

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:

Monday, October 25, 2004

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

THE EXCLUSIVE

ROYAL

Ahead on taste and ambition

Vol. 2 No. 2161

Monday October 25, 2004

Le500

Interpol Declares Johnny Paul Wanted

An official wanted notice has been posted by the international law enforcement agency (INTERPOL) for the

arrest of former AFRC junta chairman, Johnny Paul Koroma whose whereabouts still remain unknown.

The Red Notice, according to the Special Court Prosecutor, David Crane, serves as a reminder that in-

dicted Johnny Paul Koroma is a fugitive from justice. This wanted notice was first issued on December 20,

2003, but for operational reasons was not made public at the request of the Special Court Prosecutor.

It can be recalled that the AFRC junta leader was indicted in March 2003 c 17

Interpol Declares Johnny Paul Wanted

From front page

counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, the same charges those now standing trial before the Special Court are accused of. Since he dodged arrest at his Juba Hill residence following his alleged involvement in a coup attempt against the Government of Sierra Leone in 2002, the former junta leader's whereabouts remains a mystery. One local tabloid had given out

that he was spotted in Burkina Faso, a claim that is hard to prove. The Registrar of the Special Court, Robin Vincent, last Thursday called for all countries to cooperate in the transfer to the jurisdiction of the Special Court all indictees who are at large.

This includes the former Liberia leader, Charles Taylor, whose

own notice was posted on December 4, 2003 but continues to enjoy asylum status in Nigeria after he was forced by the order of President George Bush of the USA and pressure from ECOWAS Heads of State to quit Liberia.

Under an agreement between the Special Court and Interpol that came into force on November 3, 2003, the Court can request that Interpol publish and circulate 'Red Notices' for persons at large indicted by the Special Court.

Another Red Notice for Johnny Paul

BY THEOPHILUS OGBENGA

The name Johnny Paul Koroma surfaced again at the Special Court for Sierra Leone after a long period of silence.

The name featured again on

Thursday, following the issuance of a Public Red Notice by the international law enforcement organization, Interpol.

The Red Notice, calling for the arrest and transfer of indictee

Johnny Paul Koroma to the custody of the Special Court, was originally issued on December 20, 2003, but for operational reasons was kept under seal at the request of the prosecutor, David M. Crane.

The one-time junta leader and now fugitive, was indicted in March 2003 by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Although his current wherea-

bouts remain unknown, the agreement between the Special Court and Interpol, which came into being on November 3, 2003, makes it possible for the latter to publish and circulate 'Red Notice(s)' for a person or persons indicted by the prosecutor, to be arrested and turned over to the court where ever and whenever they are located.

Accordingly, investigators are following all leads to find Johnny Paul or his remains.

Federal News Service October 23, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 The Federal News Service, Inc.
Federal News Service

October 23, 2004 Saturday

QUESTION: You, guys, had done these kinds of **courts, these mixed courts**, in **Sierra Leone and Cambodia**. Has there been any discussion about beginning a conversation, or negotiation, with the Iraqis about doing something similar in Iraq?

STEPHANE DUJARRIC: We have no mandate to work in with this Iraqi **court**. I think the **special court that you referred to, Sierra Leone and Cambodia**, they were mandates from the General Assembly and Security Council. And, the issue of the death penalty is of serious concern to us.

QUESTION: But don't you cooperate in **courts** in places where they do have the death penalty? Afghanistan?

STEPHANE DUJARRIC: We're not involved, I mean to the best of my knowledge, we're not involved in the judiciary in Afghanistan.

QUESTION: Yesterday, the Secretary-General mentioned that elections in Iraq are technically possible by January. Is it possible that (inaudible). Does it mean that the elections could be postponed? Does it mean that the current concern of the security situation (inaudible).

STEPHANE DUJARRIC: What the Secretary-General said, and what's been our position all along, is that from a technical standpoint, it is possible to hold these elections in January. We are working closely with the Iraqi Independent Electoral Commission providing them support and assistance. But the thing that needs to be underscored is that it is an Iraqi-run election. The ultimate decisions, on whether or not to hold the election, will be an Iraqi one. It'll be the Iraqi's call. Our assistance is a technical one, and from where we stand, technically, it is possible to hold these elections in January.

QUESTION: The Secretary-General has said that he plans to send technical advisors over soon. Can you define 'soon?'

STEPHANE DUJARRIC: No. We keep looking at the security situation and whether or not to raise the staff ceiling. We have, currently on the ground, about eight electoral workers. But those should really be seen as the tip of the iceberg. We have eight in country but anything that can be done out of country, in terms of electoral support, is being done out of country. So, it is really a much larger effort than that number may lead you to believe.

QUESTION: The Secretary-General expressed serious doubts about the Iraqi Special Tribunal. If he expressed serious doubts, why is he hesitant to participate in the training process?

STEPHANE DUJARRIC: Well, because he has serious doubts. First, we have no

mandate to work with this **special court**. And, as I said, United Nations officials should not be directly involved in lending assistance to any **court** that is empowered to impose the death penalty.

LOAD-DATE: October 24, 2004

FairfaxDigital**NEWS | MYCAREER | DOMAIN | DRIVE | FINANCE | CITYSEARCH**Welcome **Lee** | [edit details](#) | [members](#) | [logout](#)

Halloran frame claims denied

By Martin Daly, Gavin Simpson

Freetown

October 24, 2004

The state prosecutor in the child sex abuse case against Victoria Police superintendent Peter Halloran yesterday rejected claims that the case was politically motivated and denied that he had pressured witnesses and defendants.

O. V. Robin-Mason also said he would seek to introduce into evidence elements of an investigation into the sex abuse claims against Halloran conducted by the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

The court, for which Halloran works, found some impropriety may have occurred, but cleared Halloran of the allegations. It also criticised the process by which the case had been brought against him, saying he had not been granted the minimum standard of due process.

In an interview with The Age, Mr Robin-Mason said he suspected the Government would have preferred that the charges had never been brought because of the ensuing publicity and embarrassment.

The case against Halloran, 56, who is alleged to have had sex with a schoolgirl, 13, has been criticised by some media and human rights groups who link it to a police practice of manufacturing evidence to frame people with crimes, and by those who believe the alleged victim when she says she made up the allegations under pressure.

But Mr Robin-Mason said the high-profile case was being treated as a normal criminal procedure. "I give you my assurance, there is no political element to this trial," he said.

Mr Robin-Mason also rejected widespread criticism of the judicial procedure against Halloran but could not respond to the claims that police had manufactured statements to frame him.

"There is a report in some of the media that I had intimidated two of the accused, that I threatened them. It is ridiculous. The very first time I saw them was . . . in the dock," Mr Robin-Mason said.

While Attorney-General F. M. Carew had instructed that bail be opposed, in retrospect, Mr Robin-Mason felt Halloran should have been bailed because of his standing as a senior investigator with the Special Court, which is hunting down those who committed war crimes during the country's 10-year civil war.

He said the Attorney-General's response to the bail application was consistent with a tough approach by the Justice Department to counter a huge increase in sex crimes in recent years.

The case resumes tomorrow and Mr Robin-Mason said it could be another month before there was a verdict. One of the prosecution witnesses will be a former housemate of Halloran, Canadian police officer and Special Court investigator Ralph La Pierre.

More news

- [In the eye of the beholder](#)
- [A pitch to the converted](#)
- [Burma shuts down military intelligence office](#)

[Home](#) > [World](#) > Article

Copyright © 2004. The Age Company Ltd.

Special Court chief dies

By Theodora Renner
Special Court Chief of Security.
Bob Parnell, died last Friday at
Choutrham Hospital, Freetown.

after suffering from a fatal heart
attack.
The American born is said to have
been battling with heart related
problems for a very long time.

Reports say he was struck by the
attack earlier that day and died
shortly after his admission at the
hospital.

Plans are underway to convey his
remains back to his family in the
United States.

Special Court officials say Parnell
would be remembered for his
commitment to duty.

Modalities for his replacement are
currently ongoing.



Caution Must Be Exercised

The Analyst (Monrovia)

EDITORIAL

October 22, 2004

Posted to the web October 22, 2004

THE JUSTICE MINISTRY in Monrovia announced, October 19, 2004, that it has finally obtained the necessary legal authority to freeze the assets of those officials of the former government of Liberia and associates of Mr. Charles Taylor named by United Nations Resolution 1532 (2004) for such action.

Justice Minister Kabinah Ja'neh, who was previously mandated by NTGL Chairman Gyude Bryant to effect the terms of the UNSC resolution indicated that the assets ordered frozen would include "funds, financial assets and economic resources held by entities owned or controlled directly or indirectly, by any person(s) acting on their behalf, or at their direction, to the benefit of such person." The Liberians Attorney General disclosed then that the government's action was contingent upon prior investigation into the corporate character of the Lone Star Corporation of which Messrs Urey and Shaw are said to be shareholders.

SINCE THEN, THE government has reportedly stationed armed security guards at the premises of the LoneStar Telecommunications Company's premise apparently to physically keep Messrs Urey and Shaw off the property as though the property in question were seized (and not frozen) by the government of Liberia under the due process of law. Due process in our lay understanding would require that there be a tribunal competent to pass on the subject matter, notice actual or constructive, an opportunity to appear and produce evidence, to be heard in person or by counsel or both having been duly served with process of having otherwise submitted to the jurisdiction.

BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICING the issue, we are afraid that was not done or was not properly done thereby compelling the Supreme Court to have ordered an annulment of the freezing order and subsequently ordering the restoration of the property in question pending hearing on October 2, 2004. There are other legal implications of the government's action that, given our legal limitations and the fact that we are not privy to other relevant information, we would prefer to let lie.

HAVING SAID THAT, want to prevail on the Justice Minister as the legal arm of government to exercise extreme caution in the ways and manners in which it will deal with the dictates of UNSC Resolution 1532 (2004), lest the whole process takes on a Liberian legal character of "summary persecution" and thereby lose its public support and international flavor. If the impression we got that the Justice Ministry simply obtained a "Declaratory Judgment" which does not apply where controversy persists and using a press release, moved to freeze the assets of the Liberian citizens, is correct then it is our best advice that the ministry move forthwith to correct these oversights.

THAT THE UNSC's mandate must be executed without favor or compromise cannot be overemphasized. But our qualm is that it must be done through means that are legally acceptable and transparent. Yes, the Security Council passed Resolution 1532 (2004) ordering the freezing of the assets of certain individuals believed to be undermining the Liberian peace process, and yes, Chairman Bryant ordered the Justice Ministry to do what the resolution mandated. But for God's sake, these prior authorities do not constitute the bases for action without prior efforts to harmonize the mandates and the laws of Liberia or other international laws under which a Liberian citizen, who have no prior record of conviction through due process, may be deprived of his property and entitlements for which he legally labored.

WE SHOULD BE reminded that Liberians have been at war for the past fourteen years and that the nation is therefore fizzling with hate and mistrust. National infrastructures have been destroyed and with it, the nation's economic citadels have been reduced to pirates' nests. All we have as a nation and therefore upon which we must build with pains and diligence is the rule of law. We must therefore do nothing, by our actions or omissions, to destroy this remaining basis of hope for the restoration of peace and the building of a democratic society where the laws reign supreme.

WE THEREFORE CALL on the Justice Ministry to retrace its steps and ensure that the laws and not official expediency decides the fate of Messrs Urey and Shaw in these matters and during these fragile days of national path-finding. The Ministry must guide against early missteps, after all, even the United Nations recognizes national laws and thus mandated that it be the basis for the enforcement of its resolution. It needs no emphasis that a precedence set today that is illegal may offset a chain reaction that may further ruin our chances of obtaining international support.



Build. Your business.

Supreme Court Annuls Freeze of Assets Until

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

October 22, 2004

Posted to the web October 22, 2004

Orders Assets Reverted to Owners and Guards Removed From LoneStar Premises

In keeping with the dictates of a United Nations Security Council Resolution ordering the freezing of the assets of former Liberian government officials said to be associated with former president Charles Taylor, including Messrs Emanuel Shaw and Benoni Urey, the Justice Ministry announced Tuesday this week that it has effected same in keeping with law. But as The Analyst Staff Writer reports, the NTGL's legal arm may not have adequately exhausted the legal nuances and the Supreme Court of Liberia, the highest court of the land, is requesting a hearing to show cause why the petitioners should not have their assets back permanently.

"You are hereby commanded to notify the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), represented thru the Ministry of Justice, by the Minister of Justice, R.L. and the Honourable Solicitor General of Liberia, Cllr. T.C. Gould, and, all other officials to appear before His Honour John L. Greaves on the 2nd Day of November, A.D. 2004 to show cause why petitioner's petition as prayed for should not be granted."

These were the words of the Petition for a Writ of Prohibition issued by the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Madam Martha C. Bryant, on October 21, 2004 under the directives of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, John L. Greaves.

The writ further ordered the respondent (Republic of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice) to "stay all further proceedings in this matter pending the final disposition of this matter."

"Meanwhile, the parties are to be restored to status quo ante, and all security personnel should be removed from the premises," the high court's Writ of Prohibition ordered.

Announcing the freezing of the assets of Messrs Urey and Shaw, October 19, 2004, Justice Minister Kabinah Ja'neh who said the action was a forerunner to similar other

actions in the future, noted that it was necessary to ensure the scrupulous and legal implementation of the Security Council Resolution passed in March this year.

He, at the time, disclosed that the action would include the freezing of "funds, financial assets and economic resources held by entities owned or controlled directly or indirectly, by any person(s) acting on their behalf, or at their direction, to the benefit of such person."

The Liberian attorney general noted that the action preceded an investigation into the corporate character of the Lone Star Communication Company (LCC) and the satisfaction derived therefrom.

According to him, the government had obtained the necessary judicial order to act pursuant to the UNSC resolution in question.

The information gathered by The Analyst on the issue however suggest that the Justice Ministry may have only filed an "action for declaratory judgment" at the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court of Montserrado County, which according to a legal opinion, could or could not be rejected by the judge at his own discretion.

The opinion quoting the laws of Liberia said a court of record has the power, under the Statute Governing Declaratory Judgment, to declare rights, status and other legal relations, whether or not further relief is or could be claimed.

"It goes further to state that the Court may refuse to enter or render this Judgment, where if rendered, it would not terminate the uncertainty or controversy giving rise to the Proceedings," the legal opinion who preferred to remain anonymous quoted the Vol. 1 Liberian Code of Laws Revised as saying.

Up to press time last night, it could not be established whether the Justice Ministry did or did not obtain the court order as required by law, but analysts say it probably did not.

If it did, they reasoned, the Supreme Court's Writ of Prohibition would have been addressed to the subordinate court that issued the order instead of the government of Liberia.

Whether this line of argument follows legal precepts or not is not known, but there are stronger opinions that the Justice Ministry summarily proceeded to the premises of the Lone Star Corporation and Lone Star Airways to seal them up and install security details there without the legal right to do so.

That, petitioners at the Supreme Court say, is a violation of Article 20 of the Constitution of Liberia which states, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, security of the person, property, privilege or any other right except as an outcome of a hearing judgment consistent with the provisions laid down in this Constitution and in accordance with due process of law "

Neither Messrs Urey and Shaw, nor the relevant officials of the Ministry of Justice could be reached up to press time last night for comment on the basis of the intervention of the Supreme Court.

But a petition for the Writ of Prohibition filed to the Supreme Court on their (Urey and Shaw's) behalf on October 20, 2004 by the Flaawgaa R. McFarland Legal Services called on the high court to cause the NTGL to desist from seizing its clients' assets and restore their rights to own property under the laws of Liberia.

Describing UN Resolution 1532 (2004) as "overemphasized" the petitioners argued that the UNSC Resolution in question "has [not] been made part and parcel of the laws of the Republic of Liberia." Messrs Urey and Shaw, according to an aide, simply want justice to be done.

"In effect," said the aide, "the Petitioners are contending that no matter what may be the consequences, they are prepared to undergo same, provided it is done within the confines of the law." On whether he believes the court's order will stand since it is the UN that mandated the Liberian government to carry out the freezing, he said, "The Supreme Court being the highest Court of the land and the final arbitrator of controversy, as provided for by the Constitution has the sole authority to issue the Writ of Prohibition. In a law abiding society this Writ can never be disobeyed. If the Writ is disobeyed, these government officials face the possibility of being held in Contempt of Court."

"Within the confines of the law" being the basis for contention, according to analysts, Messrs Urey and Shaw may get their assets back permanently, unscathed, without much fuss.



Taylor aides' reprieve in Liberia

Liberia's Supreme Court has ordered the suspension of economic sanctions imposed on two people with connections to exiled president, Charles Taylor.

Justice Minister Kabineh Janneh froze the assets of Emmanuel Shaw and Benoni Urey in line with a UN resolution.

Their lawyers argued he acted unconstitutionally as only judges have the power to issue such instructions.

Mr Taylor resigned and fled to Nigeria last year and is wanted on war crimes charges in Sierra Leone.

Fuel conflicts

Mr Shaw, a former finance minister in the 1980s and Mr Urey, the former commissioner of Liberia's maritime affairs bureau, appear on a list of 22 names compiled by the UN, which passed a resolution ordering the freezing of their assets.

The two men are both top officials at a mobile phone company, Lone Star Communication.

The court also ordered the removal of security officials from the company's premises, where they had been posted following the move to freeze the assets.

According to the BBC's Jonathan Paye-Layleh in the capital, Monrovia, Mr Janneh says the government will comply with the court order.

The UN alleges that some of the assets of those on its list were used to fuel past conflicts in West Africa.

Mr Taylor is alleged to have backed the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone who killed and mutilated many thousands during that country's brutal 10-year conflict.

The UN resolution, passed in March, said that the former president and his associates are undermining "Liberia's transition to democracy".

After 14 years of civil war, Liberia is expected to hold elections in October next year.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/3946341.stm>

Published: 2004/10/22 20:46:18 GMT

© BBC MMIV

10/24/2004 12:38:15

Former president's wife hospitalized, authorities refuse to waive travel ban

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — The wife of ex-President Charles Taylor has been hospitalized in Liberia after authorities here refused to waive a U.N. travel ban to allow her to receive medical treatment abroad, family members said Sunday.

Jewel Taylor, 42, was admitted to St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Monrovia on Sunday. She was suffering from severe stomach pains, said Samuel Bowman, a doctor. Her condition was reportedly stable.

The U.N. Security Council slapped sanctions on Liberia in 2001 that included a ban on travel for Taylor, his family and key associates. The sanctions were aimed at stopping the flow of arms and diamonds believed to have been fueling years of conflict in West Africa.

In recent months, Jewel Taylor had asked the United Nations to waive the ban several times to allow her to see a doctor in the United States or elsewhere, her sister Sandra said. The requests were refused.

U.N. and government officials in Liberia could not immediately be reached for comment.

Charles Taylor has been living in Nigeria since he was pressured to step down in a peace deal brokered as rebels swept into Monrovia last year.

Jewel Taylor had been with her husband in Nigeria, but returned to Liberia several months ago, family members said.

Charles Taylor was indicted by a U.N.-backed war-crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone last year as a primary backer of Sierra Leone's rebels, who became notorious for hacking off the limbs of civilians.

In March, the U.N. Security Council approved an asset freeze to prevent Taylor, his family, and close associates from using misappropriated funds and property to interfere in the restoration of peace and stability in Liberia and the sub-region."



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY NETWORK
MANAGING INFORMATION, SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Monday, 25 October 2004

Home / News and Current Affairs / Security Watch / Viktor 'B': international outlaw, valued partner

/ NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Security Watch

In Depth
Last 5 Days
Letters to the Editor
Search the News Archive
About Security Watch
Russian Regional Report
Current World Affairs Links
Dossiers
Online Subscriptions

/ RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

/ EDUCATION AND EVENTS

/ ISN PARTNER NETWORK

/ ABOUT ISN

Viktor 'B': international outlaw, valued partner

"Viktor B" may be one of the world's most notorious underground arms dealers, but as such, he has become a valuable partner for the US in Iraq.

By John C.k. Daly for The Jamestown Foundation (22/10/04)

Viktor Vasilevich Bout, one of the world's most notorious arms merchants with proven links to the Taliban, has become a valued partner of the US as it grapples with the insurgency in Iraq. Bout's airline, British Gulf, flies material into Baghdad International airport for the US occupation forces. Given that the airport is now the world's most dangerous, with planes with everything from Kalashnikovs to surface to air missiles, Bout's 60 aircraft and 300 pilots and personnel provide the US authorities with "plausible deniability" in case one is downed. According to the commander of the U.S. Transportation Command, Air Force General John Handy, insurgents fire on U.S. military aircraft using Baghdad International on almost a daily basis. Handy remarked, "As we fly around, we are repeatedly shot at, with manpads (man-portable air defense systems), small arms, and triple-A (anti-aircraft artillery)." Handy compared the situation in Iraq to Afghanistan, noting that nearly all of the attacks "probably right now, 90 to 95 per cent" involve Iraq, with "very, very little out of Afghanistan". Aside from his fiscal compensation, it is believed that Bout will be amnestied from the multitude of international charges he faces in return for his service. For a man who formerly supplied the Taliban and guerrilla movements from Rwanda to the Philippines, that is quite a feat. Former US National Security Council member Lee S. Wolosky called Bout "the most powerful player in the trafficking of illegal arms." A UN Security council report notes that in law enforcement circles, Bout is referred to as "Viktor B" due to his use of at least five aliases and variant spellings of his surname.

Good connections

Born in Tajikistan to Russian parents, the 37-year-old Bout lives in Moscow, where good connections have up to now shielded him from arrest. Bout has five passports, speaks six languages, and while his global arms trade was largely centered on Africa, he has run arms to groups as diverse as the Philippine's Muslim Abu Sayyaf Group and the Taliban. In 2000, the British Foreign Office Minister responsible for Africa, Peter Hain, called Bout "the chief sanctions buster and... a merchant of death who owns air companies that ferry in arms" to rebels in Sierra Leone and Angola. Bout also deeply involved himself in Liberia's civil unrest. At the time that Hain made his comments, Bout was not the only player in Liberia; among those doing business with the Taylor regime were senior al-Qaida members, Israeli-Ukrainian drug merchant and arms dealer Leonid Minin, Mobutu Sese Seko's bagman, and al-Qaida and Hezbollah middleman Aziz Nassour. Taylor also had ties with South African and Balkan organized crime rings. It was a perfect opportunity for Bout to expand his network of contacts. Both the FBI and the UN-supported Special Court for Sierra Leone have confirmed Taylor's al-Qaida connections. In return for supplying weapons to Liberia's former strong man before he was forced into exile in 2003 and Zaire's Mobutu, Bout received diamonds and precious minerals, highly fungible commodities on the international market. Further south, United Nations estimates that in running hundreds of tons of Bulgarian munitions to UNITA guerrillas in Angola, the Russian arms dealer made at least US\$15 million. Researchers for the British-based charity Oxfam international estimate the African trade in illegal arms to be worth around US\$50 million annually, about half of the global total.

Arming friends and enemies

Bout was a graduate of the Institute for Military Interpreters in Moscow, where in addition to his Russian and Uzbek, he picked up English, French, and Portuguese. His career as the world's premier illegal arms merchant began in 1993, when he left the KGB and began dealing arms from Belgium. Under pressure from the Belgian authorities, Bout moved his base of operations to the United Arab Emirates in 1997. In 2002, both Belgium and Interpol issued warrants for Bout's arrest. For his involvement in Liberia's bloody civil war, the UN banned Bout from international travel and froze his foreign bank accounts. Despite his usefulness in Iraq, Bout's deal to supply US\$50 million worth of arms to the Taliban creates some embarrassment for the Bush administration. Der Spiegel reported in January 2002 that an Israeli of Ukrainian background, Vadim Rabinovich along with the former director of the Ukrainian secret service and his son brokered a deal, selling 150-200 T-55 and T-62 tanks to the Taliban. According to a Western intelligence source speaking on condition of anonymity, the tanks were transported by one of Bout's airfreight companies headquartered in the Persian Gulf. But the tank deal was hardly Bout's first transaction with the Taliban. In 1995, he was involved in running arms to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, then under attack by Taliban forces. A Bout-owned Iliushin-76 transporting weaponry to Rabbani's forces was forced to land by a Taliban MiG-21. Bout and Russian diplomats tried for a year to negotiate the crews' release to no avail. On August 16, 1996 the crew overpowered their Taliban guards and returned the plane to Sharjah; even though the deal was off, Western intelligence believes that Bout used the incident to establish relations with the Taliban. An investigation in early 2002 by Washington's International Consortium of Investigative Journalists claimed that Bout sold millions of dollars worth of weaponry to the Taliban in the late 1990s. Some US and UN officials assert that Bout made his first deal with the Taliban in 1996 in the United Arab Emirates.

Lucrative dealings

Other intelligence (based primarily on Belgian intelligence documents) indicated that Bout made about US\$50 million in his dealings with the Taliban. Britain's MI6 estimated Bout's profits in his dealings with the Taliban at a rather more modest US\$30 million. While the report could find no direct evidence of Bout supplying bin Laden, the closeness of al-Qaida and their host Taliban government could certainly have facilitated the transfer of material. According to Afghanistan's permanent representative to the UN, at the time that Bout was delivering munitions to the Taliban, shipments also included potassium cyanide and other toxic chemicals. British Foreign Minister Jack Straw's deputy Denis McShane in April 2002 discussed Bout's Afghan activities during a question session in Parliament. In commenting on one of Bout's cargo planes McShane said, "Prior to September 11th, this aircraft had reportedly been frequently overflying Iran from Saudi Arabia to Kabul and Kandahar in Afghanistan. It is now reportedly parked at Jiddah in Saudi Arabia." Nor did Bout's connections with the Taliban end with their overthrow in November 2001. Following the collapse of the Taliban, Bout's airline "Air Bas" was used to ferry Taliban and al-Qaida gold out of Afghanistan to Karachi, Iran, the UAE, and Khartoum.

Bugbear

Bout has consistently maintained his innocence in dealing with either the Taliban or al-Qaida. In an interview with Russia's Ekho Moskvy radio in March 2002, he protested saying, "I have never supplied anything to or had contacts with the Taliban or al-Qaida." Bout spent the interview berating US intelligence services, accusing them of slandering him to protect their own shortcomings in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Bout told his listeners, "They have turned me into a bugbear. It is a good subject for a horror story or a comic, and it raises the question of the efficiency of all these security services...that failed to avert September 11." Nor did Bout limit himself to war zones. Bout's US air operations included establishing Air Cess Inc. in Miami in September 1997 until the company was dissolved in September 2001. His agent, Richard Ammar Chichakli, a nephew of a former president of Syria fronted San Air General Trading, registered in Texas. After the 9/11, Chichakli said that Bout organized three flights transporting US military personnel to Afghanistan, but gave no further details.

Bout's value to the Bush administration

His value to the Bush administration in Iraq is immense, however. As one specialist in the arms trade, speaking on condition of anonymity said of his crews and aircraft, "they're accustomed to land in any kind of war zone without having a fit. And if one of their planes is shot down, there's no risk of American pilots' bodies being dragged through the streets". While after 9/11 the Bush administration suspected Bout of running arms to al-Qaida, according to a Belgian secret service source, the US nonetheless used Bout to ferry arms shipments to the northern Alliance for its operations against the Taliban. In 2004, the Bush administration began to press for Bout to be left off planned UN sanctions, in spite of French efforts at the UN in March 2004 to freeze his assets and an outstanding Interpol warrant for his arrest. A senior Western diplomat aware of the issues said, "We are disgusted that Bout won't be on the list, even though he is the principal arms dealer in the region. If we want peace in that region, it seems evident that he should be on that list." The Bush administration pressured the Blair government to remove Bout from its preliminary list of individuals for inclusion, and this was duly noted. Washington's logic is that Bout should be dealt with by separate UN measures dealing specifically with arms dealers. In the final analysis, Bout is able to operate freely for two simple reasons: he provides a service and is discreet, operating through his many front companies. Indeed Bout shuns publicity; only one public photograph of him is known to exist. A Belgian investigator, speaking on condition of anonymity, summed up Bout perfectly, noting, "The problem with Viktor is always the same one. He is a useful man, and can therefore count on important support."

This article originally appeared in Terrorism Monitor, published by The Jamestown Foundation in Washington, DC., at (www.jamestown.org). The Jamestown Foundation is an independent, nonpartisan organization supported by tax-deductible contributions from corporations, foundations, and individuals.

» [Reference Links](#) » [Current Issues Links](#) » [Earlier News](#) ☒

Search:

Articles-last 7 days

for

Go

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [TimeOut](#) | [Business](#) | [Shop Local](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#)

Help-U-Sell.
Concord, CA 925-676-7676

Click here for exclusive 4 sale
with owner listings


[Back to Home](#) > >

Monday, Oct 25, 2004

Welcome **Guest**
[Sign Up](#) | [Sign In](#)
[Member Benefits](#)

Nation & World

Weather

53° Hi 66 Lo 52
Clear

email this print th

Posted on Sat, Oct. 23, 2004

Complete forecast
Check traffic
Featured
Voters Guide
State & Local
Elections
Presidential race
Sections
News
• Breaking News
• Laci Peterson
• Gov.
Schwarzenegger
• Contra Costa County
• Alameda County
• Bay & State
• Crime & Courts
• Education
• Health
• Nation & World
• Politics
• Science &
Environment
• Transportation &
Growth
• Iraq
• War on terror
• Commuter page
• Where we live
Sports
Classifieds
TimeOut
Business
Obituaries
Opinion
Columnists
Arts & Entertainment
Home & Garden
Health
Food
Money Matters
Perspective
Travel
Auto Plus
Real Estate
CareerBuilder
Expanded Coverage
Presidential race

U.N. says Saddam's trial won't meet justice standard

By Colum Lynch
WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations has refused a U.S. request to assist Iraqi judges and prosecutors seeking to try former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and his top lieutenants for war crimes, saying that a new Iraqi Special Tribunal includes a death penalty provision opposed by the United Nations and fails to meet the minimum standards of justice.

The Bush administration appealed to the U.N. war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to send some judges and prosecutors to a training conference in London for members of the Iraqi tribunal.

But U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's office sent the court's chief prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, letter barring her staff from attending the weeklong conference, which ended Monday, according to U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

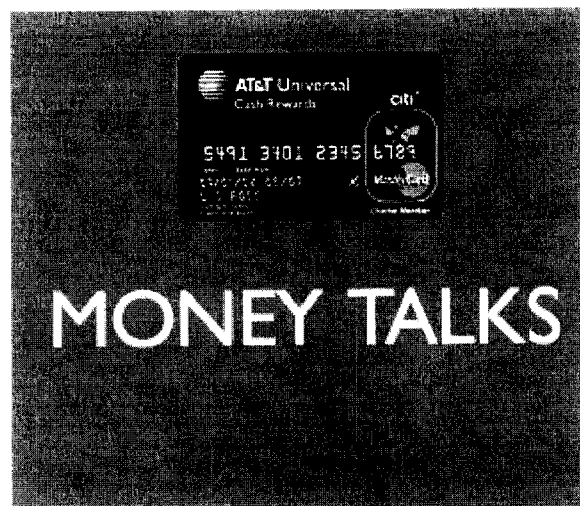
"The United Nations noted that serious doubts exist regarding the capability of the Iraqi Special Tribunal to meet relevant international standards," Dujarric said Friday at a news conference at U.N. headquarters.

He added that Annan maintains that "U.N. officials should not be directly involved in lending assistance to any court or tribunal that is empowered to impose the death penalty."

The United Nations was constrained in its ability to cooperate with the court without a "specific mandate" from "a competent political organ," such as the U.N. Security Council or the General Assembly, Dujarric said.

The decision was a blow to the United States and Iraq's interim government, who had hoped that U.N. imprimatur on the court's activities would lend it greater international credibility.

In a meeting at U.N. headquarters last month, interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi personally appealed to Annan to support Iraq's efforts to bring the country's former leaders to justice.



Gov. Schwarzenegger
Uncivil Servants
Laci Peterson
Iraq
Where we live
More special reports
Other Editions
San Ramon Valley Times
Valley Times
West County Times
Brentwood News
Concord Transcript
Contra Costa Sun
Ledger Dispatch
The Record
Walnut Creek Journal
Hills Newspapers
Alameda Journal
Berkeley Voice
El Cerrito Journal
Montclairion
Piedmonter
Find it Fast
Contests
Archives
Sports Scores
Ski & Snow Reports
Movie Times
Find a Restaurant
Event Calendars
Discussion Boards
Comics & Games
Ski & Snow
News by e-mail
Services
Search the Site
Site Index
Contact Us
Talk to the Times
Send a Letter to the Editor
Help
FAQ
Place an ad
Advertise with Us
Newspaper Subscription
Shopping
Grocery coupons
Jobs
Cars
Homes
Apartments
Classifieds
Newspaper Ads
Photo reprints
Yellow Pages
Special Sections
Danville Life
Home & Design
More Sections

But Annan warned Allawi that the United Nations has serious concerns about the statute that established the court, which allows the death penalty, according to a U.N. official.

The U.N. decision, which was first reported in the New York Times, irked Bush administration officials, who argued that U.N. participation in the conference could help the Iraqis develop the expertise to conduct fair trials that the United Nations claims they lack.

They noted that the United Nations has supported judicial reform efforts in countries that have th death penalty, including Rwanda and Afghanistan.

A senior U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing diplomacy, sa the Iraqi tribunals would proceed without U.N. support, with the first trials against Saddam's associates starting in the new year.


State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said Friday that a June 2004 Security Council resolutior authorizing Annan to strengthen the rule of law in Iraq provides a legal basis for the United Natio to support the tribunal.


"There is in our view a clear mandate for their involvement, not only in the political future of Iraq but also in contributing to the rule of law," Ereli said.

The Iraqi tribunal was established in December 2003, by the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council to prosecute former Iraqi officials responsible for the worst abuses under Saddam's rule.

Since the Iraqi-led court's inception, international legal experts have questioned the ability of Iraq lawyers, who have little experience in handling complex war crimes cases, to conduct a fair trial.

The court's founding statute has alarmed U.N. lawyers and independent human rights advocates who say it denies the accused access to an attorney during interrogations and court appearances and it inherits a 1971 Iraqi judicial code that permits the admission of testimony obtained throug coercion.

 email this

 print th

<<

THE STANDARD

OUTSTANDING EVERY DAY

Saturday October 23, 2004

Darfur's a test on Africa's capacity to solve crises

By Salah Maalim Alio

The last time there was a disaster in Africa on the scale of Darfur was in Rwanda and the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the mid-1990s — it seemed that most of Africa was descending into mayhem and murder. Every country from Somalia on the northeast tip of the continent to Namibia in the southwest was caught up, directly or indirectly, in wars — mostly small, nasty and very lethal. Few fighters die in Africa's wars; the biggest killers are hunger and disease, when millions of poor people are driven from their homes with no means of support. Meanwhile in West Africa, Sierra Leone, Liberia and great swathes of Nigeria were embroiled in vicious local conflicts.

Today, Darfur in Western Sudan is the only place where a full-scale war is taking place in Africa. Indeed the "main" conflict in Sudan, the five-decade war between north and south - is close to resolution. A cease-fire has been maintained more or less for over a year and final agreement is close. Conflicts flicker on in Congo and Somalia, Cote d'Ivoire could explode again at any minute and parts of Nigeria seem constantly on the brink of catastrophe, but elsewhere, compared to a decade ago, millions more Africans are able to get on with their lives without fear of attack. Whether it is a momentary pause or real peace, Africa is calmer now than it has been for decades.

I would hesitate to call this change transformation. But it has come about partly because the rest of the world is taking Africa more seriously. Thanks to America's need for West African oil, Tony Blair's determination to push Africa up the political agenda, and fears that an impoverished chaotic Africa may produce or harbour anti-Western Islamists, Western countries have become more engaged in Africa. And on the Africa side, its governments have become more engaged in issues outside their own countries.

The old Organization of Africa Unity had become a club where Africa's boss men slapped each other on the back, passed fatuous resolutions and returned home to wreck their countries. Prompted by Libya and led by South Africa, African states formed a new pan-African organization, the Africa Union, and give it a vision and remit far greater than the OAU.

The old principle of non-interference in internal affairs has been superseded by demands for investigation and intervention in other countries' governance. Pushed by the growing disillusionment, the anger of their own peoples and stung by the shame of Africa's global image as "a scar on the conscience of the world" or "the hopeless continent", Africa's rulers have begun to address the continent's deeper problems. That includes bringing peace to trouble spots like Darfur.

The chairman of the AU Commission, its driving body, is Alpha Oumar Konare, a former president of Mali, who talks reality, not rhetoric, and treats African heads of state as equals. At the AU summit earlier this month, he bluntly told Sudan's president, Omar el Bashir, that he knew that his government was arming militias and bombing civilians. He did not want denials, he wanted it stopped. Furthermore, the summit agreed to send peacekeeping troops to back up AU observers on the ground in Darfur even though the Sudan government opposed the idea. That would have been unthinkable five years ago. Darfur will be the test of Africa's determination to deal with its own problems. The AU's credibility depends on making peace there.

Darfur's war has its roots in a centuries-old conflict, essentially the competition for land between

settled farmers and the cattle-herding pastoralists who bring their cattle south in the dry season to graze.

Where once growing and grazing areas were agreed on and disputes settled with a few spears and swords, today the competition for land and the alarming spread of automatic rifles means that such disputes end quickly in total war.

In Darfur, the pastoralists are Arabised Babouin of the semi-desert zones and the settled farmers are from black African - but Muslim — ethnic groups. Although distinguished as Arab and African, outsiders would find it hard to tell the difference in looks. Inter-marriage is common, making "Arab" and "African" political rather than racial labels.

Locally everyone knows who is who and whose side they are on. Now the local land disputes and rivalries are subsumed in a larger and more significant war and when there is an overall cease-fire, there will need to be hundreds of local agreements renegotiated on land rights. It will be a nightmarish task.

The rebels started the war because they realized that peace was imminent in the war that has divided Sudan on and off for 50 years. Peace between the Khartoum Arab clique and the southern rebels, the Sudan people's Liberation Army, led by John Garang, looked like a stitch-up to the rest of Sudan.

Areas such as Darfur, neglected and marginalised like the South, saw they would be cut off from power and the new oil wealth by this new deal. They also saw that war had got Garang into government, so they copied him. In turn Bashir saw that he would be sending a message to the rest of Sudan too — war gets you, a slice of power and wealth. The Darfur rebellion had to be stopped dead.

Darfur may be a remote province but its politics link directly into the government in Khartoum. What happens here may lead to a fragmentation of the whole country. A settlement on terms too favourable to the rebels could spark revolts among other marginalized peoples. The president is weaker than he looks.

It is against this tricky background that a cease-fire must be negotiated and agreement secured to allow humanitarian aid to reach those in need. Then there must be peace making and reconstruction. The lead player in all of this must be the AU. In the short term African peacekeeping soldiers must be sent to protect the refugee camps and get food convoys across battle lines.

Successful humanitarian aid missions can only be judged against what might have been and that is hard to quantify. This time, we see what is happening on television every night. If we are still looking at the same pictures in a month, it will not just be a humanitarian mission that failed. It will demonstrate that Africa's new bid to fix its own problems has failed, too.

The writer is a councillor, Mendera County Council and a Peace and conflict resolution consultant

[<< Back](#)

Source: [News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **annan asks security council for three-year renewal of un west africa office** ([Edit Search](#))

 Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery



Africa News October 21, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 AllAfrica, Inc.
Africa News

October 21, 2004 Thursday

LENGTH: 303 words

**HEADLINE: West Africa;
Annan Asks Security Council for Three-Year Renewal of UN West Africa Office**

BYLINE: UN News Service

BODY:

Requesting a **three-year** extension of the mandate of the **United Nations Office for West Africa** (UNOWA), Secretary-General Kofi **Annan** says it has proved a useful in raising public awareness about cross-border problems and promoting conflict prevention in the region.

In a letter to the **Security Council**, he recommends that UNOWA's mandate be extended through 2007, subject to a mid-term review in July 2006.

If the **Security Council** agrees, he says he would strengthen the Dakar-based **Office**, as a **Security Council** mission recommended after its fact-finding travels across **West Africa** last June.

In its mission report, the Council said it welcomed the initiative of UNOWA and the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS) to identify ways of preventing coups d'etat and other unconstitutional means of seizing or holding power, as well as to lessen those abuses of power that are usually the root causes of attempts to overthrow governments.

In an annex accompanying the letter, Mr. **Annan** said his Special Representative, UNOWA chief Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, had taken part in high-level negotiations relating to the turmoil in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia and, as part of conflict prevention, he had visited Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

UNOWA is to develop a regional disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for the peace-keeping missions in the area, according to the letter.

In addition, "work has started on the preparation of a study on youth unemployment and peace, with the assistance of ILO (the **UN** International Labour Organization) and a consultant, and in collaboration with ECOWAS." The study is expected to be submitted to the **Security Council** by the end of 2004.

LOAD-DATE: October 22, 2004

Source: [News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **annan asks security council for three-year renewal of un west africa office** ([Edit Search](#))

Mandatory Terms: **date from 10/19/2004**

View: Full

Date/Time: Monday, October 25, 2004 - 6:33 AM EDT