

**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:

Friday, 28 September 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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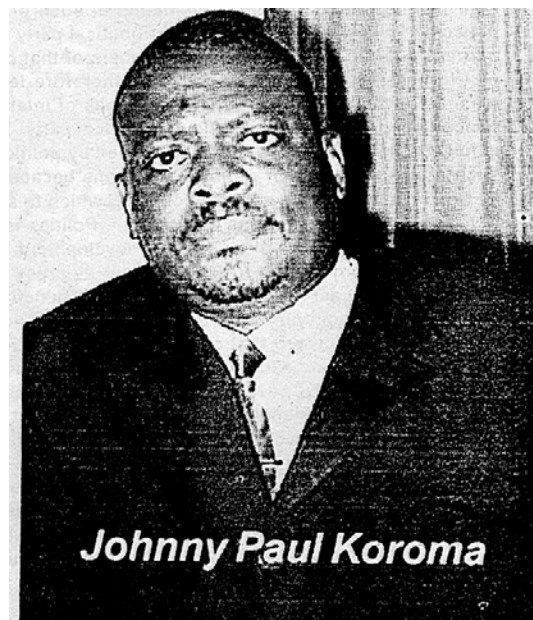
The Exclusive
Friday, 28 September 2007

Johnny Paul Is Dead

An eye witness, Jackie Smith in Liberia who spoke to The Exclusive through the telephone has

intimated that the former AFRC leader and Special Court indictee, Johnny Paul Koroma is dead.

"Johnny Paul Koroma was secretly murdered by hired mercenaries of Ex-President Charles Taylor of Liberia.



Johnny Paul Koroma

Taylor's reason for killing Koroma was to destroy whatever evidence.

Contd. page 2

Johnny Paul Is Dead

From front page
the late junta leader had against him that would implicate him (Taylor) at the Special Court," the caller stated. He went on to disclose that he was living in the same apartment with Koroma and that on the night of the murder, he just bumped into the murderers who according to him, took the remains of Koroma to an unknown place.

"I saw them all with my eyes. They were four in number and I was able to identify two of them who I have always seen with

Taylor. I straightaway knew they were on hire," the caller stated further.

The incident according to the caller, occurred in 2003.

Asked why he was only telling the press now, he said, "for reasons best known to me." On how he came to know a contact number for The Exclusive, he said he saw an old edition of The Exclusive with someone in Liberia and in that edition was a story on the Special Court for Sierra Leone. "That prompted me to call you and to reveal a secret I

have kept for four years," he said.

The Exclusive contacted the Public Information Office of The Special Court to confirm Koroma's death, but declined to comment. "This is news to us," the Public Information Officer stated.

It could be recalled that Taylor was also implicated in the controversial death of the former RUF Field Commander, Sam Bockarie, 'Maskita.' According to sources, Taylor murdered Maskita for insubordination.

Awareness Times
Friday, 28 September 2007

Trial for RUF war crimes indictees resumes

Reports from Special Courts intimate that the trial involving former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) commanders who are currently detained at the Court's detention centre is to resume on the 4th of October 2007. At the status conference of the court on RUF indictees, defence lawyers for the accused say their clients are now physically fit and in good health to continue their defence.

Single Legged Amputees' Sports Club Member to Ghana

By Vidal Boltman

A three - man delegation from the Single Legged Amputee sports club have departed for Accra, Ghana to participate in a one-week conference. According to the president of the club, Mr. Jabati Mambu the delegates will join their counterparts from Nigeria, Ghana, Angola and Liberia to discuss issues relating to the forth coming amputee world Cup Competition which is scheduled to take place in Turkey from the 11th to the 22nd November this year. They will also deliberate on modalities for their clubs participation in next year's

Amputees African Nations Cup to be hosted by South Africa.

Speaking to pressmen in a conference, the Public Relations Officer (PRO), Mr. Albert Manley Mustapha said they do hope to have a fruitful outcome from the conference and that upon the delegates' return, they will inform the public about what they get from Ghana. He took the opportunity to call on the government to render their kind assistance to them as he thanked those who have been supporting them. He said with branches all over the country, they are finding it difficult to sustain their

members even though they are operating on voluntary basis. He lamented that since they decided to undertake that venture, they have not received a single assistance from government. He said they are merely surviving from kind gestures from private individuals and companies like Africell.

A brief history of the club was given by their co-ordinator, Pastor Mambu K Samai. The co-ordinator also said that the club is contemplating on forming Reporters' Union so as to be keeping the public abreast with their activities.

Sierra Leone Court Monitoring Program

Wednesday, 26 September 2007

A status Conference for the RUF trials

By Joseph A.K Sesay

Trial Chamber I of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, today Wednesday 26th September 2007 , held a status conference before Honourable Justice Bankole Thompson. The status conference was held pursuant to Rule 65bis of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence (The Rules) of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in a bid to ensure expeditious proceedings for the continuation of the Defense case in the trials for alleged former leaders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). Mr. Harrison and Mr. Reginald Fynn represented the Prosecution. First Accused, Issa Hassan Sesay was represented by Wayne Jordash and Sareta Ashraph, Morris Kallon, Second Accused was represented by Melron Nicol-Wilson and Augustine Gbao, Third Accused was represented by Mrs. Jallow, a duty counsel attached to the defence office.

The trials for the alleged former leaders of the RUF commenced on the 5th of July, 2004 and after 182 days of trials, with a total of 86 witnesses, the Prosecution closed their case on the 2nd of August, 2006 . The Defence commenced its case with the first accused testifying in his own defence. After thirty-two days of trial, the case was adjourned for judicial recess to 4th October 2007 . This status conference served as a means of ensuring clarity for the continuation of the Defence's case. The Chamber discussed preliminary issues which include health and detention issues, review of defence filings and trial logistics which include trial schedule, case presentation and upcoming defence witnesses.

With regards the health and detention issues of the Accused persons, Defence counsels informed the court that their clients were in good health even though the First and Third Accused were not in court. In reviewing case presentation and the number of Defence witnesses, the First Accused is to call a total of 149 core witnesses of which 2 have already testified and 83 witnesses for the second Accused and 55 for the third Accused. However each defence team submitted that they would continue to review their witness list to reduce the number of their witnesses.

Concerns were also raised by the defence for the first Accused on the issue of funding for their expert witnesses. He informed the court that they would be calling these witnesses towards the end of their case as there were not enough funds to keep the witnesses for more than one week. Counsel for the second accused informed the Court that they would be calling three expert witnesses and that they had already received the report for the first expert witness. The duty counsel representing the third Accused informed the Court that Counsel for the third Accused intends to call on one expert witness.

Another issue raised was the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. John Cammegh as a Led – counsel for the third Accused, replacing Mr. Andreas O'Shea. Justice Thompson informed all the Parties that the Bench was still deliberating on all pending motions.

The Court was adjourned to Thursday 4th October 2007.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 27 September 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

09/27/2007 10:26:43

World Bank Rates Country Low on Business

Clement Nwoji

Source: All Africa Global Media Date: September 27, 2007

Abuja, Sep 27, 2007 (Daily Champion/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Nigeria's rating in creating a business-friendly environment has suffered another setback despite the series of reform programmes stretching back to 1999. The World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) have rated Nigeria as number 108 in its latest ranking on Ease of Doing Business 2008 report released yesterday. In the report, the fifth in an annual series which was released via video-conferencing from Washington DC linking Liberia, Nigeria, Kenya among other African countries moderated by World Bank senior communications officer for the African region, Timothy Carrington, Nigeria came below Ghana and Kenya which ranked among the top 10 reformers worldwide this year.

09/27/2007 05:41:51

Governance Ranking Expected to Improve in Next Ibrahim Survey

John Allen

Source: All Africa Global Media Date: September 27, 2007

Cape Town, Sep 27, 2007 (allAfrica.com/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The business tycoon whose foundation this week published a new survey ranking Africa's governments, in which Liberia scored poorly, has stressed that the statistics on which the study was based date back to 2005. Mo Ibrahim, founder of one of Africa's telecommunications giants and the founder of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, told allAfrica.com in an interview: "Don't forget this is data for 2005. When we have the data for 2006 and 2007, I think you will see changes."

Indignity and despair in Liberia's biggest prison

27 Sep 2007 10:12:00 GMT

Blogged by: Kate Thomas

Reuters and AlertNet are not responsible for the content of this article or for any external internet sites. The views expressed are the author's alone.

When Richard Lovelace penned the 17th century love poem that begins "Stone walls do not a prison make", he obviously hadn't been to Liberia's most overcrowded jail. For at Monrovia Central Prison there is little else but crumbling stone walls, rusty iron bars and the stench of rotting dignity. More than 600 prisoners are held here, five times the jail's intended capacity. They are crammed, sometimes 10 to a cell, inside dark cellblocks where air rarely flows but sewage does.

International Clips on West Africa

09/27/2007 12:11:11

Paul Biya To Address the UN Today

Richard Kwang Kometa

Source: All Africa Global Media Date: September 27, 2007

Sep 27, 2007 (Cameroon Tribune/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- President Paul Biya will address the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly today at about 12 mid day New York time. The President who has been actively present at all the debates in the UN General Assembly, that began on Tuesday, granted an audience to the President of Cote d'Ivoire, Laurent Laurent Gbagbo at 12:45 New York time, (5:45 Cameroon time) shortly after the Ivorian leader made his first major address at the General Assembly of the UN since he took over power seven years ago.

Local Media – Newspaper

Liberia Ranks 170th In World Bank's Group Flagship Of Doing Business

(The News)

- [sic:] Liberia has for the first time been ranked at the 170th position among 178 countries world-wide on 'the Ease of Doing Business' in the World Bank Group's annual flagship of Doing Business survey for 2008.
- The survey also places Liberia at the 14th position of the 16 nations Economic Community of West African States, and third within the Mano River Union (MRU) Basin.
- The DB 2008 survey results released from Washington D.C. in the United States yesterday via live video-conference with Liberia, South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria simultaneously placed Liberia at the 141st position globally in Starting a Business, the 7th in ECOWAS and the 2nd in the MRU Basin.

UNMIL Boss Assures of Strong Military Presence

(Liberian Express, The News, The Informer, Daily Observer)

- Speaking at a regular press briefing held at the UNMIL Headquarters Wednesday, the head of the UN Mission in Liberia Mr. Alan Doss reassured Liberians that the Mission would not put at risk the gains made over the years by leaving the country prematurely.
- Mr. Doss said the resolution recently passed by the UN Security Council extending UNMIL's mandate for the period of one year enables the mission to maintain strong presence of military and police personnel in Liberia. He clarified that the pending drawdown exercise, the Mission would still have over 11,000 strong military and police officer in the country.
- The SRSF's statement was in apparent response to continuing speculations in the media regarding an eventual troop reduction in UNMIL.

Bryant's Case Suffers Setback due to Disappearance of Court's Record

(The News, The Informer, New Democrat, New Vision)

- The criminal court in Monrovia on Wednesday failed to proceed with the economic sabotage trial involving ex-head of state Charles Gyude Bryant due to an alleged disappearance of the court's copy of a motion to dismiss a bill of information earlier filed by the counsels of the former head of state.
- When the case was called for hearing, the copy of the motion to dismiss the bill of information could not be located in the court's file.
- Judge J. Boima Kontoe cited the prosecuting and defense counsels and informed them that they could not argue the motion because he was informed by the clerk of court, Marie Wreh that copy of the movant's motion was not in the court's file. Judge Kontoe

immediately adjourned the case and rescheduled the argument for next Wednesday, October 3, 2007.

Baccus Begins Final Journey Today

(The Monitor, National Chronicle, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, and The Informer)

- The final journey of Gabriel Baccus Matthews, regarded as the father of Liberia's multi-party democracy, begins Thursday with the removal of his body from the Samuel Striker Funeral Home in Monrovia district of Sinkor and taken to the Antoinette Tubman Stadium for a day of wake-keeping.
- Dr. Marcus S. Dahn, national chairman of the United People's Party (UPP) of which Baccus was a founder, said on Wednesday that followers of the fallen political hero would parade with the casket carrying the remains of Baccus through the principal streets of Monrovia and then to the stadium.
- Dr. Dahn said family members, party officials and followers of the late political hero would make a brief stopover at the headquarters of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) and the United People's Party on Carey Street.

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

Under-Secretary Says UN Committed to Helping Liberia Achieve MDGs

- During a meeting with Vice President Joseph Boakai in New York, United Nations Under-Secretary Sheik Diarra renewed the UN's commitment to help Liberia meet the Millennium Development Goals set for 2010.
- Mr. Diarra said that his office has reminded donor Countries to fulfil their pledges to African Countries noting that Liberia and other Countries which has emerged from conflicts, deserve more attention and that he was prepared to raise more awareness about this.
- Mr. Diarra indicated that he was happy that the sanctions on diamond and timber were lifted in that it has opened new prospects for economic growth of Liberia.
- For his part, Vice President Boakai stated that challenges facing Liberia, but said that it was good that the Country has a President who understands the working of the UN System and regretted that the donor-Countries were not fulfilling their pledges.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth FM)

UNHCR Official Says Citizenship Education Crucial Peace in Liberia

- UNHCR Country Representative Liberia Benita Dubani said that the launch yesterday of a peace, human rights and citizenship education centres was a laudable move which is critical to the consolidation of peace in post-conflict Liberia.
- Benita lamented that communities were becoming increasingly vulnerable to rape, child-abuse, mob and domestic violence due to the destruction of social fabrics and value system of the Country but thought that mainstreaming peace, human rights and citizenship education in the national curriculum of primary and secondary schools was a unique opportunity to sustain peace and democratic governance in Liberia.
- A UNHCR release said that one of the peace, human rights and citizenship education centres was named in honour of former UNHCR Representative Megasha Mengebie in recognition of the role he played in supporting this initiative while serving in Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth FM)

Education Ministry Says Schools Graduate Students who Failed Exams

- In a statement, the Ministry of Education said that some senior high school authorities allowed students who failed the West African Examination Council exams to attend graduation exercises in violation of its directives, re-echoing that only 12th Graders who successfully passed the State public test would be eligible to graduate.

- The Ministry warned high school administrators violating this directive to desist as it undermines efforts of the Government to set standard for the educational system of the Country.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth FM)

Doss Assures Liberians of UNMIL's Protection regardless of Troop Cuts

- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss assured Liberians that despite the planned reduction by next year of UNMIL peacekeepers, the Mission will continue to carry out the UN Security Council Resolution by providing maximum security for Liberia with the force being vigilant in patrolling Liberia's borders and promising to deal with any criminal action that threatens the stability of the State.
- The SRSG stressed the need for a serious national reconciliation and building of the capacity of Liberians in order to move the Country forward.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth FM)

Journalists Union Scorns Maltreatment of Reporters

- A Press Union of Liberia (PUL) release said that the Union is unhappy about the alleged maltreatment of journalists by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's security officers during the recent visit to Liberia of Sierra Leonean President Ernest Bai Koroma.
- The PUL noted that the latest attempt of hindering journalists from carrying out their duties undermines the effort to smoothen the rough edges between the media and the security forces.
- The Union added that it was saddened by President Sirleaf's comments following the incident saying that the journalists were aggressive in the discharge of their duties lamenting that the statement fuelled the intimidation of journalists by some State security personnel.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth FM)

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UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 26 September 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia to press ahead with bid to seize Taylor's assets

MONROVIA, Sept 25, 2007 (AFP) - Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will push for the seizure of the assets of ex-president Charles Taylor, on trial for war crimes, her spokesman said Tuesday. Parliament last week rejected a bill aimed at seizing the assets of Taylor and his aides, arguing it was unconstitutional. "No matter how the situation will be, the president will still find other means in her reach to seize the assets of those individuals," Sirleaf's spokesman Cyrus Badio told AFP.

International Clips on West Africa

Presidential race in Cote d'Ivoire could be held before October 2008

ABIDJAN, Sept 25, 2007 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Boureima Badini, representative of Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore who is the facilitator of Cote d'Ivoire's peace process, has said presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire could be held before October 2008, according to reports by local media on Tuesday. "National identification process has started, meaning elections could be organized before October 2008 if all these operations run smoothly," Badini said after a meeting with Robert Beugre Mambe, president of Cote d'Ivoire's national independent commission (CEI).

09/26/2007 02:04:32

FEATURE-Orphan chimps turned killer find Leone refuge

By Daniel Flynn

REGENT, Sierra Leone, Sept 26 (Reuters) - They can leap playful somersaults or maul a human to death. Meet the chimpanzee, man's closest relative. Today, Philip, a powerful male, plays tricks to earn a juicy passion fruit. But last year he was among 31 chimps from the Tacugama sanctuary in Sierra Leone which mauled one man to death and attacked four others after escaping from their enclosure. Most of the runaways, including Philip, were recaptured. But four chimps are still at large in the mist-shrouded forests outside the war-scarred capital Freetown, including the group's huge and aggressive alpha male, Bruno.

Local Media - Newspaper

Suspected Container Smugglers Charged

(New Democrat, The News, National Chronicle and Heritage)

- Five employees of the National Port Authority and a Custom Officer were yesterday sent to Court for smuggling. The defendants, Jonah Sarnor, Siagbe B. Donmo, Musu Kamara, Beyan Nuwolo, Bobby Jimmy and Custom officer, George Slanger were arrested in April 2007 for allegedly smuggling three 40-foot containers into the port with the help of the Custom Officer. According to Court records, the action was a breach of the normal procedure which defrauded the Government of storage fees of more than US\$20,000 and US\$25,000 custom duties.

Chinese Suspected Murderer of Chinese Woman Arraigned

(The Informer, Daily Observer, New Democrat, The News and National Chronicle)

- Correspondents said that the trial of the suspected murderer of a Chinese woman in July, resumed yesterday at the Criminal Court A having indicted suspect Mohammed Kanneh for the murder. The Chinese was an Instructor at the Monrovia Vocational Training Center where ex-combatants are being taught how to finish baboon products into furniture.

New Commerce Minister Vows to Enforce Price Structures

(The News, Liberian Diaspora and Heritage)

- Addressing a new conference, Commerce Minister Frances Johnson-Morris warned against "deliberate malpractices" to undermine the Country's economy and impose hardship on the Liberians.
- Minister Morris named understating of goods with the Finance Ministry and overstating of value of the same goods with at the Commerce Ministry as some of the malpractices business people commit. Adding, she announced the establishment of a robust taskforce to monitor and enforce price structures.

Canadian Energy Group Invests US\$15 Million in Liberia

(The News, National Chronicle, Daily Observer and The Analyst)

- The Buchanan Renewable Energies, a Canadian multi-million dollars company and the Liberian Government yesterday agreed for the Company to invest in biomass fuel production in the Country. Biomass fuel is generated from wood which is used for electricity.
- According to the company's President Joel Strickland, the Company is to develop a Liberian biomass industry that would be reliable enough for electricity generators in Europe and perhaps, North America and has already brought into the Country some 90 pieces of machines to commence operations with more than 400 Liberians to be employed.

Maritime Bureau to Establish Rescue Center

(The News, The Inquirer, Daily Observe and Heritage)

- In collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Bureau of Maritime Commissioner John Morlu said that his Bureau was working out modalities to establish a Maritime Rescue Coordinating Centre in Liberia to respond to emerging maritime disasters. Mr. Morlu added that with the level of support received from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Liberia was now prepared to host such a Centre.

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

New Minister to Check Cumbersome Business Registration Procedures

Arguments begin at Criminal Court on Bryant's Bill of Information

- Correspondents said that legal argument into the Bill of Information filed by the National Transitional Government of Liberia Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant's Lawyers will take place today at the Criminal Court C. The lawyers representing Mr.

Bryant filed the Bill with the Court after the Supreme Court ruled that Mr. Bryant can be tried for his alleged act of corruption.

- But Bryant's Lawyers, in the Bill, called on the Court to dismiss a resolution of the former National Transitional Legislative Assembly under which Mr. Bryant was asked to be tried was not part of the indictment.
- However, the State Prosecutors in their petition to the defense Lawyer's bill of information said that the Court has no power to hear such a bill of information.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth FM)

National Legislature Renovation Work Stalls

- Sources confided to reporters that having spent more than US\$1 million on the renovation of the Capitol Building, the seat of the National Legislature, work on the structure were yet to complete due to the lack of funds.
- According to the House of Representatives Committee on Public Works the areas left undone include the generator room; security booth and the elevator therefore the planned official turning over programme scheduled for October would be postponed.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth FM)

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.

The Daily Star

Friday, September 28, 2007

Danger still stalks the Hariri tribunal

By Chibli Mallat

Commentary by

Unless the new president of Lebanon is fully committed to the mixed Lebanese-international tribunal to punish those involved in the assassination of the former prime minister, Rafik Hariri, creation of the tribunal will be further delayed, if not effectively stopped. The experience of United Nations-established tribunals, all five of them, underlines a simple fact: International justice benefits immensely in specific countries if the president is committed to it.

The first prototype of international justice was the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The ICTY was established by the UN Security Council in May 1993, after a year-long UN commission of investigation. It was ineffective for crimes perpetrated in Serbia until President Slobodan Milosevic was driven from power in 1999, before later being surrendered to the court. In contrast, elsewhere in the Balkans the ICTY benefited from the early support of the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and eventually of Croatia. In addition, the establishment of the tribunal and the role of the UN prosecutor in the indictment of Milosevic during the Kosovo war played a key legitimizing role for the Serbian people's opposition to his considerable crimes.

The same pattern obtained with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, created in 1994; the International Criminal Court (ICC), established in 1998 by treaty, but which became effective in 2002; the Special Tribunal for Sierra Leone, also set up in 2002; and the Special Tribunal for Cambodia, established in 2007.

In 2006, the ICC indicted two individuals in Darfur responsible for crimes against humanity, a year after the Security Council extended its jurisdiction to the Sudan conflict. However, the prosecution is finding it extremely difficult to operate with the government in Khartoum actively opposing the court.

The Cambodia tribunal has just started its work. The long delay in its establishment - roughly three decades after the 1975-1979 genocide - was due to the opposition of successive Cambodian governments, which dallied and stonewalled, despite immense international pressure to bring to justice Khmer Rouge mass murderers.

In contrast, the Rwanda tribunal and the Sierra Leone tribunal (after which the Lebanon tribunal is modeled) received the backing of their respective governments in a way that helped accelerate the tribunals' work, making both legal venues far more effective. Whatever lack of effectiveness they might have displayed came from internal bureaucratic slowness and the uneven quality of judges and prosecutors.

An international pattern therefore emerges: Where the executive opposes international justice, a court's work becomes much more difficult, even if the tribunal is set up with the full backing of the UN Security Council.

The emergence of the Lebanon tribunal confirms the international pattern. The tribunal has taken long to be established because of opposition to it by senior figures in the state when the idea first

surfaced, as well as a systematic pattern of assassinations after June 2005. Then, even with a Siniora government generally supportive of the tribunal, the sometimes implicit, sometimes explicit opposition to the tribunal by the pro-Syrian camp, some of whose members were represented in the government, delayed establishment of the tribunal for several months.

A president committed to justice would have ensured a far quicker tribunal. A noncommittal president, in turn, has the latitude to undermine the Lebanon tribunal by creating an adverse atmosphere and encouraging impunity. The full support of the presidency is also essential legally, because too many of the court's actions depend on Lebanese law for the tribunal to be wholly effective. Three examples that go to the heart of the tribunal's vulnerabilities are significant in this regard.

First, under Article 2 of the tribunal's statutes, Lebanese law remains the central legal reference for the tribunal. A president opposed to, or even just lukewarm toward, the tribunal has the means to undermine its work in the way he chooses to apply Lebanese law. In the Lebanese Constitution, the president is officially "the protector of the Constitution," and he can use his prerogatives to argue that the tribunal's operations jar with Lebanese law in a variety of ways, including through a wide interpretation of the immunity of domestic and foreign officials, protecting eventual indictees.

Second, another easy way for the president to oppose the Lebanon tribunal is through his power over Lebanese judges. Through the Ministry of Justice, the president can question the appointment of judges, make it difficult for them to carry out their duties in Lebanon, punish them by opposing their advancement once they complete their mandate, and create an atmosphere of intimidation that cripples their work.

Third, a president can gum up the legal and administrative machinery of the tribunal. Article 8 of the statutes states: "An Office of the Special Tribunal for the conduct of investigations shall be established in Lebanon subject to the conclusion of appropriate arrangements with the Government." If the government, under the president's impulse and effective veto power, delays the office's work, or even opposes it, its establishment and operations may be seriously hindered.

This is also true for the financing of the tribunal - just under half of whose expenses are covered by the government. The president's refusal to sign the disbursement decrees will directly affect funding of the tribunal.

These potentialities should make us wary before assuming that the Lebanon tribunal's effectiveness is a foregone conclusion. The devil is in the details, and there are many ways the tribunal can yet be obstructed. Only if Lebanon has a president fully committed to international justice can the tribunal overcome the immense hurdles awaiting it.

Chibli Mallat, S.J. Quinney professor of law at the University of Utah and EU Jean Monnet

professor at Saint Joseph University in Beirut, has litigated major international criminal trials. He

is a candidate for the Lebanese presidency. He wrote this commentary for THE DAILY STAR.