

**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:**

Friday, August 27, 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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**ABC Online**

**Officer's Sierra Leone sex abuse case adjourned. 27/08/2004. ABC News Online**

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200408/s1186203.htm>]

**Last Update:** Friday, August 27, 2004. 7:38am (AEST)

## **Officer's Sierra Leone sex abuse case adjourned**

A court in Sierra Leone has adjourned the case against an Australian police officer accused of sex offences.

The former head of the Victorian homicide squad, Superintendent Peter Halloran, is accused of abusing a 13-year-old girl.

The case against Halloran has been adjourned until September.

The prosecution asked for the delay.

The senior Australian police officer is facing four charges for allegedly sexually abusing a teenage girl.

Halloran was working as a war crimes investigator with the United Nations-backed special court in Sierra Leone.

He was cleared by an internal inquiry but was arrested last month by Sierra Leone police.

Halloran has denied the charges. He has surrendered his passport and has promised to cooperate with the investigation.

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## Australian policeman's trial adjourned in Sierra Leone

August 27, 2004

A Sierra Leone court has adjourned until September the case of an Australian police officer employed by the UN-backed war crimes tribunal, accused of sexually abusing a local schoolgirl.

Prosecutors on Wednesday asked for the adjournment because they were seeking "another line of action", which court sources said could mean that the case would be bound over to the High Court.

Peter Halloran, 56, faces a four-count indictment on charges he had an illegal sexual relationship with a 13-year-old Freetown schoolgirl whom he had allegedly hired to work in his home.

The girl's two brothers face charges of procurement, according to the indictment.

Halloran, a senior officer with Victoria Police, is on a year-long UN contract serving as a prosecution investigator for the tribunal charged with trying those who bear the "greatest responsibility" for atrocities committed during the west African state's decade of civil war that ended in 2001.

He has pleaded not guilty in a Freetown court to sexually the girl. He faces up to 15 years in prison if found guilty.

Local magistrate Bankole Shyllon earlier this month granted bail to Halloran. However, he confiscated Halloran's passport and told him to report to the police every day.

Halloran, 56, had been in custody since August 18. Bail was set at 10 million leones (\$A5200).

Halloran is in Sierra Leone on a UN contract as a prosecution investigator for the war court, which is judging those who bear the "greatest responsibility" for the decade of civil war that ravaged Sierra Leone until 2001.

The special court suspended Halloran in June as soon as it became aware of the allegations against him, but an internal inquiry found insufficient evidence to support the accusation.

**AFP/AAP**

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08/26/2004 07:42:07

Sierra Leone court adjourns child abuse trial of Australian policeman

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: August 26, 2004

FREETOWN, Aug 26 (AFP) - A Freetown court has adjourned until September the case of an Australian police officer employed by the UN-backed war crimes tribunal, accused of sexually abusing a Sierra Leonean schoolgirl.

Prosecutors on Wednesday asked for the adjournment because they were seeking "another line of action," which court sources said could mean that the case would be bound over to the High Court.

Peter Halloran, 56, faces a four-count indictment on charges he had an illegal sexual relationship with a 13-year-old Freetown schoolgirl who he had allegedly hired to work in his home.

The girl's two brothers face charges of procurement, according to the indictment. Halloran, a senior officer with the Victoria State police, is on a year-long UN contract serving as a prosecution investigator for the tribunal charged with trying those who bear the "greatest responsibility" for atrocities committed during the west African state's decade of civil war that ended in 2001.

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

Terms: **liberia; soldiers threaten street violence again** ([Edit Search](#))

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*Africa News August 26, 2004 Thursday*

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Africa News

**August 26, 2004 Thursday**

**LENGTH:** 293 words

**HEADLINE:** Nigeria;  
Ex-Chief of Army Staff Faults Taylor's Asylum At NBA Summit

**BYLINE:** Vanguard

**BODY:**

FORMER Chief of Army Staff and ex-ECOMOG commander, General Victor Malu, yesterday faulted asylum the Federal Government gave to former Liberian Leader, Mr Charles Taylor, saying there was no justification for it given the number of Nigerians Taylor ordered killed, both as a rebel leader and president of **Liberia**.

He said that government's gesture to Taylor has only brought all kinds of problems and bad image for the country. He said that the Nigerian people do not approve of it, adding that Taylor ordered the video recording of killings of Nigerian **soldiers**, which was used to motivate his fighters to kill more Nigerians.

Speaking at the on-going Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) conference in Abuja in a paper entitled "Responsibility for International War Crime, Peace and Security in the West African Sub-region," he said "I have heard it argued that the departure of Charles Taylor was necessary and crucial to stop the circle of **violence in Liberia** and get the UN involved. I do not accept this argument for many reasons. Nevertheless, was it necessary that he should come to Nigeria?"

"My difficulty with the decision to host Taylor is that it portends nothing useful or positive for us, instead, it has brought all kinds of problems and bad image for us and most importantly our people do not approve of it. Those who persuaded us to accept Taylor, if actually we were persuaded, because I don't believe we were, would never go against the wishes of their own population on issues of this nature, nor would they brook any suggestion to even offer a visiting visa to anybody who has murdered and violated their nationals and embassy with such impunity and has remained totally unapologetic to the country and people of Nigeria."

**LOAD-DATE:** August 26, 2004

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

Terms: **liberia; soldiers threaten street violence again** ([Edit Search](#))

Mandatory Terms: **date from 08/21/2004**

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Date/Time: Friday, August 27, 2004 - 6:10 AM EDT

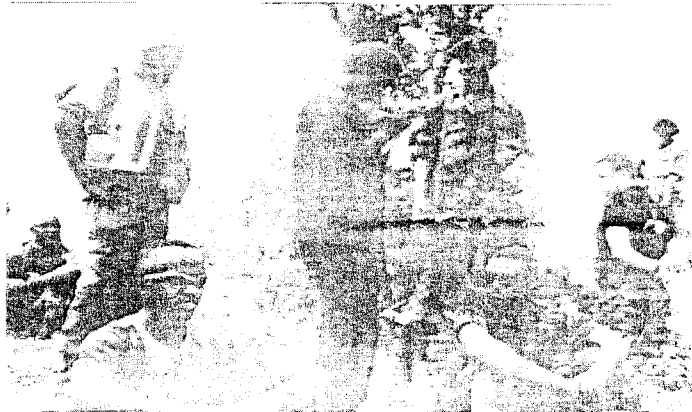
# UN SOLDIERS LEAVING SALONE BUT...

## 'SECURITY WILL NOT DETERIORATE'

By Miatta Solomon

The Adjustment, Draw-down and Withdrawal (ADW) of UNAMSIL troops is well underway. The initial troop strength of 17,500, currently down to 11,300, is expected to be further reduced to 3,250 by early next year, followed by complete withdrawal by June 2005 if the UN mission's mandate is not renewed.

Currently, no UN troops are permanently based in large parts of the north and centre of the country save for small pockets of Military Observers.



READY: UNAMSIL, police and army in joint exercise

In the wake of the latest phase of the ADW plan, the

Assistant Operations Officer of the 9th Pakistani

Battalion (PAKBATT 9),  
SEE PAGE 3

Capt. Ameer Nawaz has briefed the press on what has been achieved so far and what remains to be done.

Sounding confident, Capt. Nawaz in his briefing at the PAKBATT Headquarters in Kenema, Wednesday, requested journalists to remember what he called nine cardinal points regarding the NDW process and to "earnestly sensitise the public on those points." (SEE BOX ON PAGE 1).

He went on to say that although UNAMSIL retains a strong presence in the Eastern region at present, "its figures will drop significantly to a total of 800 (based in Kenema) by the end of the year, with the balance of the force split between Bo and the Freetown area."

The PAKBATT Assistant Operations Officer said that despite the handing over of security primacy to the government's security forces, a process he described as "thorough," UNAMSIL will continue to advise the government on security matters as well as assisting the Office of the National Security with running the critical Provincial and District Security Committees. He added that "UNAMSIL will remain ultimately responsible for the security of the country until its departure - a date which has not yet been set."

Capt. Nawaz went on to say that the departure of UN troops will not mean "that the security situation will deteriorate - it will be a reflection of a return to normality."

He said a number of exercises have been carried out to ensure the capability of the Sierra Leone Police prior to the handover of security primacy, adding that the Pro-

vincial and District Security Committees as part of the country's new security structure, were also involved. Capt. Nawaz said the national army also took part in the aforementioned exercises but that all those involved have been trained to remember that security primacy within the country rests with the Sierra Leone Police.

He expressed his full confidence in the ability of the country's security forces to take over from UNAMSIL. Capt. Nawaz also spoke on the future of projects undertaken by the peacekeepers to assist local communities, saying the level of support the UN contingents are able to provide "will decline in line with the number of troops available."

He, however, suggested three ways of filling the gap created by the exit of UN troops. Firstly he said, national and local governments are aware of UNAMSIL's eventual withdrawal and will have plans to improve the country's infrastructure.

Secondly, the UN Country Team, composed of civilian organisations and NGOs have been informed of ADW plans and will do what they can to assist.

Capt. Nawaz also pointed out that some UNAMSIL troops will be based in Sierra Leone until June 2005 or after and that they will always be there to help if approached though such help will be on a reduced scale. "UNAMSIL effort in the first instance will be directed to supporting Local Government in those areas recently vacated by the force," he revealed.

Sierra Leone Times Friday August 27, 2004

## Sagely Archives

BY TANU JALLOH

The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) has since its deployment in the country devoted attention to peacekeeping by enhancing it through numerous projects undertaken by the different battalions in the Mission.

Four years have been dedicated to fixing the countless devastations left behind by a civil brutality perhaps the worst in the contemporary history of a small but resource-rich country in the West African sub-region.

Sierra Leone with its people could only enjoy peace and stability in return for its enduring tolerance - something I have resolved to phrase as 'a demonstrative and unflinching passion for fellow human beings, irrespective of background and race'. Peace only materialized when the UN rescued the country when it was at the brink of termination.

But there is more to this peace than the benefits we now enjoy. This, however, hinges on sustaining and motivating the structures created by the Mission for continuity, development and progress. Peace, the most lucrative heritage, was achieved and handed down to this country and it need to be exploited to its

fullest.

With the Mission's operations in the country approaching an inevitable turn, however, the issue of securing the country becomes obligatory and binding on every Sierra Leonean. The Adjustment, Drawdown and Withdrawal of United Nations Peacekeepers currently ongoing in various areas across the country has made this responsibility ever more binding on government and the people of the country.

Major Mohamad Rafique, Second-in-Command at Pak Batt IX, Kenema, says the battalion (part of Pac Con III) took over from Pak Batt VI in September last year. Initially, he said, the battalion covered two chiefdoms in Pujehun, nine in Kenema and four in Kailahun Districts, bringing the number of chiefdoms under its control to 15.

He told journalists that following the withdrawal of the Bangladeshi Battalion from Bo and Tongor, Pak Batt IX now takeover the security of Pujehun, Bo and Kenema pending the scheduled final withdrawal when the RSLAF and Sierra Leone Police would take over security primacy of the East. He observed that both RSLAF and SLP need to be equipped in order to facilitate their

# UNAMSIL and the drawdown course

effectiveness.

On humanitarian grounds, he explained that Pak Batt IX undertook many Community Development Projects that included the Kenema Football Stadium,

**Four years have been dedicated to fixing the countless devastations left behind by a civil brutality perhaps the worst in the contemporary history of a small but resource-rich country in the West African sub-region**

providing food and clothing for war victims, widows and war veterans.

Captain Ameer Nawaz, Assistant Operation Officer stated that they realized the dire needs of the people when they arrived in the country.

He says, "ten years of war

had badly affected the lives of the common people and having this in mind, we conducted major activities which include the construction of structures that would serve as symbols of friendship between us and the people. We also distributed food on daily and monthly basis to needy families and war widows."

He explained that a mosque was constructed in Hanga, about twenty kilometres from Kenema, and another in Daru with a capacity of between 1,500 to 1,800. He added that welfare centres were also created for families of the RSLAF, citing that only the troops were provided for.

He said projects undertaken in the RSLAF Brigade Head Quarters in Kenema, include the construction of a computer center, Medical Infection Room (MI Rooms) with modern surgical equipments and drugs, and a skill-training center. His Excellency President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah commissioned these.

Head of Community Liaison Unit of Unamsil's Public Information Section, Peneng Neni Toure, said one of the approach

employed to complete peacekeeping efforts is by bringing on board the Young Professionals to sensitize people about Unamsil drawdown. He explained that the Group started a tour of the country on August 9. The tour is expected to end by October.

They have covered Moyamba and Bo Districts and would be heading to Lago, Kpanguma and to Tongor from Kenema where they are presently performing skits on the exercise.

Major Alex Konkin, a member of the Russian Team of Five organizing the programme expressed optimism that the performances would yield positive impacts. "It would help greatly in changing the perception of the local populace about Unamsil's drawdown," he said.

At the Kenema Town, Square at Dama Road,

Skits performed by the Group in Kenema aim at preventing negative reporting and allaying people's fears over Unamsil final withdrawal. Large crowds gathered to watch the performances, most of which expressed satisfaction over messages contained in the various skits.

The Group used the occasion to sensitize the public on the effectiveness of the Local Councils and the capability of the country's security services to takeover the security of the country after UNAMSIL would have left. RSLAF and SLP need to be relied upon after the Mission's departure, was the central theme of the skits.

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Concord Times

Friday August 27, 2004

# Westside Boys are not part of RSLAF

...CDS

By Chernoh Alpha M. Buh  
& Rachel Horner

Major General Sam Mboma, Chief of Defense Staff of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) Thursday told Concord Times that the released Westside Boys are not part of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed forces (RSLAF) and do not pose any threat to the security of the country.

He said claims that government owes Westside

wishing to come onboard to report at military headquarters," he said adding that those who never came on board have themselves to blame.

"We cannot pay the Westside Boys because they are not part of the Army and their genesis and present status is unknown," he stated.

The Chief of Defense Staff explained that during the war people claimed to be military officers. "Most of these Westside Boys

purporting to be soldiers were not part of the Army," he said and warned that if they attempt to disturb the peace and security of the country, the law would deal with them accordingly.

He says the police would surely arrest them as ordinary civilians because they are not military men and added that there is no way they could be reinstated into the Army under present conditions. "Our plan is to reduce the number of personnel in the army to 10,500 personnel by 2007," he stated and assured that the public need not worry over such threats, as the police would handle the situation.

Boys outstanding salaries are baseless.

"A deadline was announced sometime last year during the restructuring process requesting former members of the Army



## PROFESSOR PEEP'S PAGE

### New Guidelines On Bail Conditions In Law Courts notice from the Honourable Chief Justice Abdulai Timbo

It has come to my attention that certain mischievous individuals with Big Eyes have pointed out that while PAUL KAMARA accused of publishing a SEDITIONOUS LIBEL against His Excellency the President, was given bail at Le 100 MILLION LEONES (later reduced to Le 50 million), PETER HALLORAN, an alleged rapist of a poor 13 year old girl, was granted bail in the sum of TEN MILLION. I have in my possession a letter from learned counsel, Fifi The Wonder Dog, pointing out the INCONGRUITY of the differing bail bonds, from which I quote.

*"Is seditious libel TEN TIMES worse than rape of under-aged girls? Or do WHITE PEOPLE get Special Discount bail rates? Just curious (ha! ha!)"*

Let me point out, for the clarity of all judges and magistrates, that there is an established GUIDELINE for issuing bail... I will refresh your memories by reproducing below...

#### OFFICIAL LAW COURT BAIL RATES

##### POOR PEOPLE

Abusive language and threatening remarks... NO BAIL.

Poor people assaulting each other... NO BAIL

Poor people sexually abusing one another, under-age children etc... NO BAIL

Poor traders caught street trading... 2 MILLION,



##### ONE SURETY

Petty thieves caught stealing in a market... TEN MILLION, TWO SURETIES.

##### JOURNALISTS

Seditious libel - FIFTY MILLION, TWO SURETIES.

Criminal libel (against politicians) - TWENTY MILLION, ONE SURETY

##### WHITE PEOPLE / LEBANESE

Rape - TEN MILLION

Bashing Your housegirl's head against the wall and blinding her... FIVE MILLION, ONE SURETY (who is allowed to bribe his way free if accused absconds! ha! ha!).

Murder - 1-6 MILLION depending on who got killed

(kolonko - Le 1m, fisherman - Le 2 m, domestic servant - Le 3m etc).

##### POLITICIANS

All charges BAILABLE at Bench's discretion.

I hope this will clear up the confusion on this matter.

Chief Justice Abdulahi Timbo,

Retired-But-Refuses-To-Quit-St, Freetown.

GREAT LAW OFFICE MYSTERIES

# International Herald Tribune

## Cambodia swings slowly toward justice

Jonathan Power IHT

Wednesday, August 25, 2004

### Seeking remedies

**LONDON** The moral arm of the universe is long," the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. said in one of his memorable speeches. "It bends toward justice." Many Cambodians, having witnessed the killing fields of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, probably wouldn't agree. Yet their understandable cynicism may be about to be confounded.

Cambodia's National Assembly is poised to approve a government decision to ratify a treaty, more than a decade in the making, that will empower a special court to try surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge, the Communist movement that was seized with a mission to refashion the social and economic structure of their country by the bullet.

Cambodia incarnates the worst horrors of being caught in the crossfire of war. It was heavily bombed in secret by the Nixon administration. Then, when the Vietnamese invaded in 1979, Washington had the audacity to line up world opinion behind recognition of the defeated Khmer Rouge regime. The incongruous sight of the Khmer Rouge flag flying outside the United Nations headquarters in New York was the most revolting testament to mass murder imaginable.

Finally, by the diligence of exiles and the United Nations, a kind of incipient democracy was created in Cambodia and gradually the government has come round to some sort of public trial of a small cadre of the Khmer Rouge's top leaders. Most of the judges will be Cambodian, with one UN-appointed judge and one UN-appointed prosecutor. No conviction or acquittal is possible without their assent.

This is the least intrusive of all international arrangements in an era that has seen in quick succession the creation of UN war crimes tribunals for the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, as well as the establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court to deal with future war crimes.

It would seem, despite the hostility to the International Criminal Court of the Bush administration - and the governments of Russia, China and India - that the overall world tide is flowing in the direction that Martin Luther King Jr. said was inevitable.

But an influential number of people see it otherwise. In a recent issue of a Harvard University quarterly, *International Security*, Jack Snyder and Leslie Vinjamuri argue that "justice does not lead, it follows." In other words, the human rights activists who have fought for these courts have it the wrong way round. First, the authors say, you need a peaceful political order and then you can start to worry about justice.

Thus for them, the Yugoslavian and Rwandan courts have been counterproductive, perpetuating chauvinistic feelings among the Serbs and Hutus. Although they do not spell it out, presumably they think the slow approach of the Cambodian government has been the right one.

There is some truth on the authors' side. The trial of Slobodan Milosevic has been allowed to continue too long, missing an opportunity to produce quick therapy for a country still seized by the sanctity of its cause. And one could go further and say that it is difficult at the moment to argue that these courts have had a measurable deterrent effect on new would-be war criminals. They still seem to thrive, as suggested by events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Afghanistan and Guatemala. Can't the leaders of these ongoing atrocities read the writing on the international wall? Obviously not.

But such an argument misses two important points. No criminal justice system is capable of deterring all criminals. Deterrence only works at the margins. We seek justice in the courts partly to punish, partly to uphold a standard and partly in the hope that those punished will reflect on their crimes and resolve to put their past behind them.

It is the same in the international arena. We can hope that some villains and governments may be deterred but we should not count on it. Politicians like Pol Pot and Milosevic who decided to carry out ethnic cleansing had calculated the odds and decided, albeit mistakenly, that they would win through.

Nevertheless, a standard is defined. In contemporary history it reaches back to the Nuremberg war crimes trials after World War II. Now it is being reinvigorated by the international courts.

Over time, over generations, new standards of justice do develop. That is why black people are no longer lynched in the United States and South Africa, why democracy has spread so rapidly in the last 20 years and why, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the number of violent conflicts in the world has fallen steadily each year of the last decade. Martin Luther King was right.

Jonathan Power is a commentator on foreign affairs.

### **Seeking remedies**

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Cambodia's National Assembly is poised to approve a government decision to ratify a treaty, more than a decade in the making, that will empower a special court to try surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge, the Communist movement that was seized with a mission to refashion the social and economic structure of their country by the bullet.

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Finally, by the diligence of exiles and the United Nations, a kind of incipient democracy was created in Cambodia and gradually the government has come round to some sort of public trial of a small cadre of the Khmer Rouge's top leaders. Most of the judges will be Cambodian, with one UN-appointed judge and one UN-appointed prosecutor. No conviction or acquittal is possible without their assent.

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There is some truth on the authors' side. The trial of Slobodan Milosevic has been allowed to continue too long, missing an opportunity to produce quick therapy for a country still seized by the sanctity of its cause. And one could go further and say that it is difficult at the moment to argue that these courts have had a measurable deterrent effect on new would-be war criminals. They still seem to thrive, as suggested by events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Afghanistan and Guatemala. Can't the leaders of these ongoing atrocities read the writing on the international wall? Obviously not.

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Jonathan Power is a commentator on foreign affairs.

<http://www.pambazuka.org/>  
27/08/2004

## DARFUR: CRISIS MANAGEMENT OR GENOCIDE PREVENTION?

**Patrick Burnett**

When the United Nations (UN) Security Council passed a July 30 resolution on Sudan demanding that the Khartoum Government halt killings in Darfur within one month or face economic and diplomatic action, aid agencies slammed the decision as providing more time for killings and rape by militias known as the Janjaweed. Nearly one month later figures indicate that there are currently 2.2 million conflict-affected people in Darfur and Eastern Chad. And as the UN deadline to the Khartoum government rolls to a close on August 30, activity by the Janjaweed is reportedly on the increase in West Darfur.

It now appears unlikely that strong UN action will be taken against Khartoum and that instead support will be given to the African Union's efforts to solve the crisis. Sudanese government and rebel leaders are currently meeting under AU auspices in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, in an attempt to reach a political settlement and end the violence. The AU already has 80 observers in Darfur, protected by 150 Rwandan troops. However, an AU plan to send nearly 2,000 peacekeepers to monitor the region was rejected on Monday by a senior Sudanese official.

It may be that intervention under the auspices of the AU will be the favoured approach, because broader international action in Darfur through the UN is more complicated than it seems. One reason for this is that although Darfur is a charged topic in the United States ahead of the elections in that country, the most powerful member of the UN Security Council has been stung by its intervention in Iraq. It is unlikely that the US, even driven by the prospects of lucrative oil contracts, would risk an intervention in Sudan while it is embroiled in a disastrous occupation in Iraq. In any case, a "humanitarian intervention" in Sudan led by the US would be farcical while more than 100 000 of their troops are terrorising Iraq.

The US position is further complicated by the contention that the US has only become interested in the Darfur crisis because it threatens a peace deal between the Government of Sudan and the Southern People's Liberation Army that would have opened up Washington's access to Sudan's plentiful oil supplies in the south of the country. Lastly, theories are circulating that the US supports the Darfur rebels against the Khartoum government because it is not sufficiently pro-American. All these factors leave the US hopelessly compromised with regards their credibility in leading an international intervention that is purely aimed at ending the conflict and does not contain insidious connotations related to political and economic ambitions. That this complicates an international response is to say nothing of other factors that might impact on the UN Security Council, such as the largely supportive role that the Arab League has lent Khartoum.

But whatever the UN decision on August 30, criticism remains as to the inadequacy of efforts to date. Part of the reason why it seems like attempts to end the crisis have been half-hearted is that genocide inevitable develops its own myths. The result is that it appears as if a particular situation has spun out of control and is too complicated for immediate action. In this scenario, the various parties are doing all that they can to rescue a seemingly irredeemable situation. But it is important to

engage in an unmasking of myths because often they serve to perpetuate genocide.

The first myth to uncover is an obvious one. This is that the increased media attention of the last few months mirrors the timeline of the crisis and that therefore the time for response has been too short to yield results. In fact, the Darfur crisis played itself out throughout last year, so that in October, Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) noted that tens of thousands of people who had fled from Darfur in western Sudan to neighbouring Chad were "invisible" to the humanitarian community, receiving practically no assistance.

The myth that the Darfur conflict is a crisis of the last few months is central to the failure of the international community because it shows that the early warning signs were ignored - or that at the time the conflict did not carry the political relevancy needed for international action. What has been opted for now is a kind of genocide crisis management, with a strong sense that more time is needed and that diplomatic ventures must be allowed to run their course. But both the international community and the Government of Sudan have known about the crisis in Darfur for far longer than it has been in the media spotlight. How much more time exactly would they like? How many more people must die?

This is linked to the idea that genocide somehow 'just happens'. In reality, genocide has its own social, economic and political aspects. It has been argued that in Africa, the legacy of colonialism, economic problems and inequalities mean that governments or powerful groups can promote differences and conflict as a mechanism of power rather than addressing the root causes of desperation.

Another area that needs to be challenged is that of the "peace process". There is a sense that once a "peace process" is underway or the perpetrators engaged in diplomacy, then whatever crisis that is underway is about to be solved. But this, as the organisation Genocide Watch points out, often obscures the fact that genocide is not conflict but rather one-sided violence of one group against another. Therefore it is the "genocidal nature of the government in Khartoum" that needs to be confronted. A peace process will not necessarily result in a solution. Often, the "peace process" - and this would also apply to other diplomatic efforts - can work to distract attention from genocide or result in the international community being more lenient towards a perpetrating regime.

Often, genocide is characterised as an 'us' versus 'them' dichotomy. In Sudan, it has been argued that what is happening there is a result of a kind of clash of civilisations between 'Africans' and 'Arabs'. But as Alex de Waal has pointed out, this obscures a "complicated reality". "Darfur's Arabs are black, indigenous, African and Muslim, just like Darfur's non-Arabs, hailing from the Fur, Masalit, Zaghawa and many smaller tribes."

The 'African' versus 'Arab' theory may act to obscure the original causes of the conflict such as conflicts over resources, especially water and land. It may also work to obscure the historical causes of conflict, such as the fact that Sudan was a colonial construct arbitrarily created, in which the British entrenched divisions between a wealthy North and the rest of the country. Understanding complicated historical and political factors is important in understanding why the Darfur crisis has developed and is crucial in any solution.

In conclusion, the shameful response of the international community to the Rwandan

genocide should have resulted in lessons being learnt on how to deal with similar crisis situations. But not even the obvious reminders presented by the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Rwanda genocide in April helped to move the world from genocide crisis management to genocide prevention. That these lessons have not been learnt indicates that those institutions responsible for protecting international human rights standards have not been made accountable for the decisions that they make with regards the lives of those who suffer as a result of inaction, nor have they been able to move towards clear decision-making that is based not on the interests of the powerful but in the interests of ordinary people who suffer most at the hands of violence.

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**UNMIL Daily Media Summary**  
**Thursday, 26 Aug 2004**

**US Govt Earmarks US\$86million to Fight Terrorism in Liberia**

*(The Inquirer)*

- The US Government in its 20 August Presidential Determination has earmarked US\$86million to fight terrorism in Liberia.
- Recent media reports have shown links between Liberia's former president Charles Taylor and Al-Qaeda members.



## **Monrovia Not Gun-free, Man Of God Apprehensive**

**The Analyst (Monrovia)**

NEWS

August 26, 2004

Posted to the web August 26, 2004

By George Borteh

The United Nations Mission in Liberia is still working twenty-four hours around the clock to ensure that Liberia is free of arms once and for all.

It started the process last year in Monrovia, and moved gradually unto other parts of the country.

With less than four counties yet to be covered by the multinational force, many residents of Monrovia are expressing doubts as to claims that the city is totally arms-free.

With such fears, there are calls for "house to house search" in order to retrieve hidden arms but that is yet to be done and time is running out.

Now, a man of God says it is no question about Monrovia being unsafe.

Rev. Cole Brown has disclosed that Monrovia is still not arms free and called on UNMIL to revisit its strategies.

According to him, guns are still in the hands of so-called ex-combatants in the city.

Rev. Brown walked into the offices of The Analyst last evening to inform the Liberian people about pending consequences in the wake of failure of UNMIL to ensure that Monrovia is free of arms.

Besides, the Soul Winning Church of Jesus Christ pastor said he was disappointed over the slow pace of the DDRR exercise.

According to him, the process is slow because UNMIL failed to incorporate those who have experience in the exercise.

He named former Defense Minister during the Amos Sawyer-led Interim Government, Major-Gen. Sandi Ware, retired General Hezekiah Bowen and scores of level-minded soldiers.

Rev. Brown noted that with the level of expertise of these people, their involvement in the process would have made a great impact.

Rev. Brown who says he is a dreamer and prophet from God said that the bringing on board of these experienced ex-generals would also help the DDRR process to move smoothly.

Rev. Brown stressed that he was not making the revelation of himself.

The Liberian clergyman is calling on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to once again restart the DDRR process in Monrovia to clean-up the untouched arms and ammunitions in the city of Monrovia.

When asked as to what has been done to help the DDRR process of Liberia, he pointed out that there are serious prayers being offered by them to help the process.

Rev. Brown then lauded the head of NCDDRR, Dr. Moses Jarbo for the level that the process has reached.

He urged him to re-double his efforts in ensuring a gun free environment.