

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:

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914



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POLITICS-SIERRA LEONE:

"I Don't Have Any Case to Answer Before This Court"

Lansana Fofana

"I will be defending myself because as far as I am concerned, I don't have any case to answer before this court," said Sam Hinga Norman, Monday.

FREETOWN, June 22 (IPS) - The former Deputy Defence Minister of Sierra Leone and coordinator of the tribal militias known as the "Kamajors" made the announcement before cheering supporters in a special court set up to try war crimes in the West African country.

Although the court officially opened its doors in March, Norman is the first suspect to go on trial at its specially-built premises in Sierra Leone's capital - Freetown.

During the 1990s, Sierra Leone acquired global notoriety due largely to the activities of the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which fought first against President Joseph Saidu Momoh - and later against President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. The RUF, financed by the profits of illegally-mined diamonds, amputated the limbs, noses, ears and lips of hundreds of civilians.

After the war was declared over in Jan. 2002, the United Nations-backed court was given a mandate to try individuals accused of bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes such as the RUF amputations.

The court has also thrown its net over the Kamajors, however, even though these militias fought alongside government.

An eight-count indictment for war crimes, violations of international humanitarian law and the recruitment of children as combatants has been filed against Norman and two other Kamajor commanders. It's a move that has left the militia coordinator defiant.

"I took up arms to defend the dignity of Sierra Leone and to ensure that democracy was reinstated," he said this week. The militia leader has sacked his entire defence team, preferring instead to represent himself in court.

Norman's trial has become a political hot potato for Kabbah's ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP). Until his arrest and subsequent indictment a year ago, the Kamajor leader served in government - and was also an influential member of the SLPP.

Last August, Kabbah testified before a truth and reconciliation commission in Sierra Leone that he had not had any control over the actions of the Kamajors during the civil war.

In addition, Norman's supporters are furious at the fact that he has been put on trial. Local newspapers reported this week that disbanded militia members are regrouping to stage demonstrations against the court proceedings.

The three accused are also viewed as heroes by many civilians, who see them as having restored a measure of sanity to the war-ravaged country.

"This is nonsense. How can they put Norman and the other Kamajor leaders on trial? They saved our lives from the brutal rebel forces," says Tom Kpaka, a civil servant whose two children were killed during the war and his property destroyed.

Aminata Sesay, a trader living in the southern city of Bo, adds "This is justice turned upside down. There is no way I can support the trial of Mr Norman and the Kamajor leadership. I and my entire family were saved by the Kamajors when the rebels lined us up for execution in 1998."

Nonetheless, two prosecution witnesses who are testifying against the militia leaders have related horrific tales of murder, torture and mutilation of civilians by the Kamajors. One of them, a man whose identity wasn't disclosed, said the militias had even engaged in acts of cannibalism.

"I have marks on my body to prove my point. I was tied with a rope and burning plastic dropped on me repeatedly," said the distraught witness, displaying his body to the court. He claims that his brother was hacked to death in front of him because of allegations that both men had supported the rebels during the war.

Apart from the three militia leaders, six other war time commanders - three each from the RUF and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) - are in the dock.

The AFRC under the leadership of Johnny Paul Koroma overthrew Kabbah's government in 1997 with the assistance of the RUF, but was later expelled by forces deployed by the Economic Community of West African States. In 1999, the AFRC again joined forces with the RUF in a failed bid to take control of Freetown.

However, two key accused have yet to be taken into custody - notably former Liberian President Charles Taylor, now living in exile in Nigeria. The court has accused Taylor of bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes in Sierra Leone, for his role in backing the RUF in return for so-called "blood diamonds".

Koroma is on the run, while the man whom many Sierra Leoneans would probably most have wanted to see in court, RUF leader Foday Sankoh, died last year.

The Chief Prosecutor of the court, David Crane, is determined to punish the masterminds of the conflict.

"This is a complex case and it goes beyond the borders of Sierra Leone," he told IPS. "I will follow the evidence wherever it leads. Therefore Charles Taylor must be turned over by the Nigerians to answer to charges against him."

Crane says more indictments may be served. But while some in Sierra Leone might relish the thought of seeing their former tormentors on trial, others view the process as something of a luxury in this poverty-stricken country.

According to Michael Sandi, a mechanic, "The huge money being spent on the running of the court could better be spent on the rehabilitation of victims of the war and battered infrastructure in the country. I think the court is irrelevant."

Unlike the UN tribunals set up to try war crimes in the former Yugoslavia and suspects from the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, Sierra Leone's court is operating within a strict time frame that requires all trials to be completed before the end of next year.

The trial of the RUF commanders is scheduled to begin in the first week of next month.
(END/2004)

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SPECIAL COURT LATEST

**STANDBY DEFENCE COUNSELS GRILL 4 PROSECUTION
WITNESSES WHO LINKED HINGA NORMAN TO KORIBONDO
ATROCITIES**

Wednesday June 23, 2004

Four prosecution witnesses at the War Crimes Tribunal in Freetown have linked the former Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force (CDF) Chief Hinga Norman to atrocities committed in Koribondo by CDF fighters, also known as Kamajors.

However, cross-examination from Hinga Norman, who is acting as his own attorney and standby defence counsels has been blistering, gruelling and vigorous and the defence has alleged inconsistencies in the statements of some of the witnesses.

The prosecution's legal strategy is to link Chief Norman to atrocities committed by the Kamajors at Koribondo, one of the alleged crime scenes Lead Prosecutor David Crane said in his opening statement that war crimes were committed by the Kamajors.

So far, the Prosecution has produced 4 witnesses , 3 of whom--- Nos. 1, 2 and 4 - testified that Hinga Norman held a meeting with the residents of Koribondo , after the Kamajors attacked the town at which time he told the people not to blame the Kamajors for what they did to the town because he had ordered them to do so.

One of the witnesses said that Chief Norman told the people that they were blessed they survived and he was seeing some people walking in the town, because he had ordered the Kamajors not to spare any life and to destroy everything , even the ants . The witness said Norman told the meeting that he had commanded the Kamajors that if they see even an ant's trail , they should follow it until they had killed that ant.

Though the witnesses' identities were concealed and they testified behind barriers, reports said that Chief Norman in his cross-examination referred to them by their real names , but the Prosecution raised an objection on grounds of the safety of the witnesses and it was upheld by the trial

Judge, Justice Benjamin Itoe, who asked Norman to refer to them only as Witnesses .

The legal strategy of the Hinga Norman defence is to discover inconsistencies in the statements of the prosecution witnesses with a view to discrediting and impeaching them and they have been doing a great job with their rigorous cross-examination of the witnesses. Our reporter said that through the sustained cross-examination , inconsistencies were found in the testimony of witness 3 . The defence is alleging that the testimonies of some of the witnesses are inconsistent.

Statements made by witness 3 in January 2003 were not consistent with testimonies he had made under oath in May 2004. The court yesterday briefed the defence on the procedures for impeaching a witness.

The CDF trial will take a break today until September. In today's proceedings , there will be no testimonies. Rather, Judge Gelega King will consider a request for leave to reapply for bail by indictee Morris Kallon. His first appeal was turned down.

'Special Court Paid Me To Testify'

By Mohamed Mansaray

The fourth (4th) Prosecution witness of the Special Court for Sierra Leone 56-year-old TF2-012 has admitted receiving Le300,000 from court officials on May 12 this year prior his appearance in court to testify. The money was meant to assist the witness take care of his farming operations.

The witness made the admission whilst being cross-examined yesterday by John Wesley Hall Jr., standby counsel for the first CDF indictee

Samuel Hinga Norman at Court Room No. 1, Jomo Kenyatta Road, New England in Freetown.

The witness also admitted receiving Le2,000 per

day for each of his seven dependants around the same period.

The witness had denied receiving money from court officials in his initial cross-examination, saying that he



Prosecutor David Crane

did not know whether the money he received was

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Witness Admits Receiving Money Before Testimony

payment for the services he is offering them.

The witness also said that he did not know whether he was going to testify in court about monetary matters and that was why he did not mention about it. He denied receiving Le10,000 per day as allowance from court officials as alleged by Defence Counsel.

However, a member of the Prosecution team, Adwoa Wiafe tendered a document in court dated May 13, 2004 to justify the payment of Le16,000 as daily allowances to witnesses under the court's custody. The Prosecution Counsel would not say however, whether the document was officially published when asked by Justice Boutet.

When Defence Counsel, John Wesley Hall Jr. put it to the witness that he did not say the whole truth in court, the witness said: "I can't just answer a question like

that."

The witness claims to have been born in Gaula Wonde, Wonde Chiefdom in the Bo district, and a chief of Gaula Wonde who joined the Kamajor movement after the war ended. He was giving testimony about Kamajor activities at Koribondo between 1997 and 1998.

Meanwhile a ruling is expected today on the request made by first CDF indictee Samuel Hinga Norman for certain facilities and review of his prison detention conditions.

The court resumes today.

Sierra Leone Times

Wednesday June 23, 2004

at special court...

Defence query credibility of witness

By Samuel John

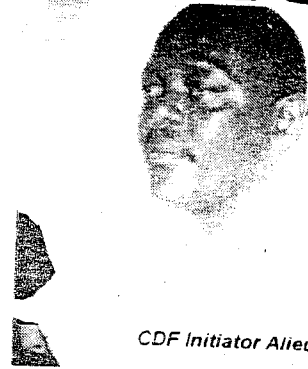
Defence Council Charles Margai yesterday argued during cross-examinations at the Special Court over the reliability of the fourth Prosecution

Witness. Counsel Margai based his inconsistency to the fact that the statements of the witness to that of his oral testimony are not comparable. The Counsel who is representing the third indictee Allieu

Kondewa cited that the witness was very emphatic in his denial. He stated that his first statement of January 19, 2003 he said, he was Sector Kamajor Commander. But under

cross-examination by Defence Counsel Margai the witness told the court, "I didn't say that. I said I was sent to the Section Chief." Another inconsistency Counsel Margai tried to establish was the statement the witness made in which he quoted Hinga Norman as saying that all four houses should be spared. The fourth witness

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CDF Initiator Allieu Kondewa

Defence query credibility of witness

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court under cross-examination that he said three houses. The witness in responding to another question said openly that certain portion of his statement should not be credited to him, as he never said so. His response to Counsel Margai's question made the latter to ask, "how did that portion come into the statement, is it a cause for the Prosecution?" After a legal argument between the Prosecutor, the Defence and the Bar, Justice Bankole Thompson told

Defence Counsel that the "statement was not made under oath before this court." Counsel Margai responded saying, "where one could impeach a witness, such could only be done in relative of the statement on oath." He went on, "that is the inconsistency, and this witness could be impeached." During cross-examination by Hinga Norman's standby Counsel Wesley Hall, the witness agreed that he was receiving the sum of Le10,000 per day. The witness also

disclosed that he was not receiving the amount on a daily basis, but received Le40,000 to Le300,000 monthly for family assistance. The witness under further cross-examination said that each of his family (comprising of twelve) is receiving the sum of Le2,000 per day. He told the Defence panel that he had received so far the sum of Le600,000. The witness further made a denial during cross-examination from

Charles Margai saying, "I don't know whether the money I receive was payment." He also emphasised, "I didn't know I was going to talk about monetary affairs, I was here to testify that is

why I did not talk about it." When told, "you are not speaking the whole truth," the witness responded, "I can't just answer a question like that." The witness could not identify the third accused adding that he

does not know him. However, the Presiding Judge, Justice Benjamin Itoe requested the Prosecution to make available the original copy of the witness' statement, following a submission by Counsel Charles Margai.

Awoko

Wednesday June 23, 2004

For d. People

Wednesday June 23, 2004

Special Court told how kamajors killed and chopped Chief and Town Speaker!



KAMAJORS: the only civil defence militia indicted for cannibalism in the war

THE SPECIAL Court has been told how kamajors after they took control of the diamond-rich Tongo Fields between February and March 1998, killed and chopped both the chief of Lower Bambara chiefdom, Kenema Aruna Konowa, and his Town Speaker Brima Conteh, at Lalehun village.

A member of the prosecution team of the Special Court, Joseph Kamara said the flesh and vital organs of Chief Konowa were openly cooked and eaten by kamajors in the streets of Lalehun and that Brima Conteh, was also slaughtered by the kamajors during the same period.

head

The prosecutor said before Conteh's death, he was paraded in the town with a cement block placed on his head and was beheaded a day after his arrest and that also, a polythene bag containing the chief's intestines and vital organs was spotted with a kamajor named

Fayia, alias 'Yamoto,' and that it was cooked and eaten by those kamajors.

boiled

Prosecutor Kamara also said the kamajors murdered Jusu Saly at Talia in the Bonthe district and his intestines were removed, roasted and eaten with boiled cassava.

Meanwhile, the Special Court observed a minute silence on the sudden death of lawyer Terrence Terry who was representing Liberian president Charles Taylor as well as Tamba Gborie of the former AFRC-RUF interregnum, last weekend.



KABBAH: army head



NORMAN: deputy

for the people

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

SPECIAL COURT TRIAL CONTINUES

Fourth Witness Testifies

FOURTH WITNESS code-named TF2-012 led in evidence by the prosecution in the Special Court, the 56 year-old farmer said he was born in Ngawula Wonde seven miles from Koribondo Town.

He said he was out of Ngawula Wonde for 13 years and finally returned home in 1981. The witness said he went to Futa Gbejeh the very day the army took over government in 1997 but he did not sleep there. He returned to his home village where he stayed for four months. In between this period, he said soldiers who were stationed at Koribondo went to his village burned down houses and killed people. As a result of the mayhem caused by the soldiers, he and other survivors fled to the bush where they spent five months. One Friday while they were in the bush, the witness said they heard gunshots, as such they could not perform Friday prayers on that day.

Eventually, they were told to come out of the bush that Koribondo had been captured by the kamajors. The witness said he came out of the bush and went to Koribondo on the following Sunday to ascertain the information. To his greatest surprise however, he found out that the town in question was on fire while the kamajor militia were the only force in the township. "I did not sleep in Koribondo but made sure that I went right through the town before I finally returned to my

home town Ngawula Wonde," the witness said.

The witness said that the very first time he saw kamajors was in 1996 in Koribondo. "I saw the kamajors at the time when Chief Sam Hinga Norman was installed Regent chief at Talu," he said.

He said most of the kamajor members were from Njaima Bongor. After the soldiers were driven out of the area, all chiefs were instructed to join the kamajor militia. Later at a large gathering in Bo Town, Chief Sam Hinga Norman was introduced as the deputy defence minister," the witness continued.

During this time, he said Chief Sam Hinga Norman had been paying frequent visits to Talu and Koribondo. After Koribondo had been taken over by the kamajors they later met with the leader one Joe Tamindae, it was at this meeting they were informed through a letter that Chief Sam Hinga Norman was going to visit them at Koribondo.

Members from five chiefdoms converged at the court barri where chief Norman and entourage met them. "Chief Sam Hinga Norman disclosed to us that he instructed Joe Tamindae to take over Koribondo and raze all structures to the ground with the exception of ne (Hinga Norman's) house, the mosque and the churches. However, they were lucky enough because Joe Tamindae did not do exactly what he told him," the witness said. Chief Hinga Norman said Joe Tamindae should not be blamed for what happened in Koribondo but he, Hinga Norman, the witness continued.

At the end of the meeting the witness said he returned to Ngawula Wonde and briefed the Chief. Two weeks later, the witness said another meeting was convened in Koribondo but this time, they obtained pass from Kamajor militia to go to the court barri. At the court barri, Joe Tamindae was formerly declared leader of the kamajor militia and each chief was asked to donate three bags of rice and palm-oil. The witness said chief Sam Hinga Norman was at the helm of affairs. The trial continues.



NORMAN: shocking revelations at Special Court

"To try or not to try"

THE SPECIAL COURT "A PROPHECY"

VABIE S. VANDIE

The secret of building a nation is to know what to forget. You need a selective memory. It is almost like marriage. If the two partners keep on remembering every unkind word that was ever uttered to each other the marriage may be doomed.

A Court- The Special Court- has descended upon us with an almost Arch-angelic superiority over the country's Legal and Judicial System. It proclaims its flagship in lofty terms: TO HELP CREATE PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE IN SIERRA LEONE

But would Court-room TRIALS heal the nation's wounds or deepen the sores and keep it festering?

PRISCILLA B. HAYNER suggests that the best way to close old wounds is sometime to re-open them again and cleanse out the old infection.

But nature and time has a way of healing old wounds without re-opening the sore. Sierra Leone- the flower of West Africa had a serene birth pang. Alas lilies that fester smell far worse than weeds.

One of the outstanding features of the Sierra Leonean society is its inability or unwillingness to learn from history, from our collective past. It's really collective memory that makes a nation- its memory of the past, what it has done, what it has suffered and what it has endured. As Edmund Burke, the Anglo-Irish Philosopher, once advised:

POLITICAL PRUDENCE

REQUIRES POLITICAL SENSITIVITY TO HISTORY.

People will not look forward to posterity who never looked backwards to their ancestors (Burke 1790).

At this juncture a brief historical overview is instructive. The years ending in SEVEN in Sierra Leone's recent past had been one of controversies, turmoil and violence.

Let us examine HALF A CENTURY OF OUR PAST- 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997, (2007) 1947-1987 in short.

1947

1. This year witnessed the first earth tremor in the memory



Author

of most Sierra Leoneans. Those who remember it on that Friday in Sierra Leone still recount stories of the devastation.

2. 1947 also sharpened the unsavoury divide between the colony and the Protectorate over the 1947 Constitution. Dr. Joe A.D. Allie, one of the brightest minds on Sierra Leone History, observes:

The four-year acrimonious political debate that followed the introduction of Governor Stevenson's Constitutional proposal in 1947... (TUCKER 2001) prepared the fertile ground for Creole/Naive rivalry. Dr. Peter Tucker adds with brutal truth:

During the 1947 and 48 debates the vilification of the Protectorate by colony politicians and their philosophy of doom and gloom dominated the media in Freetown. (TUCKER 2001)

This distrust and mutual suspicion demolished the Protectorate (ACQUISITION OF LAND BILL) which promised a unified Land Tenure System in Sierra Leone. The consequences still haunt us today discouraging business enterprises in the Provinces.

1957

The 1957 General Elections to the Legislative Council was held in a period of political tur-

moil leading up to Independence (SCOTT 1960).

The elections led to the resignation from the S.L.P.P. of 1. Albert Margai- Party Chairman

2. S.T. Navo-

3. A.J. Massally

The symptoms of decline and political chicanery were typical and manifested itself a decade later.

Ultimately the decision to dig into the details of a difficult past must always be left to a country and its people to decide...

1967

This witnessed the first coup d'etat in Independent Sierra Leone led by the Force Commander, Brigadier David Lansana on 21st March.

A Pandora box of coups, mutiny and intrigues dominated our political landscape with all the attendant violence and instability. On Thursday 23rd March,

1967 Junior Army Officers launched a "Counter Coup", arrested Lansana and set up their own National Reformation Council (NRC) headed by Lieutenant Colonel Andrew T. Juxon-Smith.

1977

Massive students' unrest of February-April 1977 almost brought the Stevens administration onto its knees. Planned and orchestrated at Fouran Bay College, the demonstration spread like a raging inferno into almost all Secondary Schools in the country. It almost became a patriotic duty to wreck Government Institutions, vehicles and everything. The consequences are still with us.

1987

This year again witnessed violent students' unrest which led to the temporary closure of the University and an 'attempted' coup resulting in the arrest of the First Vice President, Francis Minah, who along with a number of others were guillotined. The economy had been so plundered that by 1987 a majority of Sierra Leoneans lived at starvation level.

1997

1997 was a veritable Gehenna for Sierra Leone. The ARFC/ RUF coup of May 25th (OAU DAY) defies description in its horror and savagery.

The putsch had the misfortune of accidentally coinciding with the OAU Summit in Harare. The forum provided the needed courage and platform for a collective voice of condemnation- the non-recognition and demise of the regime in Freetown, a call uncommon among Africa Leaders. (ABDUL FATAU-MUSA).

May 25th paved the disastrous road to January 6, 1999. No Sierra Leonean, within or without, can ever forget January 6th.

A tightly readable prose, THE COMING OF THE KILLERS: "OPERATION BURN FREETOWN", sums up the carnage. (UMARU E.A. DAVIES).

2007

2007? Pause! This story shall a goodman teach his son (Shakespeare, Henry V.). Experience of past trials should bring strength to Present Council.

Today, we are all a wounded people in need of healing. The Special Court with its adversarial procedure is based on Western paradigm rather than historical and cultural calculation. The Government should enter the arena of trials after prolonged conflict with great care. Trial is not justice or peace until it has been refined in the crucibles of experience and common sense.

It is better to let slippery dogs lie than to suffer them roam in the wilds with loud barks. It is in this light that traditional wisdom holds that there is eloquence in silence.

SIERRA LEONEANS HAVE RELATIVELY SHORT MEMORIES OF HAT

By 2003 Sierra Leoneans had almost buried behind them the past in the high time of the May 2002 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. With arrests and prosecution for serious crimes (greatest responsibility)

illusory cohesion is under serious threat. The future of this country rests in our own hands. Experts would only assist. None expresses it better than ALI A MAZRUI, a serious-minded African Commentator and an academic of acknowledged weight, writes:

You can teach people pray- how to cultivate what you cannot teach is how to govern themselves.

Further arrests and prosecution would only amount to simple affirmative: We...

LONGER ENJOY IMMUNITY FROM FEAR WITHOUT BEING AFRAID.

The Africa understanding of Justice is RESTORATIVE, not punitive. It is to redress or restore a balance that has been torn askew. We should take PRISCILLA B. HAYNER seriously when she advised:

Ultimately the decision to dig into the details of a difficult past must always be left to a country and its people to decide and in SOME COUNTRIES THERE MAY BE REASONS TO LEAVE THE PAST WELL ALONE. (Hayner. 2001)

UNICEF hails Special Court

By Odilia French

The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) has hailed the recent ruling by the Special Court for Sierra Leone that the recruitment or use of children under age 15

during hostilities is a war crime. According to UNICEF, this landmark ruling may "result in the first ever conviction for the recruitment of child soldiers". The United Nations body on Children welcomed the court's decision as a bold effort to

hold perpetrators accountable for serious crimes against children following the Appeals Chamber decision countering the assertion by one of the accused that he was immune from prosecution because the

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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, which dates back to 1996. The motion was dismissed by a majority of 3-1. Executive Director of UNICEF 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 children in hostilities." In a published statement, UNICEF also said that the Court's ruling came at a crucial time when both girls and boys continue to be recruited to fight as soldiers in adult wars. It disclosed that tens of thousands of child soldiers across the globe are forced to commit atrocities or are used as cooks, porters and for sexual purposes. These children, the statement claims, are

often subjected to extreme brutality—including physical torture, sexual violence and rape. An estimated 6000 children, the statement says, were demobilized at the end of the civil war in Sierra Leone. It is also widely believed that the number of children especially girls who served in various capacities in the armed groups is much higher. "The Special Court has indicted eleven persons from all three of Sierra Leone former warring factions. "All of them have been accused of the recruitment or use of children as soldiers," the statement said.

Awoko

Wednesday June 23, 2004

Independent Observers

Wednesday June 23, 2004

Special Court should also prosecute economic criminals

On behalf of all the victims of our ten years war, we give our moral support to the Special Court of Sierra Leone as you visit this amputee and war wounded camp today. We especially thank the Special Court Prosecutor, David Crane, for the seriousness he is putting to his work to bring justice to our land. We the war wounded and amputees have had to face the Truth and Reconciliation Commission - we spoke out about some of the atrocities we endured. We have forgiven those who committed

those atrocities. Forgiveness should not mean that Justice should not be brought into play. Justice is not for us the victims. Justice should be for those who are young today, those who are yet to be born - to ensure that which we have suffered, would never happen again. Who would want the hands of his children and father and mother to be chopped off like us? No one!

No. Never again. Never again is what the Special Court stands for in Sierra Leone.

Never Again should not be only for those men who held axes and guns and killed people and chopped off their hands. Never again should also be for those politicians and civil servants who stole the country's money with impunity and caused the war.

We are going to lobby for other Special Courts to try those who are ECONOMIC WAR CRIMINALS - those who created the conditions that led to our civil war, those who gave birth to Foday Sankoh and his RUF. If we are not to have another war soon, these ECONOMIC WAR CRIMINALS MUST BE PROSECUTED. The rebels chopped off our hands with

axes, these economic war criminals chopped off our very lives with their pens. We ask that you help us as we ask for a Special Court to try these ECONOMIC WAR CRIMI-

NALS

Ahaji Jusu Jaka
Chairman
June 19, 2004



I Can't Be Punished for Taylor's 'Crimes', Former First Lady Tells UN

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

June 21, 2004

Posted to the web June 21, 2004

Monrovia

The wife of former President Charles Taylor says she and her children can't be punished for an alleged crimes committed by her husband.

Mrs. Taylor said it is a "travesty of justice, and harassment of the highest order" for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to freeze her assets and prevent her from traveling at will.

Addressing Journalists at her Congo Town residence over the weekend, Mrs. Taylor said as a Liberian, she has never committed any crime, neither has she been indicted by any court that would warrant such a decision.

Mrs. Taylor contended that the decision by the UN Security against her is not justified in any way.

"How can you punish the wife of a former President for an alleged crime she has not committed is it because I am married to Charles Taylor? Why am I being treated this way?" Mrs. Taylor asked.

According to the Former First Lady, as a citizen of Liberia, she is supposed to be protected under the laws of the Liberia, especially when she has not committed any crime. But she said this appears not to be the case.

"This Resolution precludes everything. This means, I may not have a job. How am I going to support my children when I cannot work and travel at my will this is a travesty of justice and in a way, I see this as a death sentence," Mrs. Taylor who appeared frustrated expounded.

Asked what she intends to do in the wake of the Security Council's decision, the former First Lady told reporters that she will write the Council and the UN Secretary General

Kofi Annan, protesting that her constitutional rights to free movement and survival as provided for by the UN Charter and the Liberian constitution have been violated.

In the meantime, Mrs. Taylor said she would consult her lawyers this week to consider taking recourse to the Liberian judiciary if her grievances cannot be addressed by the UN.

The wife of the former President said she has written the Transitional Government requesting that the Government intervene to address the issue.

The Transitional Government, according to her, informed her through a communication that she should take up the matter with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

In order to get redress, Mrs. Taylor said she also wrote the head of UNMIL, Mr. Jacques Paul Klein on the. Unfortunately, she explained, Mr. Klein has not replied to acknowledge receipt of her letter.

Mrs. Taylor, who was appointed UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in the campaign against the spread of Aids two years ago, said it was totally unfair for the United Nations to restrict her from traveling when the very Charter of the organization speaks against it.

She wondered why women groups and human rights organizations are not speaking in her favor, adding, "is it because I am the wife of Mr. Taylor?"



Build. Your business.

Progressive Youth Discuss War Crimes in Liberia

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

June 22, 2004

Posted to the web June 22, 2004

The campaign for the effectuation of justice in Liberia gets stronger and stronger, as Progressive Youth's Human Rights executives continue to stress the need for bringing potential Liberian war criminals to justice, and ending female circumcision in Liberia.

According to the Thomarie's African Forum (TAF's) official press release from Baltimore, Maryland, Progressive Youth of Africa's conference on African Youth empowerment, participants from several African nations, including F.A. Sober, Progressive Youth, Liberia's education and human rights Director have pledged their relentless supports in the campaign for the establishment of war crimes court in Liberia to prosecute Liberia's human rights violators.

In a related development, the President/CEO of the US based Progressive Youth Of Africa, Inc, the Rev. W.

Kpannah Gowah Barnes used the opportunity to re-alert the international community, especially the UN on the importance of Justice in Liberia.

He said, "it will certainly be a miscarriage of justice, if potential Liberian war criminals are set free under the context of peace and reconciliation." The PYOA leader was quoted as saying, "in the midst of peace and reconciliation, there exists laws, and it may be possible like in previous scenarios to see that, the persistent compromising or ignoring of these laws could one day serve as a recipe for another disaster." He also highlighted at the conference that female circumcision in Liberia, which is seen continuously as a humiliation is both torturous and most of all, an abuse against Liberian women.

In Liberia, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs, he noted, female circumcision has for so long been practiced under the context of culture and traditions (Sande Society).

But he noted that, however that it has been criticized not only by the PY-Liberia's Human Rights leadership, but also by other notable international human rights leaders across the globe.

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

USA: 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 740 · Washington, DC 20036 · Tel: +1 (202) 483-9234 · Fax: +1 (202) 483-9263

Europe: The Hague · The Netherlands · Tel/Fax: 31-70-352-1171

Email: coalition@cij.org · Internet: www.cij.org

Genocide Without Intent: ICTY Expands Legal Definition of Genocide



International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY)

Milosevic Trial - The Hague

22 June 2004

THE HAGUE - In a March 19, 2004 decision in the case of Prosecutor vs. Radoslav Brdjanin, the ICTY Appeals Chamber clarified that a person can be found guilty of genocide even though that person does not have a specific intent to destroy an ethnic or religious group in whole or in part. All that is required is that the person enter into a joint criminal enterprise of which genocide is a reasonably foreseeable consequence and it occurs. The decision has important implications for Slobodan Milosevic.

The Court set down the legal rule in a decision overturning a Trial Chamber's acquittal of Radoslav Brdjanin for genocide. The lower court found there was insufficient evidence that Brdjanin, charged for his leading role in ethnic cleansing of the Bosnian Krajina, shared the specific intent to destroy a part of the Bosnian Muslims; therefore, he could not be guilty of genocide. The Appeals Chamber held that was a misstatement of the law and reinstated the genocide charge against Brdjanin.

According to the ICTY statute, genocide occurs when any of a list of specified crimes is committed with the "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such." The list of crimes includes killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, and deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part. The statute punishes conspiracy, incitement and attempt to commit genocide as well as complicity in genocide and genocide itself.

The Appeals Chamber explained that a person can be held liable for criminal activity through various modes of liability, e.g.g. that of a direct perpetrator (one who kills someone else), as a commander who orders his subordinates to violate the law or fails to prevent or punish their crimes, one who facilitates (aids and abets) the commission of a crime, or as a participant in a joint criminal enterprise, among others. Further, there are three categories of joint criminal enterprise liability, as originally explained in the Tadic case: 1) co-perpetration "where all participants in a common design possess the same criminal intent to commit a crime" and the crime is committed; 2. active and knowing participation in a system organized to commit a crime, where the crime is committed (a variant of #1); 3) sharing the common purpose of a joint criminal enterprise where crimes not part of that enterprise are foreseeable, and those crimes occur.

In Tadic, the Appeals Chamber applied this rule to the charge of persecution, also a specific intent crime. In Brdjanin, the Chamber has taken it one step further, applying the third category of joint criminal enterprise to genocide. Following this ruling, the Milosevic Trial Chamber applied third category joint criminal enterprise in its recent decision dismissing the Amici Curiae's motion for acquittal on genocide and complicity in genocide. The Court held the Prosecution had produced sufficient evidence to support a finding that the Accused is liable for genocide under either direct genocide liability (which requires shared intent to destroy a part of a group) or third category joint criminal enterprise liability (which requires only foreseeability).

The Appeals Chamber in Brdjanin explained the rule: "The third category of joint criminal enterprise liability refers to criminal liability of an accused for crimes which fall outside of an agreed upon criminal enterprise, but which crimes are nonetheless natural and foreseeable consequences of that agreed upon enterprise." It went on to say, "Where that different crime [which falls outside the agreed crimes] is the crime of genocide, the Prosecution will be required to establish that it was reasonably foreseeable to the accused that an act specified in Article 4 (2) [murder, causing serious bodily or mental harm, etc.] would be committed and that it would be committed with genocidal intent."

Denying the Amici's motion for acquittal on genocide and complicity in genocide, the Trial Chamber in the Milosevic case held, "[A] Trial Chamber could be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the Accused was a participant in a joint criminal enterprise to commit other crimes than genocide and it was reasonably foreseeable to him that, as a consequence of the commission of those crimes, genocide of a part of the Bosnian Muslims as a group would be committed by other participants in the joint criminal enterprise, and it was committed."

In other words, Milosevic could be found guilty of genocide even if he did not share the intent of those who perpetrated it. To conclude that he is guilty of genocide under third category joint criminal enterprise liability, the Court must find: 1) two or more persons formed a group to commit a crime, such as forcible removal or deportation; 2) Milosevic was a member of the group and shared their intent to forcibly remove Muslims from certain areas in Bosnia; 3) Milosevic could foresee that other members of the group might commit genocide, in addition to forcible removal; 4) genocide was committed.

The Prosecution will have far less trouble proving Milosevic guilty of genocide under third category joint criminal enterprise liability, than it will establishing his guilt of genocide itself, where they must show he intended the destruction of a part of the Bosnian Muslims.

Submitted by Judith Armatta on 22 June, 2004

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Who's Involved

Defendant: Milosevic, Slobodan; ; **Judges:** Judge Iain Bonomy Judge O-Gon Kwon Judge Patrick Robinson ; **Prosecutors:** Del Ponte, Carla Groome, Dermot Nice, Geoffrey Uertz-Retzlaff, Hildegard ; **Defence Counsel:** Self ; **Indictee Mentioned:** Milosevic, Slobodan

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Coalition for International Justice 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 1000 Washington, D.C. 20036 USA
tel. (202) 483-9234 fax. (202) 483-9263 E: cij@cij.org
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LIBERIA: UN peacekeepers extend reach towards Ivorian border



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UNMIL soldiers in Liberia

MONROVIA, 22 Jun 2004 (IRIN) - United Nations peacekeepers extended their reach in Liberia on Tuesday, for the first time taking up positions in Maryland County near the Ivorian border, UN officials confirmed.

Their deployment leaves only one of the West African nation's 15 counties without a UN peacekeeping presence.

An advance party of 160 Senegalese peacekeepers were airlifted into the port city of Harper, the main city in Maryland County, which lies more than 700 km southeast of the Liberian capital Monrovia. Harper is a key base for the former rebel Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL).

"A large portion of the Ivorian border has already been secured. This is the final stage of ensuring that the borders with Liberia are secured from the north to the south," General Daniel Opande, the UN's force commander told IRIN.

One of the Senegalese commanders said that 300 more soldiers would be joining their comrades in the next few days.

Opande said Grand Kru County was the one remaining region without UN peacekeepers, but that that would change next month.

"We are going to deploy Ethiopian troops in July," the force commander said.

Liberia is emerging from the shadow of a 14-year civil war that ended last year. Earlier this month the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) said 42,755 combatants had given up their weapons since the launch of the disarmament program last December.

The process will be boosted with three new disarmament centres opening up in Liberia's border regions and will operate alongside four existing sites around the country.

"We now have plans to open additional disarmament sites in Zwedru, Ganta and Lofa within the next few weeks. I can not give you the exact dates of their opening, but we believe it will be done as soon as possible," Opande said.

Zwedru is the provincial headquarters of Grand Gedeh near the Ivorian border; Ganta in Nimba County lies on the border with Guinea; and Lofa County is close to

both Guinea and Sierra Leone.

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UN Security Council Mission Arrives Thurs.

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

NEWS

June 22, 2004

Posted to the web June 22, 2004

The Security Council's mission to Liberia is aimed at supporting the National Transitional Government in its efforts to rebuild the country and establish conditions for free and fair elections next year.

Addressing a press briefing at the UN headquarters in New York, Amb. Jones Parry said, "in Liberia, helping the Transitional Government to meet the criteria for lifting the sanctions imposed by the Security Council would be a major subject of discussion".

The Mission will also review progress made by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in establishing security and implementing its mandate, particularly disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration.

During its visit, the mission will meet with National Transitional Government Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant, UNMIL leadership and heads of UN agencies, the International Contact Group, members of the Cabinet, the National Elections Commission, political parties, NGOs and civil society organizations.

Regionally, Amb. Jones Parry reiterated, the mission will focus on raising awareness of all United Nations activities on the ground - not just peacekeeping - and the benefits accrued thereby. It would also stress the need for coherent policy-making across the region, to ensure that the removal of a problem in one country did not translate into its arrival in another. "The threat such narrow policy-making posed had been amply demonstrated under Charles Taylor, who had acted as a contagion on Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire", he said.

However, there was no question of meeting with former Liberia President Charles Taylor while in Nigeria, Mr. Parry said, adding that the Security Council's view on the need to bring Mr. Taylor to justice was fairly clear".

The Mission will include Amb. Mourad Benmehidi (Algeria), Amb. Ishmael Abraao Gasper Martins (Angola), Amb. Joel W. Adechi (Benin), Irene Vida Gala (Brazil),

Ignacio Llanos (Chile), Jiang Jiang (China), Amb. Jean-Marc de La Sabliere (France), Stefan Delfs (Germany), Sohail Mahmood (Pakistan), Patrick A. Chusoto (Philippines), Marius Ioan Dragolea (Romania), Ana Jimenez (Spain) and Amb. Sichan Siv (United States).

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Channel NewsAsia June 22, 2004 Tuesday

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June 22, 2004 Tuesday

SECTION: WORLD

LENGTH: 648 words

HEADLINE: UN Security Council team kicks off west Africa tour with Ghana, Ivory Coast

BODY:

ABIDJAN : A delegation representing 14 of the 15 **UN Security Council** members on a seven-nation west African **tour** traveled from Ghana to Ivory Coast urging dialogue and cooperation to resolve problems in the troubled region.

The delegation met briefly in Accra on Tuesday with President John Kufuor and top-level Ghanaian officials as well as Mohammed Ibn Chambas, the executive secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) before flying westward to the main Ivory Coast city Abidjan.

Ivory Coast is a focal point of the eight-day trip that also includes stops in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau before winding up in Nigeria.

The African cocoa giant has been mired in political tension and low-level conflict for 20 months, following a failed coup against President Laurent Gbagbo in September 2002 that spawned a civil war splitting the country between the rebel-held north and the ferociously partisan south.

A peace deal brokered in January last year by former colonial power France paved the way for a short-lived government of national unity.

That agreement now lies in tatters, with little hope of reviving it amid mounting ethnic tensions and spurts of violence that in Abidjan have targeted not only rebel sympathizers but French nationals and the new **UN** mission on the ground since April 4.

Gbagbo held talks in early June with **UN** Secretary General Kofi Annan, who expressed concern about the growing instability in Ivory Coast.

Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo, Kufuor and veteran Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema met Sunday with Gbagbo in the Nigerian capital Abuja to plot a way out of the crisis, which has had a devastating impact on the economies of Ivory Coast's neighbors.

Diplomatic observers have suggested that targeted sanctions against the main protagonists in the crisis, such as travel bans and a freezing of financial accounts, could be imposed should the peace process continue its downward spiral.

"We want to make everyone commit to the peace agreement," Sichan Siv, the alternate US ambassador to the **United Nations**, told AFP before the diplomats were whisked onto a waiting bus ahead of talks with their national ambassadors.

Targeted sanctions are "something to bear in mind," Siv said, noting that the two days the delegation will spend in Ivory Coast will provide the **UN Security Council** with a "more concrete idea of how far we can go with sanctions."

Similar sanctions were imposed in next-door Liberia in the crackdown on the Taylor regime to end 14 years of civil war, but they had limited success.

Blanket export bans against Liberia's lucrative timber and diamond industries were also imposed before Taylor stepped down and took exile in Nigeria in August last year.

Such sanctions are unlikely for Ivory Coast, producer of 40 percent of the world's cocoa, as the two main exporters of the aromatic beans and powder are based in the United States, which is a veto-wielding permanent member of the **UN Security Council**.

Post-war Liberia and Sierra Leone, under the **UN's** largest peacekeeping mandates, will be the third and fourth stops on the whirlwind visit by delegates representing all the **Security Council** members except Russia, according to a list of participants released by the world body.

Key to talks in Monrovia and Freetown will be discussing a solution to tighten border security and thwart the continued smuggling of arms that could upend the fragile peace taking root in the neighbors each struggling to emerge from more than a decade of war.

"There are eight million small arms doing the rounds in **west Africa**," Britain's ambassador to the **UN** Emyr Jones Parry told reporters in Accra.

"Those numbers need to be drastically reduced, we need to enforce the relevant conventions but most important is to identify and control the source of those arms supplies."

- AFP

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Source: UN Development Programme

Date: 22 Jun 2004

Sierra Leone communities give up arms for development

Sierra Leone is emerging from a decade long civil conflict but some firearms still in the possession of local communities pose a threat to lasting peace. The Government and UNDP are trying to encourage people to turn in weapons through an Arms for Development initiative begun last year.

Since the Lomé Peace Accord of July 1999, various disarmament programmes have generally met with success, but porous borders throughout the region allow weapons to enter from neighbouring countries.

The initiative assumes that security brings communities the peace of mind to turn to development activities. This requires a mindset change - people abandon the prestige of gun ownership for the benefits of a weapons-free environment, conducive to development.

After disarmament, communities receive a grant of about US\$20,000, helping to reinforce the link between community security and long-term development. As the District Officer for Moyamba pointed out, "the weapons-free certificate is actually a licence for development".

Through a participatory and democratic process, the successful communities have so far selected a market place, a sports venue, schools and health posts for construction using the grant.

These communities appreciate the new environment. In Ribbi chiefdom, Moyamba district, a woman declared: "Since we are guns free, we are no longer afraid to walk at night. There are no more shots heard and we can sleep in peace."

UNDP and the Government are also working on a border strengthening initiative to stem the traffic of small arms and light weapons. Amendments to small arms legislation will provide for licensing of legitimate weapons, such as shotguns used for hunting. The objective is also to convince hunters to find alternative means such as using traps and nets.

The Government and UNDP are expanding the arms initiative to 30 more chiefdoms this year. It is a huge enterprise requiring the efforts of various partners, such as the police, the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, various government ministries, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and civil society organizations.

The initiative is supported by the Governments of Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom.

For further information please contact: Maggy Waithiru ,maggy.waithiru@undpafid.org, UNDP Sierra Leone, or Cassandra Waldon, cassandra.waldon@undp.org, UNDP Communications Office,