

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Boats at Lakka

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Tuesday, 22 May 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Press and Public Affairs Office

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 22 May 2007**

### **Special Court terminates case against Hinga Norman**

The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) has terminated the trial proceedings against the first Accused in the CDF case, Samuel Hinga Norman, as a result of his death on 22 February 2007.

“The Chamber hereby orders that: The trial proceedings against the Accused Samuel Hinga Norman are hereby terminated by reason of his death,” said the decision issued on Monday 21 May.

However, the decision of Trial Chamber 1 composed of Judges Bankole Thompson (presiding), Pierre Boutet and Benjamin Mutanga Itoe maintained that the judgement in respect of the two other Accused in the CDF case is still pending.

Other accused persons in the case are Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa who have been in the custody of the SCSL since their indictment was issued in 2003 for crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian laws.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996. To date, the Prosecutor has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

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## Standard Times

Tuesday, 22 May 2007

### The International Criminal Court

**T**he International Criminal Court (ICC) was established in 2002 as a permanent tribunal to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression, although it cannot currently exercise its jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. The court can only prosecute crimes committed on or after July 1, 2002, the date its founding treaty, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, entered into force. As of May 2007, 104 states are members of the Court including Sierra Leone and a further 41 countries have signed but not ratified the Rome Statute. However, a number of states, including China, India and the United States, are critical of the Court and have refused to join. The Court can generally only exercise jurisdiction in cases where the accused is a national of a state party, the alleged crime took place on the territory of a state party, or a situation is referred to the Court by the United Nations Security Council. The Court is designed to complement existing national judicial systems and can only exercise its jurisdiction when national courts are unwilling or unable to investigate or prosecute such crimes. Primary

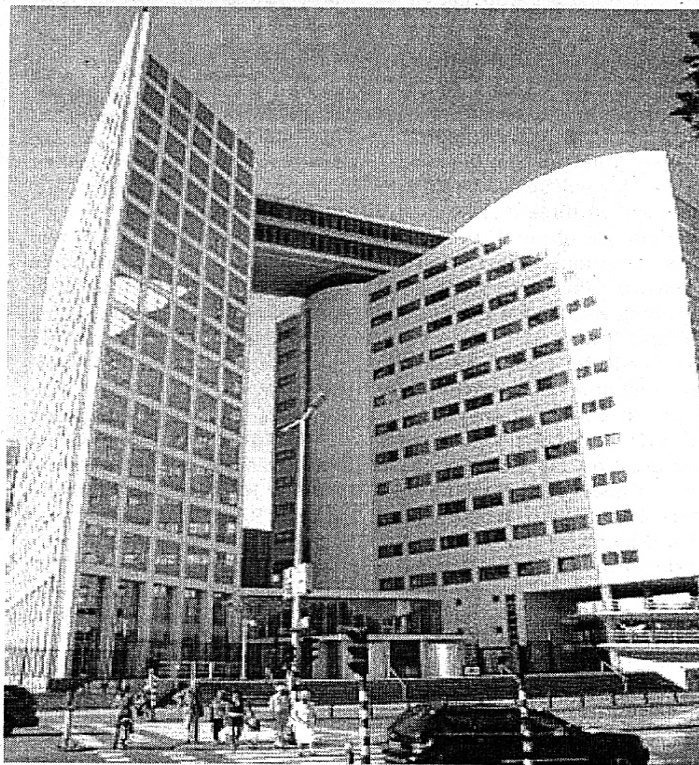
responsibility to exercise jurisdiction over suspected criminals is therefore left to individual states. The official seat of the ICC is in The Hague, Netherlands, but its proceedings may take place anywhere, such as what we have in Sierra Leone today. The International Criminal Court is separate and different from the International Court of Justice (often referred to as the World Court, which is the United Nations organ that settles disputes between nations. The International Criminal Court is sometimes abbreviated as ICC; this is to distinguish it from several other organizations abbreviated as ICC. The movement for the creation of an international court to deal with the problem of crimes committed against humanity gained force after the Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials, established to punish serious crimes committed by the losing sides during World War II. At the request of the United Nations General Assembly, the International Law Commission drafted two statutes by the early 1950s, but these were shelved as the Cold War made the establishment of an international criminal court politically

unrealistic. A. N. R. Robinson, then Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, revived the idea during the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly in 1989, proposing the creation of a permanent international court to deal with the international drug trade. While work began on a draft statute, the international community created several ad hoc tribunals to try war crimes in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in 1993, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in 1994, further highlighting the need for a permanent international criminal court. Adoption and entry into force of the Rome Statute

Following years of negotiations, the General Assembly convened a conference in Rome, Italy, in June 1998, with the aim of finalizing a treaty. On July 17, 1998, the

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was adopted by a vote of 120 to 7, with 21 countries abstaining. The seven countries that voted against the treaty were Iraq, Israel, Libya, and the People's Republic of China, Qatar, the United States, and Yemen. The Rome Statute became a binding treaty at the moment 60 states had ratified it, an event ceremonialized at the United Nations Headquarters on April 11, 2002. Ten countries submitted their ratifications at this time, bringing the total to 66, so that no one nation would hold the honor of depositing the 60th ratification. The ICC legally came into existence on July 1, 2002, and can only prosecute crimes committed after that date. The first bench of 18 judges was

elected by an Assembly of State Parties in February 2003. They were sworn in at the inaugural session of the Court on March 11, 2003. The Court issued its first arrest warrants on 8 July 2005, and the first pre-trial hearings were held in 2006. As of May 2007, 104 countries have ratified or acceded to the court, including nearly all of Europe and South America, and nearly half of all African countries. A further 41 states have signed but not ratified the treaty; the law of treaties obliges these states to refrain from "acts which would defeat the object and purpose" of the treaty. In 2002, two of these states, the United States and Israel, "unsigned" the Rome Statute, indicating that they no longer intend to become States Parties and, as such, they have no legal obligations arising from their signature of the statute. Article 5 of the Rome Statute grants the Court jurisdiction over four groups of crimes, which it refers to as the "most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole": the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. The statute defines each of these crimes except for aggression: it provides that the Court will not exercise its jurisdiction over the crime of aggression until such time as the state parties agree on a definition of the crime and set out the conditions under which it may be prosecuted. Many states wanted to add terrorism and drug trafficking to the list of crimes covered by the Rome Statute; however, states were unable to agree a definition for terrorism and it was decided not to include drug trafficking as this might overwhelm the Court's limited resources. India lobbied to have the use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction included as war crimes, but this move was also defeated. Article 123 of the Rome Statute



*of the International Criminal Court in The Hague*

argued that the Court should be allowed to exercise universal jurisdiction. However, this proposal was defeated in large part by opposition from the United States. A compromise was reached, allowing the Court to exercise its jurisdiction only under certain limited circumstances, namely:

1. Where the person accused of committing a crime is a national of a state party (or where the person's state has accepted the jurisdiction of the Court); or
2. Where the alleged crime was committed on the territory of a state party (or where the state on whose territory the crime was committed has accepted

force. Where a state becomes party to the Rome Statute after that date, the Court can exercise jurisdiction automatically with respect to crimes committed after the statute enters into force for that state.

The Court is intended as a court of last resort, investigating and prosecuting only where national courts have failed. Article 17 of the Statute provides that a case is inadmissible if:

- (a) The case is being investigated or prosecuted by a State which has jurisdiction over it, unless the State is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the investigation or prosecution;
- (b) The case has been investigated by a State which has jurisdiction over it and the State has decided not to prosecute the person concerned, unless the decision resulted from the unwillingness or inability of the State genuinely to prosecute;
- (c) The person concerned has already been tried for conduct which is the subject of the complaint, and a trial by the Court is not permitted under article 20, paragraph 3;
- (d) The case is not of sufficient gravity to justify further action by the Court.'

Article 20, paragraph 3, and specifies that, if a person has already been tried by another court, the ICC cannot try them again for the same conduct unless the proceedings in the other court: **TO BE CONTINUED**

provides that a Review Conference shall be convened in 2009, and that this conference may review the list of crimes contained in Article 5. The final resolution on adoption of the Rome Statute specifically recommended that terrorism and drug trafficking be reconsidered at this conference. During the negotiations that led to the Rome Statute, a large number of states

the jurisdiction of the Court); or

3. Where a situation is referred to the Court by the UN Security Council

The Court's jurisdiction does not apply retroactively: it can only prosecute crimes committed on or after 1 July 2002, the date on which the Rome Statute entered into

*For delay of justice...*  
**Harry Yansaneh's case goes to International Court of Justice**

*EDWARD MARAH  
REPORTS FROM CAIRO*

The two year-old murder case involving the late Editor of the For Di People Newspaper and president of the Hiv/Aids Reporters Association will soon take an international dimension as the Union of African Journalists (UAJ) has demanded a transfer of the matter to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in Switzerland. This was disclosed by the secretary general of the UAJ, George Odiko last Friday in the Egyptian capital, Cairo.

The late journalist was allegedly murdered by the children of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party Member of Parliament, Hon. Fatmata Hassan. The accused persons were charged for involuntary man-



*Harry.. wants justice slaughter by a government's inquest.*

*CONTINUED PAGE 15*

**Harry Yansaneh's case goes to the International Court of Justice**

*FROM PAGE 1*

The trial has been prolonged more than necessary. The Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) and the government remain divided on the matter.

The unprecedented move by the UAJ is not only to ensure justice is done to the late editor but to serve as deterrent measure to protect journalists in Sierra Leone especially on judicial matters. Efforts by SLAJ for the commencement of proper court proceedings has met stiff resistance by the judiciary authorities.

The intervention of UAJ begins a fresh legal battle on the matter. According to Mr. Odiko, UAJ has

requested SLAJ to transfer the case file to the ICJ.

We can't continue to allow African Government to violate the rights of journalists with impunity especially the right to life," Mr. Odiko told journalists in Cairo.

"The failure of the Sierra Leone government in pursuing the Harry Yansaneh matter is a big disappointment to us, this justifies that our colleagues in that country still work in conditions of fear," he added Mr. Odiko who singled out Sierra Leone, Gambia and Zimbabwe as the few countries in Africa where journalists are yet to enjoy press freedom.

Awoko

Tuesday, 22 May 2007

# Six unexploded bombs discovered

**F**ear has gripped residents of Weima Village, just a stone throw from Yenga in Kissi Teng Chiefdom in the Kailahun District, as six unexploded bombs were recently discovered there.

Reports say on Tuesday residents of the village were troubled by the unexploded bombs on the farm of one Sahr Bendu, 25 yards from the main road to Guinea.

The area, which is said to be a former Guinean

military base during rebel war, is notorious for bomb explosions. In January this year, there was an incident of bomb explosion in the same place, which created panic in that community.

In another development, on May 4, there was sporadic firing along the border town of Norgowa in Guinea, very close to Yenga village in Sierra Leone where some military personnel are currently deployed.

Sources in Kailahun say some disgruntled Guinean

military personnel had resorted to sporadic firing in Norgowa and other major towns in the Republic of Guinea for their backlog salaries and for better conditions of service.

As a result of this latest development, residents of Yenga and the entire Kissi Teng Chiefdom were in panic, fearing a spill over.

But the officer commanding the Sierra Leone military troops in Koindu and its environs, Lt. J.J Abu, had assured the people of maximum security.



## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 21 May 2007**

*[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]*

### **International Clips on Liberia**

**YORKSHIRE POST** 05/19/2007 20:41:44

#### **Immigrant jailed for identity card fraud**

A LIBERIAN man who tried to get a national insurance number using a false identity card has been jailed for eight months. Moses Kalily, 30, went to the JobCentre in Eastgate, Leeds, on January 26 and handed in a Portuguese card in another name applying for a number. Warner Falk, prosecuting, told Leeds Crown Court yesterday that Kalily returned to the office on May 10 intending to collect his number, but by then the document had been examined and found to be false.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Pakistani rescuers rush to Sierra Leone freighter sinking in Arabian Sea to aid 12 aboard**

Source: English General News Date: May 21, 2007

KARACHI, Pakistan\_A Pakistan coast guard aircraft was scrambled to aid the 12-member crew of a ship sinking in the Arabian Sea on Monday while carrying scrap metal from Iraq to India, an official said. The Sierra Leone-flagged MV Maryam Trans made a distress call to the Maritime Security Agency and reported that it was sinking about 250 kilometers (150 miles) south of Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi, said agency spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Attiqur Rehman.

#### **UN urged to redeploy troops in Ivory Coast**

UNITED NATIONS, May 18, 2007 (AFP) - The Security Council should next month redeploy some UN troops in Ivory Coast to take into account the promising peace process under way, diplomats said Friday. They said the 15-member council would soon consider a draft resolution that would keep the UN mission there at its current strength but would redeploy some units to the west of the country, as suggested by UN chief Ban Ki-moon in his latest report.

**VOA** 21 May 2007

#### **Ex-Ghanaian First Lady's NGO to Abide by the law**

By Peter Clotney, Washington, D.C.

Ghana's former first lady and chairperson of the 31<sup>st</sup> December women's movement (DWM) says the organization would work within the confines of the law to develop the country. This comes after the movement came under intense criticism for engaging in partisan politics when former President Jerry Rawlings was in power.

## **Local Media – Newspaper**

### **Justice Ministry Reacts to UNMIL Human Rights Report**

*(The Inquirer)*

- According to *The Inquirer*, the Ministry of Justice welcomes UNMIL's recommendations and critical assessment of prison conditions in the country, but expressed disappointment that a copy of the human rights report was not submitted to the Ministry.

### **LEC Poised to Prosecute Power Thieves**

*(The Inquirer and The News)*

- The Managing Director of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), Harry T. Yuan, has warned that individuals found engaging in power theft and third party sales of its energy would be prosecuted. Mr. Yuan said while the LEC was working to restore electricity to the nation, some shop owners and LEC' customers were discovered engaging in power theft and third party sale of its energy.

### **Government Constitutes Committee to Investigate Canine Sex Scandal**

*(The Informer and Heritage)*

- The Liberian Government said it has set up a committee to probe the recent disturbances at the Firestone Rubber Plantation Company which was prompted by speculations that a snifer dog was having sexual affairs with a lady. In a live broadcast on ELBC Radio on Friday, Assistant Information Minister Gabriel Williams said that the investigation team is headed by the Government's Chief Veterinarian Officer at the Ministry of Justice Dr. Kpadeh Koikoi.

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

### **USAID Donates Fuel to Liberia Electricity Corporation**

- In a release issued in Monrovia, the Liberia Electricity Corporation announced that the United States Aid for International Development (USAID) donated 5 months of fuel supply to run the Congo and New Kru Towns power plants in sustenance of the Corporation's electricity supply under the Emergency Power Supply Programme. The donation was made after a USAID delegation from the United States toured the Corporation's facilities to ascertain the level work of being done through the International Resources Group, a consortium of Liberia's energy sector.
- The Corporation's Managing Director Harry Yuan recalled that USAID always assisted Liberia to improve its energy sector by providing in 1949, the first power plant and constructing of the Mount Coffee Dam.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Deputy Police Chief Calls for Security Policy on Women**

- The Deputy Inspector-General of Police for Administration Asatu Barh-Kanneh called on policy-makers to formulate policies which would encourage women to participate in security forces. She said that security sector policies now in place do not provide the means to motivate women to join instead they encourage male domination in the police and army.
- Speaking at a forum organized by the Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation, Deputy Inspector-General Kanneh stressed the need to discourage what she termed as "men-network" in the security apparatus, cautioning that it was now clear that in situations of prevention and peace-building, men and women need to work together.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

## **Magistrate Wants Land Reform Commission Constituted**

- In an interview over the weekend, Paynesville Associate Magistrate Joseph Doe called on the Government to constitute a land reform commission to settle land disputes such as which the Paynesville Magisterial Court is confronted with.
- Associate Magistrate Doe also called for the appointment of Magistrate and Associates to the Paynesville Magisterial Court as he was the only one at the court handling more than 20 cases a day.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **Correctional Officer Laments that Prisoners Defecate in Bushes**

- The Superintendent of Prisons in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County, Maj. Alfred Nyanfor lamented that prisons in the city lack toilets and water and therefore pose health hazards to detainees. He contended that prisons should be places to correct inmates for wrongdoings in society.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at [karpeh@un.org](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*

## BBC Online

Tuesday, 22 May 2007

### Hague court probes CAR 'crimes'

The International Criminal Court is to investigate war crimes allegedly committed in the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2002 and 2003.

The Hague court's prosecutor said his investigation would mainly focus on the large number of alleged rapes.

The period covers the aftermath of a failed coup by current President Francois Bozize against the government of former leader Ange-Felix Patasse.

The CAR's Supreme Court had referred the matter to the ICC in 2004.

The CAR court said it did not have the ability to prosecute such cases.

#### Referrals

The ICC prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, said: "The information we have now suggests that the rape of civilians was committed in numbers that cannot be ignored under international law."

His office has taken testimony from hundreds of alleged rape victims, some of whom said they were assaulted in public or in the presence of family members.

Mr Moreno Ocampo said: "These victims are calling for justice."

Last year, the CAR court referred Mr Patasse and the Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jean-Pierre Bemba, to the ICC on charges of rape and murder.

A French policeman and two aides of Mr Patasse were also referred. None has been arrested.

The alleged crimes took place after Mr Bozize instigated a coup in October 2002.

The Congolese Liberation Movement, under Mr Bemba, came to help Mr Patasse.

Mr Bozize finally came to power in the landlocked country of 3.9 million people in 2003.

Mr Moreno Ocampo said no particular suspect was being targeted in the investigation.

But he said: "We have a duty to show that massive crimes cannot be committed with impunity."



Prosecutor Moreno Ocampo:  
"These victims are calling for justice"



The CAR has referred Bemba (l) and Patasse to the Hague

## Webwire

Monday, 21 May 2007

### **United Nations: International Day Of United Nations Peacekeepers To Be Marked on 29 May**

The fifth annual International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers will be marked on 29 May at the Organization's Headquarters in New York, as well as in peacekeeping missions and United Nations offices around the world.

This year's commemorative ceremonies come at a time when the services of United Nations peacekeepers are in greater demand than ever. There are currently more than 100,000 peacekeepers from 115 countries serving in 18 operations on four continents, with additional deployments on the horizon.

"We hope this occasion will serve as a reminder of the invaluable work of our Blue Helmets, who each day risk their lives trying to bring peace to conflict-torn societies," said Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. "It should also underscore the importance of strengthening UN peacekeeping, with its solid record of promoting a return to stability, to foster even greater gains in the future, for the sake of the innocent victims whose lives have been ravaged by war."

At United Nations Headquarters in New York, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is planning to oversee a solemn wreath-laying ceremony in honour of the more than 100 peacekeeping personnel who lost their lives -- whether through attacks, illnesses or accidents -- in 2006 in the service of peace. Mr. Ban, who took office in January, has proposed an ambitious reform and restructuring plan for the United Nations peacekeeping department, aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Organization to meet growing demands, and has already visited several peacekeeping missions in Africa and the Middle East.

Also as part of the commemoration ceremonies, on 30 May, Dag Hammarskjöld medals will be awarded posthumously to the military, police and civilian personnel who lost their lives last year serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The medals will be received by representatives of the respective Permanent Missions to be forwarded on to the next of kin. In a separate ceremony, Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno will award peacekeeping medals to the military and police officers currently serving in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at Headquarters.

While the Dag Hammarskjöld medals pay tribute to the sacrifice of those who died, the greatest monument to their contribution is a set of United Nations peacekeeping successes in 2006. These include helping the Democratic Republic of the Congo hold its first elections in 40 years; helping solidify peace and ensure justice in West Africa by transferring indicted war criminal and former Liberian President Charles Taylor to face charges for crimes committed in Sierra Leone; helping implement a major peace agreement in Southern Sudan; and supporting elections and helping to establish the rule of law in Haiti by working with the national police to curb gang violence.

The year also saw a major European re-engagement in United Nations peacekeeping, as countries from the continent stepped forward to bolster the United Nations peacekeeping Force in Lebanon, including by providing the Organization's first major naval force, to support a ceasefire in southern Lebanon following last summer's conflict between Israel and Hizbullah. In 2006, the United Nations undertook a series of efforts to increase the number of women

serving in peacekeeping operations, including setting the stage for this year's deployment of the first ever all-female peacekeeping contingent: India's formed police unit -- with more than 100 female officers -- now stationed in Liberia.

Of the more than 100 countries that provide uniformed peacekeepers to the United Nations, the largest contributors remain Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, which together provide more than 35 per cent of all Blue Berets. The cost of financing peacekeeping operations -- more than \$5 billion per annum -- is borne mainly by the European Union countries, Japan and the United States.

United Nations Peacekeepers Day was established in 2002 by a General Assembly resolution designating 29 May -- the date in 1948 when the first United Nations peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), began operations in Palestine -- to pay tribute to all men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations, for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause for peace.

United Nations peacekeeping, built on almost 60 years of experience in the field, is widely acknowledged to be an indispensable tool for the international community in tackling the difficult issues of inter-State and, increasingly, intra-State conflicts. United Nations peacekeeping's legitimacy and universality are unique, derived from its character as a collective security effort undertaken on behalf of a global organization comprising 192 Member States.