

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Thursday, 26 April 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

Special Court Goes to Liberia / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 3
ICRC Holds Third Moot Court Competition / <i>Awareness Times</i>	Page 4
FBC Wins Moot Court Competition Again / <i>The New Citizen</i>	Page 5

International News

Taylor's Trial Opens June 4 / <i>Liberian Observer</i>	Page 6
Delegation From Sierra Leone Special Court Meets President Sirleaf / <i>Liberian Government</i>	Page 7
Charles Taylor To Be Tried as an Individual and Not as a Former President / <i>Star Radio (Liberia)</i>	Page 8
Family & Friends Remember Chief Hinga Norman (1940 - 2007) / <i>Cocorioko</i>	Pages 9-10
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 11-13
Uganda Government and LRA Rebels Resume Stalled Peace Talks / <i>Voice of America</i>	Page 14
Accountability or Impunity: The search for justice in Zimbabwe / <i>The Zimbabwean</i>	Pages 15-16

Independent Observer
Thursday, 26 April 2007

Special Court Goes To Liberia

A high-level mission from the Special Court was in the Liberian capital Monrovia between April 25-26. The mission was led by Acting Registrar Herman von Hebel and include Prosecutor Stephen Rapp, Principal Defender Vincent O. Nmehielle, and other Special Court officials. The mission, which was arranged with the assistance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) pursuant to Security Council Res. 1750, held high-level meetings with Liberian and United Nations officials, a town hall meeting, visits to William V.S. Tubman High School

and the University of Liberia, and a meeting with members of Liberian Civil Society.

The acting Registrar, the Prosecutor, and the Principal Defender provided updates on the work of the Court and the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor at The Hague. They also answer questions and make clarifications of easily avoidable misunderstandings.

The mission is in line with the Security Council's call (Res. 1688) for the Special Court "to make the trial proceedings accessible to the people of the subregion". It is the first visit by Special Court officials to Liberia since 2004, and the first since Mr. Taylor was turned over to the custody of the Special Court.

A press conference by the Acting Registrar was held yesterday at the UNMIL Media Centre. The Prosecutor and the Principal Defender were present to respond to questions from journalists.

Awareness Times
Thursday, 26 April 2007

ICRC Holds 3rd Moot Court Competition

By Videl Boltman

Within the framework of its mandate to support the effort of states in disseminating the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized the Third National Moot Court Competition on the IHL in Freetown from 18-20 April 2007.

As in previous years, the aim of the competition is to encourage the study and teaching of IHL in educational institutions in Sierra Leone by increasing interest in the subject among students and lecturers. The competition attracted six universities namely; Fourah Bay College, Njala University, Milton Margai College of Education and Technology, the Institution of Islamic Studies, Eastern Polytechnic in Kenema and the Northern Polytechnic in Makeni.

After two rounds of role plays, the two institutions which came out as the best were; Fourah Bay College and Milton Margai College of Education and Technology. The two faced each other at

a grand final on the 20th April at the Trial Chambers of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Addressing the student participants, before announcing the overall winner, the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Justice Gelaga King said that he was very much impressed with their performance. He said that the IHL is a big profession and it is a tool to ensure the protection of humanity against the hazards of warfare, noting that it is even powerful than the spoken words. He encouraged them to always bear in mind that the fundamental principles of the IHL pointing out in a competition, they should always endeavour to convince the tribunal which they would be addressing. He congratulated the students and expressed confidence that they will perform well at the international level.

Addressing the press immediately after the competition, the Head of the ICRC Delegation in Freetown, Jurg Montani said the ICRC has made significant impact on the students of institutions of higher

learning in the country through its mandate of disseminating the IHL which he noted, the students can now see themselves as professionals.

He congratulated the FBC team for emerging as winners of this year's competition and expressed hope that they will do even better at the international level.

He also indicated that the ICRC is also working towards professionalizing the army on the IHL and other humanitarian issues. The panel of Judges at the competition includes: Justice Gelaga King as President, Mr. Suliaman Bah, Stated Counsel, Comotina Jareett, Legal Advisor and Lt. Col. I. M. Koroma, Legal Advisor. The participants also included: George B. Koroma, Lamin Sheriff and Mohamed Kanneh for the Milton Margai College of Education and Technology; Michael I. Kanu, Emmanuel T. Koroma and Abdul Osman Timbo for the Fourah Bay College. Milton Margai College prosecuted while Fourah Bay College defended the issue under debate.

The New Citizen
Thursday, 26 April 2007

FBC WINS MOOT COURT COMPETITING AGAIN

By Abu Kalokoh

Michael Abraham Kanu, Emmanuel Teddy Koroma and Osman Timbo will on November 2007 represent Sierra Leone at the International Moot Court Competition in Arusha, Tanzania. The three Law students at Fourah Bay College emerged as the best team at the 3rd National Moot Court Competition in International Humanitarian Law held past Friday in one of the trial chambers of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Teams from six Universities that participated included Fourah Bay College, Institute of Islamic

Studies, Kenema Polytechnic and Northern Polytechnic were presented with imaginary cases to argue on in either defence or prosecute. After two rounds of role play, Fourah Bay College and Milton Margai College of Education, Science and Technology emerged as the two best teams, which comprised three representatives each.

The final was decided by a Jury, which included Justice George Gelaga-King, State Counsel Sulaiman Bah Esq. Cosmotina Jerret, Legal Adviser, Lt. Col. I. M. Koroma Legal Adviser. Jurg Montani and Christopher Boher, Legal Con-

sultants, Kristy Macdonald were also part of the team.

The competition was held within the framework of the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) to support the efforts of states in disseminating International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and to encourage the study and teaching of IHL in the educational institutions in Sierra Leone by increasing interest in the subject among students and lecturers.

ICRC Head of Delegation, Jurg Montani said that Sierra Leone is still lagging behind in ratifying IHL. He said IHL is now part of the programmes for the recruitment of arm men.

Liberian Observer

Thursday, 26 April 2007

Taylor's Trial Opens June 4 139 Witnesses Scheduled to Testify Against Accused

By J. Alfred Chea & Fatoumata Fofana

MONROVIA, April 26,---The much awaited trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, indicted on 11-counts for war crimes by the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, is expected to start on June 4th 2007 in The Hague, the Netherlands.



Above left to right and below left to right: Court Registrar Herman von Hebel; Taylor Principal Defender Vincent O Nmeielle; Former President Charles Taylor; Prosecutor Stephen Rapp

Liberia Government (Monrovia)

Wednesday, 25 April 2007

Delegation From Sierra Leone Special Court Meets President Sirleaf

A delegation of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, headed by its Prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, has met with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Monrovia. Members of the delegation informed the President that they were in the country to meet with Liberians to explain the workings of the Special Court ahead of the trial in The Hague of former President Charles Taylor.

According to an Executive Mansion release, Prosecutor Rapp said it was important that Liberians and Sierra-Leoneans are informed about the proceedings, to ensure that accurate information gets out. The Special court for Sierra Leone prosecutor said the court was determined to ensure that the trial is transparent, fair expeditious and accessible to everyone. A successful trial, Mr. Rapp said, will have benefits for the sub-region, Africa and the rest of the world.

The Principle Defender, Vincent Nmehielle, underscored the need to ensure that the trial meets international standards wherein the fundamental rights of the accused are guaranteed. He said his office has appointed a defense team which would administer and coordinate the process to ensure that Mr. Taylor's legal interests are protected.

Responding, President Johnson Sirleaf welcomed the Special court's mission to Liberia. She said Liberians are determined to put behind them the era of the bitter past. The President also welcomed the court's decision to provide legal defense that would provide the means for Mr. Taylor to have an effective defense. The Liberian leader expressed the hope that the trial of the accused would be free, fair and humane and will end within a reasonable period of time, to allow Liberians move forward to the future and pursue their development goals.

Wednesday's meeting with the President was attended by Foreign Minister, Ambassador George Wallace; the Acting Registrar of the Court, as well as other officials of the court.

Members of the Sierra Leone Special Court are expected to meet with the civil society and Liberian Law-makers.

Star Radio (Liberia)

Wednesday, 25 April 2007

Charles Taylor to be tried as an individual and not as a former president

Written by Joey Kennedy

The Acting Registrar of the UN-backed Special Court says former President Charles Taylor would be tried as an individual and not as a former President of Liberia.

Mr. Herman Von Hebel said the court was established to try people who allegedly committed heinous crimes in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Von Hebel said former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, is being held by the court for his role in the Sierra Leone crisis.

According to Mr. Von Hebel, the Special Court has no plans to extend its mandate to Liberia.

The Acting Registrar spoke Wednesday when the visiting outreach team of the Special court held discussions with members of the House of Representatives.

Cocorioko

Thursday, 26 April 2007

FAMILY & FRIENDS REMEMBER CHIEF HINGA NORMAN (1940 - 2007)

By Alfred Munda SamForay, CDF Defence Fund.
For Public Release

“A man has no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends,” Jesus of Nazareth.

Fortieth Day memorial services for former Regent Chief and National Coordinator of the Sierra Leone Civil Defence Forces, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, took place in London and at his ancestral home of Nguala, Vulunya Chiefdom in the Bo District on Sunday 15 April 2007. The Norman family in Sierra Leone and abroad wish to thank Sierra Leoneans at home and abroad for the overwhelming support the family received during the funeral as well as the Fortieth Day services for the Late Chief. The family especially commends the St. Theresa Parish Choir in Bo for their support in songs and music during the Fortieth Day memorial services.

The Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund of North America also wishes to thank all our friends and supporters whose prayers and financial support were so crucial to the family in their time of grief. We would like to acknowledge the receipt of two thousand and seventy-three dollars (US \$2,073.00) from the North American community. May your gifts and blessings be returned to you a million-fold.

It is, however, very unfortunate that the Bishop and Elders of the Church of Salvation of which Chief Norman was a lay Elder and Grand Chief Patron of their annual Thanksgiving celebrations for many years refused to participate in the final memorial services for the Chief on the grounds that the family would not allow the SLPP government to participate in the occasion. The family has no regrets, apologies or reservations for excluding government from these activities.

TRIBUTES

I. Chief, you would be alive today if you had stayed in your village as Regent Chief. As Regent Chief in your village, you lived a peaceful and quiet life until your country needed you. You saw your villages burnt down, you saw your children been raped, you saw Sierra Leoneans being slaughtered like animals; you saw your elected government sent to exile. You answered the call to fight back. A fight you fought so brilliantly you were able to bring back the elected government from exile to power. You were able to bring back peace to our country.

Chief, it is because of you we go to sleep in our own beds without the fear of some one snatching our children

Chief, it is because of you that our children are able to go to school today, enjoy their childhood as any other child in any other country.

Chief, it is because of you that we are even able to think of voting to elect a new government in July this year.

What if you had not left your village to lead the Kamajors to fight for our country? What if you had agreed to join Johnny Paul Koroma as he invited the rebels to join his rebellion? Of course, you would have been Vice President under Johnny Paul Koroma, but power was not your ultimate goal.

Chief, I remember when you slept in the bush, in rain, with no food for your men, with no ammunition to fight the rebels. Chief, I remember when you were trapped in Liberia with Charles Taylor hunting for your life. How painful it was for you to have brought your men to Freetown to defend the city only to see many lose their lives for lack of ammunition.

The end of every man is death. Death has no rank. It serves no warning. Chief, this is a painful death; it was not supposed to end this way. You left your village to serve this country not for the greed of power. You truly loved this country. You were willing to sacrifice your life so we can live. I admire your courage, with all the struggle you went through, even though most people believe your arrest and even your fate is political, you had no malice towards anyone, no grudge, you were always optimistic. If only the people of this country knew how much you loved this country. If only the people of this country knew how much you wanted to help improve the life of every Sierra Leonean. You were never given a chance.

I pray to the Almighty the tears I shed today will become showers of blessings that will comfort me to help me build my country to a better Sierra Leone. This is what you died for. Chief, Thank you and Goodbye. (Mr. Mohammed Tarawally, California, USA)

II. TO MY BROTHER, MY MENTOR AND MY CHIEF: It has been a long night's journey. From Bo Waterside to State House. From the battlefields at Base Zero to the corn fields of Indiana. From Villa 20 at Hotel Cape Sierra to the final days at Hospital de La Dantec in Dakar. We always kept people guessing as whom you will support for president of Sierra Leone or to what political party you truly belonged. You told me often that only two people actually knew your true intentions; and now one of us is silenced forever. When one of your daughters found a man brave enough to show up at your residence, you left me with the privilege of engaging them for marriage. And when my daughter and her fiancé found each other in Freetown, it was your turn in my absence to commit them to each other and it would have been her dream for you to give her hand in marriage this summer.

When two of my brothers died only a few weeks apart a few years ago and I had no one else to call, you were there like a shelter in the time of storm. So rest assured that when old Pa Albert Norman whom you cherished with all your heart has lived the full extent of his life and God would see fit to unite him with you, if it pleases God for me to outlive him, you shall not be ashamed. Your children shall be my children and your people shall be my people. As long as I can breathe and write, the world shall not forget Samuel Hinga Norman.

For our country, you were always a very present help in time of trouble. For me, you were more than a brother and I pray that I have been and will continue to be the same to you. You fought a good fight, you kept the faith; you finished your earthly tasks and now is laid up for you by your heavenly Father a crown of life which no one can take away from you. FAREWELL, MY BROTHER, SEE YOU AT JESUS' FEET. (Alfred Munda SamForay, Indiana, USA)

A musical tribute to the Late Chief by the newly formed musical group, the Hinga Norman Boys, is to be published very shortly. Plans for the publication of the biography of Chief Hinga Norman are also underway. God Bless all.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 25 April 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

VOA 25 April 2007

Liberia Fights Malaria with Feeble Medical System

By Kari Barber, Dakar

Africa Malaria Day is being observed Wednesday to bring awareness to the health crisis that the preventable disease, which threatens almost half the world's population, has brought to the continent. In Liberia, where the health system has not recovered from the nation's devastating civil war, malaria kills thousands of children every year. Kari Barber has more from our West Africa bureau in Dakar with additional reporting by Prince Collins in Monrovia. In Monrovia's John F. Kennedy hospital, a mother holds her crying baby who has been ill for days. She says he is suffering from malaria.

AP 04/24/2007 15:30:07

Liberia's president to speak in Oklahoma

LANGSTON, Oklahoma Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will speak at Langston University commencement on May 12, the Oklahoma school announced Tuesday.

AP 04/24/2007 22:00:50

Minnesota Liberians Rally in Petition to stay in U.S.

PLYMOUTH, Minn._Hundreds of Liberians carried signs, prayed and sang as they rallied at congressional offices in the Twin Cities on Tuesday in hopes of reversing a federal government order that they leave the country by Oct. 1. The group toured the Twin Cities in school buses, church vans and private cars. The caravan planned to end at the State Capitol in St. Paul.

International Clips on West Africa

War Crimes Court Officials to Visit Liberia

Apr 24, 2007 (The Independent/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --A high-level mission from the Special Court in the West African state of Sierra Leone will visit neighbouring Liberian capital Monrovia on April 25-26. The two countries were engulfed in civil wars over the past decades. Liberia's former president Charles Taylor was indicted by the Special Court for war crimes in Sierra Leone for supporting rebels of the Revolutionary United front of Sierra Leo that committed numerous atrocities including the hacking off of hands and limbs of civilians.

Local Media – Newspaper

Sierra Leonean Special Court Officials on Outreach Mission in Liberia

(New Democrat and The Informer)

Supreme Court Reserves Ruling in Bryant's Case

(Public Agenda, The Analyst, The News, The Inquirer and Daily Observer)

Government Hands Over Key Rubber Plantation to Original Owner

(The News and The Inquirer)

- The Government of Liberia last Thursday handed over the Cocopa Rubber Plantation in Nimba County to the Liberia Company, its original owner through its legal representative, the Sherman and Sherman Law Firm.

Rubber Workers on Go-Slow Action As Management Opts for Harmony

(The Inquirer and New Democrat)

- The Firestone latex processing plant has been shutdown owing to a go-slow action resulting from union leadership issues. However, the Firestone management said the workers' action was in demand of an early election for their union leadership.

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

State Prosecutors Say former Interim Leader Not Immune to Prosecution

- In their argument seeking to squash a writ of prohibition to try former National Transitional Government of Liberia Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant, the State Prosecutors led by Justice Minister Frances Johnson-Morris, told the Supreme Court that Mr. Bryant was not an Executive President and should not be immune from prosecution for corruption.
- For his part, Solicitor-General Tiawon Gongloe contended that framers of the Constitution did not intend to protect Liberian Presidents who acted outside their Oath of Office to uphold the Constitution.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Senior Officials of Special Court for Sierra Leone Tours Liberia

- According to a release, some senior officials of the Special Court for Sierra Leone arrived in Liberia yesterday for first high-level acquaintance meetings since former President Charles Taylor was turned over to it in 2006. The team includes the Acting Registrar Herman Vandenberg, Prosecutor Stephen Rapp, the Principal defender Vincent O. Nimley and other officials.
- The release noted that the Court's mission to Liberia was arranged with assistance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia in consonance with UN Security Council Resolution 1750 mandating it to facilitate the work of the Court and protect it.
- While in Liberia, the Court's delegation would provide updates on its work and the ensuing trial of former Liberian President Taylor. UN Security Council's Resolution 1688 has instructed the Special Court to make the trial proceedings accessible to West Africans.
- According to the Star Radio, the Court's delegation met with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf today and is slated to meet with other Government and UN officials as well as hold town hall meetings to explain its mandate answer questions and make clarifications on some issues.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Major State-Owned Hospital Drops Nurses for Lack of Money

- In an interview, the Nursing Services Administrator of the John F. Kennedy Medical Center Jacqueline Greene confirmed that over 60 Nurses of the Center had been dropped due to its inability to pay them.
- Mrs. Greene said that the decision to drop the Nurses was to avoid people working without pay, but that the terminated Nurses could reapply for possible employment after the passage of the fiscal budget in July.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

NGO Denies Media Report of Child Rights Abuse

- The Acres of Hope, an international organization working in child rights issues, denied reports from the National Child Rights Observatory Group that they sold a Liberian child who later died in the United States.
- The organization's Country Director, Mr. Eric Serwal noted that the report was to undermine his organization's humanitarian services to Liberians considering that the child in question died at a hospital in Monrovia and not in the US as was reported by the Child Observatory Group.

Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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

Voice of America

Thursday, 26 April 2007

Uganda Government and LRA Rebels Resume Stalled Peace Talks

The Ugandan government and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels are set to restart their stalled peace talks in the Southern Sudanese city of Juba today (Thursday). This comes after the rebels walked out of the peace talks three months ago, claiming they lost confidence in mediator Riek Machar, who is also the President of Southern Sudan. Both the government and the rebels recently signed a deal to extend a cessation of hostilities agreement after the intervention of former Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano. Meanwhile, the rebels have asked that the arrest warrants against their top leadership be suspended.

Uganda's Minister for Internal Affairs Ruhakana Rugunda, who leads the government's negotiating team, tells the Voice of America that the former Mozambican President played a significant role in arranging the resumption of peace talks with the rebels.

"That's true that the stalled peace talks between the government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army will resume in Juba today. This has come as a result of the intervention by President Chissano, in his capacity as the UN Secretary General's special envoy to the Lord's Resistance Army affected areas," Rugunda pointed out.

He said the talks would commence from where the rebels began their boycott and follow the same agenda.

"We will begin the discussions with the comprehensive solutions, which is agenda item number two. And this covers the solutions to the conflict in northern Uganda. And we are really concluding that agenda item. And we will go straight away after that to accountability and reconciliation. This is where we would try and rationale a basis of justice and also of accountability. Then we would proceed to other agenda items," he noted.

With the resumption of the stalled peace talks, he said there is a lot to hope for.

"I think the prospects are good, and we look forward to moving quickly to conclude a peace agreement that will formally restore peace and normalcy in northern Uganda," he said.

Rugunda explains the Ugandan government's position on International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants for the LRA's top leadership.

"Really, the government of Uganda is looking for a solution that would ensure that impunity is not in any way condoned. So we are looking for justice. We are looking for peace, and we want to ensure that there is no impunity that is condoned. And Uganda as a member state of the ICC, will work closely with the ICC, executing its obligations as a member state, to ensure that peace and justice are accomplished," he said.

The Zimbabwean

Thursday, 26 April 2007

Accountability or Impunity: The search for justice in Zimbabwe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

'Securing justice is a political necessity to combat a culture of impunity'

'Only true justice for the victims of such abuses will assuage their longings for revenge through unlawful means'

The unprecedented scale and ferocity of state violence against civilian opponents in Zimbabwe over the last few weeks, involving widespread and systematic gross human rights abuses including torture, combined with a fast-collapsing economy, strikes and a succession crisis in the ruling party has led many to believe that the Mugabe regime is at 'tipping point' and we are into the 'end game'.

However, in this 'heat of the moment' we should not allow ourselves to be caught up in a political transition process, which could result in a fragile future peace because of the denial of justice for past wrongs and the persistence of a culture of impunity in the future.

Securing justice, to mean accountability and punishment for perpetrators on the one hand, and redress for victims on the other, is not simply a moral imperative. It is a political necessity to combat a culture of impunity stretching unbroken from colonial times through the Smith regime and the Gukurahundi violations in the Matabeleland and Midlands provinces in the 1980s to the current period of political violence and torture that began in 2000.

Only true justice will convey the hard message to present and future generations that perpetrators of politically motivated acts of torture and other gross human rights abuses will be held accountable and punished. Equally, only true justice for the victims of such abuses will assuage their longings for revenge through unlawful means, which would undermine peace and security and fuel further cycles of violence.

For perpetrators of organised violence and torture in Zimbabwe to be held accountable for their crimes, and for victims to receive redress, a mechanism that reflects the country's particular circumstances must be established.

Most important here is that the views of all Zimbabweans, not just politicians but victims, their families and civil society as a whole, must be sought in finding a national process likely to deliver truth, justice and an end to impunity. However, discussion of such a process appears to be substituted by talk of amnesty for perpetrators, notably for Mugabe himself. While amnesty may be politically expedient for contesting political parties to facilitate a smooth transition in the name of reconciliation, it will not deliver truth or justice.

Indeed, the 'imposed reconciliation' at Independence in place of accountability and justice for crimes committed by the Rhodesian state was fertile ground for Zanu (PF) to resurrect the twin colonial legacies of land and race in 2000 as justification for its repression and retention of power since then.

In any event, national amnesties do not exempt individuals from international prosecution for gross human rights abuses such as torture. In the words of the UN Human Rights Committee, "amnesties are generally incompatible with the duty of States to investigate such acts; to

guarantee freedom from such acts within their jurisdiction; and to ensure that they do not occur in the future. States may not deprive individuals of the right to an effective remedy, including compensation and such full rehabilitation as may be possible."

Failure to get justice at the national level for torture and other gross human rights violations does not mean justice denied. The last decade has seen remarkable developments in the machinery of international justice for such abuses, including the establishment of the International Criminal Court in 2002, the arrest of Chile's ex-President Pinochet in Britain in 1998, the indictment of former African despots such as Foday Sankoh of Sierra Leone, Charles Taylor of Liberia and Hissene Habre of Chad, and the setting up in quick succession of international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, East Timor and Sierra Leone and the stream of indictments, trials and convictions under these tribunals.

Under the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) no government official is immune from "criminal responsibility" and "the crimes shall not be subject to any statute of limitation". While Zimbabwe has not ratified the Statute, ratification by a future government or a decision of the UN Security Council means that those responsible for torture and like crimes in Zimbabwe may well find themselves before the ICC or must live with this prospect for the rest of their lives...and if they are fortunate enough to avoid the ICC, the principle of universal jurisdiction may see them prosecuted anyway.

In recent years many individuals responsible gross human rights violations, from former heads of state down to ordinary 'foot soldiers' who 'just followed orders', have been caught in the net of international justice....and the guilty 'still at large' should know the net is there for them; fear of which is why Idi Amin did not leave his asylum in Saudi Arabia, why Sharon of Israel avoids travel to Europe and why Mengistu hides in Zimbabwe.