

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:**

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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ABC Online

Aust officer jailed over Sierra Leone indecent assault. 22/02/2005. ABC News Online

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200502/s1307944.htm>]

Last Update: Tuesday, February 22, 2005. 2:44pm (AEDT)



Halloran is expected to appeal. (AFP)

Aust officer jailed over Sierra Leone indecent assault

By Africa correspondent Zoe Daniel and staff

An Australian police officer on secondment to the United Nations Special Court for war crimes in Sierra Leone has been convicted and sent to jail on sex offences.

Peter Halloran was acquitted of rape and procurement of a child last month, and was widely expected to be cleared, but the judge found him guilty of indecent assault and jailed him for 18 months.

Halloran is expected to appeal.

His lawyer, Nicholas Browne Marke, says he is stunned at the outcome.

"I'm surprised at the statute because the evidence in which the first one was thrown out was very much the same evidence on which he was now convicted," he said.

The judge said the former head of the Victorian Homicide Squad had taken improper liberties with a black domestic worker who just wanted a job, and had told deliberate lies to police.

Halloran has denied allegations that the girl slept in his room and that he touched her breasts and genitals.

The trial has been highly political in Sierra Leone partly due to Halloran's position on the court investigating war crimes.

Appeal

Victorian Premier Steve Bracks has urged the Federal Government to help expedite the appeal.

Mr Bracks says Mr Halloran's future as a police officer will be decided by the Police Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon after his appeal.

A former Victorian policeman Tim Carrodus travelled to Sierra Leone last year to help organise Halloran's legal team.

Mr Carrodus says Halloran had been confident he would be acquitted.

"His next move of course is he will appeal," he said.

"He's always said to his lawyer, and to me many times, that if he gets convicted he will certainly go through the appeals process.

"He wants people not to forget him."

Victorian Police Association secretary Paul Mullett says Peter Halloran's appeal needs to be dealt with quickly by the Sierra Leone court.

He says any decision by the Victoria Police Force on Halloran's future employment should be delayed until his appeal is heard.

"That's a matter for the Victoria Police Force. No doubt they'll be considering their position on that but if he does lodge an appeal that puts any termination process on hold," Mr Mullett said.

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**ABC Online****AM - Senior police officer convicted of sex offences in Sierra Leone**

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1308145.htm>]

AM - Tuesday, 22 February , 2005 08:08:00

Reporter: Zoe Daniel

TONY EASTLEY: The former head of the Victorian Homicide squad, Peter Halloran has been convicted and jailed on sex charges in the West African nation of Sierra Leone.

The senior officer, seconded to the UN special court investigating war crimes, will now spend 18 months jail for indecently assaulting a 13-year-old local domestic worker.

Africa Correspondent Zoe Daniel reports from Freetown.

ZOE DANIEL: In Sierra Leone, they make you sweat, literally. This is the fourth time in a week that Peter Halloran has fronted up to the dusty, steamy Freetown courtroom to find out his fate.

Today he was expected to go free, but Judge Samuel Ademusu shocked the courtroom with a guilty verdict.

Among them Halloran's lawyer, Nicholas Browne Marke.

NICHOLAS BROWNE MARKE: I'm surprised at the (inaudible), because evidence which was first of all thrown out was very much the same evidence on which he is now convicted.

ZOE DANIEL: A month ago the Australian police officer was cleared of rape and procurement of a child. This was the supposedly lesser charge of indecent assault, but it now means 18 months in Pademba Road prison, a typically third world jail.

James Roscoe from the British High Commission.

JAMES ROSCOE: Well, I think he does know the prisoners quite well, he spent some time in Pademba while awaiting the beginning of this case, and it's... yeah, they are certainly difficult conditions there.

ZOE DANIEL: This highly political case has been running for eight months. In Sierra Leone, debate's been hot on whether it was a witch hunt against a white, special court investigator or whether there were legitimate charges to answer.

Peter Halloran was accused of having a 13-year-old black domestic worker sleep in his room. He was accused of fondling her breasts and genitals, charges he's denied throughout.

But the Judge found that the Australian took improper liberties with a young girl who only wanted a job. In his decision he accuses Halloran of deliberately lying to police "out of a wish to conceal his disgraceful behaviour".

During the course of the trial there have been serious allegations of political pressure and manipulation of the process. The family of the alleged victim changed sides, backing Peter Halloran, and claiming they had been bullied into making allegations against him.

However Sierra Leone's Attorney-General, Frederick Carew maintains the process has been fair.

FREDERICK CAREW: Both parties have argued on points of law and facts and the judge has come to his independent conclusion on the matter.

ZOE DANIEL: Peter Halloran was immediately behind bars after the judgement, and in tears. His lawyers are set to appeal, but in doing so they risk an increased sentence in a higher court. Meanwhile the Sierra Leonian Government says it would consider an application for the convicted man to serve his time in Australia.

This is Zoe Daniel in Freetown for *AM*.

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**ABC Online****AM - Police officer's conviction in Sierra Leone shocks friends and supporters**

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1308148.htm>]

AM - Tuesday, 22 February, 2005 08:12:00

Reporter: Nick McKenzie

TONY EASTLEY: The conviction and sentencing of Victoria Police Superintendent Peter Halloran has shocked friends and supporters. Last year, Former Victorian policeman Tim Carrodus travelled to Sierra Leone to pay for Peter Halloran's bail and to help organise his legal team.

Tim Carrodus is speaking here with our reporter, Nick McKenzie.

TIM CARRODUS: Peter would be extremely distressed about it, but at the same time as saying that, he told me that he was also very fearful that he could be convicted of these allegations politically. And he didn't want to go back into that Pademba Road jail. He spent six weeks there, totally, before he was released on bail.

NICK MCKENZIE: What are the conditions like in the prison?

TIM CARRODUS: Well, it's a hell hole. I've been there a couple of times, it's very hard to describe it to get the right message across, it's something like the prison you'd see in *Papillon* the movie and *Midnight Express*, that sort of place. It's very unhygienic, it's overcrowded, it's very, very third world, it's an absolute hell hole, the best way I can describe it.

NICK MCKENZIE: Supporters of Peter Halloran including yourself were quietly confident that he would be acquitted of all charges, especially since the girl, allegedly abused, when she actually presented to the court told the court she had actually never been abused and also in light of a separate report finding that there were severe problems with the gathering of evidence and the whole process. What went wrong?

TIM CARRODUS: Well, it's very, very simple really. He's been convicted politically. The evidence does not exist, it's simple as that.

NICK MCKENZIE: What will Peter Halloran's next move be and are you hoping for, for instance, some government representation from Australia?

TIM CARRODUS: His next move, of course he will appeal. He's always said to his lawyer, and he said to me many times that if he gets convicted he will certainly go through the appeal process.

TONY EASTLEY: Former Victorian policeman Tim Carrodus speaking to Nick McKenzie.

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Halloran convicted but Lawyer says

"We will appeal"

Lawyer Browne-Marke defending Special Court employee Peter Halloran has said they will appeal after the former head of Homicide of Victoria Police in Australia was sent to Prison by a Freetown High Court for indecent assault. The

Australian born senior police officer, was working as Chief of Investigations at the UN backed Special Court when he allegedly hired a 13-year-old girl as his nanny. However another Australian woman

Mandy Caldwell living in the same house, discovered that this 13-year-old girl was sleeping in Halloran's room. Evidence was heard in court that Halloran removed the girl's blouse and played with her

breasts throughout the night while both of them slept on the same bed. High Court Judge Samuel Ademusu said of Mandy Caldwell who was also an investigator at the Special Court working under Peter Halloran and who actually uncovered the

Contd. Page 2



Lawyer Browne-Marke

From Front Page
whole issue that he "found her evidence to be unshaken." He added, "I watched her demeanour in the witness box and I have no doubt in my mind that she told the court a very true story." Justice Ademusu stated that the evidence that the 13-year-old girl was found in Halloran's bedroom by Mandy Caldwell was "not challenged" pointing out "this piece of evidence was confirmed by (the 13 year old herself) who admitted sleeping in the house for two days." The Judge concluded that Halloran "took most improper liberties with the girl who was anxious to get a job"

Justice Ademusu stated that Halloran "told deliberate lies to the police ... out of a wish to conceal a disgraceful behaviour." He pointed out that Halloran's statement was "replete with contradictions and inconsistencies which one would not expect from an acknowledged criminal investigator." Looking stoically at the Judge after the guilty verdict had been delivered, when asked what he had to say before sentence was passed on him Halloran said, "I'm surprised at the verdict. I will rely on my counsel to speak on my behalf." His counsel Nicolas Browne-Marke asked the Judge to use his discretion

emphasising that it is punishment enough that a highly placed Victorian Police officer has been convicted. The Judge replied that he thinks "it would be meaningless to impose a fine on the accused bearing in mind that this is a very serious offence in which I feel very strongly about; taking advantage of a school girl who was anxious for a job; should not be visited with other sentence than a custodial one." He then sentenced the senior Australian Police Officer to 18 months in prison. The other two accused persons Sheka and Abdul Fofanah who were standing trial for conspiracy contrary to law were acquitted and

discharged because the Judge said the evidence against them was scanty and did not convince him that they were guilty beyond all reasonable doubt. Halloran's lawyer Browne-Marke said that they were going to appeal. The

Attorney General Frederick Carew said there was "no precedent" of someone being given over to serve his sentence in another country. He however stated that since Australia was a member of the Commonwealth, and has

also been magnanimous in taking in Sierra Leonean refugees he would not object if the Australian government made moves to have Halloran be transferred to Australia to serve his sentence. He however maintained that this would be both "a diplomatic and political decision."

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Tuesday February 22, 2005

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Govt looks at options in Halloran case

February 22, 2005 - 1:54PM

The Australian government is reviewing the conviction of a senior Victorian detective for the sexual assault of a teenage girl in the West African country of Sierra Leone.

A Sierra Leone court sentenced Superintendent Peter Halloran, a former head of Victoria's homicide squad, to 18 months' jail for the indecent assault of a 13-year-old girl in the capital, Freetown.

Halloran, 56, who is on leave without pay from Victoria Police and was working as a prosecution inspector for the UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone, has said he would appeal the decision.

A spokesman for Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the government was reviewing the case and working out what action could be taken.

"There are elements of the proceedings that have led independent observers to raise questions about due process," the spokesman told AAP.

"We will be reviewing those questions that are raised in light of the court findings and pursue those through appropriate channels."

The spokesman said it was understood Halloran could seek to overturn the decision through Sierra Leone's Court of Appeal, which involves three judges.

The Australian high commissioner in Ghana, who is accredited to Sierra Leone, had been in touch with British officials, who have also been closely following the case.

The Australian consul in Sierra Leone would meet with Halloran and his lawyers as soon as possible to discuss the next steps, the spokesman said.

"We will review what the next step will be.

"Obviously that could involve diplomatic steps, but I wouldn't want to speculate."

The federal government has followed the case closely in recent months.

Mr Downer said in December it would be a "real test of the Sierra Leone judicial system".

The government succeeded in persuading the court to grant bail and sought assurances that the trial would be free and fair.

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**VIC NEWS**

No electronic tag for Halloran

17:52 AEDT Tue Feb 22 2005

New laws allowing Victorian child sex offenders to be tagged on their release from jail would not apply to Victorian detective Peter Halloran, convicted of indecent assault in the West African state of Sierra Leone.

Superintendent Halloran, 56, a former head of Victoria's homicide squad and investigator with the former National Crime Authority, was convicted of the indecent assault of a 13-year-old Freetown girl and sentenced to 18 months' jail.

Halloran went to Sierra Leone in January last year to serve with the UN as part of an international taskforce investigating war crimes committed during the country's bloody 1991-2002 civil war.

Victorian Police Minister Tim Holding said the new sex offender laws did not apply in Halloran's case.

"These laws are not designed for child sex offences which are alleged to have been committed internationally," he said.

Halloran's alleged victim would not be eligible for victims of crime compensation under Victorian law, he said.

"Let's make it clear, Mr Halloran in his activities in Sierra Leone was not working at the direction of Victoria police or the Victorian government," Mr Holding said.

Mr Holding said he hoped Halloran's appeal would be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Halloran was charged last August with unlawful carnal knowledge, procuring a girl under the age of 14 and indecent assault.

He was acquitted last month on the carnal knowledge and procuring charges and was cleared of conspiracy.

The case centred on allegations he had sex with the girl, a maid who worked in the house he shared with Tasmanian police Officer Mandy Cordwell, fellow Victorian officer Sharon Holt and a Canadian man.

Halloran has maintained his innocence.

His lawyer said he would appeal, and seek Halloran's freedom on bond in the meantime.



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Aussie sex case cop found guilty

By Keith Moor

22-02-2005

From: Herald Sun

VICTORIA Police Supt Peter Halloran was last night found guilty of indecently assaulting a schoolgirl in West Africa.

The conviction came despite the alleged victim giving evidence that he had not touched her.

Supt Halloran was jailed for 18 months in one of the world's most dangerous jails in war-torn Sierra Leone.

It houses some of those he was investigating as a war crimes investigator with the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone.

He plans an immediate appeal against the conviction, which came after a controversial five-month trial labelled as unfair by the Victoria Police Association.

An hour before the verdict, Supt Halloran told the *Herald Sun* he feared all along he might be found guilty for political reasons, rather than on the evidence.

"If I am convicted I hope the Australian Government doesn't just abandon me," he said.

"I don't expect the Government to take my side or prove my innocence – given a fair hearing I can do that myself.

"But I do hope the Australian Government will put pressure on authorities in Sierra Leone to get me a speedy appeal.

"I have heard of it taking years to get an appeal. They just lock you up and forget about you.

"I appeal to the Australian Government not to let that happen to me."

Supt Halloran said his trial hadn't followed international rules of justice. He claimed powerful Sierra Leone Government figures applied pressure to get a conviction as a means of discrediting the Special Court.

The Special Court is despised by some in Sierra Leone, and has charged former deputy Defence Minister Sam Hinga Norman with war crimes.

The Special Court has already held its own disciplinary board of inquiry into the case against Supt Halloran and found no credible evidence to support the sexual misconduct allegation.

A report by the National Forum for Human Rights and Trade Union Coalition of Sierra Leone found evidence the alleged victim was pressured to wrongly claim she was assaulted.

"There is no evidence against me," Supt Halloran said.

"The alleged victim said it didn't happen, there was no physical evidence that an assault took place, and no witnesses to say they saw the girl and I together.

"The authorities showed extreme willingness to push ahead with the prosecution despite that lack of evidence."

Sierra Leone High Court Judge Samuel Ademusu yesterday convicted Supt Halloran, 56, of indecently assaulting teenage girl Kadia Kabia in June last year.

Earlier, the judge threw out two other sex charges against Supt Halloran on the grounds there was no case to answer.

Supt Halloran, who took 12 months' leave from Victoria Police to work as commander of war crimes investigations at the Special Court, denied the allegations.

He was charged after former Tasmanian police officer Mandy Cordwell said Kadia told her about the alleged abuse.

Ms Cordwell, 37, worked with Supt Halloran at the Special Court and shared a house with him and two other war crimes investigators.

Kadia's brother was their houseboy and she was interviewed by Supt Halloran about a possible job as a nanny for a friend's child.

Supt Halloran claims he and Ms Cordwell fell out over various matters in the weeks before the sex allegations were aired.

Ms Cordwell had a local police officer take a statement from Kadia in which the girl claimed she had sex with Supt Halloran and he indecently assaulted her.

But Kadia later told the court her various statements were false and she made them only because Ms Cordwell offered her rewards.

"She promised to build me a house, buy a motor car and take me to her country if I did what she would ask me to do," Kadia told the court.

Ms Cordwell was suspended on full pay in November, pending the results of an inquiry to see if she was the source of corruption allegations made to the *Herald Sun* about her boss, Special Court registrar Robin Vincent.

The *Herald Sun* was interviewed by a Special Court investigator but refused to identify the source of the allegations.

Ms Cordwell was suspended for four months without pay on December 15, but resigned on January 21.

Ms Cordwell has refused to comment and since resigning from the court has not responded to requests for an interview.

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Australian cop facing African jail time

February 22, 2005 - 4:55PM

A senior Australian police officer faces 18 months in a squalid west African prison following his conviction overnight on a child sex charge.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, 56, a former head of Victoria's homicide squad and investigator with the former National Crime Authority, was convicted in Sierra Leone court of the indecent assault of a 13-year-old girl and sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Halloran went to Sierra Leone in January last year to serve with the United Nations as part of an international task force investigating war crimes committed during the country's 1991-2002 civil war.

Halloran was charged last August with unlawful carnal knowledge, procuring a girl under the age of 14 and indecent assault.

He was acquitted last month on the carnal knowledge and procuring charges and was cleared of conspiracy.

The case centred on allegations he had sex with the girl, a maid who worked in the house he shared with Tasmanian police Officer Mandy Cordwell, fellow Victorian officer Sharon Holt and a Canadian man.

Halloran, who is on leave without pay from the Victoria Police, has maintained his innocence and said he would appeal.

His trial was based on allegations made by Ms Cordwell, but an investigation by the UN-backed war crimes court found no evidence to support her allegations.

Tim Carrodus, a former Victorian detective who went to Sierra Leone to pay Halloran's bail and organise his legal team, said Halloran should never have been charged.

"He should never have gone to court and I would challenge anyone from the international community - anybody in human rights, any judge, any lawyer, any investigator - to have a look at this case and not come up with the same conclusion that I have," he told ABC Radio.

Sierra Leone Attorney-General Frederick Carew said the verdict was reached by an independent judge based on legal argument.

"Both parties have argued on points of law and fact and the judge has come to his independent conclusion on the matter," he told ABC Radio.

Mr Carrodus said the Pademba Road Jail where Halloran would be imprisoned was appalling.

"It's very unhygienic. It's overcrowded. It's very, very third world. It's a hellhole," he said.

A spokesman for Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the federal government planned its own review of the case.

"There are elements of the proceedings that have led independent observers to raise questions about due process," the spokesman told AAP.

"We will be reviewing those questions that are raised in light of the court findings and pursue those through appropriate channels."

The Australian high commissioner in Ghana, who is accredited to Sierra Leone, had contacted British officials who had also followed the case.

The Australian consul would meet Halloran and his lawyers soon, the spokesman said.

Victoria Police spokesman Stephen Linnell said the force would also investigate.

"Victoria Police is now in the process of obtaining all relevant information, including court transcripts, prior to deciding what action, if any, will be taken."

Police Association secretary Senior Sergeant Paul Mullett called for a fair, swift appeal, but said the uncertainty over the appeals process worried Halloran's family.

"His family is devastated. It goes without saying," Sen Sgt Mullett said.

Sen Sgt Mullett called on the British government to use Halloran's trial as a case study for a review of Sierra Leone's legal system, following a \$23 million funding boost to the nation's judicial system.

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Convicted cop victim of politics says friend

February 22, 2005 - 10:20AM

A friend and former colleague of a Victorian detective convicted overnight of sexually assaulting a teenage girl in Sierra Leone said the decision was politically motivated.

A Sierra Leone court sentenced Superintendent Peter Halloran, a former head of Victoria's homicide squad, to 18 months' jail for the indecent assault of a 13-year-old girl in the capital, Freetown.

Halloran, 56, who is on leave without pay from Victoria Police and was working as a prosecution inspector for the UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone, said he would appeal the decision.

Halloran was acquitted in January of the two main charges in the indictment - unlawful carnal knowledge and procuring a girl under the age of 14.

He was acquitted today of a conspiracy charge related to the incident, as were the brother and uncle of the girl at the centre of the case.

Tim Carrodus, a former Victorian detective who travelled to Freetown to pay his bail and organise his legal team, said the conviction was made without evidence.

"He's been convicted politically. The evidence does not exist. It's as simple as that," Mr Carrodus told ABC Radio today.

"Peter would be extremely distressed about it but at the same time as saying that he told me that he was also very fearful that he could be convicted of these allegations politically."

Mr Carrodus said the Pademba Road jail where Halloran would be imprisoned if his appeal was unsuccessful was in appalling condition.

"It's something like the prison you see in Papillon, the movie, and Midnight Express," he said.

"It's that sort of place. It's very unhygienic. It's overcrowded. It's very, very third world. It's a hellhole."

Sierra Leone Attorney-General Frederick Carew denied the verdict was false.

"Both parties have argued on points of law and fact and the judge has come to his independent conclusion on the matter," he told ABC Radio.

Victoria Police spokesman Stephen Linnell said the force would investigate the verdict.

"Victoria Police is now in the process of obtaining all relevant information, including court transcripts, prior to deciding what action, if any, will be taken."

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Posted on Mon, Feb. 21,

Investigator convicted in Sierra Leone

CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY

Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone - An Australian investigator for a U.N.-backed war-crimes tribunal was convicted Monday of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl who sought a job as a nanny in his household.

Australian police officer Peter Halloran, 56, was sentenced to 1 1/2 years in prison.

"This is a very serious offense, taking advantage of a schoolgirl searching for a job," Judge Samuel Ademosu said in passing sentence, telling jailers: "Take him down."

Halloran came to Sierra Leone in 2004 as an investigator for the U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal, which is trying rebels and government-allied fighters for abuses committed during the West African nation's 1991-2002 civil war.

The war-crimes court suspended Halloran after the sexual abuse allegations emerged in August. That court carried out its own investigation, but found insufficient evidence to support a case.

The 13-year-old said she met Halloran when she applied for a job as a baby sitter for the child of his girlfriend.

She told police that she slept in Halloran's bed for two nights, during which he molested her but stopped short of sexual intercourse.

Halloran, who said the girl told him she was 16, denied the charges.

Defense attorney Nicholas Browne-Marke said he would appeal and seek Halloran's freedom on bond.

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The China Post

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Tuesday, Feb

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Back Issue :

2005

2

21

Front Page

Government reviews Australian police officer's abuse conviction in Sierra Leone? (updated PM 02:00)

2005/2/22

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

An Australian man's conviction in Sierra Leone for sexually assaulting a young girl is being examined by Australian officials for possible legal inconsistencies that might have led to an unfair trial, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

Peter Halloran, 56, an officer for the Victoria state police who was on leave working for a war crimes tribunal, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment after a judge found him indecently assaulting a 13-year-old girl in the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer was examining the court process that had led to the conviction, his spokesman Chris Kenny said.

"There have been in this case independent observers who have reported what they say are inconsistencies in the process," Kenny said, without detailing the alleged inconsistencies.

"We're going to have a look at these issues before we consider whether there is any further action we can take," he said.

Halloran came to Sierra Leone last year as an investigator for the war crimes tribunal, working to try rebels and government-allied fighters for abuses committed during the West African nation's bloody 1991-2002 civil war.

Kenny would not rule out Downer taking diplomatic action.

Halloran has the option to appeal his conviction and sentence in a Sierra Leone court, Kenny said, but the failure of such an appeal could lead to a longer sentence.

His defense attorney, Nicholas Browne-Marke, said he would file an appeal, and seek Halloran's freedom on bond in the meantime.

The Australian consul in Sierra Leone would soon meet with Halloran and his lawyers to discuss the next step, Kenny said.

The government has followed the Halloran case for months. In December, Downer described the case as a "real test of the Sierra Leone judicial system."

Prosecutors charged Halloran with molesting the girl after she sought a nanny post in his household in Freetown.

The war-crimes court suspended Halloran after allegations of sexual abuse involving the

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year-old emerged in August.

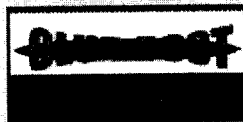
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Sierra Leone court convicts Australian U.N. investigator of molesting girl

By Clarence Roy-Macaulay
ASSOCIATED PRESS

12:18 p.m. February 21, 2005

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone – An Australian investigator for a U.N.-backed war-crimes tribunal was convicted Monday of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl who sought a job as a nanny in his household.

Australian police officer Peter Halloran, 56, was sentenced to 1½ years in prison.

"This is a very serious offense, taking advantage of a schoolgirl searching for a job," Judge Samuel Ademosu said in passing sentence, telling jailers: "Take him down."

Halloran came to Sierra Leone in 2004 as an investigator for the U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal, which is trying rebels and government-allied fighters for abuses committed during the West African nation's 1991-2002 civil war.

The war-crimes court suspended Halloran after the sexual abuse allegations emerged in August. That court carried out its own investigation, but found insufficient evidence to support a case.

The 13-year-old said she met Halloran when she applied for a job as a baby sitter for the child of his girlfriend.

She told police that she slept in Halloran's bed for two nights, during which he molested her but stopped short of sexual intercourse.

Halloran, who said the girl told him she was 16, denied the charges.

Defense attorney Nicholas Browne-Marke said he would appeal and seek Halloran's freedom on bond.

Find this article at:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20050221-1218-uninvestigator.html>

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Article published Feb 21, 2005

Investigator Convicted in Sierra Leone

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY
Associated Press Writer

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"PA" NEWS

Mon 21 Feb 2005

print  close **1:18pm (UK)****War Crimes Investigator Jailed for Sex Assault***"PA"*

An Australian UN war-crimes investigator was jailed for 18 months today for sexually assaulting an under-age girl in Sierra Leone.

Peter Halloran, a senior detective in Victoria state, had denied the charges, which claimed he abused a 13-year-old girl.

Halloran went Sierra Leone last year to work as an investigator for the UN-backed war crimes tribunal, which is trying both rebels and government-allied fighters for abuses committed during the country's brutal 1991-2002 civil war.

The war-crimes court suspended Halloran after allegations of sexual-abuse involving the girl emerged in August.

That court carried out its own investigation, but found insufficient evidence to support a case.

Sierra Leone then put him on trial in a court in Freetown, the capital.

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U.N. investigator convicted of molesting teen

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Australian jailed for assaulting Sierra Leone girl

Mon February 21, 2005 5:33 PM GMT+02:00

FREETOWN (Reuters) - A court in Sierra Leone on Monday convicted an Australian war crimes investigator of indecent assault involving a teenage girl and sentenced him to 18 months in jail.

Peter Halloran, who was cleared last month of raping the girl, was on secondment to the U.N.-backed special court investigating crimes during Sierra Leone's civil war. He has denied all the charges against him.

"I am very much surprised by the conviction levied against me by the court," Halloran, 56, told the court on Monday.

Halloran was taken to the central prison in the West African nation's capital Freetown after the ruling. It was not immediately clear if his lawyer would appeal or whether he would serve all his sentence in Sierra Leone.

Halloran was acquitted last month on charges of procuring and having carnal knowledge of a girl under 14, the legal age of consent in Sierra Leone. Then, court judge Samuel Ademusu said prosecutors had failed to provide enough evidence.

Sierra Leone's special court was set up to bring to justice those most responsible for a 10-year war which shocked the world with images of drugged-up young gunmen and mutilated victims.

The allegations against Halloran, an Australian police officer seconded to the tribunal, came from another Australian investigator who had shared a house with him in the capital Freetown.

The special court suspended Halloran last June after it became aware of the allegations against him, but an internal inquiry found insufficient evidence to support them.

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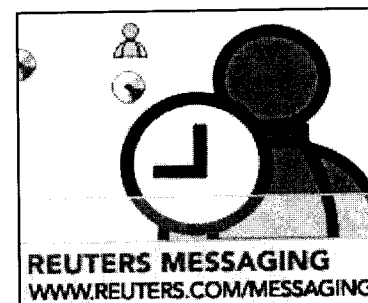
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Index		Last Change
JSE	13314.13	-32.26
DJIA	10785.22	N/A
Nasdaq Comp	2058.62	-2.72
S&P	1501.57	+3.80

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Halloran Jailed Over Child Assault

Justice Ademus yesterday sentenced Australian police officer Peter Halloran to 18 months in jail for indecent assault. He is said to have had an improper relationship with a Freetown school-girl.

Halloran, employed as a prosecution inspector for the United Nations-backed war crimes Special Court, has said he will appeal the decision, the only guilty verdict from the four-count indictment brought against him in the controversial trial.

High Court Justice Samuel Ademus read

out the verdict to amidst gasps of surprise in the packed courtroom before Halloran was escorted into detention.

"I have no doubt that the first accused acted most improperly and committed the acts," Justice Ademus said.

Halloran was acquitted in January of the two main charges in the indictment - unlawful carnal knowledge and procuring a girl under age 14. He was also acquitted Monday of a conspiracy charge related to the incident, as were the brother and uncle of the girl at the centre of the case. "This trial should be a lesson to all expatriates working in Sierra Leone that you

must watch your behaviour while you are in another country," defence attorney Nicholas Browne-Marke said. "It is my plea that your lordship exercises his discretion in this case as the conviction itself is punishment enough."

The case has been controversial from the start, based on allegations brought by housemate and former colleague Mandy Cordwell against the 56-year-old Victorian police inspector.

An independent investigation in June of last year by the UN-backed court found no evidence to support Ms



David Crane: Was Halloran Jailed out of spite for the Special Court or for the expatriate Judges in our Judiciary?

Cordwell's allegations but the Sierra Leone police pursued it, arresting Halloran and keeping him in custody for several days before he was released on bail in December. The Australian Government also got involved, putting pressure on Britain, Sierra Leone's former colonial power, to ensure a fair trial. The Australian High Commissioner John Richardson, who is resident in Ghana visited Freetown a couple of times during the months of the trial to monitor the matter of his compatriot, to check out his welfare and to ensure he is receiving a fair trial. Credit -AFP

Christian Monitor

Thursday February 22, 2005

Special Court Investigator Jailed

By Arthur Caulker
Special Court Investigator, Australian-born Peter Halloran was yesterday sentenced to eighteen months in jail for the offence of indecent assault.

It was alleged that 56 years old Peter Halloran invited fourteen years old Kadie Kabia into his bedroom and deflow-

ered her. The doctor's report supported the allegation.

According to the judgement read in High Court No. 1 by

Justice Samuel A. Ademusu, 1st accused Peter Halloran

will do eighteen months in prison whilst the 2nd accused

Sheika Fofanah and the 3rd accused Abdul Fofana were acquitted and discharged.

Halloran wept openly after the judgement was passed on him. As he wiped his eyes with his blue check shirt, he was heard saying that it was his kindness and the betrayal of his brothers that have sent him to jail.

The Exclusive

Tuesday February 22, 2005

New Star
Tuesday February 22, 2005

Peter Hallaron Sentenced 18 mths

Justice Ademusu of the High Court yesterday passed a guilty verdict on Special Court Crimes Investigator, Peter Hallaron to eighteen months imprisonment for indecent assault.

Halloran, an Australian, was facing a three count



David Crane
charge of indecent as-

sault and attempting to rape a thirteen years old girl who was in his house as caretaker. His present imprisonment is the result of the whistle blown by another female Australian with whom he was sharing the same apartment with regards his activities with the thirteen years old.