


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, March 21, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Mariama S. Yilla
Ext 7217 / 7216
MOBILE: 232 76 767502

Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > **News, Most Recent 90 Days (English, Full Text)** 
Terms: **special court and sierra leone** ([Edit Search](#))

 Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia) March 21, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited
Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

March 21, 2005 Monday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 27

LENGTH: 348 words

HEADLINE: Big guns fire up for Halloran

BYLINE: Keith Moor

BODY:

FORMER royal commissioner Lex Lasry, QC, will fly to **Sierra Leone** to represent Victoria Police superintendent Peter Halloran at his appeal.

Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer assured Mr Lasry he would do all he could to ensure Halloran got a fair hearing at his appeal.

Halloran, 56, was last month convicted of indecently assaulting a teenage girl in **Sierra Leone** and jailed for 18 months.

He launched an appeal and has been bailed pending that hearing.

High-profile barrister Mr Lasry is chairman of Victoria's Criminal Bar Association, was Australia's independent legal observer at terror suspect David Hicks' first hearing before a US military commission and conducted the ambulance royal commission in Victoria.

Mr Lasry and Halloran's Melbourne-based solicitor, Tony Hargreaves, discussed the appeal with Mr Downer and several of his advisers last week.

"The minister indicated during our meeting that he was pleased Peter Halloran had been released on bail pending his appeal," Mr Hargreaves said.

Mr Hargreaves said Mr Lasry would be arguing that the judge wrongly convicted Halloran.

"The principal ground of appeal will be that there was no admissible evidence on which the judge could have been satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that Mr Halloran was guilty," he said.

"Therefore the verdict of the judge, there was no jury, was unsafe and unsatisfactory."

No date has been set for the appeal.

State Police Minister Tim Holding has written to Mr Downer asking him to lobby the Sierra Leonean Government for a speedy appeal.

Halloran took 12 months' leave from Victoria Police in March last year to work as commander


of war crimes investigations at the UN-backed **Special Court in Sierra Leone.**

The Special Court this month terminated Halloran's contract.

"That leaves him with no income and mounting legal bills," Victoria Police Association assistant secretary Bruce McKenzie said.

"To help alleviate that problem his supporters have organised a function at Bell's Hotel in South Melbourne from 6pm on March 31 to raise funds for his appeal."

LOAD-DATE: March 20, 2005

Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > [News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **special court and sierra leone** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Monday, March 21, 2005 - 4:28 AM EST

[About LexisNexis](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

Copyright © 2005 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Salone Times, Monday March 21th, 2005.

Special Court Witness Denies Stealing Goats

By Mohamed Mansaray

Special Court Prosecution witness, Albert Moinina Jusu Nallo, who was the Deputy National Director of CDF operations has denied looting twenty goats in Kagboro chiefdom, Moyamba district, sometime in 1997.

The witness was giving evidence during cross-examination last week by Allieu Kondewa's defence lawyers, Yada Williams at the First Trial Chamber, New England in Freetown. Describing himself also as the Director of CDF Operations in the Southern region, Mr. Nallo told the court that he was given some goats by Hon. PC Charles Caulker of Bumpé Chiefdom (a member of CDF war council) during that period. Mr. Nallo also denied looting Pastoral Centre in Bo, under cross-examination by Samuel Hinga Norman's defence lawyer, Ibrahim Yillah. In his evidence-in-chief earlier, the witness testified that he was not given any law on looting during his initiation into the Kamajor society in Bo in November 1996. Mr. Nallo told the court that the former CDF Coordinator, Samuel Hinga Norman approved the looting and burning of properties of AFRC/RUF sympathisers and collaborators and added that the accused also ordered him to loot the Southern Pharmacy in Bo before the town was captured by Kamajors from junta forces during that period. Born in Upper Siama, Lugbu Chiefdom in the Bo district, Mr. Nallo informed the court that he was the architect of 'Operation Black December' which according to him was meant to paralyse AFRC/RUF fighters from having free movement within the country. He added that the idea for the

operation came from Mr. Norman.


The 52-year-old witness further testified that civilians fought alongside junta forces with machetes and sticks with nails attached against Kamajors in Tongo during that period.

Mr. Nallo informed the court that though he did not take part in the Tongo operations but he assisted in transporting arms and ammunitions for fighters in Tongo.

"I stopped at Dodo to assist the commander in the region, Musa Junissa," he said.

Asked by Counsel Yillah whether he distinguished between lawful and unlawful orders during his operations, Mr. Nallo replied that he did not do law nor he attend an army academy.

The witness gave his evidence open in Krio, through an interpreter and was led in evidence by a prosecution counsel, Kevin Tavener.

Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > **News, Most Recent 90 Days (English, Full Text)** 

Terms: **special court and sierra leone** ([Edit Search](#))

 Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery

The Japan Times March 21, 2005, Monday

Copyright 2005 The Japan Times Ltd.
The Japan Times

March 21, 2005, Monday

LENGTH: 812 words

HEADLINE: **Special court** can right Haitian wrongs

BODY:

By CESAR CHELALA, Special to The Japan Times

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Known as the "Perle des Antilles" at the time of its independence in 1804, Haiti has gone through several periods of upheaval and terror that have stymied a once promising future. Human rights violations are widespread, and justice is nonexistent in the country today.

In 1804, after a slave revolt against the French, Haiti became the first independent republic in Latin America, and the world's first black republic. In response to the colony's revolt, the French imposed a commercial embargo, and the United States refused to recognize the new republic until 1862. Since independence, France and the U.S. have continued to exert influence on politics in Haiti.

In 2000, Jean Bertrand Aristide was re-elected president and assumed power in 2001. Aristide was unable to establish a working relationship with the opposition. Amid accusations of widespread government corruption and tainted parliamentary elections, the U.S. redirected economic aid from the government to nongovernmental organizations.

Haiti has the worst health-status indicators in the hemisphere, and it is the only country that is considered among the least developed. Life expectancy of Haitians is only 53 years old. Infant mortality is 76 per 1,000 live births, and the maternal mortality rate is 523 per 100,000 live births. The figures compare with 29 and 180, respectively, in the neighboring Dominican Republic. Half the population has no access to potable water and 65 percent live in poverty.

On Feb. 29, Aristide resigned under strong pressure from France and the U.S. He first went to the Central African Republic and then to South Africa, from where he still influences events in his country.

Haiti's present ruler, Gerard Latortue, chosen by a group of U.S.-approved Haitian "wise persons," is a transitional caretaker with almost no power to govern his country or restrain his own police force from carrying out acts of violence.

The situation in Haiti continues to deteriorate as the government intimidates, arrests and kills member of Lavalas, Aristide's party, as revenge for similar killings carried out by Aristide's government.

Last October, the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince called the Ministry of Health demanding emergency vehicles to remove more than 600 corpses that had been deposited there, the

result of killings that had taken place in the previous weeks.

On Oct. 28, the InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights expressed concern over the arbitrary arrests and detentions of former members of Aristide's party, as well as other acts of violence and intimidation carried out against human rights advocates and journalists, including the murder last September of Moleste Lovinsky Bertomieux, the host of a daily program on Radio Caraibe.

Adults are not the only targets of police violence. Child welfare workers say the rate of beatings and killings of street children has increased five times since the ouster of Aristide. These murders are carried out by the police, death squads and the military.

Michael Brewer, director of Haiti Street Kids Inc., has described how groups of men who belong to military patrols in Port-au-Prince kill street children "for sport."

Jocelyn McCalla, executive director of National Coalition for Haitian Rights, indicated to me, "Lack of justice is the most critical issue in Haiti today."

During my stay in Haiti I heard a similar feelings expressed. Haitians are desperate to live in peace and security and to lead normal, productive lives. That is why the main task is to establish the rule of law, including finding a just solution for the more than 1,000 detainees currently awaiting trial.

With the judiciary all but destroyed, a possible solution could be to create a **special court** of justice along the lines of that established in **Sierra Leone**. A Haitian **special court** should develop out of an agreement between the government of Haiti and the United Nations. And, unlike the Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia Tribunals, which are composed exclusively of international judges elected by the U.N. General Assembly, Haiti's **special court** should comprise both international and Haitian judges, prosecutors and staff.

Haiti is a vibrant country cursed by its own political elites and repeated foreign interventions. The establishment of civil justice is a condition for peace in the country, which continues to be ravaged by almost daily acts of violence. Peace must precede efforts to stimulate Haiti's tattered economy. The establishment of a **special court** could bring a measure of accountability in Haiti, and would let the victims of significant human rights abuses and their families know that justice will finally prevail in their country.

Cesar Chelala is an international public health consultant and a writer on human rights issues.

LOAD-DATE: March 20, 2005

Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > [News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) ⓘ

Terms: **special court and sierra leone** ([Edit Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Monday, March 21, 2005 - 4:27 AM EST

[About LexisNexis](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

Copyright © 2005 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.