

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, June 24, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Christian Monitor

Thursday June 24, 2004

As Norman gets Computer in his cell RUF threatens to Boycott Special Court trials



Chief Prosecutor David Crane

The RUF indictees standing trial at the Special Court have threatened to boycott hearings of their case which is scheduled to begin on July 5.

In a letter to the court dated 11th June the indictees drew the attention of the Court to the jurisdiction motion before the Supreme Court which was submitted in November 2003 "raising legal ob-

jection to the lawfulness of the Special Court to arrest, detain and prosecute" them for alleged crimes of war.

They informed the court that they shall refuse to enter a plea before the trial Chamber and also refuse to attend court sittings at all times unless and until the above-mentioned motion is "determined and the

judgement made public," the letter threatened.

One of the Defence Counsels Serry Kamal representing Issa Sesay informed the Court that they were pushing for the case to be heard by the Supreme Court as soon as possible.

This was made known yesterday at the Status of Trial Conference prior to the com-

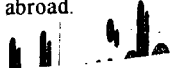
mencement of the RUF joint trial.

All three accused were in court. The conference was presided over by Trial Judge Bankole Thompson. Meanwhile, Norman has been granted a desktop computer and printer on condition that it is not connected to the world-wide web nor the court's internet system.

The court will also provide stationery for

him within reasonable limits. Norman's request for an assistant was turned down. His four-man standby counsel he was told will do. The phone he

already has was to be programmed for use to contact his Defence Counsel both at home and abroad.



RUF threatens to boycott Special Court

By Samuel John

The three Revolutionary United Front (RUF) top henchmen indicted before the Special Court for war crimes against humanity have notified their defence team of their intention to boycott the trial that is slated for

commencement on July 5. The three- Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao have jointly signed a letter to their Defence Counsel, indicating that they would not appear before the Special Court of Sierra Leone until such time that the motion on jurisdiction filed before the Supreme

Court of Sierra Leone, raising a legal objection to the lawfulness of the establishment of the court is deliberated upon. The letter reads in part, "we the undersigned indictees of the Special Court wish to draw your attention to the jurisdiction motion before the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone which

was submitted in November 2003 raising a legal objection to the lawfulness of the Special Court to arrest, detain and prosecute us for alleged crimes of war." The letter went on, "we shall refuse to enter a plea before the Special Court, and we

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RUF threatens to boycott Special Court

From Front Page

shall also refuse to attend Special Court sittings at all times until and unless the motion is determined and the judgement made public." But yesterday at the scheduled conference, Defence Counsel- Serry Kamal informed Justice Bankole Thompson "we are pushing for the matter to be heard by the Supreme Court." The conference however attracted the three accused, the prosecutors and the entire defence team in which the groundwork for the trial was thoroughly looked into. The prosecution led by Counsel Luc Cote informed the sole Judge that they have lined

up 266 witnesses to testify, but approximately 170 will be brought forward. Apart from that number, the prosecution also intends to bring seven experts to give testimonies. The trial's first sessions will start on July 5 and ends on July 30th with 16 witnesses lined up to testify. The second sessions according to Justice Bankole Thompson will be from October 4th to October 29- inclusive. The prosecution have indicated that they will be making an opening statement. But the entire defence team of Counsel's Serry Kamal for Issa Sesay, Melron Nicol-Wilson for Morris Kallon and Glenna Thompson for

Augustine Gbao, notified Justice Bankole Thompson that their statements would come after the prosecution have closed its case. According to the prosecutors, the trial has been anticipated to last for six months. Meanwhile, Justice George Gelaga King yesterday granted the second indictee Morris Kallon's application for leave against the refusal of bail by Justice Boutet. On October 29 last year, the defence team filed a confidential motion for bail on behalf of the accused, which was dismissed by

the Trial Chamber Judge- Justice Boutet on February 23 this year. In his ruling after

examining both the prosecution and defence arguments, Justice King said, "I therefore grant

the defence leave to appeal against the decision of Judge Boutet refusing bail to the accused."

Norman's request granted

Awoiko

Thursday June 24, 2004

Awoko

Thursday June 24, 2004

Norman's request granted

The Trial Chambers yesterday granted the request of Chief Sam Hinga Norman to the Special Court for a computer and other basic items pertaining to

the preparation of his defence. Giving the ruling on behalf of the three Judges, Justice Pierre Boutet informed a smiling Chief Sam Hinga Norman that his request has been

granted, as he would be provided with a desktop computer and a telephone. But Justice Boutet stressed that both would not be linked to the Special Court's facilities

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Norman's request granted

From Front Page

or even the Internet. The telephone calls he would be making would be programmed with the numbers of his standby Counsels both local and international. He was even informed that the lockup time should still remain from 10pm to 7am, which the Judge said is reasonable. The

detention facility was also ordered to ensure that sufficient stationeries are provided to the first indictee for the preparation of his defence. Before the ruling was delivered Chief Norman made a preliminary observation to the Trial Chamber that since he made the request, no follow-up has been made

by the Registrar. The Presiding Judge- Benjamin Itoe told him that the Registrar had put in a lot of correspondent to ensure that his request be granted. When the ruling was completed, Justice Itoe informed the court that sittings would resume on July 18, for ruling on issues raised during the session. The trial itself will resume on September 8, this year. ..

SPECIAL COURT GRANTS INDICTEE'S REQUEST

NORMAN GETS TELEPHONE, COMPUTER

By Mohamed Mansaray

The Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone yesterday ruled that the Office of the Registrar provide certain facilities to the first CDF indictee Samuel Hinga Norman, for him to prepare his case. The court ruled that Mr. Norman be provided with a desktop computer and printer but that these gadgets would not be connected to the internet. The court also ruled that the accused be provided with a desk telephone in his cell to enable him communicate with his standby counsels.

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Salone Times

Thursday June 24, 2004

In addition, the court also ruled that Mr. Norman be provided with adequate stationeries.

However, the court noted with satisfaction that the accused has four standby counsels and therefore no need for any additional assistance in terms of personnel.

On his detention conditions, Justice Boutet said that the time the indictee's cell is locked up (10 pm), to the time it is opened (7 am) is reasonable.

On the quality of food given to detainees, the Judge said that the food provided is in accordance with international standards.

The ruling was read yesterday by Justice Boutet at Court Room No. 1, Jomo Kenyatta Road, New England in Freetown. He observed also that it was the right of the accused to have adequate time, resources and facilities to enable him conduct his self-defence as provided for in the court's statutes.

On July 17 this year, Mr. Norman made an oral application in court for him to be provided with a computer and a telephone and for the court to review the conditions under which he is presently detained, so as not to hamper his self-defence.

The Presiding Judge of the Trial Chamber, Justice Benjamin Itoe, announced that the court was adjourned to September 8 this year. However, he said that the court would sit on July 16 this year to deliver ruling on what he described as "outstanding issues that have been argued in court."

<http://www.dailynewsinqirer.net/>

**HINGA NORMAN GETS DESKTOP COMPUTER, PRINTER AND
PROGRAMMED PHONE IN HIS CELL BUT DENIED INTERNET ACCESS
FOR SECURITY REASONS**

Wednesday June 23, 2004

The Trial Chamber of the Special Court today handed down its decision on the requests made by Chief Hinga Norman for facilities to help him prepare his defence as his own counsel in the ongoing war crimes trials in Freetown .

Norman , who is being tried along with two other members of the Kamajor militia (also called CDF) for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity, was granted his requests for a computer .A desktop and a printer, as well as stationery will be provided immediately but he will be denied internet access for security reasons. He will also receive a telephone but this will be programmed to the numbers of his standby counsels in Sierra Leone and abroad. READ THE FULL DECISION LATER.

"It is my intense desire before dying to see my son" – 55's mother

The mother of self-styled Brigadier Santigie Kanu aka '55' has made a declaration to the Special Court "it is my intense desire before dying to see my son Santigie Kanu once

more." The mother Marie Kanu's declaration dated 19th June 2004 also stated, "I am of age 86 years and I am currently very ill. I cannot presently walk (aided or unaided)." She went on, "due to my

illness, I was not able to visit my son in the prison, and even when he was at Pademba Road Prison and he was not able to visit me. Since January 2003 I have not seen my son." The aged mother's

declaration also states, "being my only son, he was financially supporting me before his incarceration and his current inability to do so, causes me great
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Santigie Kanu aka 55

It is my intense desire before dying to see my son

From Front Page

hardship." The mother further maintained, "as a result hereof, I am not

able to receive proper treatment, regular and sufficient feeding." It was however not

immediately known whether the Registrar would grant her request.

Awoko

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Thursday June 24, 2004

Mr. Hinga Norman's trial put off till Sept. 18

By
John
Baimba
Sesay

Ruling was yesterday delivered on Sam Hinga Norman's June 17th application for adequate resources to prepare his defence and also for a modification of his detention order.

Justice Pierre Boutet in his ruling took into consideration Article 17 of the court's statute and ruled that the accused will now be provided with a computer, printer and stationeries to help him with his defence. He will also be opportuned to have a telephone which he will be using to communicate with his standby counsels both local and international.

On the modification of his detention order the court ruled that the period 10pm to 7 am was reasonable and that he can continue to prepare his case during lockup hours.

The trial was adjourned to September 18. But the court itself will reconvene on July 16 when it is expected to decide on other outstanding issues.

Hinga Norman makes no-case submission

"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, on Monday 21 June 2004.

The former Deputy Defence Minister of Sierra Leone and coordinator of the civil militias known as the "Kamajors" made the announcement before cheering supporters in a special court set up to try war crimes in Sierra Leone.

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, Captain V.E.M

Strasser of the NPRC regime, 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 Sierra Leoneans.

After the war was



Hinga Norman

declared over in January 2002, the United Nations-backed court was given a mandate to try individuals accused of



David Crane

bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes such as the RUF amputations

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New Vision

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Hinga Norman makes no-case submission

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

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 Sierra Leoneans, who saw 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.

New Vision

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Special Court Report

WITNESS UNDER CROSS EXAMINATION

by
SU THORONKA

WHEN HEARING resumed at the Special Court on Tuesday 22 June 2004, fourth witness TF2-012 in the trial against Chief Sam Hinga Norman and two others under cross-examination by the defence counsel told the court that he could not remember receiving allowance for giving evidence in the Special Court.

He however agreed with defense counsel that he receives between Le30,000 and Le40,000 weekly but later told the court that he emphatically denied receiving allowance because he never knew and couldn't tell whether such money given to him was allowance or payment. He said he regard the amount as feeding. The witness told the court that while he is away from his hometown, his family takes care of his farming activities. When defense counsel put it to him that he

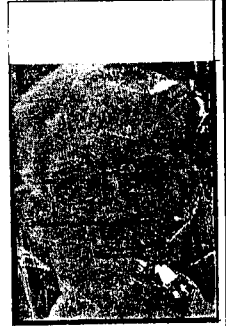
acknowledged his first statement as true and therefore he appended his thumb print on it, the witness answered in the affirmative but he however denied being section commander of the Kamajor militia. The witness further maintained that Chief Hinga Norman instructed the Kamajor through Joe Tamidae to spare only three houses in the destruction of Koribondo as opposed to four. The witness also acknowledged the fact that he made another statement in the month of May 2004, but that the statement was neither read nor explained to him in his mother tongue mende. He denied knowing Moinina Fofanah in his statement and he could not even recognize him at any meeting.

According to the witness, he joined the Kamajor after the conclusion of the war but agreed with defense counsel that not all Kamajors are fighters including himself. He said during the AFRC junta rule

he was hiding in the bush and could not tell whether AFRC personnel were impersonating the Kamajor fighters.



NORMAN: cannibalism



CRANE: prosecutor

for the people

Thursday June 24, 2004

A SPECIAL COURT INDEED!

I FOUND Oumar Farouk Sesay's article: Circles of Impunity the other day quite provoking but well researched. He seems to highlight several valuable points that are lurking in the minds of many Sierra Leoneans. Yet still, it opens the tin of misunderstandings about the real intentions of the UN-backed Special Court in our country.

by

J KANGBAI

If there has been some-one very critical about the modus operandus of the Special Court, I have been one. But after a while, I start having a second thought. For a start, let's ask these questions again: Do we really understand the mandate of the Special Court? Can the Special Court precisely peg down those who bear the greatest responsibility for the decade long rebel war that has just ended?

lies

It is in these two lies

the misunderstandings about the Special Court. Everything about the Special Court which people don't seem to understand emanate from the court's evidences for indictment lies within the full ambit of crimes against humanity according to Article 7(1) of the Rome Statute.

acts

These crimes include the following acts, murder, extermination, enslavement, torture, enforce disappearance, sexual slaving, as well as other inhumane acts intentionally done and caused great suffering. They also include other aspects of interna-

tional humanitarian laws.

key

It is these violations whether committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack as was the case during the RUF-AFRC period or in CDF-controlled areas that the Special Court is all about. But the key question is: why indict just a handful (key) of the former forces leaving out "thousands of cold-blooded killers," as Sesay's article points out. Well! That makes the court unique and special.

Unlike the Rwanda Tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania, which have to con-

tend with other forms of justice (Kachaaha), Sierra Leone's Special Court looks for people with "command responsibility"- commanders, field marshalls, battalion leaders etc. Should the Court decides to try every gun-totting combatants of our war, we would have had some 45,000 individual cases to witness.

This what brings about the cliché: those that bear the greatest responsibility... This clause of the Special Court is adequately enshrined in the Rome Statute which interestingly though doesn't require the clause "intent" but instead "knowledge" by the perpetrators.

forces

In the mentality of the Special Court, "knowledge" here refers to the knowledge of the perpetrators or supporters of the attack, commanders or of those in authority of such forces who have acquiesced to such attack.

So to the question of whether President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah should be indicted or not could be answered best when we differentiate "intent" from "knowledge." Yes, Kabbah spent Le 3 billion on the CDF. But does that surmount to "knowledge" in this content?

secret

Does doling 3 billion to a secret society militia validates acquiescence of gross crimes committed against humanitarian laws? Although the clause "intent" is not applicable here, Kabbah giving three billion to the CDF was of a good one-to protect life and property, democracy and civilian administration. What many pro-CDF

campaigners and unfortunately Norman's supporters are woefully failing to underline is the term "how?" Many brand Norman and the CDF as perpetrators as national heroes, democracy restorators, fighters for constitutional rule etc without or deliberately shunning the "how" applicators.

civil

Did the CDF and Norman restored democracy by peaceful civil disobedience like the thousands of civil servants who refused to go to work during the junta era or did they do so by killing, looting, amputating, torturing of innocent civilians and property? For now before the question of Norman's been a national hero crops up let's ask first: how did he become one and not why is he a national hero.

What Norman and the CDF would boast of alongside thousands of their well-wishers is that they fought a just war and at the end of the day they the good guys won the battle. While Kabbah would argue that he cashed the CDF but never had knowledge about their operations, Norman, Konowa and Fofanah will have nothing solid to say in their defense.

As CDF coordinator, Norman directed the entire operation of the Kamajor hence bear command responsibility. The others (Konowa and Fofanah), by initiating and planning also means they bear command responsibility.

fact

Not that one is bemoaning the valuable contribution of these "warriors" nor is one trying to prejudice their defense, but the fact here is this is humanitarian law and we should stop being sentimental or tribalistic about the CDF indictment. Kabbah cannot be indicted based on his story alibi, his ignorance of the Kamajor's operation and of course the law of motive. Giving someone money which was

later used to buy a gun that was used to commit a murder doesn't suffice for the money giver to be indicted for murder accomplice as long as the giver haven't any knowledge prior to the murder.

cult

Let's face it; Kamajor is a secret society that requires full initiation. It is a cult and only their member knows its operation. Was Kabbah a Kamajor cult member? In all above, where does the elusive ex-Liberian president Charles Taylor lies? In Taylor's case, the former leader fell foul of clauses "intent" and "knowledge."

Should "intent" becomes applicable at the Special Court, Taylor's intention to create mayhem in Sierra Leone dates more than a decade ago in his infamous speech: "Sierra Leone will taste the bit-

terness of war." Taylor had prior knowledge of plans by the RUF in carrying out their heinous acts. Was the RUF not operating directly from Liberia at the time Taylor was president? Was the RUF conduit for arms and ammo not been Liberia during Taylor's presidency?

Didn't Taylor at numerous times during our conflict said he will prevail on the RUF to ceasefire and stop their carnage? In all these instances, Taylor ran foul of the clauses of "knowledge" and command responsibility.

He is open for indictment. He cannot save his skin. Perhaps, this could wrap up this debate in what looks like a terrible act of mud-slinging and back-biting both on the internet and the media. Kabbah gave money to the Kamajors and so what? Did he tell them to kill, maim and destroy lives and property?



KABBAH: army chief

To di People

Thursday June 24,
2004

VANGUARD



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GO

Human Rights Watch asks Taylor to submit to trial

Thursday, June 24, 2004

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LAGOS — HUMAN Rights Watch yesterday asked the UN Security Council to use its mission to West Africa to call on Nigeria to surrender former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, to Sierra Leone's UN-backed court for war crimes. In a letter to the Security Council, the international human rights body also said the mission currently on a seven-nation visit to West Africa should reaffirm its commitment to human rights and the struggle against impunity in the region.

In 2000, the Security Council passed a resolution that established the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The court has indicted Taylor on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war.

Last year Nigeria granted Taylor asylum when the Liberian capital, Monrovia, came under siege by rebel forces. "The Security Council established Sierra Leone's court for war crimes, but has remained silent on Charles Taylor," said Peter Takirambudde, executive director of Human Rights Watch's Africa Division. Security Council members made a commitment to the victims of Sierra Leone's brutal war, so they need to explicitly call on Nigeria to hand over Taylor to the court," he added.

Led by Britain's ambassador to the UN, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, the Security Council mission visiting West Africa aims to identify and implement strategies for conflict prevention and peace-building in the troubled region.

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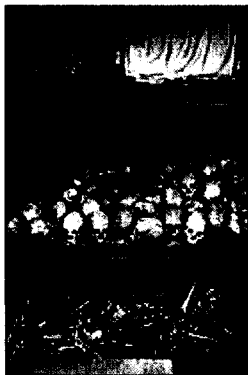
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WAR CRIMES

In the 20th Century

AN EIGHT PART SERIES



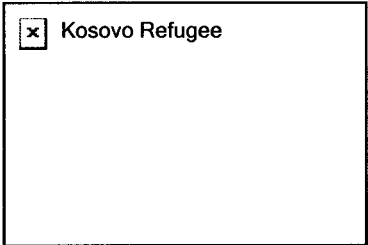
The Grounds of a Former Catholic Church in Rwanda

On the eve of the new millennium, nations seem no closer to stopping war and ethnic violence than at the beginning of the millennium. But there is fresh optimism that at the close of a war-stained century, nations have found the collective will to deter and punish the worst crimes against humanity. International courts have been set up to enforce new laws against human rights violations, and new scientific methods are being employed to trace those who commit war crimes.

In an in-depth documentary series, NPR will explore the question of why these crimes continue and whether they can be stopped. At the core will be the central question of whether this kind of collective violence is an aberration -- or a fundamental part of human nature, something we carry in our genes. The documentary will look at the way governments and victims deal with the desire for revenge or justice.

PART ONE: Psychology of War Crimes

December 1, 1999 -- All Things Considered
Are war crimes rooted in immutable historical, ethnic, and religious animosities, or are they the result of bad leaders manipulating history and peoples in a quest for political power? What are the root causes of war crimes of the 1990s? In the face of such slaughters, what is our responsibility as a nation? Can the international community prevent war crimes by military intervention, by the creation of international courts? If not, once the killing occurs, what must the international community do? Listen as Mike Shuster sets out all the questions that the rest of the series will tackle in specific cases.



Kosovo refugee released from Serb camp
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Reuters Limited

Listen

PART TWO: The Case of Kosovo



Grand Hall at Gracanica, a Serbian Orthodox Monastery near Pristina and a symbol of Serbian nationhood

December 4, 1999 -- Weekend Edition Saturday
This report by Sylvia Poggioli explores the historical and psychological origins of the recent Kosovo conflict. A look at how nationalism built on the collectivist ideology of communism, sowing the seeds of ethnic paranoia and leaving a landscape of graveyards.

Listen

This piece was produced by Rod Abid.

PART THREE: What Happens to a Society When Perpetrators Are Not Punished

December 6, 1999 -- Morning Edition
The perpetrators of one of history's most horrifying slaughters have escaped justice

for two decades -- and so far the United Nations and Cambodia cannot agree on how and where to try the leaders of the Khmer Rouge. When they ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 more than a million people died of starvation, disease, torture and execution. As Anne Garrels reports, though the Khmer Rouge regime was overturned twenty years ago, its legacy continues to effect Cambodians politically, economically and psychologically.



December 7, 1999 -- Morning Edition

NPR's Anne Garrels has the second of two reports on the legacy of Cambodia's infamous Khmer Rouge, the brutal Communist regime that tortured, murdered, and starved more than a million Cambodians in the 1970's. It's been 20 years since the Khmer Rouge rulers were overthrown, but Cambodia still hasn't recovered from the damage they did to the country and its people.



PART FOUR: Social Legacy -- Rwanda

December 8, 1999 -- All Things Considered

Five years after the genocide in Rwanda, NPR's Jennifer Ludden reports that the country is still trying to deal with those who committed atrocities and coping with fundamental issues like how to integrate Hutus back into the population.

This piece was produced by Peter Breslow.



Nyamata, Rwanda

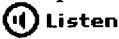
PART FIVE: The German Experience



"Only honorable comrades of German blood, or related descent, may become allotment gardeners."
March 22, 1933

December 9, 1999 -- All Things Considered

Germany is the only nation on earth that has spent a half century coping with the crimes of its former leaders. For several decades Germans on both sides of the divide shrank from a full and open debate on the causes of the Holocaust and the responsibility of Germans. But in recent years, a new generation has sought to confront the past, in writing, movies, art, public memorials, and education. Mike Shuster reports.



This piece was produced by Rebecca Davis.

PART SIX: Truth and Reconciliation Committee in South Africa

December 13, 1999 -- Morning Edition

In South Africa, the Truth and Reconciliation has finished taking testimony from victims but is still hearing from those who want amnesty for their crimes. Many victims of apartheid are waiting to hear what kind of monetary compensation they will receive from the government. As in Rwanda, South Africa is still trying to figure out what to do with those who committed crimes. NPR's Jennifer Ludden reports.

This piece was produced by Peter Breslow.



PART SEVEN: Forensics of Genocide

December 15, 1999 -- All Things Considered

NPR's Chris Joyce reports that creating a sense of normalcy in the former Yugoslavia after a decade of war has been a slow and laborious task. While aid agencies can provide money and advice, there remains an enduring wound that is

slowest to heal -- the disappearance of thousands of civilians. One group, Physicians for Human Rights, has focused on closing that wound by creating a system for identifying bodies from mass graves and counseling the survivors. It has become perhaps the world's most comprehensive forensic project designed for the survivors of war crimes, rather than for those seeking to prosecute the perpetrators.

This piece was produced by Jeff Rogers & Eric Stover.



Visit Eric Stover's Website at www.crimesofwar.org.

PART EIGHT: International Court

December 20, 1999 -- Morning Edition

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague is one of the models that have been created to try to deal with punishing war criminals. Sarah Chayes goes to the region in Bosnia where the first tried and condemned criminal came from. She spoke with people who knew him and who had testified against him. There is strong belief in the Tribunal process, but also deep frustration with the slow pace of the proceedings. Listen as Sarah Chayes reports.



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US drops quest for UN immunity for soldiers

swissinfo June 24, 2004 10:30 AM

US drops quest for UN immunity for soldiers

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - The United States has dropped its campaign to guarantee American soldiers immunity from the new International Criminal Court, a move that raised concerns Washington might veto U.N. peacekeeping missions.

The Bush administration on Wednesday withdrew a resolution to renew an exemption from the court after it failed to get enough votes in the U.N. Security Council. Members cited worldwide anger over the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal and strong opposition from U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The United States in the past had threatened to shut down U.N. peacekeeping missions and in 2002 actually vetoed one when the council hesitated in approving the resolution.

"We will have to examine each of these missions case by case," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington. "We will have to look at it in terms of staffing, providing Americans to participate in peacekeeping missions, what the risk might be of prosecution by a court to which we're not party."

James Cunningham, the U.S. deputy ambassador, who announced the U.S. decision, would not comment on future U.S. actions. He said officials would "take into account" the lack of a resolution "when determining contributions to U.N. authorised or established operations."

At the same time diplomats said the United States might have difficulties curtailing U.N. missions at a time it was seeking troops to help in Iraq and had a strong interest in operations in Liberia, Haiti and a future venture in Sudan.

The court, which started operating a year ago in The Hague, Netherlands, was created to try individuals for the world's worst atrocities -- genocide, war crimes and systematic human rights abuses.

It is a tribunal of last resort and would only hear cases of individuals from a country that refused or was unable to press charges, making it unlikely an American would be tried.

The court's first case is an investigation into reports of "mass murder" in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

But the Bush administration, backed by Congress, wants airtight guarantees and fears politically motivated prosecutions. In the last two years, Washington has signed 90 bilateral agreements with countries that pledge not to prosecute U.S. officials abroad.

The United States has rarely faced such opposition in the

council, with the notable exception of its attempt to get U.N. endorsement for the invasion of Iraq last year. Since then the 15- nation council has backed Washington on Iraq, including a key resolution on an interim government two weeks ago.

But the U.S. abuse of prisoners in Iraq made it difficult for members to extend the resolution for the third time, even though none of these cases can come before the court.

Algeria's U.N. ambassador, Abdallah Bali, said the Iraqi scandal "had a strong impact on many delegations." And Chilean Ambassador Heraldo Munoz said Annan's statements had "a very important impact on many delegations."

Annan toughened opposition to the resolution last week when he asked council members to reject the measure, saying it undermined international law and sent an "unfortunate signal any time -- but particularly at this time."

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US drops measure on immunity for troops in UN peace operations

23 June 2004 – The United States announced today that it would not proceed with a Security Council resolution that would have extended, for a third consecutive year, the immunity of some United Nations peacekeepers from prosecution by the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal.

Reacting to the US decision, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said through his spokesman the move would help maintain the Council's unity "at a time when it faces difficult challenges."

Last month the US introduced a text to renew the peacekeepers' exemption from prosecution by the International Criminal Court (ICC), which is based in The Hague. First adopted in July 2002, and renewed last year, the resolution shields members of UN peacekeeping missions who come from nations which have not ratified the treaty setting up the ICC from investigation or prosecution. It is due to expire on 30 June.

In a [statement](#), the Deputy US Representative to the UN, Ambassador James B. Cunningham, said that while Washington still held the same concerns about the ICC that led to the resolution in 2002, it "has decided not to proceed with further consideration and action on the draft at this time to avoid a prolonged and divisive debate."

Ambassador Cunningham said the US would consider the risk of review by the ICC in deciding its future contributions to UN peacekeeping operations. He added that the US would continue to seek bilateral agreements with individual Member States to protect US nationals from the reach of the ICC.

The ICC will be able to try individuals of war crimes such as genocide, mass murder and torture committed after 1 July 2002, when it formally came into existence. It will try individuals from States that are unwilling or unable to exercise jurisdiction. Over 90 countries have ratified the Statute and dozens of others have signed, indicating their intention to ratify.

Last week Mr. Annan said that if the exemption from prosecution was extended, it would hurt the credibility of the Security Council and the UN.

"[The] blanket exemption is wrong. It is of dubious judicial value, and I don't think it should be encouraged by the Council...I think it would be unfortunate for one to press for such an exemption, given the [recent reports of] prisoner abuse in Iraq," he said.

War crimes body to probe DR Congo

The International Criminal Court has announced its first investigation will look into allegations of serious crimes in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The alleged offences to be investigated include rape, torture and the use of child soldiers in the country.

ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo described the move as a "major step forward" for international justice.

The court, which was set up two years ago, is the first permanent body to investigate war crimes.

'Milestone'

Prosecutors will investigate the crimes allegedly committed in the country's north-eastern Ituri region, where clashes between Lendu and Hema ethnic militias have claimed about 50,000 lives since 1999.

The recent killings and rapes in eastern Congo underscore the urgent need for a thorough investigation

Richard Dicker, Human Rights Watch

The trial is expected to take place next year.

"This is an enormous milestone in the struggle to limit impunity from mass killings, widespread rape and ethnic cleansing," said Richard Dicker of Human Rights Watch.

"The recent killings and rapes in eastern Congo underscore the urgent need for a thorough investigation."

Fragile peace

Earlier this month, renegade forces which briefly took control of the eastern town of Bukavu.

DR Congo has recently emerged from a five-year civil war which has been described as the worst conflict since World War II.

Three million died during the war which sucked in at least six other countries, including Rwanda and Uganda who backed rebel groups.

DR Congo is one of more than 90 countries to have ratified the court treaty, although a number of nations, notably the United States, have spurned the court.

On Wednesday, the US gave up trying to win its soldiers immunity from prosecution at the court.

The ICC is restricted to cases which have occurred within the past two years.



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Regional Force Commanders Meet in Monrovia

Standard Times (Freetown)

NEWS

June 23, 2004

Posted to the web June 23, 2004

The 4th Sub-regional Intermission Conference of Force Commanders of United Nations Missions in West Africa concluded in Monrovia on Saturday 12 June 2004.

The two-day conference, which was hosted by UNMIL was attended by the Force Commanders of United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Maj. Gen. Sajjad Akram, United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Lt.

Gen. Daniel Opande and the Deputy Force Commander United Nations Operation in Ivory Coast (ONUCI), Brig. Gen. A. Hafiz.

Top on the agenda was a brief on the security situation of each of the missions.

Briefing on the security state of Sierra Leone, the Force Commander UNAMSIL, Maj. Gen. Sajjad Akram, who led a 4-man team comprising of the Chief of Staff, (Force) Col. Roland Latley, the Chief of Staff (Observer) Col. David Hayes and the Staff Officer 1 In charge of Coordination, Lt. Col. Robin Mathews, noted that the overall assessment of the security situation in Sierra Leone indicates that it is calm and stable.

He pointed out that the responsibility of security is considerably shifting to the government of Sierra Leone security agencies particularly the Sierra Leone Police as evidenced in the recent handing over of two provinces and the success of the recently held local government elections.

"Although UNAMSIL is taking a back sit and transiting from a security guarantor to a security insurer, the ultimate security of Sierra Leone is still the responsibility of UNAMSIL" Gen. Akram emphasized.

Speaking on the Special Court, Gen. Akram said threat assessments were made before the recent trials began and appropriate security measures are readily in place to contain any unforeseen threat to the calm and peaceful situation prevalent in Sierra Leone.

He added that the threat situation is however relatively low and harped on the fact that the Sierra Leone/Liberia border is an issue of concern and that the collaborative efforts of UNAMSIL and Sector 2 of UNMIL which are located in these borders are cooperating in this regard.

Gen. Akram allayed fears, when he revealed at the conference that movement of arms and fighters across these borders is quite difficult, adding that permissible movement of persons engaged in legitimate economic activities may however not be ruled out.

He reiterated the resolve of the UN Security Council to implement the transition of UNAMSIL into a follow-up force of Brigade strength by 31st December 2004.

Addressing the Conference, the FC UNMIL Lt. Gen. Daniel Opande, who declared it open, itemized the objectives of the Conference as including focusing cooperative efforts in a coordinated manner in the pursuit of peace in the West African sub-region, sharing information that could be of operational assistance to the 3 missions, and to further understand and share knowledge of the intertwined nature of the conflicts in the sub-region with a view to developing ways and means that could proffer "across-the-border" solutions to the complex conflicts in the sub-region.

Gen. Daniel Opande noted that the force of UNMIL at present is the ongoing Demobilization Disarmament, Rehabilitation and Reintegration process (DDRR) in Liberia.

"So far in the ongoing DDRR about 44,112 ex-combatants have been disarmed and about 16,736 arms have been recovered," he pointed out.

"The good news about the DDRR process is that factions do agree to disarm and support the DDRR process," he stated.

He did however points out that about 100 foreign fighters (non-Liberians) have also come forward for the DDRR.

The Force Commander ONUCI, Maj. Gen. Fahz who was conspicuously absent was represented by the Deputy Force Commander, Brig. Gen. A. Hafiz.

Briefing the Conference, Brig. Gen. Hafiz stated that until 25th of March 2004, the situation in Ivory Coast was relatively calm.

He stated that the incident of the said day, which claimed about 120 lives when peace keepers in the mission were attacked, as the problem that stalled the peace process in Ivory Coast.

He noted that the political deadlock in Ivory Coast has not helped the existing fragile peace in the country, concluding that "there was apparent hostility on the part of the warring factions toward the UN." He however expressed belief that this would normalize

with time, given the fact that ONUCI as a mission began operation quite recently, precisely on 5th April 2004 with a force strength of 3,027 only.

The Force Commanders deliberated on the issue of establishing a Force Commanders' Secretariat, which will be responsible to the three missions.

They identified the duties of the Secretariat as coordinating the activities of the missions in the sub region, finding out ways of impacting on the host governments of the missions and the entire sub region, scheduling Force Commanders Meetings, developing agenda for Force Commanders' conferences, Coordinating joint mission responses, and working out modalities for providing assistance to others within and outside the mission.

The Conference passed a resolution to put in place the machinery for establishing the Secretariat as soon as possible.

UNAMSIL Team at the conference later presented a paper titled, "A more Coherent and Cooperative Approach to Peace Keeping in the West African sub region", which the Chief of Staff (Observer) Col. David Hayes delivered on behalf of UNAMSIL Force Commander Maj. Gen. Sajjad Akram.

The paper dilated on the unique situation of cooperative operation of the missions, which he said was happening in the United Nations for the first time, and that more intermission cooperation is beneficial to the UN family.

Giving an analogy of "the cockroach effect" in analyzing the conflicts in the sub-region, he noted that fighters move across the borders unrestrained while UN missions are rigidly restricted within their mandates.

He identified commonly shared threats of the three missions in the sub region as porous borders, movement of arms and combatants across the borders and lack of respect for international borders.

Meanwhile, the paper has been unanimously adopted and would be forward to other missions, UNMIL and ONUCI for inputs.



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Weather Report

Monday, June 21, 2004

City	Min °C	Max °C	Symbol
Accra	24	29	
Kumasi	22	31	
Tamale	23	33	

Source: Meteo Department

Volume 5 | Issue No: 90 | Wednesday, June 23, 2004

News

UN Security Council Mission in Accra

| Posted: Wednesday, June 23, 2004

A 14-member United Nations (UN) Security Council Mission arrived in Accra on Monday for a 10-day seven-nation West African tour.

The members of the group are Mourad Benmehidi of Algeria, Ismael Abraao Gaspar Martins of Angola, Joel W. Adechi of Benin and Irene Vida Gala of Brazil.

The others are Ignacio Llanos of Chile, Jiang Jiang of China, Jean-Marc de La Sabliere of France, Stefan Delfs of Germany, Schali Mahmood of Pakistan, Patrick A. Chuasoto of the Philippines, Marius Ioan Dragolea of Romania, Ana Jimenez of Spain and Sichan Siv of the United States.

A statement from the UN to the Ghana News Agency said prior to the departure of the Mission from New York on Friday, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the UN and head of the Group, briefed newsmen about its objectives.

He said the Mission would visit Cote d' Ivoire, Liberia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria. Mr Dumisani S. Kumao of South Africa, Chairman of the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, will join the Mission in that country.

Sir Emyr explained that the assignment was being undertaken since the Council spent about 50 to 60 per cent of its time on African issues with the West African Sub-Region taking much of the time.

He said the Mission would observe the three active peacekeeping operations in the region and work with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to sustain the regional organisation's efforts.

It will also assess the efforts of the UN on the ground and discuss the regional dimension of each nation's political situation with its leadership.

Sir Emyr said in Nigeria, the Mission would hold a dialogue with President Olusengun Obasanjo. He, however, said the Mission would not meet former Liberian President Mr Charles Taylor since the decision to bring him to justice was clear.

In Cote d' Ivoire, the group would stress the need for all parties in the country's crisis to live up to their responsibilities to keep the national reconciliation process on track.

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The British Diplomat expressed the hope that a meeting could be arranged with signatories of the Linas Marcoussis agreement.

The statement stated that in Liberia, the major subject of the Mission would be to help the Transitional Government to meet the criteria for lifting the sanctions imposed on the country by the Security Council.

The Mission, Sir Emyr said, would also focus on raising awareness of all UN activities on the ground in the sub-region and not just peacekeeping.

He stressed the need for coherent policy-making in the region to ensure that the solution of a problem in one country did not spill over to another. He also said that the threat such narrow policy-making posed had been amply demonstrated in Liberia, under Charles Taylor, which had an influence on Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire. GNA

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Thursday June 24, 2004

Ex-Combatant Stabs, Rapes WASSCE Student

By Umaru S Jarr

David Koroma, an ex-combatant, is presently at large after he allegedly stabbed and raped his former girl friend (name withheld). The incident took place in the early hours of Friday June 4 at the victim's Calaba Town residence.



The 23-year-old WASSCE student sustained serious wounds all over her body and is presently hospitalized at the Connaught Hospital. She explained... "I was dead asleep with my friend Abie

when we were rudely awakened by David knocking at my door. I refused to open because I had parted company with him ever since."

"On my refusal to open the door," she added, "a heated argument ensued between us but later died down and I went back to sleep with my friend."

She further stated that one Pelletto came back and started knocking at the door on the pretext that Abie's sister was sick. "I did not open the door," she cried with aches and pains all over her body as she narrated her

ordeal from her hospital bed at the Connaught Hospital.

David who was reported to have gone, later came back and started hitting the window in a bid to break it and force his way in.

Abie who was the first to notice David's intrusion woke her friend (the victim) who treated the matter lightly. They were fast asleep, she said, when David descended on them through the window with two knives.

Before they could alert their neighbours, Abie had already been put under siege by David while he went on to rape and brutally stab the victim. "I am now satisfied with you because you are finished," moaned the victim, recalling the words David uttered when he was finished ravishing her.

David is presently on the run while the matter has been reported to the Calaba Town Police Station by one Mr. Bolo (David's landlord).

Meanwhile, police at Calaba Town have confirmed the report and investigations are on-going.