

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



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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:

Monday, 3 June 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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New Storm
Monday, 3 June 2013

Civil Society Collects Names Of War Dead

The Special Court for Sierra Leone and partners including the Human Rights Commission and the Amputees and War Wounded Association have met with civil society groups in every district headquarter town and Freetown from 8th to the 27th May to launch the collection of artifacts and names of those who died as a result of the war.

The campaign will see civil society groups in every district, and in the Western Area visit every village and town to encourage residents to donate artifacts and give the names of loved ones who died as a result of the decade-long conflict for inclusion in the exhibition and memorial garden respectively.

Joseph Dumbuya from the Special

Court told civil society activists across the country that the materials and information collected will be used in building the permanent memorial - the Sierra Leone Peace Museum - which will be dedicated to the victims of the conflict.

He added that the Museum will achieve this objective by preserving the history of the war through an archive and an exhibition which will narrate the history of the war and the story of the peace process, and the Memorial Garden which will serve as a place of quiet reflection in honour of the war's victims. He said artifacts are physical materials which relate to the war and the peace process, which will be used to build the exhibition. These include pictures, paintings, publicity and educational materials, short guns, traditional dress

by ex-members of the civil defence force, charm, juju and unidentified skeletons. On the other hand, the names of the war's dead will be printed on the walls of the Memorial Garden.

To those who are selling their artifacts, he had this message, 'We will not pay for artifacts but will acknowledge every donation by inscribing the name of the donor underneath the artifact so that people will know you contributed to a worthy cause.'

Civil society Activists brain stormed challenges relating to community owned artifacts, fears and concerns about donating artifacts, collection of unidentified skeletons, and artifacts that are believed to serve an important part in the lives of people and therefore will not be donated regardless.

Exclusive

Monday, 3 June 2013

Civil Society On Death Survey

The Special Court for Sierra Leone and partners including the Human Rights Commission and the Amputees and War Wounded Association have met with civil society groups in every district headquarter town and Freetown from 8th to the 27th May 2013 to launch the collection of artifacts and names of those who died as a result of the eleven years civil war that lasted between 1991 and 2002.

The campaign encouraged civil society groups in every district and the Western Area to visit every village and town to encourage residents to donate artifacts and give the names of loved ones who died as a result of the decade-long conflict for inclusion in the exhibition and memorial garden.

Joseph Dumbuya from the Special Court told civil society activists across the country that the materials and information collected will be used in building a permanent memorial - the Sierra Leone Peace Museum - which will be dedicated to victims of the conflict.

He added that the museum will achieve this objective by preserving the history of the war through an archive and an exhibition which will narrate the war's history and tell the story of the peace process.

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artifacts, fears and concerns about donating artifacts, collection of unidentified skeletons, and artifacts that are believed to serve an important part in the lives of people and therefore will not be donated regardless.

Leadership (Nigeria)

Wednesday, 29 May 2013

Activists React To AU's Resolution On Trial Of Kenyatta Before ICC



Some lawyers in Lagos have expressed dissatisfaction on the resolution by the African Union (AU), which called for the trial of Kenya President, Uhuru Kenyatta, in his home country.

The lawyers described the decision as unacceptable, adding that no African leader should see himself as being above the law.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recalls that AU leaders made the call urging the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the Hague, before which Kenyatta is facing charges of crimes against humanity.

The Union called on the ICC, to allow the President whose trial is fixed for July, to be tried in his home country's courts, which it said had the capacity to try him.

A Lagos-based lawyer and human rights activist, Mr Festus Keyamo, described the decision as a means to "politicise the issue".

"I do not support the decision of the AU because it is a clear attempt to politicise the issue. Why didn't they say the same for people like **Charles Taylor of Liberia**, Mohammed Al-Bashir of Sudan, and a handful of other African leaders who have been before the ICC.

"If in the past, other leaders have been taken to the International court, without objection, then Kenyatta should not be singled out for objection. Every individual facing criminal charges should be made to face the tune of justice," Keyamo said.

Another lawyer and social critic, Mr Samuel Oluwa, said the decision can be classified as a "blind patriotism".

Oluwa said that when there is a charge against an individual before a court, especially an international court, it is wrong to pervert the course of justice.

“It is wrong for African leaders to now begin to shield their own citizens from standing criminal trial in international courts. Once we have allowed some people such as **Charles Taylor** and a host of other African leaders to be tried before the ICC, then there is no justification to shield Kenyatta.

“Africans must not begin to sell the impression to the world that we are now above the law. The law must be allowed to take its course against leaders who have committed crimes against their country and the citizenry,” he said.

According to Oluwa, Kenyatta committed the alleged offences while he was yet to become president, and so should not be allowed to use his new political office to pervert justice.

“Presidential Immunity should not operate to suppress criminal law. Kenyatta should be handed to the ICC for due prosecution,” he said.

Another lawyer, Mr Anthony Makolo ,said that such decision should not be allowed to disrupt the operation of the law.

Makolo said that once a person has been indicted of an offence, he must appear to stand trial.

He added that no individual is greater than the law, and so, President Kenyatta should not be exempted. (NAN)

International Criminal Court

Friday, 31 May 2013

Press Release

ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I rejects Libyan challenge to the admissibility of the case against Saif Al Islam Gaddafi

Today, 31 May 2013, the Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC) rejected the challenge to the admissibility of the case against Saif Al Islam Gaddafi suspected of crimes against humanity of murder and persecution, allegedly committed in Libya from 15 February 2011 until at least 28 February 2011. The Chamber reminded Libya of its obligation to surrender the suspect to the Court. The Libyan authorities may appeal this decision or submit another challenge to the admissibility in accordance with article 19(4) of the Rome Statute.

A challenge to the admissibility of the case is granted if the case is being investigated by a State which has jurisdiction over it, unless the State is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the investigation or prosecution. The challenge to the admissibility of the case against Mr. Gaddafi was submitted by Libya on 1 May 2012 and the Chamber conducted an assessment of the evidence presented by the parties and the participants.

The Chamber concluded that it has not been sufficiently demonstrated that the domestic investigation cover the same case that is before the Court.

In addition, the Chamber recognized Libya's significant efforts to rebuild institutions and to restore the rule of law. The Chamber, however, stressed that the Libyan State continues to face substantial difficulties in exercising fully its judicial powers across the entire territory. Namely, the Libyan authorities have not been able to secure the transfer of Mr Gaddafi into State custody and impediments remain to obtain the necessary evidence, and secure legal representation for Mr Gaddafi.

Pre-Trial Chamber I is composed of Judges Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi, Presiding, Hans-Peter Kaul, and Christine Van den Wyngaert.

CNN

Monday, 3 June 2013

ICC to Libya: Hand over Gadhafi's son

By Faith Karimi



(CNN) -- The battle continues over which court should try the son of deceased Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

In the latest sign of a growing divide, the International Criminal Court on Friday rejected Libya's bid to try Saif al-Islam Gadhafi and asked the nation to hand him over.

Libya has consistently challenged the ICC's demand to try Gadhafi, saying the Hague-based court does not have jurisdiction in the case.

Gadhafi, who has been held in the Libyan city of Zintan since his capture in 2011, faces charges of crimes against humanity linked to the uprising that ousted his father about two years ago.

The pre-trial chamber of the court questioned Libya's ability to prosecute the younger Gadhafi, saying the nation's judicial institutions are not well-established following the uprising.

"The Chamber found that multiple challenges remained and that Libya continued to face substantial difficulties in exercising its judicial powers fully across the entire territory," the court said in a statement.

In addition to other challenges, the court said, securing legal representation for him in Libya will put the lawyers involved at risk and impede the proceedings.

Last year, lawyers said Gadhafi was in isolation except for visits from officials. He also suffers dental pain, and Libyan authorities have given him nothing to remedy that, according to the lawyers.

Libya and the ICC have been going back and forth since his capture, with the court saying the nation is obligated to surrender the suspect.

Saif Gadhafi, once his father's heir apparent, was seized by militants in November 2011 as he tried to flee the nation.

A month before, his father was killed after rebel forces captured him near Sirte.