

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



Acting Registrar Binta Mansaray, signing a Sentence Agreement with Finland yesterday.

**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:**

Tuesday, 30 June 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Concord Times  
Tuesday, 30 June 2009

# Rwanda to host Salone convicts

The Rwandan cabinet has approved a draft law that will see convicts from the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone serve their prison sentences in that country.

The move follows an earlier agreement signed in March between Rwanda and the United Nations backed court.

Justice minister Tharcise

*Contd. page 4*

## FOC champions Int'l

## Day against Torture

By Ibrahim Tarawallie

Forum of conscience, FOC in collaboration with the



## Rwanda to host Salone convicts

*From page 1*

Karugarama told The Sunday Times in Kagali that the process "will be done soon and by July, we should be through with it." He said following the signing of the agreement, there was need for a law justifying it, adding that the draft law has already been put to cabinet. The proposed law was discussed and approved at cabinet level on Friday, and will be taken to parliament for debate as the next stage.

Karugarama also said that "once everything is in place, the transfers will be possible", adding that the

prison is ready.

The convicts once transferred, will be held at Mpanga prison where a new state of the art detention facility has been constructed by the government.

He said the Special Court was satisfied with the standards of the prison. According to the agreement, Rwanda will receive eight convicts.

Former Liberian president Charles Taylor is one of the several people being tried by the court. His trial is currently taking place in The Hague, Netherlands unlike other cases which have been

held in Sierra Leone where the crimes were committed.

If convicted, Charles Taylor will serve his sentence in the United Kingdom. His trial is being held in The Hague for security purposes.

Asked what impact the transfers will have on possible transfer of those convicted by the Arusha based International War Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Karugarama said that it is better to wait for that impact once the transfers have been done, saying that these are two different cases.



Independent Observer  
Tuesday, 30 June 2009

## FOC urges Govt. for legislative approach on reparations

The Executive Director of Forum of Conscience, a non governmental human rights organization in Sierra Leone has urged the government of Sierra Leone to design a legislative approach on reparation programme in the country.

Addressing Parliamentarians, civil society and non-governmental organizations at Committee room No.1 in Parliament, last Friday, June 26, 2009, during the observance of the 'international day in support of victims of torture organized by Forum of Conscience in collaboration with World Organisation Against Torture(OMCT) 'on the theme: *Making reparations a reality for victims of the war in Sierra Leone*, John Caulker stressed the need for government to design a legislative approach so ensure that reparations continue to address the welfare of victims of the war.

He said the reparations programme would be sustainable if government set up a special fund for war victims, adding that possible donations/pledges would be paid directly into the fund.

Giving a background of the international day in support of victims of torture, Caulker said for the first time in 1998, the UN put aside a special aid to focus on helping torture victims and ending torture. He remarked that torture is one of the most profound human rights abuses taking a terrible toll on the lives of millions of people and their families.

He went on to state that since its inception, the UN had worked to eradicate torture adding that the Universal Declaration on Human Rights Article 5 proclaims that no body shall be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Caulker said on December 10, 1984 the UN General Assembly Resolution 39-46 adopted the convention against torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment stressing that the convention entered into force on June 26 1987 obliging States to observe torture as a crime and to punish those found culpable of torture.

Defining torture, he said it includes systematic beating, deprivation of sleep, amputation etc. He disclosed to his audience that the psychological and physical scars are most devastating and difficult to repair.

Acknowledging his work for the past ten years, Rev. Kanu, one of the Commissioners of the Human Rights Commission in Sierra Leone maintained that the Executive Director of FOC,

John Caulker has and continues to push hard for the reparations programme to become a reality. Rev. Kanu said if Sierra Leone has five John Caulkers to advocate for the welfare of victims of the war, then reparations would get

more attention.

Commissioner Kanu the war left a number of legacies adding that it is a challenge for all of us as Sierra Leoneans to see what we can do with our limited resources to help war victims. He regretted to state that most victims are now perpetual beggars as they have lost their loved ones and property. He added it is time for all Sierra Leoneans to do something now to help victims of the war.

The UN chief of Human Rights, UNIPSIL, Benedict Sannoh talked about the social vices the TRC mentioned that led to the conflict in the country.

*"This country will never reconcile if thousands of our citizens continue to suffer on the streets for no just course"* Sannoh lamented adding *"how can we go around and say we have peace when those things that brought the war are still visible...our people are suffering"*

The UN Human Rights Chief said in order to make reparations a reality political will should be invigorated lamenting that since the TRC submitted its report in 2004, it took government five years to address reparations.

He said by the time the Special Court of Sierra Leone would have wrapped up, the International Community would have spent over 300 million dollars on it adding that yet still we have not been able to raise more than 3 million dollars to address reparations.

On the way forward, he said it is clear that there is need for political will especially through legislative backing to find a way to allow appropriate sums of money in government budget. He said government will not continue to depend on international community. He also mentioned an oversight responsibility of government line ministries, department and agencies.

The Director of Reparations, National Commission for Social Action, Buya Kamara said registration of war victims is ongoing. He said 14,845 people have registered so far adding that their target for the five categories is 17,000.

Kamara also said the UN has offered 3million dollars for the reparations programme. He went further to state that 25% of that amount goes for administrative, operational cost. He said symbolic reparations in various regions have been done.

However, Hon. Eric Juma and Hon. Elizabeth Lavalie both on the committee on Human Rights in Parliament also spoke on the importance of observing the international day in support of victims of torture.

Other Parliamentarians and members of civil society also contributed.

## Cotton Tree News

Monday, 29 June 2009

### **Residents of Yenga to start paying taxes to Guinean government**

Written by Aruna Augustine Kamara

The Member of Parliament representing Constituency three in the Kissi Teng and Kissi Kama Chiefdoms in the Kailahun District says there are negative developments in the Guinean occupied Yenga border area. Yenga which is in the Kissi Teng Chiefdom is one of the border towns between Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Honorable Tamba Musa Sam told CTN that Guinean civil authorities had visited and ordered residents of four villages around Yenga to be paying taxes to the Guinean authorities. Honorable Musa Sam said such a move taken by the Guinean authorities would worsen the situation for Sierra Leoneans in Yenga.

The latest development in Yenga followed a recent visit by members of the Parliamentary Defense committee to the occupied border town. The parliamentarians are yet to present and discuss their findings to parliament.

## ISRIA

Monday, 29 June 2009

### **Finland and the Special Court for Sierra Leone agree on execution of sentences**

Today, on 29 June, Finland and the Special Court for Sierra Leone signed an agreement between them concerning the execution of sentences pronounced by the Special Court. The agreement was signed in The Hague by Finnish Ambassador to the Netherlands Mikko Jokela and Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone Binta Mansaray.

In accordance with the agreement signed today, prison sentences pronounced by the court can be executed also in Finland, in case Finland agrees with the request for execution of sentence on the basis of a case-by-case deliberation. The Special Court is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone since 30 November 1996. In all, thirteen indictments were issued by the Special Court, but three of the indicted persons have died and one has not been caught. It is estimated that the trials at the Special Court will be completed in 2010.

Finland has made a similar agreement also with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), trying crimes committed in the territory of the Former Yugoslavia. In connection with the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Finland also made a decision about its readiness to receive persons sentenced to imprisonment by the ICC. The agreement concerning the issue is currently being finalised with the ICC.

The Special Court for Sierra was set up by a joint agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations in 2002. The Special Court has also made agreements about execution of sentences with Sweden, Austria, Great Britain and Rwanda. The entry into force of the agreement signed with Finland requires an approval by the Finnish Parliament and the President of the Republic.

## BBC World Service Trust

Friday, 26 June 2009

### **The Defense side of Charles Taylor's trial has been postponed again.**

Mr. Taylor, neither his Defense team, is responsible for the latest postponement. A waterborne disease attacked Mr. Taylor's prison cell and made it difficult for visitation by his Defense Team. For fear of contracting the disease, all of Mr. Taylor's lawyers kept away from him. As a result of the disease outbreak, the Special Court for Sierra Leone has postponed the trial for another two weeks. Mr. Courtenay Griffiths is Mr. Taylor's lead Defense lawyer. He has been telling Joseph Cheeseman who is now in The Hague more about the disease outbreak and its impact on the trial.

GRIFFITHS: We lost two weeks of preparation because they found the legionaries bacteria in the detention unit where Mr. Taylor is being housed.

CHEESEMAN: How serious is this waterborne disease which was discovered in a cell?

GRIFFITHS: All I know about legionaries disease – because I'm not a doctor – is that it kills people. And as a consequence, when I was informed that this bacteria had been found in the prison, of course I refused to attend upon Mr. Taylor at the prison. I also refused to allow any of my staff to go.

CHEESEMAN: Did the disease affect Mr. Taylor, or was anyone in the detention centre taken to hospital as a result of this disease?

GRIFFITHS: As far as I'm aware, no one contracted the disease. But the bacteria, which is known to everyone, was found in the water system, and consequently for some days the inmates in the United Nations detention facility were unable to use the showers. They had to replace the shower heads and also other parts of the plumbing system in that part of the prison.

CHEESEMAN: What is your information as to how this disease got into the system. This is a developed country. Anyone least expects a waterborne disease to be found in a European country. It's surprising.

GRIFFITHS: Initially it was surprising to me, but as a precaution because I had used the washing facilities at the prison during the course of my previous visits to Mr. Taylor, and as a result of that I went to see a doctor last week, and the doctor explained to me that legionaries disease is a lot more widespread than people understand and are aware of, and that they find numerous cases of it here in Holland, so it's not as surprising as you coming from Africa might think.

CHEESEMAN: You told me yesterday that you will visit Mr. Taylor today. Did you visit him?

GRIFFITHS: Yes I visited Mr. Taylor today.

CHEESEMAN: Meaning that the disease has gone away.

GRIFFITHS: Well we've been reassured that the situation is now totally under control and that there is no prospect of anyone contracting the disease which is why, as of yesterday, I've recommenced my visits to Mr. Taylor in order to go through his account with him prior to his giving testimony early next month.

CHEESEMAN: A court official that we talked to earlier when we arrived in this country said this waterborne disease was not as serious as you imagine it, and that your unwillingness to start the case is an exaggeration of the situation in the detention centre.

GRIFFITHS: Well, would you like to tell me which lying administrator in this court told you that. What's that person's name, because I'd like to speak to them directly, because effectively, that individual is calling me a liar. That person is suggesting that I've quite deliberately exaggerated the risk in order to buy more time for Mr. Taylor. Well I'd like that administrator to put himself in the position of someone told that this dangerous disease in the prison. Why didn't he go to the prison, or she, to investigate it themselves.

### **News Story Griffiths on disease**

Charles Taylor Lead Defense Lawyer says the outbreak of a Legionnaire waterborne disease at the International Criminal Court detention center is responsible for the latest postponement of Mr. Taylor's Case.

Mr. Courtenay Griffiths described the disease as dangerous.

He said a Medical Doctor told him that the Legionnaire Disease has the potential to kill human beings.

Mr. Griffiths however said Mr. Taylor and his fellow detainees did not contract the disease.

But he said the detained Former Liberian President and the other detainees were not able to use their showers for a number of days.

An official of the Special Court for Sierra Leone told the BBC World Service Trust that the disease is not as dangerous as Mr. Griffiths described it.

Mr. Griffiths said the disease was discovered in the showers at the detention facility where Mr. Taylor and other detainees are being held.

The Lead Defense Lawyer said the outbreak of the disease prevented him and his staff from visiting Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Griffiths said he's being assured that the Legionnaire Disease has been fully put under control.

He said he has resumed visitation to Mr. Taylor's prison in preparation of the Defense case on July 13.

The court gave the Defense Team additional two weeks to make up for the time lost as a result of the disease outbreak.



## Voice of America

Tuesday, 30 June 2009

### **Liberia's Truth Commission to Release Final Report Tuesday**

By James Butty

The Liberia Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) will conclude its work Tuesday and release its final report.

For the past three years the commission has been looking into the root causes of the Liberian conflict from 1979 to 2003.

The TRC heard testimonies from many alleged victims and perpetrators in and outside Liberia.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf also testified about her alleged involvement with Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia rebel movement.

Some Liberians have been demanding prosecution for those the TRC would find to have committed gross violation of human rights during the conflict.

TRC Chairman Jerome Verdier told VOA no Liberian is above the law.

"The Liberian people should expect a comprehensive report from the commission based upon its findings and determination in consonance with the mandate of the commission as enshrined in its enabling legislation," he said.

Verdier said the final report will include a wide range of recommendations on issues the TRC determined to be the root causes of the Liberian conflict

He said taken in their totality, the recommendations would present a reform agenda for Liberia.

"The act requires that we address issues of impunity, that we make recommendations for reparations, we make recommendations for reconciliation, and that we make recommendations for prosecution," he said.

Some Liberians want justice from the brutality of the conflict and have been demanding the establishment of a War Crimes Court to prosecute perpetrators.

Others have argued that prosecution, especially of those alleged perpetrators who are in the current government could be at the expense of national reconciliation.

Verdier said Liberians should accept the commission's recommendations if they want to be faithful and respect the rule of law.

"No Liberia is above the law, and we have to begin a process of institutionalizing the supremacy of the rule of law in our country. Too many times we feel that because we are in authority we are above the law," he said.

In February this year, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf testified before the commission. She said she had endorsed former president Charles Taylor's rebellion against President Samuel Doe but had never been part of the rebel group

The president admitted, however, to being a part of a group of exiled Liberians who lent their support to Mr. Taylor without being aware of his true intentions.

There were unconfirmed reports late last week that the TRC might include in its final report that President Sirleaf be barred from standing for re-election because of her alleged role in the war.

Verdier said it would be unethical for him to pre-empt the findings of the commission.

"I don't know the source of the information. I wouldn't be surprised that people speculate about the outcome of our work, and I don't doubt that people have gone out of their way using all kinds of machination to get access to TRC information. But it would be seriously unethical for me to pre-empt the findings of the commission," he said.

Some have accused members of the TRC of lacking unity and at times using the commission to score political points.

Verdier said the TRC is no different from any human institution.

"As a commission we exhibited all manner of characteristics common to human nature, common to professional people, common to people of different backgrounds who have come together compelled by law to work together," he said.

He said irrespective of any internal challenges the TRC might have faced, members were able to complete the work they were assigned by law to do.

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 June 2009

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Thai Press Reports: Vietnam: Vietnam lauds peace process and national**

General News - Speaking at the UN Security Council's (UNSC) Thursday discussion on Liberia and the performance of the UN Mission here (UNMIL), Ambassador Hoa`ng Chi Trung highly spoke of Liberia's recent achievements in solidifying the peace process and national construction, particularly in reducing poverty, rebuilding economy, improving social security, promoting trade, disarmament and community reintegration for demobilized soldiers.

Vietnam's Charge d'Affaires to the UN shared concern about challenges faced by Liberia, including racial contradictions, popular unemployment and crimes, poor infrastructure, and trans-national drug smuggling. The diplomat called upon the UN agencies, African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mano River Union and the international community to continue assisting Liberia to overcome challenges, maintain peace and reconstruct the country. The diplomat called upon the UN agencies, African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mano River Union and the international community to continue assisting Liberia to overcome challenges, maintain peace and reconstruct the country.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Cabinet Approves Move to Host Sierra Leone Convicts**

Kigali, Jun 29, 2009 (The New Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Cabinet has approved a draft law that will see convicts from the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) serve their prison sentences in Rwanda, Tharcise Karugarama, Justice Minister told The Sunday Times. The move follows an earlier agreement signed in March between Rwanda and the United Nations backed SCSL. Karugarama told The Sunday Times that the process "will be done soon and by July, we should be through with it." He said that following the signing of the agreement, there was need for a law justifying it, adding that the draft law has already been put to cabinet. The proposed law was discussed and approved at cabinet level on Friday, and will be taken to parliament for debate as the next stage.

#### **Salone's PRGF Hits U.S\$50.3 Million**

Freetown, Jun 29, 2009 (Concord Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Executive board of the international monetary fund, IMF has completed a fourth review under the poverty reduction and growth facility, PRGF arrangement for Sierra Leone, and has approved increase in financial support by US\$18.8 million. The completion of the review enables the said disbursement, which would bring total disbursements under the arrangement to about US\$50.3 million. The Board completed on June 17, 2009 the fourth review of Sierra Leone's economic performance under a four-year arrangement poverty reduction and growth facility (PRGF) arrangement and the review of the financing assurances. In completing the review, the executive board also approved an augmentation of Sierra Leone's access under the PRGF arrangement equivalent to SDR 10.37 million (about US\$16.8 million or 10 percent of quota) to help support maintenance of the country's international reserves.

## **Local Media – Newspaper**

### **Finance Minister on Budget Tour**

(The Informer, Daily Observer, New Vision, Heritage, The Monitor)

- Finance Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan has extended his “Budget To The People Drive” to two higher institutions of learning in the country.
- The campaign which kicked off last Wednesday was over the weekend taken to the University of Liberia and the Booker Washington Institute in Kakata, Margibi County.
- The drive is intended to educate the public on the budget process and how allocations are made and revenue generated to support these allocations.
- Meanwhile, the University of Liberia Students Union (ULSU) has expressed disdain over the manner in which the Minister has addressed condemnation of the budget.
- The group said Minister Ngafuan must be tolerant in dealing the public as unexplained appropriations in the current budget gives room to believe that there is a ploy to steal the resources of the state.

### **FBI Expert to Probe US\$1.1M CBL transfer Scandal**

(The Inquirer, Daily Observer, The News, New Vision, Public Agenda, The Analyst, The Monitor)

- The General Auditing Commission (GAC) has announced the hiring of a certified FBI handwriting and document examiner expert, Mrs. Meredith DeKalb Miller.
- Mrs. Miller is to work with the Commission in the special audit of the fraudulent transfer of US\$1.1 million from the Central Bank.
- A GAC statement said while in the country, she will analyze the documents and provide expert opinion regarding the document’s authenticity.
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf told the media that her signature and those of two finance ministry officials were forged in the deal. The scandal led to the resignation of the Deputy Central Bank Governor Ethel Davies.

### **Police Inspector Designate says He has No Security Experience**

(The Informer)

- The Inspector General Designate of the Liberia National Police, Marc Amblard, says he has no security knowledge although he had worked at the National Security Agency.
- Appearing before the senate Judiciary committee during his confirmation hearing, Mr. Amblard said he has not been at the Police Academy.
- Prior to his appointment as Police Inspector General he served as Deputy Director of the NSA.
- In a related development, the Senate Committee on Judiciary last Friday failed to conduct confirmation hearing for Sam Russ, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs-designate of the Ministry of Justice.
- The action of the Senate's Committee to abruptly stop the confirmation proceedings is as a result of his possession of an American passport which makes him a citizen of the United States of America in addition to his Liberian citizenship.

### **ZRTTI graduates 212 teachers**

(The News, Daily Observer)

- Speaking during the first post war graduation of the Zorzor Rural Teachers Training Institute, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf called on the Education Ministry to ensure an aggressive recruitment of teachers.
- The President wants the Ministry include programmes to attract more female candidates to the teaching profession.
- Two hundred twelve teachers including twenty-three females received “C” certificates following completion of courses in child development and teaching practice.
- For his part, Education Minister Dr. Joseph Korto, pledged his ministry’s commitment to improving the benefits of the graduates.

### **U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Supports War Crimes Court**



(Heritage)

- United States Ambassador to Liberia, Linda-Thomas Greenfield says recommendations for establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia are tremendous and important but that the recommendation must be decided by Liberians.
- Ambassador Greenfield said the U.S. will stand by Liberia if the decision to establish a war crimes court in the country is the view of Liberians.

### **UNMIL Trains Liberian Journalists As Trainers**

(The Informer)

- The Public Information Section of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has awarded certificates to 11 Liberian journalists as 'trainers' following a weeklong intensive training programme in Monrovia.
- The 11 journalists were drawn from five print and five electronic media institutions, and one from the Liberian News Agency (LINA) of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.
- The journalists were trained to return to their various media institutions to identify training needs and propose training programmes or workshops for the betterment of their respective institutions.

**Local Media – Star Radio** (*culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

### **Former President Taylor Lawyer Reports Disease Outbreak in Cell**

- Former President Charles Taylor's Lead Defense Lawyer Courtenay Griffiths has reported the outbreak of a waterborne disease in Mr. Taylor's cell.
- According to Mr. Griffiths, a Medical Doctor informed him that the Legionnaire Waterborne Disease has the potential to kill human beings.
- He said the outbreak of the disease at Mr. Taylor's detention facility was responsible for the latest postponement of his trial.
- Mr. Griffiths said he's being assured that the Legionnaire Disease has been fully put under control.
- However, an official of the Special Court for Sierra Leone said the disease is not as dangerous as Mr. Griffiths described it.

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

### **ZRTTI graduates 212 teachers**

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

### **FBI Expert to Probe US\$1.1M CBL transfer Scandal**

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

### **MSF-Belgium shuts Down Operation Soon**

- An International Organization, MSF-Belgium has confirmed it would halt its support to several medical institutions in the country by the end of the year.
- The head of mission of Medecins Sans Frontieres named institutions to be affected as Redemption Hospital, Clara Town Community Clinic and the Island Clinic.
- In an interview, Mr. Charles Menya said MSF-Belgium was aware of the burden to maintain the facilities; but said it has the mandate to work in emergency situation.

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Soumen Kuvalehti.fi

Monday, 29 June 2009

## Cambodia Genocide Tribunal



In this handout photo released by Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, Vann Nath, center behind glass, one of the only survivors of the Khmer Rouge's main torture center testifies at the U.N.-backed court, Monday, June 29, 2009, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Vann Nath gave a long-awaited testimony Monday, weeping as he recounted the conditions at a facility where 16,000 others were tortured before execution.

## The Phnom Penh Post

Tuesday, 30 June 2009

### **ECCC resignations spell trouble for victims' justice**

Written by Vinita Ramani Mohan

Dear Editor,

I read today that Robert Petit, international co-prosecutor at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), has resigned from his post due to "personal and family reasons". This year has gotten off to a bad start for Cambodian survivors keenly watching the Khmer Rouge tribunal. Earlier in 2009, the ECCC public affairs officer left his position at the tribunal. Soon after, the ECCC's director and deputy of the Victims' Unit resigned within months of each other, one for a post at the International Criminal Court. These departures have further strained the already beleaguered Victims Unit. Now, the ECCC's [international co-prosecutor] has resigned. One wonders what will come next.

Survivors have been encouraged to participate in a process that promises to give them a voice in the legal process. Yet the very structures that exist to support their participation suffer from a striking absence of continuity and institutional memory. As things stand, much has been promised but little delivered.

I recall reading an article in your paper titled "Petit on the 'ultimate crime'" (July 13-26, 2007). In that interview, Petit emphasised that the "primary focus" of tribunals like the ECCC is to "render justice". These refrains have been sung before. In an interview three years ago, just before he began his work at the ECCC, Petit said that the principle behind all tribunals remained the same. "The pressure is the same in that you have a responsibility to represent the voices, to represent the victims" (June 28, 2006, Embassy Magazine). How can this work of representing survivors be adequately performed when people with several years of expertise regarding the case and its intricacies leave the court before the first trial has even concluded?

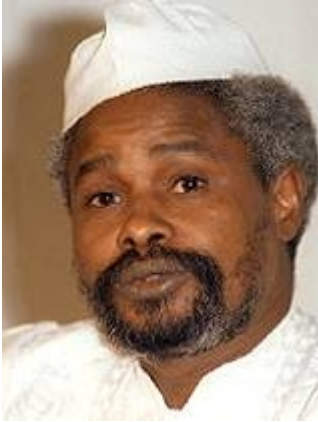
While I do not question the personal reasons behind these rapid and successive resignations, those of us who have worked in Cambodia wonder what impact they will have on Cambodian survivors of mass crimes. Most recently, Petit repeated that victims are not just "the witness of history; they are also judges" (The Phnom Penh Post, January 19, 2009). If so, I wonder how Petit and other foreign officials at the ECCC who seem to move swiftly from one tribunal to the next will be judged by the survivors to whom they have promised so much.

## Voice of America

Tuesday, 30 June 2009

### Victims of Former Chadian Dictator Seek Justice from African Union

By Howard Lesser  
Washington, DC



Hissene Habre

On July 2, 2006, the African Union (AU) mandated Senegal to put former Chadian President Hissene Habre on trial. Despite AU and European offers of financial support to hold a trial, Senegal has not acted, and human rights activists are urging the AU at its summit, which opens Wednesday in Sirte, Libya, to move proceedings ahead.

From Sirte, Human Rights Watch attorney Reed Brody, who counsels Chadian war victims in their recovery efforts, says that after 18 years, it's time to bring Habre to justice.

"Three years ago, the leaders of Africa called on Senegal to prosecute Hissene Habre. Three years later, that hasn't happened. The victims have been waiting for 18 years for justice, and many of them have died. Two of the people who filed the first case against Habre nine years ago in Dakar are already dead, so justice has to be done before it's too late here," he says.

Brody points out that a lot of countries are willing to help Senegal finance the trial if Senegal presents a credible budget, which he says needs to be revised. He says that at its upcoming summit, the African Union can provide the impetus to step up the funding effort and make it a reality.

"Senegal says that it needs €27 million (\$42 million) up front. But a lot of people are ready to help finance the trial, the European Union, a number of countries. The question now is really just moving forward and the political will to move forward," he advised.

Hissene Habre fled Chad in 1990 after being ousted by current President Idris Deby. He has lived in Senegal since then, but as of November, 2005, has been under arrest. Two months earlier, a judge in Belgium indicted Habre for causing more than 1,200 deaths (a truth commission in Chad put estimates at up to 40,000 deaths) and torturing more than 12,000 victims during his rule that began in 1982.

It was the 2005 Belgian indictment under that country's universal jurisdiction law that prompted Senegal to arrest Habre, but Brody notes that Senegalese officials continue to show reluctance to arrange a trial despite winning encouragement from European and African countries.

"Senegal says, and it's true that the prosecution and investigation of alleged crimes that took place in another generation, half a continent away, is very complex, and



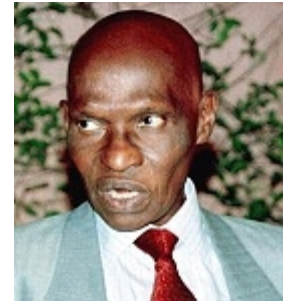
no developing country has ever done something like that before. But Senegal has the partners that are ready to finance the trial. Many of the victims whom I work with don't believe that Senegal has the political will to bring Hissene Habre to trial," he observes.



African Union flag

This past January, the AU called on its member countries to donate

funds for a trial in Senegal, but to date, only Chad has offered to contribute. Human Rights Watch's Reed Brody says he is disappointed that African countries that often complain about justice outside of Africa, are not stepping up to an opportunity of having justice in Africa.



Senegalese  
President  
Abdoulaye Wade  
(file photo)

"Here in Sirte, there is a campaign being led by Libya and some other countries against the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the use of universal jurisdiction by non-African countries to try Africans accused of the worst crimes. But at the same time, the Habre case, which represents an opportunity for Africa to show that it's capable of prosecuting crimes against African victims, that case is not moving forward," he reflects.

Senegal President Abdoulaye Wade, who Reed Brody says supports the prosecution of Hissene Habre, recently threatened to expel Habre from Senegal. That prompted Belgium last February to ask the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to order Dakar to prosecute or extradite him and to hold Habre in Senegal until its case is decided. Senegal then gave the court a formal pledge that it would not let Habre leave the country until a final judgment is carried out against him.