

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Wednesday, 27 July 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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For di People
Wednesday, 27 July 2011

Special Court Debunks FDP Veep Story

THE SPECIAL Court for Sierra Leone has debunked an FDP story covered by reporter Arthwah Maddie alleging that vice-president Chief Samuel Sam Sumana had interfered with a witness in the ongoing trial of certain individuals indicted for interfering with witnesses.

Special Court's Peter Anderson brought the matter before FDP alleging the story was misleading as V P Sumana had nothing to do with the story and an apology has already been tendered and this also serves as a public apology to the vice-president for such a misleading coverage.

It should be known that ever since the Special Court started its operations a few years ago, this is the first time that FDP has to make a public apology for coverage of its proceedings. The coverage is therefore deeply regretted by management.

Below is the full letter from Special Court which is produced verbatim.

FDP article "Vice President Sumana Interferes (sic.) With Special Court Witness?"

Dear Mr. Bangura,

The article referenced above, under the byline of Arthwah Maddie, does not accurately reflect the proceedings in the initial appearance of four defendants accused of tampering with SCSL witnesses.

1. "Vice President Samuel Sam Sumana has been accused of interfering with a witness that (sic.) testified against Ibrahim Bassy (sic.- Ibrahim Bazy Kamara) and Santigie Kamara (sic. - Santigie Borbor Kanu) in the AFRC trial..." and a second quote from the article, "Justice Teresa Doherty in reading the judgment of Samuel Kargbo (aka: Sammy Ragga)..."

I quote the relevant part of the transcript (P. 32) below in its entirety:

"Ragga then mentioned the name of a chairman of the APC party in America, who would help." We are not given the name of that person. We are only given this title of his position. "He also mentioned that influence would be made from a Vice President of Sierra Leone to render assistance." Again we are not given a name, we are given a position, and the witness TFI 334 is quite specific when he says he did not that no names were given of those particular people; only their positions were named. This then is the evidence of 334.

The statement was not that of Samuel Kargbo, as stated by your reporter. It was a statement by witness TFI-334, and that is clear from the transcript above. Vice-President Samsumana has not been accused of interfering with witnesses, and the Independent Prosecutor has not made that allegation. The further quote, that "the accused met with witness in his house and told him to recant his testimony as the Vice President of Sierra Leone Sam Sumana (sic.) and the APC Chairman of the American branch have interest in the matter and were ready to give financial benefit to the witness in return" is a complete fiction and does not appear anywhere in the transcript.

Please correct the record with regard to this story.

Regards

Peter C. Andersen

Chief of Outreach and Public Affairs, Special Court for Sierra Leone

“Vice President Sumana Interferes With Special Court Witness?” *Thursday 21 July 2011*

by ARTWHAH MADDIE

VICE PRESIDENT SAMUEL Sam Sumana has been accused of interfering with a witness that testified against Ibrahim Bassy and Santigie Kamara in the AFRC trial at the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

Justice Teresa Doherty in reading the judgment of Samuel Kargbo (aka: Sammy Ragga) who had pleaded guilty of interfering with witness TFI 334 revealed that on the 3 day of December 2010 in Freetown, the accused met the witness in his house and told him to recant his testimony as Vice President of Sierra Leone Sam Sumana and the APC Chairman of the American branch have interest in the matter and were ready to give financial benefit to the witness in return.

The judge further asked the accused if he understood the statement and had any thing to say before passing sentence, he replied that he understood the statement but later pleaded for justice to be tempered with mercy.

Charles Taku, the Cameroonian lawyer representing the accused in his mitigation for bail said his client is a Sierra Leonean who is married with two children.

He said the accused would not jump bail or interfere with the protected witnesses in the matter and that they are ready to cooperate with the Court at any time it needs them.

Lawyer Taku said although his client was once a convict but had been granted presidential pardon

The judge however, upheld the plea and granted the accused bail with strict caution that, he should not interfere with the protected witnesses and should not leave the jurisdiction.

Samuel Kargbo is standing trial at the Special Court with the convicted AFRC leaders Ibrahim Bassy Kamara, Santigie Borbor Kanu (aka 55) in Rwanda and Hassan Papa Bangura alias Bomb Blast, for knowingly and willfully interfering with the Special Court administration of justice by offering a bribe to a witness who had given testimony before a Chamber, in violation of Rule 77 (A) (iv).

Particulars of offence stated that Hassan Papa Bangura (aka Bomb Blast) and Samuel Kargbo (aka Sammy Ragga) on diverse dates, between 27 November 2010 to 16 December 2010 in Freetown, offered a bribe to protected witness TFI 334 who had given testimony before trial Chamber 11 in the proceedings of the Prosecution versus Brima Kamara and Kanu in return for recanting his testimony in that trial to which Samuel Kargbo (aka Sammy Ragga) had pleaded guilty while the others pleaded not guilty.

Melron Nicol-Wilson, lawyer representing the second accused Hassan Papa Bangura applied for bail for his client.

Justice Doherty granted bail but ordered that his passport be submitted to the court and should remain in the jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, if the accused persons are found guilty of contempt under Rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, they will face a prison sentence of seven years or a fine of Le2 million each (approximately \$ 500) or both.

Peoples Peep

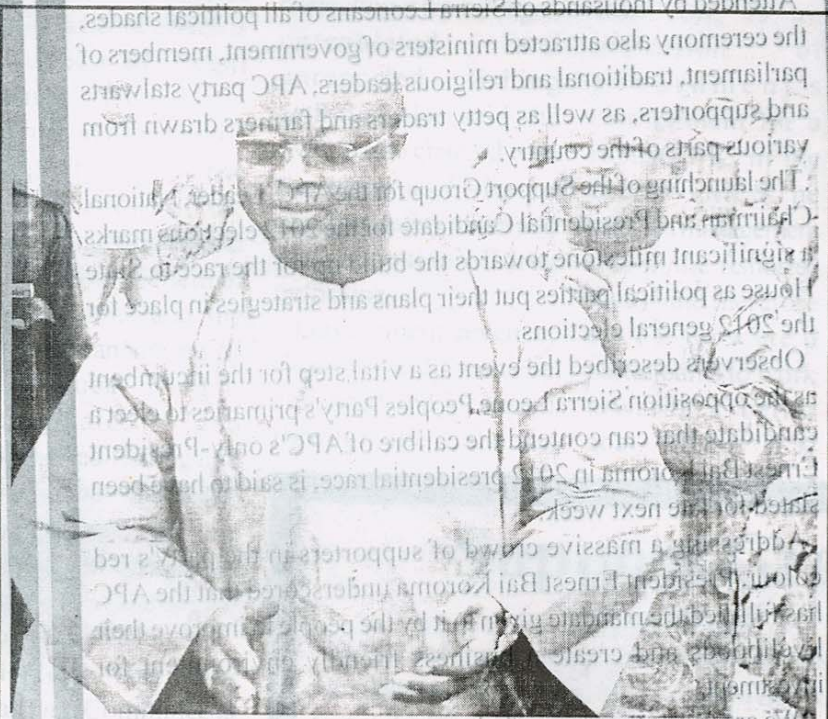
SPECIAL COURT THRASH PEEP

OUCH! PEEP has got a thrashing-one he won't forget for a long time-by the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

Peep's offence is construing "...a Vice President of Sierra Leone." to mean Vice President Sam Sumana. A-hem. There are so many vice presidents in Sierra Leone Peep, besides VP Sam Sumana.

Presently, folks, Peep is back in school learning how to construe his passages, and they are so many he has to tackle. Even so, he mustn't misconstrue any of them or else he will be condemned to Kallahian under lock and key with hard labour. And the rumour is that one Puawui would be the lock-up officer. In fact, word is out that Puawui has vowed to teach Peep a lesson for all his irksome words and interpretations.

Dear folks, to err is human: and to continue erring is devilish. Peep has no intention to continue erring: instead he is presently drafting his apology letter to the Special Court: and to VP Sumana, although he didn't raise any concern to Peep regarding the story. Peep has heard long ago that the VP loves Peep - ~~but that makes it worse in fact for misrepresenting the VP.~~ Now please, ~~Yes,~~ forgive Peep.



VEEP SUMANA: A fan of Peep

The Exclusive
Wednesday, 27 July 2011

Special Court to Try Former President

By Ayodele Deen-Cole

The Sierra Leone Institute of International Law is requesting the international community to transfer the trial of former Chadian President, Hisen Habre to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The Belgium government however insisted that alleged war criminal be tried under Belgian laws.

Ambassador Allieu Kanu of the Sierra Leone Institute of International Law believes that although Hisen Habre's crime does not fall within the jurisdictions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the facilities here can be comfortably used to try the former Chadian leader.

"Judges, the Registrar and team are available and all other facilities can be used instead of sending him to Belgium," says Ambassador Kanu.

He added that the only thing left is for the International Community to provide necessary funds for conduct of the trial. For now there are no retrospective jurisdictions to prosecute the former Chadian President whose crimes were committed in the 1980s. "It is good we use some of the manpower to SCSL to handle the trial of Hisen Habre," added Ambassador Allieu Kanu.

Several reasons were provided by the legal luminary, Ambassador Kanu for the transfer of Hisen Habre trials to Sierra Leone after Senegal decided to put on hold their proposed deportation of the President. Lawyer Kanu has however maintained that Habre should not be deported to Chad as he is likely to face death

penalty if found guilty contrary to what the International Law dictates.

He further noted that although Belgium has the locus standi to try the former President, it will be very costly to send him to Belgium when there exists in Sierra Leone a Special Court to try crimes of similar nature.

Under Belgium laws one of the principle of universal jurisdiction states that for international crime, countries have the right to try anybody in their territory who committed such crimes.

Hisen Habre was the former President of Chad in the 80s. He was overthrown in a military coup in 1990 and went into exile in Senegal. He stayed peacefully in Senegal for a long time until after an international non-governmental organization reportedly accused the former Chadian leader of committing crimes against humanity while President of Chad has called for his prosecution. Senegal agreed to try Hisen Habre after an intervention from African Union (AU) requesting Senegal to conduct the trial on the former President or if they are unwilling or unable to do so, send him to a third country for trial.

The trial was conducted in Senegal with all sides provided with legal representation. The legal wrangling continues to date until Senegal proposed to deport the former Chadian leader.

No official response from the government has been received on this issue of transfer of trial. Effort to get the Attorney General and Minister of Justice to respond has so far proved futile.

Awoko

Wednesday, 27 July 2011

Civil Society celebrates International Day of Justice

By Saffa Moriba

Members of the Civil Society Network (CSN) and Justice Sector Development Programme (JSDP) in Kenema District recently celebrated International Justice Day.

Speaking at the ceremony, a civil society activist, Jeremiah Salia, traced the origin of the International Criminal Court (ICC), stating that it was established on 1st July 1998 with the primary aim to correct impunity, adding that the ICC Treaty was signed by countries across the world to provide protection for victims and try perpetrators of war crimes and other crimes against humanity.

In his statement, the Local Unit Commander (LUC) of the Kenema Police Division, Chief Superintendent of Police, William Fayia Sellu, said crimes against humanity and war crimes are related as they all affect human dignity.

Fayia Sellu also said justice is sometimes derailed in either the Magistrate or High courts due to lack of willingness on the part of witnesses to testify in court on matters charged to court by Police.

The LUC disclosed that Police are at the forefront of ensuring that people access justice by investigating and charging to court matters reported to them by members of the public.

A member of the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Network, Edward Kai, disclosed that Sierra Leone as a country is teaming up with other countries across the globe to celebrate the day which, he said, is crucial to correcting impunities, to help uphold universal human rights and to provide the basis to accessing justice by all.

Kai disclosed that the CSO network in collaboration with the Justice Sector Development Programme has outlined several activities like public lectures, march past and quiz competition among school going pupils in and around the city, in a bid to increase their knowledge base on the International Criminal Court and on the celebration of the International Day of Justice.

Public Service Europe

Tuesday, 26 July 2011

The bloody legacy of Goran Hadzic



By Anthony Tucker-Jones

Less than two months after General Ratko Mladic, the former Bosnian-Serb commander, was arrested, the Serb authorities have moved to seize the last remaining Balkans war criminal facing charges at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Former Croatian-Serb leader Goran Hadzic was finally arrested on 20 July, just north of Serbian capital Belgrade at Fruska Gora Mountain. Until he was indicted for war crimes in 2004, Hadzic lived in the northern Serbian city of Novi Sad and, despite the price on his head, had remained at large.

I first became aware of Hadzic whilst at NATO in Brussels in 1991, just as the former Yugoslavia was breaking up and the Croatian War of Independence was breaking out.

He came to prominence following reports of a massacre at Vukovar which was later dubbed "Croatia's Stalingrad". Few had ever even heard of this peaceful city, nestled in the bend of the Danube, before the Yugoslav conflict. However, its heroic three-month resistance brought the Croats valuable time to bolster their defences against Serbian military aggression.

Slovenia had gone its own way after the Ten-Day War, but the Bosnian-Serbs and Croatian-Serbs made it clear they were not prepared to abandon the ideal of a Greater Serbia. While Bosnian-Serb General Ratko Mladic, now facing trial in The Hague, helped carve out the Republika Srpska in eastern Bosnia, Hadzic fought to create the Republic of Serbian Krajina in eastern Croatia.

As the CIA moved covertly to help Croatia break free of Belgrade's rule, the Croatian-Serbs, supported by rag-tag militias and neighbouring Serbia, sought to thwart their ambitions and declare their own homeland in Slavonia. While the Croatian army struggled to arm and organise itself, the Croatian 204 Brigade, supported by local Croatian militia, held out at Vukovar for 87 bloody days before being overrun.

Afterwards, intelligence reports indicated the battle cost the Serbs 5,000 casualties, 50 tanks and up to 600 armoured vehicles: a bloody siege by anyone's reckoning. Such was the resistance that the Serbs made no attempt to take the other besieged Croatian cities of Vinkovici and Osijek and the Croats maintained most of the wealthiest eastern province.

In a taste of things to come in Bosnia and Srebrenica, the bedraggled population of Vukovar were driven

from the ruined city. The Red Cross convoy, however, contained only old people, women and children. Hadzic's Croatian-Serb forces had taken revenge, massacring nearly 300 men amongst the rubble and deporting 20,000 townspeople.

He subsequently became the President of RSK and maintained close links with Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian President, and the notorious Zeljko Raznjajic - better known as Arkan – who led the brutal Serbian Tiger militia. After the war, Hadzic retired in Serbia, and only now, with his capture, can the country claim to have rooted out the last of the Serbian war criminals.

Lest we forget the Croatians were not blameless. When the RSK collapsed Croatian troops were accused of ethnic cleansing and their operational commander General Ante Gotovina was indicted by The Hague.

A new generation of Serbs must be hoping that the trials of Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic will bring to a close this shaming episode in Serbian history. Nonetheless there remains the nagging, inconvenient question of how they remained at liberty in Serbia for so long until the question of EU membership loomed.

Anthony Tucker-Jones was a defence intelligence liaison officer for NATO during the Balkans crisis. This article first appeared on defencemanagement.com, a sister site of PublicServiceEurope.com

Last remaining fugitive taken into custody by UN's Balkans war crimes tribunal



A standard cell at the UN Detention Unit in The Hague

The last remaining fugitive from the United Nations war crimes tribunal for the Balkans was today transferred to the court's custody, two days after his arrest by authorities in Serbia following seven years at large.

Goran Hadžic, the former president of the self-proclaimed Republic of

Serbian Krajina, is charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity in relation to his alleged actions in eastern Slavonia, Croatia, from August 1991 to June 1992. The charges include murder, persecutions, torture, imprisonment, deportations, cruel treatment, inhumane acts and wanton destruction.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which is based in The Hague in the Netherlands, said in a press statement that Mr. Hadžic has been admitted to the UN Detention Unit and will make his initial appearance before the court on Monday, when he will be asked to enter a plea to the charges.

Mr. Hadžic stands accused of participating in a joint criminal enterprise – along with the late former Serbian leader Slobodan Milošević and three others – to permanently remove a majority of the Croat and other non-Serb population from about a third of the territory of Croatia, with the aim of establishing a new Serb-dominated State.

The indictment states that Mr. Hadžic was involved in the removal of 264 civilians from a hospital in Vukovar in November 1991 after the Serb takeover of the city. The civilians were transported to several locations where they were beaten and tortured before being executed and buried in a mass grave at a remote site.

The allegations also include that Mr. Hadžic was responsible for the imprisonment of thousands of civilians in a number of detention facilities.

“The living conditions in the detention facilities were brutal and characterized by inhumane treatment, overcrowding, starvation, forced labour, inadequate medical care, and constant physical and psychological assault, including mock executions, torture, beatings and sexual assault,” according to the indictment.

Mr. Hadžic will be the last of 161 persons indicted by the ICTY to come before the court.

Hague moves Gaddafi goalposts

By Alex Stevenson Follow @alex__stevenson



Libyan strongman Muammar Gaddafi. Photo: AFP/Getty Images

Britain is reluctantly accepting suggestions from Libyan rebels that Muammar Gaddafi be allowed to remain in Libya in return for abandoning his grip on power.

Foreign secretary William Hague indicated at a press conference yesterday that the UK would be prepared to accept such a move, despite previously calling for Colonel Gaddafi to face the international criminal court (ICC).

The defiant leader, who has survived four months of war against rebel forces backed by Nato air power, has vowed to fight on until the end. The ICC has issued an arrest warrant for his decision to order indiscriminate attacks on Libyan civilians as he sought to crush the Arab Spring uprising of late February.

"What is absolutely clear... is that whatever happens Gaddafi must leave power," Mr Hague said in a joint press conference with French foreign minister Alain Juppe.

"He must never again be able to threaten the lives of Libyan civilians nor to destabilise Libya once he has left power.

"Obviously him leaving Libya itself would be the best way of showing the Libyan people that they no longer have to live in fear of Gaddafi.

"But as I have said all along, this is ultimately a question for Libyans to determine."

Diplomacy with Col Gaddafi's Tripoli regime is taking place through a number of routes, including through direct talks with UN officials and other negotiations with African leaders.

David Cameron and South African president Jacob Zuma clashed on the UK prime minister's recent visit to Pretoria.

Mr Zuma made clear that African Union states disagreed with the west's demands that political negotiations only begin after Col Gaddafi's exit from power.

Mr Cameron replied: "The difference is the president sees that [the removal of Gaddafi] as the outcome of a political process, whereas I believe for a political process to work that has to be the starting point."

Michael Jay, the Foreign Office's permanent secretary from 2002 until 2006, told politics.co.uk earlier this month he thought Britain had been "too prescriptive" in laying out the terms for the end of the conflict.

"The realpolitik is do you want to make certain that the person you don't want there has every reason to stay?" he said. "There's a conflict of objectives there."

"If you make it a condition that he has to go and that he'll go to the criminal court if he doesn't, in a sense you're forcing him."

"He has nowhere to go. You're keeping him there. That's the question we have to ask ourselves - was that the right thing to do?"

Meanwhile, the Libyan government has taken western journalists to Zlitan to inspect a site officials claim was a lung disease clinic which has been destroyed by a Nato airstrike.

Seven were killed and three remain trapped underneath the rubble, Libyan officials claimed. Nato denied it was responsible for any civilian deaths.

Daily Nation (Kenya)

Monday, 25 July 2011

26 names proposed for ICC job

By NATION CORRESPONDENT

African countries party to the Rome Statute have come up with a list of eight people from who to pick a successor of Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo as International Criminal Court prosecutor.

Mr. Moreno-Ocampo's term ends next year. The African Group's suggestion is the second highest following the Western European and Others Group that has proposed 15 names in the list of 26 received by the search committee.

In a briefing made last week to the secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties in New York, the committee's coordinator, Prince Zeid Al-Hussein, said they had received one name from Eastern Europe, two from Latin America and the Caribbean and none from the Asia.

The 26 individuals are set to be interviewed in October.

Attack on UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon condemned



UN experts are helping Lebanese security forces investigate the blast

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has condemned a roadside bomb attack that wounded five French peacekeepers in Sidon, southern Lebanon, on Tuesday.

It was the second such attack on the UN force in two months.

Mr Ban said he was "deeply disturbed".

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack but tensions are rising in Lebanon over a UN-backed inquiry into the killing of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

A statement from the UN force in Lebanon (Unifil) said that an explosion targeted a peacekeepers' convoy along the main road leading to the capital at about 18:00 local time.

"Unifil forensic experts are at the scene and Unifil is working in co-ordination with the Lebanese armed forces to determine the circumstances of the incident," it said.

The UN Security Council added its condemnation of the bombing, which it called "a terrorist attack", as well as any attempts to threaten the security and stability of Lebanon.

Unifil is tasked with overseeing a fragile peace along the border between Lebanon and Israel. It has been based in the south of Lebanon since 1978 although its mission widened after the 2006 war between Israel and Lebanon's political and militant Shia Muslim force, Hezbollah.

The 12,000-strong force is currently commanded by Spain, although Italy and France currently have slightly larger contingents of soldiers.

Mounting tensions

There are growing concerns over fallout from the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, which the UN supports. It has indicted members of Hezbollah, but the group refuses to hand over the suspects.

The tribunal is expected to publish more details of the indictments when a 30-day deadline expires at the end of the month.

It is investigating the assassination of Mr Hariri in a car bombing in Beirut on 14 February, 2005.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah accuses the tribunal of being politically motivated.

In Lebanon, there are also fears that unrest in neighbouring Syria, which has seen more than four months of anti-government protests, could spill over and have a destabilising effect.

In May, six Italian peacekeepers were wounded in an blast targeting a UN convoy.

That was the first attack on Unifil since 2008. In 2007, six Spanish soldiers were killed when a bomb hit an armoured personnel carrier near to the Israeli border.