

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:

Thursday, February 24, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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"We were forced to mine" - witness tells Court

By Odilia French

Prosecution Witness-TF2 027 has said at the Special Court during cross-examination by Defence Counsel- Mr. Yillah for the first accused, that Junta Forces in Tongo forced civilians to mine diamonds for them. He said that in the morning, they would force them

out of their houses and take them to the mining pits to mine diamonds. According to him, the civilians included young and ageable men; adding, "anyone who refuses to mine would be killed." The 57-year-old witness

further explained that at times, the Junta Forces would tell them to mine five hours for them and "two hours for us... and after ten minutes they would open fire at us." He said that life at that time was "hell on

Contd. Page 2

We were forced to mine

From Front Page

earth," as they were suffering in the hands of the Juntas. Meanwhile, the 49th witness in the ongoing CDF trial- TF2 048- a Limba herbalist has testified about how the Limbas, Temnes and Lokos were targeted for killing by the Kamajors in Tongo. She said that when Kamajors took over Tongo, the Limbas, Temnes and Lokos were

their targets. "They said we are all going to be killed because we were the ones destroying their town," she further said. Fortunately for them, she went on, some Liberian fighters came to their rescue and released them, as they were about to be killed. The witness revealed that in her presence, one Kamajor chopped off her elder brother's ear and as he

knelt down to beg him, "he cut off his head with a machete." According to her, "the Kamajor said that he was going to kill my brother because he is a Limba." Earlier in her testimony, she said that on the day that the Kamajors entered Tongo, she heard gunshots and the soldiers told them that a convoy had arrived bringing in rice for them. "They told us to go to the NDMC

headquarters and I went with my children. At the headquarters, there was fighting between the soldiers and the Kamajors and the soldiers told us to lie on

the ground to escape from the bullets," she went on to explain. She said that when the firing ceased, the soldiers where nowhere to be found, as the Kamajors

had taken over the headquarters; adding that a lot of people died as a result of the stampede. "They were dancing and took three people away and when they came back, there was blood on their machetes," she added.

Arrok

Thursday 24, 2005

Kamajor Cut My Brother Into Pieces

By Joseph Turay

Prosecution witness code name TF2 048 has explained to the Special Court how a

Kamajor militia man mutilated her elder brother in Tongo Field in 1997. Testifying yesterday, the 36

years old witness who was led in evidence by prosecuting counsel Adwoa Wiafe said after she had been hit with a stick on her waist by

one Kamajor fighter in a park where she had gone to seek refuge.

While there, she noticed that
Contd. page 3

Kamajor Cut My Brother Into Pieces

From front page

her elder brother who had been captured with two of his friends by some Kamajors who later took their money from them.

When this set of Kamajors left, another Kamajor came with a cutlass, cut off her brother's ear. Later, even though her brother pleaded with him to spare his life, he cut off his neck. The same Kamajor later mutilated his body.

'We are going to kill all the Limbas,' witness narrated.

TF2 048 went further to state that she escaped from the scene to Mano Junction where she joined her sister before they later proceeded to Kenema.

The witness earlier explained to the Court that she witnessed when kamajors captured people including her husband's uncle, took them to a hideout and those people were never seen again except later she would saw blood-stain on their cutlasses.

The witness who identified her self as a Limba and a herb-

alist told the court that the Kamajors always accused the Limbas of being proud and being the ones who tapped palm wine for the renegade AFRC soldiers.

She recalled an incident when they were captured by a set of Kamajors who lined them up according to tribes. Later some set of people who belong to other ethnic groups were released while they (limbas), Lokos and Temnes were detained. Later they were pleaded for by a set of Kamajors who spoke in a Liberian accent.

The Exclusive

Monday, May 24, 2005

NO COMPENSATION FOR GIRL RAPED BY AUSTRALIAN COP

By Ralph Ese 'Donnu Sawyer

State Counsel Oladipo Robin-Mason has said that there is no compensation for the 13-year-old school girl (name withheld) that was raped by the convicted Special Court police investigator, Australian-born Peter Halloran.

Speaking to SALONE TIMES at the Freetown Magistrate Court yesterday, Mr. Robin-Mason said the victim will get no compensation from the convict because the 13 year old denied her previous statement made to the police in which she admitted having

been sexually interfered with by the convicted Peter Halloran.

Also, he went on to say, "relatives of the girl unanimously gave evidence in support of the accused person that their daughter was not tampered with."

Peter Halloran 46, was on

Monday sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for indecently assaulting the school girl.

The convict was initially charged together with Sheku Fofana and Abdulai Fofana on a three-count charge of unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent as-

SEE PAGE 3

Witness On Kamajor Attack

The witness was led in evidence by a prosecution counsel, Kevin Tavener at Court Room No. 1, New England in Freetown.

He was testifying about Kamajor activities in Tongo Field during that period.

The 63-year-old witness told the court that some corpses were found in a football field, some along the roads while other were lying in the grasses. "Most of those killed were nicely dressed", he said and added that some had their heads chopped off, some with wounds all over their bodies and others, headless.

"Kamajors killed these people because I was present at the security headquarters when they killed three people and so I concluded that it was they who did the killings", the witness continued.

Describing himself as a voluntary sanitary officer during that period, he testified that one rebel commando, Dr. Blood and several other AFRC soldiers were also killed.

In his examination-in-chief earlier, the witness told the court that Kamajors entered Tongo between November and December 1997 from four different directions, namely, Kpendebu Road, Landoma Road, Semewabu and Tongola Old Town Road, firing one shot from each direction.

Giving his testimony in Krio, through an interpreter in English from the witness protection box, he told the court that the Kamajors asked everybody to gather at the security headquarters in the town.

The witness quoted the Chief Kamajor B. J. K. Sei as warning his fighters during the gathering that any Kamajor caught killing civilians when they entered the town would be dismissed immediately. He named Michael Cole, Lahai Siaka battalion commander and Mr. Siakia's deputy, commander Kaikula, alias Kamabote as other senior Kamajor commanders who were present at the gathering.

The witness went on to tell the court that Kamajors sent messages in various forms and on several occasions for civilians to leave Tongo prior the attack.

The witness told the court that Co. Keikula identified him as a sanitary officer during the gathering and told him (the witness) that he would be burying a lot of corpses. "Co. Keikula asked me to go and pick up a wheel-barrow to convey dead bodies to grave sites for burial," he testified, adding that he was later assisted by three other people on the orders of the Kamajor commanders.

The trials continue.

Centred Times

Thursday February 24, 2005

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

TV PROGRAM TRANSCRIPT

LOCATION: <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2005/s1309600.htm>

Broadcast: 17/02/2005

THE
7.30
REPORT

Concerns held for Australian jailed in Sierra Leone

Reporter: Mick O'Donnell

KERRY O'BRIEN: He was once one of Australia's more senior police officers, the head of Victoria's Homicide Squad. Now, he's a convicted paedophile, set to languish in a third-world prison on the other side of the globe. For Peter Halloran, yesterday was D-day. He was found guilty of indecently assaulting a 13-year-old girl at his home in the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown. More serious charges were dismissed. The incident occurred while the 56-year-old was working as a prosecution inspector for the United Nations-backed War Crimes Court. Peter Halloran's critics say justice has been served. His supporters say he's been wrongfully convicted, with Foreign Minister Alexander Downer also raising questions about procedures in his trial. Mick O'Donnell reports.

TIM CARRODUS (FRIEND): He's traumatised. He doesn't really comprehend what led to the justification of being convicted and him being placed in jail when he's totally innocent.

MICK O'DONNELL: After 10 years of civil war, Sierra Leone is a country struggling into democratic rule. Last year, with its jails full and its courts overtaxed, Sierra Leone looked to outside law enforcers to staff its unique Special Court, independent of the UN, to investigate war crimes.

TIM CARRODUS: And that's why Peter was there - he wanted to see things reformed in that country, and he wanted to make a contribution to that.

MICK O'DONNELL: Among those joining the Special Court's ranks early last year was Detective Peter Halloran, a former head of the Victorian Homicide Squad.

TIM CARRODUS: He's an almost 40-year veteran of the Victoria Police Force. He's highly regarded not only in Victoria but Australia and worldwide in policing. He's been awarded the Australian Police Medal.

MICK O'DONNELL: This distinguished officer is now facing 18 months in one of Africa's worst jails, convicted of the indecent assault of a 13-year-old girl.

TIM CARRODUS: The sanitary conditions are very poor, the privacy is nonexistent, the food is very substandard. It's very crowded. There's no single cells. You have to share accommodation with other prisoners. It's basically, as described by one person, a hellhole.

MICK O'DONNELL: Everything went wrong for Halloran in May last year, when he hired 13-year-old Kadi Kabia as a nanny for his girlfriend's son.

WORDS OF KADI KABIA: He said I was not too bad, but I must learn computer fast enough to be able to communicate with his wife, who was deaf and dumb.

MICK O'DONNELL: Kadi Kabia came to this house overlooking the capital, Freetown. Here, Halloran lived with two other Australians and a Canadian, all working for the Special Court. It was one of the other Australians, former Tasmanian detective Mandy Cordwell, who brought the allegations of sexual impropriety against Halloran. Cordwell told the Sierra Leone High Court her suspicions were raised when she saw young Kadi Kabia coming in and out of Halloran's room.

TIM CARRODUS: This girl has given evidence on oath saying that Peter did not touch her, and she gave the same evidence on oath saying that she was enticed to make these serious allegations against Peter by Mandy Cordwell, with the promise of gifts.

CHRISTINE NIXON (CHIEF COMMISSIONER, VICTORIA POLICE): As a human being, I feel very sorry for anybody in that set of circumstances. But he's been charged and convicted of a sexual offence, a child sexual offence, and we shouldn't forget that.

TIM CARRODUS: There's no evidence, there's no substance to these allegations whatsoever.

MICK O'DONNELL: Tim Carrodus is a former Victorian police detective who's known Peter Halloran for 25 years. These days an international risk consultant, he travelled to Sierra Leone to arrange bail and a defence

lawyer for his friend.

TIM CARRODUS: She's saying, "I'm not a victim." Peter gave evidence on oath stating he didn't do anything wrong, and he explained everything without any challenge. There's no forensic evidence. Due processes which should have been followed in the first instance were not followed by certain critical people who hold key positions in the Special Court.

MICK O'DONNELL: The Victorian Police Commissioner, Christine Nixon, has said she will review documents from the Sierra Leone High Court before considering any action here.

CHRISTINE NIXON: It's found him guilty on lesser charges than the original charge that was involved, and it's been before a court, a court that I assume is trying to put the rule of law into place, and I don't have any evidence of what happened during the trial, other than what the media's reported.

TIM CARRODUS: He's shattered, to say the least, that he's been hung out to dry - and those words used by a colleague of mine who is currently still with the police - by the senior executive group of the police force.

MICK O'DONNELL: So has Victoria Police abandoned Peter Halloran?

CHRISTINE NIXON: No, we haven't, and I think this is a very difficult situation for Victoria Police. Peter Halloran has been charged in Sierra Leone and found guilty of an offence. He is a member of Victoria Police, so we've tried to offer support to him. It's difficult for us. We don't want to interfere in the running of another country.

MICK O'DONNELL: And Peter Halloran believes he's not had adequate help from Australian consular officials. But the Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, is considering diplomatic approaches to assist him.

ALEXANDER DOWNER (FOREIGN MINISTER): He's been convicted of a very serious offence, and that isn't something to brush aside. On the other hand, we have information from observers that there may have been irregularities in the court hearing. Now, one other thing I'm concerned about is that the appeal could take quite some time to hear, and so we would obviously do our best to ensure that the appeal could be heard quickly.

MICK O'DONNELL: Before the case and in the High Court, the young alleged victim recanted her earlier allegations against Halloran.

WORDS OF KADI KABIA: I insisted that it was not true and that Pa Peter did not assault me in any way.

MICK O'DONNELL: The young girl's family claim they've been beaten by Sierra Leonian authorities for refusing to support the case against Halloran.

MAN: We denied the allegations against Peter and of us being bribed.

MICK O'DONNELL: While he's been in jail in Sierra Leone, Peter Halloran has been subject to a whispering campaign amongst police circles in Australia, suggesting he acted improperly while working for the National Crime Authority on an overseas operation.

CHRISTINE NIXON: Someone suggested that the Australian Crime Commission had matters of concern. I spoke to them, and they said, no, it was a matter some time ago and it was related to when he was in Bangkok and that matter had been dealt with and they had no concerns.

MICK O'DONNELL: Peter Halloran's supporters are now pinning their hopes on intervention by the Australian Government to expedite the appeal.

TIM CARRODUS: Nobody wants to interfere with the sovereignty of a foreign country. That's not what we're there to do. We're there all to see that justice prevails.

KERRY O'BRIEN: Mick O'Donnell with that report.



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Tassie policewoman key witness in cop sex scandal

By ELLEN WHINNETT
24feb05

A FORMER Tasmanian policewoman who accused her boss of child abuse in Africa may return to Tasmania and resume her policing duties.

But a bitter split is emerging between the police forces of Tasmania and Victoria over the scandal.

Tasmanian police have rallied behind their former colleague Mandy Cordwell, saying she was honest and accusing Victoria Police and journalists of blackening her name.

Ms Cordwell, a former detective-sergeant with Tasmania Police, had made a complaint against her boss, Victorian police Superintendent Peter Halloran, that he had sexually abused a young African child at a house in Sierra Leone in West Africa.

Ms Cordwell and Halloran were both attached to the United Nation's Special Court investigating crimes against humanity.

They shared a house in the capital Freetown.

Halloran, 56, vehemently denied the allegations that he had abused the girl, who worked as a maid in the house and Ms Cordwell was eventually suspended by the Special Court and her evidence thrown out as the controversy raged.

But Halloran was found guilty this week of indecently assaulting the girl and sentenced to 18 months jail in a grim prison in Sierra Leone.

Ms Cordwell returned to Australia three weeks ago and is bunkered down in a house in Sydney with the nation's media at her door.

Her former Tasmania Police colleagues have rallied to support her, sending emails and telephone messages of support.

She has been told she would be welcome to resume her career with the police in Tasmania, and several officers told The Mercury that they would trust her with their lives.

None of the police interviewed by The Mercury wanted to be named publicly, saying the situation was turning into a battle between the police jurisdictions of Victoria and Tasmania.

"She took on VicPol and they don't f... around over there," one officer said.

Another officer said he had worked with the 38-year-old Cordwell during her 18-year career with Tasmania Police.

"She is totally honest, totally reliable with a very high work ethic and she is ethically very sound," the officer said.

"If she said she saw it, it happened.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that it happened.

"She was happy to pursue the matter because she knew what she saw was wrong."

Ms Cordwell had told investigators that she saw the pre-pubescent child in Halloran's room at night, and again the next morning.

She had also told investigators that the child, Kadia Kabia, had told her, in broken English, that she had been abused by Halloran.

But it has been reported that Kadia later told Halloran's High Court trial that Ms Cordwell told her to say Halloran abused her - even though it was not true.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer yesterday ordered an investigation into Halloran's jailing, saying he was concerned about the way the case was handled.

"We are concerned about this case and we are concerned about the way the court case has been handled and the question of whether he appeals or not is now being considered," Mr Downer told ABC radio today.

"Of course he has been, by a court, convicted of quite serious charges but nevertheless ... we are concerned about the court processes and we don't want to say too much because we don't want to have too much of an impact on the appeal itself."

Ms Cordwell trained at the Tasmania Police Academy at Rokeby in the 1980s and went on to have a distinguished and low-key career which saw her promoted to the rank of sergeant, one of few women to attain the rank in the early 1990s.

She worked on cases including the review of the Leo Rogers murder which led to charges being laid against three men.

She also worked on the coronial inquiry last year into the murder of Italian tourist Victoria Cafasso at St Helens in 1995.

She left Tasmania in about 2000 to work in Dili, East Timor, investigating war crimes, and returned to the state briefly before accepting the Special Court job in Sierra Leone last year.

She had been in Freetown less than three months when she laid the complaint against Halloran.

Another senior Tasmania Police officer told The Mercury Ms Cordwell would be his "first pick" on any investigation.

He said he believed her accusations against Halloran.

"She was in a position where this was happening on her door-step," he said.

"This has been a massive character assassination of her."

Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon said Halloran could be dismissed because of the conviction, and still might not return to the force even if it was overturned.

"We would look to acquaint ourselves with the broader facts of the case to see any material that was offered during the prosecution, and defence material and that would be normal process," Ms Nixon told ABC radio.

Herald Sun

[Print this page](#)

Police to tackle Halloran allegation

Keith Moor
24feb05

JAILED police superintendent Peter Halloran's allegations against Victoria Police would be investigated, Commissioner Christine Nixon said yesterday.

Halloran claimed in yesterday's Herald Sun that false allegations spread by two high-ranking Victorian officers helped convict him in West Africa.

He was this week found guilty of indecently assaulting a schoolgirl in Sierra Leone and jailed for 18 months.

Halloran's allegations include that Victoria Police officers falsely claimed he was corrupt and that he had left the National Crime Authority under a cloud.

Ms Nixon said she had not been aware of Halloran's allegations until alerted by the media.

She said she had assurances the NCA matter was resolved years ago and the NCA had not had concerns about Halloran.

She said corruption claims were made against Halloran in the past, but she was satisfied they were fully investigated and he had been cleared.

Ms Nixon said she was not aware of any current ethical standards department probe into Halloran.

"But at this stage I have no reason to believe other than the fact that he is a good and decent police officer," she said.

Halloran is a 39-year police veteran and former head of the homicide and vice squads.

Halloran could be sacked from Victoria Police even if his appeal was successful, but it was premature to contemplate that, Ms Nixon said.

Ms Nixon rejected Halloran's claim he was abandoned by Victoria Police.

Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer has ordered Halloran's jailing be investigated to examine if he got a fair trial.

Halloran claims his trial was not conducted to international standards. He alleges the judge was pressured by Sierra Leone government figures to reach a guilty verdict.

Mr Downer said he would do what he could to ensure his appeal was heard quickly.

"We have some real concerns, particularly that have been raised by independent observers, as to whether due process was followed in the court," he said.

"We have information from observers that there were irregularities in the court hearing.

"I've instructed our High Commissioner in Accra (Ghana) to send a consular officer up to Sierra Leone, to Freetown, to speak to him and offer whatever services we can offer."

Halloran took leave from Victoria Police to work as commander of war crimes investigations at the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone.

His lawyer was due to make a bail application yesterday.

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The Australian February 24, 2005 Thursday All-round Country Edition

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The Australian

February 24, 2005 Thursday All-round Country Edition

Jailed police chief had faced inquiry

MATP

James Madden

VICTORIA Police Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon has confirmed that convicted pedophile Peter Halloran, the former head of the state's homicide squad, was the subject of an internal investigation by the National Crime Authority before he left the organisation in the 1980s.

Halloran, who was sentenced to 18 months' jail this week by a Sierra Leone court after he was found guilty of the indecent assault of a 13-year-old schoolgirl, worked for the NCA from 1985 to 1987. He was involved with undercover operations targeting Australian criminals in The Philippines.

But despite earlier denials from Victoria Police and the Australian Crime Commission -- which succeeded the NCA in 2003 -- that a serious incident involving Halloran was looked at before he left the NCA, Ms Nixon yesterday admitted on Melbourne radio that there had been an investigation into his conduct.

"In terms of allegations about him, any career investigator has allegations made (against them) and he has had some," Ms Nixon said.

"Particularly, one of them was reported in the media but I made inquiries about it from the Australian Crime Commission and they said the matter had been settled but it had taken place quite some time before."

The Chief Commissioner also indicated for the first time yesterday that Halloran -- who has lodged an appeal against his conviction -- is likely to be sacked from the force and placed on the child sex offenders register upon his return to Australia.

"Having looked at the material we could actually access about the case, we would probably look to dismiss him because of that conviction," Ms Nixon said.

Even if Halloran's appeal was successful, he may not escape dismissal, Ms Nixon said.

"That's what we do with any officer that is acquitted -- we take time to look at the material and determine whether we would take any action against them or, in fact, bring them back into the organisation," she said.

Halloran has claimed he has been "abandoned" by Victoria Police since his arrest last August, and accused senior officers of spreading rumours and lies about him which

led to his conviction.

Ms Nixon said allegations of a smear campaign would be investigated further but she maintained that there was no evidence that Victoria Police had supplied the prosecution team in Sierra Leone with any files on the 56-year-old superintendent, nor had they assisted with Halloran's defence.

Halloran was in the West African nation on a one-year contract with the Special Court of Sierra Leone, which was investigating war crimes on behalf of the UN -- a posting that several of his colleagues urged him to reject, according to Ms Nixon.

"A number of senior police tried to discourage him from taking on this role. (They) spoke to him on a number of occasions, suggesting this wasn't a good thing for him to be doing, or an appropriate place for him to be going to work," Ms Nixon said.

The Australian February 24, 2005 Thursday All-round Country Edition

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February 24, 2005 Thursday All-round Country Edition

Bias mars reporting in pedophile case

MATP

Carmel Egan

Comment

AUSTRALIA has some of the toughest laws in the world for the pursuit and prosecution of pedophiles targeting children in the developing world. But we also carry the stain of having been the first Westerners charged with sexual abuse of minors in several countries, including Thailand, the Philippines, Fiji, Samoa and East Timor.

Until now the tracking and capture of such criminals has been supported and praised in the press; the pursuit by journalists of Robert "Dolly" Dunn to his pedophile's lair on the Indonesian island of Lombok being perhaps the most memorable case.

This week Peter Halloran was convicted in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, of the sexual assault of a 13-year-old girl, unleashing an extraordinary campaign by his friends in the media. The former head of Victoria's homicide squad was found guilty of indecently assaulting Kadiatu Kabia in the bedroom of the house he shared with two other police officers in Freetown.

The 56-year-old, 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 will appeal against that conviction. News of the guilty verdict unleashed a flood of one-sided media coverage on behalf of Halloran, with particular criticism of the woman who took the girl to the local police and encouraged her to make a statement.

Kadiatu gave her statement to police after Halloran's fellow war-crimes investigator Mandy Cordwell -- a former Tasmanian police officer -- saw the girl in his bedroom on the night of June 2 and again the next morning.

Speaking on Melbourne's most popular breakfast radio program on 3AW, The Age's chief police reporter John Silvester -- in his regular guise as Sly of the Underworld -- reiterated claims he has made previously that there was no evidence against Halloran. "The whole case collapsed and the person who made the allegation has been discredited, that is, an Australian policewoman who has since not had her contract renewed with the UN," Sly said.

But Cordwell was never discredited. She resigned from the UN after being suspended on full pay over allegations she leaked details of a UN investigation of Halloran to the media. Cordwell fell out with the head of the UN Special Court in Sierra Leone when

she criticised his handling of that inquiry.

Speaking to the Herald Sun's Keith Moor yesterday, Halloran launched an attack on Cordwell, saying they had a falling out before June 2 and suggesting this was her motivation for encouraging Kadiatu to go the police.

Much has also been made of the 13-year-old's later recanting of evidence. But vulnerable children in the Third World who make allegations against foreigners have a history of later retracting statements and the girl's original police statement was deemed admissible evidence by the court.

The double standards being applied to reporting Halloran's cause are incomparable to any other recent sexual assault case.

Peter Halloran has issued a writ for defamation against The Australian.

The News
Wednesday February 23, 2003

Halloran appeals in 21 days

Former Special Court for Sierra Leone Police Investigator who was convicted in the High Court of Sierra past Monday is expected to appeal within twenty-one days.

Peter Halloran was standing trial on three counts of conspiracy, indecent assault and procuring a girl under the age of 13 years. He was tried along side two others, Sheku Fofanah and Abdul

Fofanah, both uncles of the assaulted girl.

After nearly nine months of trial, Halloran was convicted Monday while the others were acquitted and discharged.

Justice Ademusu while giving verdict Monday, said the convict has the right to appeal in the higher court within 21 days.

Australia orders investigation of Halloran's conviction

By Chernoh Alpha M. Bah

The Australian government has reportedly ordered an investigation into the conviction of Victorian Police Superintendent, Peter Halloran after he was sentenced Monday to eighteen months for

indecent assault of a 13-year-old schoolgirl.

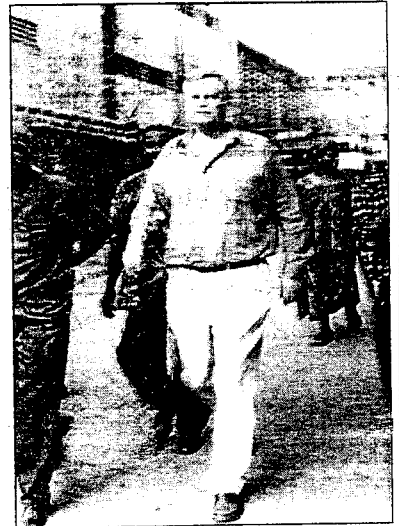
Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer said Wednesday that the Australian government is concerned over the way the court case has been handled.

"A consular official has been sent from Ghana to Sierra Leone to investigate the case," he said, adding that Australia is aware that Halloran has been convicted of very serious charges but it remains concerned about the court process

itself.

"We don't want to say much because we don't want to have too much of an impact on his appeal," he says, noting that consular officials are expected to speak to Halloran as part of the investigation of the conviction.

Halloran, a former head of the Victoria's Homicide Squad, took a year leave to work as a war crimes investigator for the Special Court.



Halloran - hoping to be freed

Concord Times

Thursday February 29, 2005

NIRJ DEVA DL MEP

Member of the European Parliament for the South East of England

MEP TO CALL FOR ARREST OF
“EVIL” FORMER LIBERIAN DICTATOR

Nirj Deva, Member of the European Parliament for South East England and Coordinator of the European Parliament's International Development Committee will, in a session of Parliament on Thursday, call for the arrest and trial of former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor.

In the European Parliament, Conservative MEP Nirj Deva has lead the demand to try Mr Taylor for genocide and has tabled a cross-party Resolution calling for his immediate extradition from Nigeria and trial.

The former President of Liberia, Taylor has recently been indicted by the Special Court of Sierra Leone for actively supporting a Revolutionary group in the country who were directly responsible widespread atrocities in Sierra Leone. According to Amnesty International, crimes included the systematic killings of civilians, amputations, rape and other forms of sexual violence, the use of child soldiers, abductions, and forced labour.

The court has charged 17 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Taylor is currently living in exile in Nigeria, which has allowed him to remain in their country in exchange for the commencement of the peace-process in Sierra Leone and Liberia. International law, however, requires that those suspected of committing war crimes or crimes against humanity must be investigated and the Nigerian authorities are obliged to arrest Mr. Taylor and to either surrender him to the Special Court of Sierra Leone, or open an investigation to determine whether to open criminal or extradition proceedings in Nigerian courts

Speaking from Strasbourg, the MEP said:

“By passing my Resolution, the European Parliament has an opportunity to show that wicked dictators will no longer be able to indiscriminately start wars and slaughter innocent people without retribution and justice knocking on their door.

“If Charles Taylor remains in Nigeria, and manipulates the Liberian Parliamentary election to his advantage using the enormous resources at his disposal, gathered by the illegal sale of diamonds he will again destabilise Liberia and Sierra Leone which may lead to the start of another war. It is, therefore, imperative that he be stopped now.

Charles Taylor remains a threat to international peace and security and continues to undermine efforts to support sustainable peace and development in West Africa.

“After all the immense suffering they have endured the people of Sierra Leone are entitled to finally see Charles Taylor brought to justice.

“That is exactly what I will call for in the European Parliament on Thursday.”

Notes to Editors

The full text of the Resolution to the European Parliament:

The European Parliament:

- having regard to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, established by UN Security Council Resolution 1315 of 14 August 2000, with the aim of putting to trial those accused of crimes against humanity and violations of international law committed in Sierra Leone; (PSE 1st indent)

- having regard to international law, particularly the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocol II on war crimes; (PSE 2nd indent)

- having regard to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which was concluded in Accra, Ghana, on 18 August 2003, with the aim of ending more than 14 years of internal armed conflict in Liberia; (PSE 3rd indent)

- having regard to the Cotonou agreement between the EU and ACP countries, which include Nigeria and Liberia, and the commitment by parties to the Agreement to peace, security and stability, respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law; (PSE 5th indent)

A. Whereas Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia, ran an authoritarian regime in Liberia from 1997 until civil war broke out; (PSE A)

B. Whereas 14 years of violence and misrule in Liberia have resulted in immense human suffering, particularly among civilians, as well as gross human rights violations, massive displacement of populations, and a breakdown of social and economic structures, (Greens D)

C. Whereas the conflict in Liberia has also contributed to severely destabilise the whole West Africa sub-region, creating a humanitarian crisis of tragic proportions, (Greens E)

D. Whereas on 7 March 2003, Charles Taylor was indicted by the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 17 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including murder, mutilation, rape, sexual slavery and the recruitment of child soldiers; (PSE D)

E. Whereas Taylor continues to reside in Nigeria, citing head-of-state immunity from prosecution, despite the fact that on 31 May 2004, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone rejected Charles Taylor's claim to immunity from prosecution; (PSE F mod., partly ALDE F and EPP-ED J)

F. Whereas the Government of Nigeria was crucial in helping to bring about the end of civil war in Liberia; whereas and Charles Taylor accepted the offer of asylum from the Nigerian Government on 6 July 2003; (PSE B)

G. Whereas in October 2003 the United Nations Security Council expressed its concern about Charles Taylor's ongoing efforts from exile to destabilize Liberia and West Africa, thus breaking the previous agreement with Nigeria granting him asylum, under which he committed himself to abstain from any involvement in Liberian politics; (EPP-ED M mod, deletion of "Ghankay")

H. Whereas in August 2004, the United Nations Security Council imposed a travel ban upon current Liberian officials for their alleged roles in acting as couriers for Charles Taylor in Nigeria; (EPP-ED O mod., deletion of "Ghankay")

I. Whereas in September 2004, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations testified before the United Nations Security Council that: "Charles Ghankay Taylor's shadow still looms over Liberia. Unless he is brought before the Special Court for Sierra Leone, many ordinary Liberians will not be persuaded that the peace process is sustainable."; (EPP-ED P)

J. Whereas in addition to voluntary contributions in excess of USD 30 million by EU Member States to the creation and working of the Special Court for Sierra Leone the European Union has itself supported the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the amount of 800,000 Euros; (EPP-ED G)

K. Whereas elections are currently scheduled for October 2005 in Liberia and the outcome might be determined on the basis of fear of Charles Taylor's return rather than hope for the future; (EPP-ED Q mod.)

L. Whereas peace and stability in the Mano River Union countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea has proved indivisible, with a threat to one damaging the chances for positive development in all; (EPP-ED T)

M. Whereas Charles Taylor remains a threat to international peace and security and undermines European efforts to support sustainable peace and development in West Africa; (EPP-ED U mod.)

N. Whereas impunity for Taylor would defy international law, be an affront to Taylor's innumerable victims and undermine the establishment of a lasting peace in the region based on the rule of law; (ALDE D)

O. Whereas the people of Sierra Leone are entitled to see justice done in the case of Charles Taylor by a fair trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone; (EPP-ED V mod.)

P. Whereas international law clearly states that criminals of war have to be judged at all times and that states are obliged to extradite suspects of crimes of war; (PSE G)

Q. Whereas UNHCR's Executive Committee Note on the Exclusion Clauses of the Geneva Conventions has clearly stated that 'if the protection provided by refugee law were permitted to afford protection to perpetrators of grave offences, the practice of international protection would be in direct conflict with national and international law, and would contradict the humanitarian and peaceful nature of the concept of asylum'; (PSE H)

R. Whereas Nigeria has ratified the UN Refugee declaration that states that criminals of war cannot be granted refugee status; (PSE I)

1. Calls upon the Government of Nigeria to act in the continued interests of the Liberian peace process and in support of the Rule of Law by surrendering Charles Ghankay Taylor forthwith to the jurisdiction of the Special Court for Sierra Leone; (EPP-ED 1)

2. Calls upon the United Nations Security Council to consider this issue as a matter of urgency; (EPP-ED 2)

3. Calls upon the UN, EU and Member States to build international pressure in order to bring about Charles Taylor's extradition; (PSE 2)

4. Welcomes Liberia's transitional government decision to freeze the assets of former president Charles Taylor and his associates, (Greens 2)

5. Calls on the EU to keep supporting the 2003 peace agreement between Liberia's three warring factions and the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for October 2005; (Greens 3 mod.)

6. Demands that all States in the region refrain from any action that might contribute to instability in neighbouring countries; (Greens 5 mod.)

7. Instructs its President to forward the current resolution to the Council, the Commission, governments of EU Member States, the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the African Union, the UN Secretary-General, the Secretary General of ECOWAS and the governments of Liberia and Nigeria. (ALL modified)

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To the People

Thursday February 24, 2005

CORRECTION!

WE REPORTED in our Monday edition under the caption: "NEW MOVES TO GET TAYLOR", that the Outreach Section of the Special Court has collaborated with the Coalition of Civil Society and Human Rights to have Charles Taylor extradited to Sierra Leone by dishing out petition documents to be signed across the country.

We have now been reliably informed that the Special Court Outreach Section has nothing to do with such arrangements, as it is the sole initiative of the Civil Society coalition and its chairman, Mr Charles Mambu.

We regret any inconvenience it might have caused the Special Court.



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Hot Debate On Greeting Exchange Between Accused And Witnesses

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

February 22, 2005

Posted to the web February 22, 2005

Arusha

All the defence teams in the trial of six genocide suspects from Butare prefecture (South Rwanda) Tuesday called for their clients to be allowed to exchange greetings with a defence witness after they have finished their testimony. They were challenging the prosecution attorney who blocked a defence witness from exchange greetings with the former Rwandan Minister of Family and Women Affairs, Pauline Nyiramasuhuko, one of the accused in this trial.

The counsels, one after another, aired their complaints before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) after the prosecuting attorney Silvana Arbia (Italy) objected the application by the defence of Nyiramasuhuko, to allow her ninth defence witness code-named WZJM to greet the defendant after the testimony.

Nyiramasuhuko's defence, lead by the Canadian lawyer Nicole Bergevin, has been making similar applications at the end of the testimony of each of their witnesses since the beginning of their case on January 31, 2005.

Each time Arbia tried to raise an objection. The Chamber has overrule it each time, but the issue has never previously been debated by all the defence counsels simultaneously.

"This thing about greetings should not come over and over again," said Silvana Arbia in response to the defence joint efforts to convince the Chamber to grant the application.

Earlier, Bergevin told the Chamber that it was normal for her client to ask permission to greet her defence witnesses whom he named as "being courageous enough to come and testify on her behalf."

Supporting the oral motion, Frederic Pacere (Burkina Faso), lead counsel for the former prefect of Butare, Alphonse Nteziryayo, said greeting each other was part and parcel of the African culture and hence argued the Chamber to grant the application.

Another counsel, Josette Kadji for the defence of another former prefecture of Butare, Sylvain Nsabimana, added that "this is an important issue for us the defence. The prosecutor should not interfere."

All the remaining defence counsels also made their contribution along the same line. They said it was culturally, morally and humanly important for the Chamber to grant the application. The motion was granted. The Chamber clarified that such applications will be considered on individual basis.

The trial continues on Wednesday with the testimony of the 10th defence witness.

Other accused in this trial are Nyiramasuhuko's son and co-accused, Arsene Shalom Ntahobali and two former Mayors, Joseph Kanyabashi and Elie Ndayambaje.

They all pleaded not guilty on all charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. The trial commenced on June 12, 2001.

The case is before Trial Chamber Two presided over by Judge William Hussein Sekule (Tanzania). He is assisted by Judge Arlette Ramaroson (Madagascar) and Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa of Uganda.

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