justice NM Tunis dated 8 August 2003 was perfect in the file, and that others unknown will be located and brought to court soon.

Meanwhile, in his state-

ment in Exhibit F, Fofanah stated the deceased and his brother were all kamajors. That because he gave 50,000 leones to the kamajors as an appreciation for defending their land that others alleged it to be a bribe for the death of John Michael Kpulun. He stated he was not a kamajor and did not know what is their secret. He also stated that the brother of the deceased surrendered his gun after the incident. And before the incident, there was dancing and shooting outside the Barry by kamajors which led him to give them the money so that they can show reason and stop shooting, he stated.

died

The former minister also stated that he also volunteered to take the wounded boy in his vehicle to hospital but that he died due to the wounds.

He also stated in his report that there was a dispute between himself and Kpulun and that Kpulun wanted to use the death of his son to destroy him.

Ton di People

Monday June 21,

2004

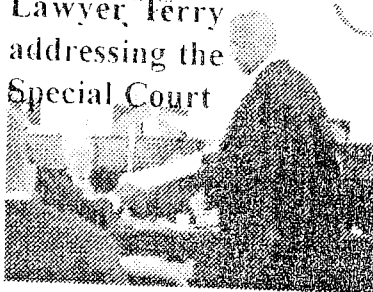
Awako

Monday June 21, 2009

Terrence Terry Dies

Senior Lawyer, Terrence Micheal Terry at about 5am yesterday morning died peaceful at his Juba Hill residence. Lawyer Terry who represents exiled Liberian President Charles Taylor at the Special Court had of late been very ill. Doctors say he had been suffering from Kidney failure. Family sources say however that the 60 year old man was in good spirits on Saturday night and ate an hearty meal of lamb chops even asking for a

Lawyer Terry addressing the Special Court



second helping. Efforts had been underway to fly him out for treatment abroad when he died. Family members say that he was so committed to his work that he neglected his health. He will be remembered as one of Sierra Leone's most committed lawyers