

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



A trap in a farm fence to protect the new rice from cutting-grass and other rodents.

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, 3 December 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Office of the Prosecutor

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

REMARKS OF STEPHEN RAPP, CHIEF PROSECUTOR,
AND JOSEPH KAMARA, DEPUTY PROSECUTOR,
OF THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
Press Conference, Abuja, Nigeria December 2, 2008

It is a pleasure to be with you today to address the Nigerian media and the people of Nigeria. Though the seat of the Special Court for Sierra Leone is, of course, in Freetown, I believe strongly in the importance of our work for the region as a whole. That is why I am so pleased to be here in Abuja to share news of the work of the Prosecution with you.

I undertake this mission, along with the Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court, Joseph Kamara, with the kind assistance of the Nigerian government. This week in Abuja and Lagos we are meeting with government officials, including the Minister of Justice, representatives from the ECOWAS Court of Justice, the Nigerian Bar Association, and civil society.

The purpose of our mission is to discuss the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and its impact not only on that country, but on the region as a whole. We are here to share with the Nigerian people why our work is so important to peace and stability in the sub-region, and for the progress and welfare of all citizens of West Africa.

The people of Sierra Leone suffered terribly during their civil war. The atrocities endured were simply horrendous. As our judges said in pronouncing the first convictions, the acts were “some of the most heinous, brutal and atrocious crimes in human history.” But the hardship of war was not unique to Sierra Leone. Hundreds of thousands of innocent people were killed and injured, and millions more displaced in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and the Ivory Coast.

These conflicts did not respect national borders. Their impact was felt directly throughout the region. As a major regional power, Nigeria accepted that it had a responsibility to help secure peace and security in the ECOWAS states. During the Sierra Leone civil war, Nigeria provided the great majority of the ECOMOG soldiers and resources at great sacrifice that helped restore peace and security. For this, the people of Sierra Leone remain enormously grateful.

After the civil war ended, the government and the United Nations established the Special Court for Sierra Leone to put on trial those individuals who allegedly bear the greatest responsibility for the crimes and atrocities committed.

Since the first days of the Court, the government of Nigeria has given us its full support. Its representative at the United Nations has served on our management committee, it has made financial contributions, offered strong political support, and has provided peacekeeping forces to ensure security at the Court itself.

Yesterday, we had the honour of meeting with the Minister of Justice to discuss matters of mutual concern. I was moved by his pledge of the government’s full ongoing support for the Court, and by his powerful words on the importance of our work.

The Minister said that the Court's efforts are essential to safeguarding the peace that Nigerians cherish. He spoke of President Yar'Adua's commitment to justice and the rule of law. Africa, he said, needs leaders who enforce the rule of law – not ones who act as though they *are* the law. I wholeheartedly agree.

I will give you an account of the trial against former Liberian President Charles Taylor, which is proceeding in The Hague for reasons of regional security. But before I do, let me yield to the Deputy Prosecutor who will describe how our Court is different than the other international courts and then report on the results of our trials in Freetown.

[Deputy Prosecutor Kamara]

Unlike the United Nations Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, the Special Court for Sierra Leone was created by an agreement between a national government – the government of Sierra Leone – and the United Nations. The UN appoints a simple majority of the judges while the President of Sierra Leone appoints the remaining judges. The UN appoints the Prosecutor while the President appoints the Deputy Prosecutor. 60% of the people working at the Special Court are citizens of Sierra Leone. We remain close to the people of the country with an outreach program that conducts hundreds of meetings around the country annually to report on our work and to answer questions and receive comments. The Prosecutor, myself, and other principals of the Court participate in many of these meetings

There were three fighting factions during the war in Sierra Leone. These consisted of two rebel groups, the Revolutionary United Front and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, and the Civil Defence Forces, which fought against the rebels.

The trial of the leadership of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council was completed in February of this year, and all three Accused persons were found guilty of War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and other violations of International Humanitarian Law. The convictions run the gamut of crimes from mass murder to sexual violence. They also represent the first guilty verdicts in history for the crime of the use and conscription of child soldiers. These groundbreaking rulings send a strong message wherever such crimes still occur today.

The trial of the leaders of the other rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front, is now complete and will hear judgement within the next two months. The crimes for which the RUF leaders are accused are equally horrible.

The Prosecution also secured convictions against the Accused persons in the case against the Civil Defence Forces leadership. Though the CDF fought *against* the rebels to restore the government to power, they too committed atrocities that the Prosecution could not, and did not, ignore.

[Chief Prosecutor Rapp]

Finally, we come to the case against former Liberian President, Charles Taylor. He is charged with 11 counts of Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes involving murder, mutilation, rape, terror against civilians, enslavement, pillage and the use of child soldiers. The evidence that has been presented against him at The Hague reveals that no one is more responsible for the suffering caused in Sierra Leone.

The Prosecution has nearly completed its case against Taylor, with over 80 witnesses having testified. Once we close our case in the new year, the Defence will begin the presentation of its evidence, and judgement is expected sometime in 2009, to be followed by an appeal.

Taylor's trial is both a concrete example and a symbol of a turning point for the region. Few thought he would ever see the inside of a courtroom. But the world refused to allow him to escape justice. Governments from across Africa and around the globe were part of the effort to have Taylor brought to trial. The role of regional leaders like Liberia's Johnson Sirleaf and Nigeria's Obasanjo were critical to his arrest and transfer to the Special Court. Human rights groups and victims were instrumental as well, including here in Nigeria. To see Taylor now facing justice in a court of law is to know that impunity no longer reigns, and that no man is above the law.

Since the end of the war, the international community, the government and the people of Sierra Leone have been working to create a more stable, prosperous and just society. The Special Court is certainly not the only part of this effort, but it is indeed a crucial component. We hope that our work can give the people of the entire region continued hope in a future of progress, justice and, above all, peace.

Once again, let me say how pleased I am to address the people of Nigeria and to be visiting the country. Thank you.

* * *

Please direct requests or questions for the Office of the Prosecutor to:
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Email: waiser@un.org

Awoko Online

Monday, 1 December 2008

<http://awoko.org/index>

Stability in Liberia to impact on Sierra Leone's future and region, says UNMIL Force Commander

The Force Commander of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Lt.-Gen. ATM Zahirul Alam, says the role of UNMIL in consolidating peace and stability in Liberia would positively impact on the future of Sierra Leone and the entire region. General Alam was speaking in Freetown, capital of the Republic of Sierra Leone, where he represented the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj, and awarded UN peacekeeping medals to 250 UNMIL Mongolian soldiers. The Mongolian soldiers are providing security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Assuring both Liberians and Sierra Leoneans of the role of UNMIL, the Force Commander said, "UNMIL will remain vigilant and committed to a broader agenda of peace building and support to the governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone, in consolidating the rule of law and capacity building of national institutions." Lt.-Gen. Alam warned that any attempt to reverse the gains made so far by UNMIL would be met by firm action.

Commending the Mongolian Guard Force for discharging their duties with professionalism and dedication, Lt.-Gen. Alam added that Mongolia has proven her fidelity and commitment to the ideals, principles and objectives of the United Nations. "The Mongolian people have shown the world how deeply they value international peace and security," he noted.

The Force Commander specifically thanked Colonel Batjargal Purevdorj, the Commanding Officer of the Mongolian Contingent, for his able and exemplary leadership. "But most importantly, I commend every one of you here today. The Liberian and Sierra Leonean people appreciate all that you have been doing for them," he emphasized.

Mongolian soldiers have been deployed in Sierra Leone since the Security Council Resolution 1626 of December 2005, which tasked UNMIL to provide a military guard force at the Special Court. They provide security for the premises of the Special Court for Sierra Leone; they provide convoy protection for detainees when they are moved outside the Special Court's compound; and they are ready at all times to evacuate the officials and detainees of the Court in cooperation with UNMIL's Quick Reaction Force (QRF).

Attending the medal award ceremony were Retired Major Palor Conteh, Minister of Defence of Sierra Leone, UNMIL Military Chief of Staff, Brig.-Gen. Emmanuel Quist, Director of Mission Support of UNMIL, Mr. Stephen Lieberman, officials of the UN Integrated Peace Building Office in Sierra Leone and the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and other senior military officials of Sierra Leone and UNMIL.

Standard Times

Wednesday, 3 December 2008

Reparations for War Victims

NaCSA commences registration for war victims

The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), on Monday 1st December, commenced the registration of eligible victims of the Sierra Leone conflict for the implementation of the Reparations programme. The programme is designed to respond to the needs of the most severely affected war victims who are presently in vulnerable conditions as a result of the human rights abuses they suffered during the conflict. These include amputees, severely wounded, victims of sexual violence, war widows and children. The registration of these victims is presently taking place at all NaCSA District Offices for victims in the provinces, and at the National Stadium swimming pool room 2004 and the Waterloo dis-

trict council for victims in Western Area Urban and Western Area rural respectively.

Registration officers have been specifically trained for the exercise and only eligible victims who fall into one or more of the above categories will be registered to claim benefit from the programme. In a bid to prevent fraud, applicants have been asked to come to the registration centre with documentary evidence in the forms of medical reports, registration cards from previous programmes dealing with war victims or attestation from their paramount chiefs. This is to ensure that only those whose present condition is as a direct result of human rights abuses suffered during the conflict are registered.

The registration exercise will then be followed by a verification exercise during which the lists of registered victims will be cross checked against other records such as the TRC list and lists from NGOs and other organizations that have been working with victims to identify those who have registered with previous programs, the nature of benefits they have received, and their present needs. This will guide NaCSA in the determination of the nature and types of benefits individual beneficiaries will receive.

Although all eligible victims of the conflict will be registered, victims who have benefited from previous programs will not be provided with the same benefit under the reparations program. In addition

ex-servicemen, ex-combatants and war widows of former soldiers will not be registered and are not eligible for the reparations programme as they have already benefited from previous programs implemented by the government of Sierra Leone.

The Reparations programme will primarily target civilian victims of the war as recommended by the TRC. The government has already secured initially funding from the UN under the peace building Fund (PBF) for the implementation of this programme. During project year 1 eligible victims will benefit from social service packages including educational support, physical health care, psycho-social support, and shelter for the most vulnerable. Community and

symbolic reparations in the forms of memorials, reburials and remembrances will also be undertaken. Also, the Directorate of reparations will develop a five year strategic funding plan, during this first year, to attract additional funds and expand upon the categories of victims covered and services provided in subsequent years to cover fully the recommendations of the TRC.

The Reparations programme will enable government to meet its obligations in the Lome peace Agreement and act upon the recommendation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to implement a reparations programme as a way of responding to the needs of severely affected war victims and promote national healing and reconciliation

BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

Report from The Hague

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is accused of supporting the Sierra Leonean rebel group, the RUF, with arms and ammunition in exchange for diamonds. But how were the arms and ammunition delivered from Liberia to RUF territory in Sierra Leone? Well, an insider witness, a former RUF Signal Commander, has identified several routes allegedly used by Mr. Taylor's Commanders in Liberia to transport arms and ammunition to the RUF in Sierra Leone. The BBC World Service Trust Mariama Khai Fornah reports from The Hague.

FORNAH: The Prosecution insider witness, Dauda Fonnies, continued his testimony on Tuesday, generating deep smile from Mr. Charles Taylor when the witness associated the former Liberian leader into a communication link between the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone and the Liberian NPFL fighters.

Dauda told the court as a Radio Operator he communicated daily with Mr. Taylor's station, code named "Tree Top", especially when the RUF needed arms and ammunition.

The prosecuting attorney, Christopher Santora, was interested in the routes allegedly used by Taylor's men to transport ammunition to RUF territories in Sierra Leone.

FONNIE: We would be in Kailahun and the ammunition would arrive. Before the ammunition arrives, the message will be sent. And when the ammunition reaches us in Kailahun the Pa, meaning Pa Sankoh, would tell me to inform Tree Top that he has received the consignment.

SANTORA: Do you have any information as to which route this ammunition arrived from?

FONNIE: Yes, it came most often from Gbanga through Zorzor, Voinjama, from Voinjama, Foya, then into Sierra Leone.

FORNAH: Dauda, making reference to the command structure of the RUF, named Sam Bockarie and Benjamin Yeaten as the top leaders of the RUF. Prosecution lawyer Santora asked the witness if he knew who Benjamin Yeaten's immediate boss was.

FONNIE: Benjamin Yeaten's commander that I knew was his leader – I can say our leader, our former leader, Mr. Taylor. And he was a CIC. He was Benjamin Yeaten's commander.

SANTORA: Why do you refer to Mr. Taylor as "our former leader"?

FONNIE: The reason why I refer to him as our former leader is that most often he was the one that Mosquito consulted with for strategic actions that Mosquito wanted to take. Mosquito used to report to Mr. Taylor directly.

SANTORA: How do you know that?

FONNIE: I was a contact person that liased the communication between them.

FORNAH: The witness testified that in 1998 he travelled to Monrovia with Sam Bockarie and their delegation was received by former Special Security Service Director Benjamin Yeaten on the Monrovia-

Kakata Highway during the presidency of Charles Taylor. The former RUF Signal Commander said he was lodged at Benjamin Yeaten's house in Monrovia.

SANTORA: Now you said you went to Benjamin Yeaten's house. Where exactly was this house?

FONNIE: It was one area in Monrovia called Congo Town, that is behind Mr. Taylor's place. They refer to the place as "White Flower", Mr. Taylor's residence.

SANTORA: Where is Base One located?

FONNIE: Base One was at Benjamin's house. It was a radio station that was called Base One.

SANTORA: Can you describe this radio station?

FONNIE: It was a VHF radio set. It was in one room, one of the rooms in Benjamin's compound. That is where it was. And the radio set was a Yaesu radio set.

FORNAH: Mr. Dauda Fonnies, the Sierra Leonean witness, told the court from Monrovia Sam Bockarie's delegation took back to Sierra Leone a truck load of ammunition allegedly provided by Charles Taylor. The witness said the ammunition were to stop the West African Peacekeeping Force, ECOMOG, from advancing against the RUF in 1999.

For the BBC WST, this is Mariama Khai Fornah reporting from The Hague.

African Press Agency
Wednesday, 3 December 2008

Liberian Gov't. to receive Taylor's assets

APA-Lagos (Nigeria) The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Mr. Stephen Rapp, has said that a global search for the assets of former Liberian President Charles Taylor has commenced and that they would be handover to the Liberian government.

Mr. Taylor is being tried by a special court in The Hague for 11 count-charge, which includes, murder, mutilation, rape, terror against civilians, enslavement, pillage and the use of child soldiers.

Mr. Rapp who was in Abuja, Tuesday, to see President Umaru Yar' Adua told Journalists that the Liberian government would use proceeds from Taylor's recovered assets to compensate victims of the Liberian war if they made claims.

He also disclosed that the United Nations planned to set up a compensation fund for victims of the civil war in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Rapp described as untrue reports that Nigerian government was not cooperating with a team of experts set up by the United Nations Security Council to trace Taylor's assets.

"Since the first days of the Court, the government of Nigeria has given us full support," he said, adding that "the prosecution has nearly completed its case against Taylor, with over 80 witnesses having testified."

He said: "Once we close our case in the New Year, the Defence will begin the presentation of its evidence, and judgment is expected sometime in 2009, to be followed by an appeal."

Rapp noted that the West African region was experiencing a turning point in terms of justice, noting that "...few thought he (Taylor) would ever see the inside of a courtroom, but the world refused to allow him escape justice."

Governments from across Africa and around the globe were part of the effort to have Taylor brought to trial, Rapp concluded.

BBC Online

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

Mass break-out from Liberia jail

More than 100 inmates have escaped from Liberia's only maximum security prison in the capital, Monrovia.

Officials at the South Beach compound in Monrovia say the prisoners hurled stones and bottles at guards.

They then forced open the main gates to make their escape. About 30 prisoners have been found so far.

The prison, which holds nearly 1,000 inmates, is guarded by unarmed police along with personnel from the United Nations peacekeeping force.

Liberia is recovering from a 14-year civil war which ended in 2003.

The BBC's Jonathan Paye-Layleh in Monrovia says the escapees are mainly suspected armed robbers who had been charged and were waiting for a court appearance.

They had warned prison guards earlier on Monday that if they were not taken to court, they did not intend to spend Christmas behind bars.

Our reporter says the jailbreak is a blow to Liberia's quest to rid the post-war crime and insecurity.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
2 December 2008**

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

Newspaper Summary

Police Re-arrest over 40 Criminals following major jail break in Monrovia

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

- Liberian Police and their UN counterparts have launched a massive manhunt for several prisoners who escaped from the main prison center in Monrovia. More than 100 inmates at the Monrovia Prison Center broke jail on Monday and made their way into the city center.
- How the prisoners escaped is not yet clear but some local dailies including the New Democrat newspaper blamed it on security lapses at the prison. The prison is known to be overcrowded.
- The escapees reportedly removed the barbed wire from the eastern end of the prison compound's fence before jumping down onto the roof of a nearby building.
- The jail break comes barely two weeks after correction officers staged a go-slow in demand of salary arrears and benefits.
- UN Police from Nepal are providing security at the main prison centre even though they have no instructions to shoot and kill. The News, New Democrat, National Chronicle, The Inquirer newspapers said the Police re-arrested over 40 of the jail breakers following a vigorous search operation. Most of the escapees are hardened criminals and residents fear they might unleash terror into the society.

TRC Releases Listing of Alleged Perpetrators summoned to testify

(Daily Observer)

- Liberia's Truth Commission (TRC) has released a listing of perpetrators and alleged perpetrators the Commission is requesting to appear before the commission in response to allegations of war crimes and gross human rights violations including violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws during the course of the Liberian crisis from 1979 to 2003. The publication includes violators and alleged perpetrators who have elected to ignore the TRC process and refused to appear before the Commission in response to allegations against them respecting the roles they played during the crisis

UN Police Commissioner Calls for Protection of Women and Children

(The Informer and Heritage)

- Speaking at a handing-over ceremony of a newly constructed police station in Maryland County, UN Police Commissioner, Henrik Stiernblad, underscored the need to protect women and children as they are the most vulnerable to sexual abuse.

France Defers Liberia's Debt – Signs Rescheduling Agreement

(The News, The Analyst, and the Daily Observer)

- The Liberian Government has signed a US\$1.9 million debt rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club in France.
- Speaking at the signing ceremony yesterday, French Ambassador Jacques Gerard expressed his government's commitment to helping Liberia.
- Replying, Finance Minister, Augustine Nganfuan lauded the French Government for its assistance to the country.

- In April this year, the Paris Club agreed to waive about US\$250 million of Liberia's bilateral debt.
- Liberia is servicing an external debt of US\$4.7 billion.

Radio Summary

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

Over 100 Prisoners Break Jail at Monrovia's Main Prison

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M., Sky F.M. and ELBC)

France Defers Liberia's Debt

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M., Sky F.M. and ELBC)

STAR RADIO (News monitored today at 9:00 am)

President Sirleaf Urges Private Institutions to Promote Quality Education

- Delivering the 27th graduation convocation of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says government will continue to institute measures to re-activate the country's educational system.
- President Sirleaf named the measures as the availability of Free and Compulsory Primary Education, the Young Adult Primary Education and the Adult Literacy Programme as part of efforts by government to expand educational opportunities for all Liberians.
- The President then urged private institutions to complement government's efforts towards providing sound and quality education.

LPRC Managing Director Harry Greaves Admits NPFL Ties

- LPRC Managing Director, Harry Greaves has confirmed writing series of letters, soliciting financial support in the name of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) in the 1990s.
- In his testimony before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission public hearings Monday, Mr. Greaves said he initially sympathized with the aims of the NPFL but said he was not a member or supporter of the group.

Thisday Online (Nigeria)

Wednesday, 3 December 2008

‘Liberian War Victims’ll Be Compensated’

- Court delivers judgment next year

Adequate compensation awaits Nigerian victims of the war crimes committed by former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, if he is convicted next year by the Special Court sitting in The Hague. The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Mr. Stephen Rapp, disclosed this in Abuja yesterday while addressing journalists.

He said assets owned by Taylor were being traced across the world.

He explained that assets recovered from Taylor would be paid to the Liberian government to be used as compensation for victims of the war who come forward to make claims.

According to him, the United Nations plans to establish a victim compensation fund for victims of the civil war in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Some Nigerians, who were residents of Liberia were victims of the war. Some had their hands amputated. Rapp said that there were reports showing Nigeria had supported efforts to bring Taylor to justice which contradicted the report that Nigerian government was not cooperating with a team of experts set up by the United Nations Security Council to trace assets belonging to Taylor.

“Since the first days of the court, the government of Nigeria has given us full support,” he said.

Taylor is facing 11-count charge of crimes against humanity and war crimes involving murder, mutilation, rape, terror against civilians, enslavement, pillage and the use of child soldiers.

Rapp said that the evidence presented against Taylor at the Hague showed that no one was more responsible for the suffering he allegedly caused in Sierra Leone.

“The prosecution has nearly completed its case against Taylor, with over 80 witnesses having testified.

Once we close our case in the New Year, the defence will begin the presentation of its evidence, and judgment is expected sometime in 2009, to be followed by an appeal,” he said.

According to him, Taylor’s trial is both a concrete example and a symbol of a turning point for the region.

"Few thought he would ever see the inside of a courtroom. But the world refused to allow him escape justice. Government from across Africa and around the globe were part of the effort to have Taylor brought to trial," he added.

All Africa.com

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

Liberia: TRC Releases List of Alleged Perpetrators

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC) has released for public information and notice a listing of perpetrators and alleged perpetrators the Commission is requesting to appear before it to address themselves to allegations of war crimes and gross human rights violations including violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws during the course of the Liberian crisis from 1979 to 2003.

The publication includes violators and alleged perpetrators who have elected to ignore the TRC process and refused to appear before the Commission in respond to allegations against them respecting the roles they played during the crisis.

The TRC also published a list of "Persons of interest" who to date have not appeared at the Commission but are considered persons who have particular knowledge and information about past events deemed expedient to the inquiry process of the commission because of their roles, positions in government or privy to public policy issues over the period 1979 to 2003.

TRC Chairman, Cllr. Jerome J Verdier, Sr said "... these publications have become necessary as a matter of public notice and citation to these personalities at large because some people have deliberately avoided the Commission by becoming both elusive and evasive, changing their addresses or residence very frequently, authorizing their agents or staff not to receive communications from the TRC and deliberately lying about the service of citations by the Commission".

Cllr. Verdier: "This is yet another attempt of the Commission to ensure that its processes and procedures are fair to such an extent that everyone is given an opportunity to be heard by the Commission and be confronted with the allegations, information and evidence the Commission have gathered about them before the Commission makes any determination on their roles, actions or complicity to war crimes and massive human rights violations that characterized the Liberian conflict..."

The Commission says its latest action is consistent with promoting due process and the last attempt of the Commission to ensure that people needed by the Commission appears voluntarily and avoid confrontation with the laws of Liberia controlling the process. Continuing, the Commission says this action is also consistent with its 2007 Public Bulletin No.7, published early this year, on the use of Warrant and Compulsory Processes in which the Commission declared in counts 1 and 2, that

1. "In consideration of the National Reconciliation objectives of the TRC, and the sound discretionary authority it enjoys the Commission will spare no effort utilizing persuasion and moral suasion, etc to ensure the voluntary compliance or attendance of witnesses to the TRC Process.
2. The TRC will resort to the use of its compulsory process such as subpoenas, warrants or arrest as a matter of last resort when all other efforts shall have failed or where such compulsory process is the best option under the circumstances".

Concluding, the statement stated that the list is by no means exhaustive, and called on all persons to comply with the citation and notice of the Commission to appear, reiterating that the use of the Commission's compulsory subpoena powers remains an open option and that the Commission will not

hesitate to prosecute anyone who fails to testify under Section 12.12 of the Penal Laws of Liberia which provides as follows:

"Refusal to testify before or hindering certain official bodies

A person has committed a first degree misdemeanor if without lawful privilege or excuse, in the course of an official proceeding before the legislature, an administrative body of government or any lawfully constituted body of government, he

Refuses, after lawful process, to appear or to produce the material required of him, or be sworn or make equivalent affirmation as a witness, or answer a pertinent question and continues in such refusal after the person presiding thereat directs him to answer and advises him that his continuing refusal may subject him to criminal prosecution; or

Purposely hinders such official proceeding by noise or violent or tumultuous behavior."

List of perpetrators or alleged perpetrators needed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to respond to various violations of human rights and international humanitarian law ranging from murder, massacre, and rape to forced Displacement, etc, levied against them by victims of the civil war.

These individuals are required to call at the TRC offices on 9th street between 9:00am and 6:00pm daily from December 1 to December 17, 2008. The TRC can be contacted at these numbers: 06574953 & 06545968.

Abraham dorley	Bestman kpadeh	Christopher Cambo	Edward Farley
Abu keita aka small soldier	Beyan Mulbah	Co. Zorkpay	Elijah Tarpeh aka Dust to Dust
Alex tolbert alias gen young devil	Big boy jerry	D. K. Bracewell	Emmanuel Clark
Alieu korsia	Bodio Toe aka Dirty Water	Daniel Gweh	Emmanuel Samuels
Alphonso duo	Boye Tarley	Daniel T Seth	Emmanuel Vambo
Amos cheyee	Brook Goukanue	David Daniel	Emmette Sando Gray
Amos kollie	Charles Gtaylor	Sulon	Mr.
Augustine tamba aka kitalay	Charles George	Doepu	Eric wongbay
Austin Clarke	Charles Kollie	Menkazohn	Eric Y. Barkpoh
Benjamin yeaten (50)	Chemor Kuyateh	Dominic Sayeh	Erick Flahn
Esther Swen (Sticky Panties)	Francis Dolo	Dorbor Momolu	Ericson Bardea
Eugene Wilson	Gen George	Dwight S. Harvey	Ericson Bardio
Folbure Jabateh	Mansuo	Gonoe Gladiah aka Bad Child	James Cooper
George Menyon	General Kangar	Harrison Ziaquin	James Dennis
James Kpaquah	General Saye	Horatious Dan	James King aka Shavy
	Jerry Risks	Morais	Shevy
	Jefferson Jallah	Jacob Davis	James Smith
	James Lazalee		

hrea.org (Human Rights Education Associates)

Monday, 1 December 2008

<http://www.hrea.org/index>

National and international prosecutors meet in Tanzania

International Federation for Human Rights Press release

Establishing a Seamless Web of Justice

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and REDRESS participated in the ‘Forum between Offices of the Prosecutors of UN Ad Hoc Criminal Tribunals and National Prosecuting Authorities’, which took place in Arusha, Tanzania, from 26-28 November 2008.

The Forum brought together representatives from national prosecuting authorities and Ministries of Justice from over 30 countries, the ICTR, ICTY, ICC, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia and civil society organisations. Participants discussed strategies to foster greater international cooperation in the fight against impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and addressed the role of national prosecution authorities in the context of the completion strategy of the ad hoc tribunals.

The Forum’s conclusions included a renewed commitment of national prosecution authorities to work together to ensure that no safe havens remain for suspects of serious international crimes and that any work left over from the mandates of the international tribunals is efficiently undertaken by national systems. Throughout the three days of collaboration, the need for States to close the impunity gap resulting from the limited mandate of the tribunals was highlighted as were mechanisms such as extradition procedures and universal jurisdiction.

REDRESS and FIDH commend the organisers of the Forum and urge participating States to actively address the issues discussed in the three day meeting. Key issues to be addressed include:

- * A lack of national legislation providing for extraterritorial jurisdiction over serious international crimes with retroactive effect, to, for instance, investigate and prosecute suspects of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, was identified as a serious impediment in the fight against impunity in cases where extradition to Rwanda fails. Justice Hassan Bubacar Jallow, Chief Prosecutor at the ICTR, emphasised the need to provide national courts with the necessary instruments to exercise the obligation to extradite or prosecute and encouraged States to proceed with the incorporation of international crimes in domestic legislation;
- * The need for States to follow up on the conclusion to apply international criminal law and the jurisprudence of international criminal tribunals and to establish a regime for the protection and support of victims and witnesses providing not only physical protection, but also medical and psychological support.
- * We support the call of some States and Justice Hallow for greater harmonisation of national legislation and practice, in both substantive and procedural criminal law, to render cross-border cooperation in the fight against impunity more effective, thereby contributing to a seamless web of justice.

Voice of America

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

Rwandan Singer Given 15 Years for Inciting Killings

By VOA News

02 December 2008

A Rwandan singer and songwriter has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for inciting the killings of ethnic Tutsis during the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Simon Bikindi was convicted Monday of "direct and public incitement to commit genocide" but acquitted on five related charges.

The conviction stems from a June 1994 speech in Gisenyi prefecture, in which Bikindi called on Hutus to rise up and exterminate Tutsis.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda rejected charges that Bikindi directly took part in killings or attacks on Tutsis.

Prosecutors had sought life in prison for Bikindi, a well-known musician who wrote several songs blaming the Tutsis for Rwanda's problems and characterizing them as the enemy.

The Tanzania-based court said the songs were broadcast to fan the flames of ethnic hatred but that Bikindi had no role in those broadcasts.

The Tanzania-based court said Bikindi's prison term includes time spent in detention since his arrest in June 2001.

An estimated 800,000 people, mostly ethnic Tutsis or moderate Hutus, were killed during the 1994 genocide.



Rwandan singer, Simon Bikindi, at the beginning of his trial before the U.N. court in Arusha, Tanzania (File)

BBC Online

Wednesday, 3 December 2008

UN finds new clues in Hariri case

Mr Hariri was a business tycoon as well as a dominant political figure.

The UN body investigating the killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri says fresh evidence could help identify new suspects in the case.

The commission also says it has uncovered evidence of a connection between Mr Hariri's killing and other acts of political violence in Lebanon.

An earlier report suggested Syria might have been implicated in the killing, a claim Damascus vehemently denies.

Mr Hariri and 22 others were killed by a massive truck bomb in Beirut in 2005.

The 11th report from the UN's International Independent Investigation Commission says it "has acquired new information that may allow it to link additional individuals to the network that carried out the assassination".

In this latest report the UN's chief investigator, Daniel Bellemare, also says tests have helped pin down the possible "geographic origin" of the suicide bomber, although it gave no further details.

Syrian cooperation

The report for the Security Council is Mr Bellemare's second since he took charge of the investigative commission earlier this year.

The results of [tests] help to identify the possible geographic origin of the suicide bomber

Eleventh commission report

His first, in April, said a network of individuals planned and carried out the killing.

Mr Bellemare also says Syria has provided "generally satisfactory" co-operation with the investigation.

Last week, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced that a special tribunal to try the case would start operating from 1 March 2009 at the Hague in the Netherlands.

Mr Bellemare is asking the UN security council to extend his mandate - set to expire on 31 December - until the end of February 2009 to ensure a smooth transition to the tribunal.

Investigators have said a likely motive for the killing was the role of Mr Hariri, who became a prominent critic of Syria, in support of a 2004 UN resolution demanding that Syrian and other foreign troops withdraw from Lebanon.

Mr Hariri's death in 2005 triggered huge demonstrations in Lebanon against the Syrians.

Despite its denial of involvement, Damascus eventually bowed to international pressure, pulling out its troops after nearly 30 years of military presence.

The original head of the investigation, Detlev Mehlis, implicated senior Syrian officials in the case, but his two successors, including Mr Bellemare, have not repeated the charge and no suspects have been publicly identified.

