

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Wednesday, 30 November 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

Residual Special Court Awaits Johnny Paul / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
Goodbye Special Court...to be Made a Residual Court / <i>FDP</i>	Page 4
Female Lawyer Wins Award for Child Defense / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 5

International News

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / UNMIL	Pages 6-7
Former Ivory Coast President in International Court Custody / <i>CNN</i>	Pages 8-9
Ex-President of Ivory Coast to Face Court in the Hague / <i>New York Times</i>	Pages 10-11
Côte d'Ivoire: Gbagbo's ICC Transfer Advances Justice / <i>HRW</i>	Pages 12-14

Awoko

Wednesday, 30 November 2011

Residual Special Court awaits Johnny Paul

By Poindexter Sama

The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone Agreement which was yesterday discussed at Pre-Legislative Session in the House of Parliament is drafted by the United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone to continue with the mandate of the court after it would have rounded up the trial for the former Liberian Leader Charles Taylor.

Eventually, the Residual Special Court is (after it would have been enacted by Parliament) going to try the only remaining indictee, the former AFRC Junta Leader Johnny Paul Koroma. Former rebel leader Sam Bockarie (Maskita), who would have been another fugitive had been confirmed dead by UN's forensic experts.

The agreement, which is yet to face the Well of Parliament for approval is a fulfillment for the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone as enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution 1315 of 2000.

The Residual Special Court, being an Act to ratify the agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on its establishment will enable the Special Court for Sierra Leone to try other indictee (s) whom the UN has not been able to arrest and prosecute.

Explaining the component of the Residual Special Court, Special Court Officials said the principal sitting would be in Sierra Leone but extend functions with its interim sittings in the Netherlands, and other branches that operate within the purview of the International Criminal Court. Ten of the judges of the court will be appointed by the UN, while six will be appointed by Sierra Leone Government. It was noted that the court will operate with absolute neutrality, impartiality and devotion.

The official further said as the Special Court's present mandate draws very close to an end, the present structure will be left with a skeletal amount of staff to facilitate its functions.

Since Charles Taylor's trial, which is expected to end soon, would bring the number of those that were arrested to an end, the court is further glaringly looking at the only indictee left on the list of the Special Court, Johnny Paul Koroma, to be brought onboard and tried by the would be Residual Special Court in a bid to complete its mandate.

Moreover, it was noted that Sierra Leone stands to benefit

from the present structure of the Special Court as they are going to create archives, museum and other information materials to tell stories about the country's ugly past.

At the Pre-legislative session, MPs raised concerns which among them, was the ownership of the court. The officials said "having the court in Sierra Leone does not mean it is owned by the country. The running of the court is based on voluntary contributions from organizations, states of which Sierra Leone too may contribute."

The court's set up was behind the motive of trying all those who bear greatest responsibilities for serious violations of International Humanitarian Laws and the Laws of Sierra Leone since the 30th of November 1996.

For di People

Wednesday, 30 November 2011

GOODBYE

SPECIAL COURT

...to be made a Residual Court

AS THE mandate of the Special Court for Sierra Leone ends in 2012, the agreement for its transformation into a Residual Special Court of Sierra Leone was discussed by the Legislative body yesterday.

Presenting the document to Members of Parliament at Committee Room 1, an official of the Special Court, Fatmata Hanciles, said the transformation of the Special Court of Sierra Leone into the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone is to make certain that a body is set up to carry out certain functions of the Special Court with specific reference to the preservation and management of the archives, the provisions of witness protection, and support and management of request for evidence from national jurisdiction, among several others, as the mandate of the Special Court is expected to end by the end of next year when the verdict of the former Liberian President, Charles Taylor would have been delivered.

She further noted that even if the verdict is appealed by Taylor the court will ensure that, the appellant matter is completed before the end of the year and there will come the need for the Residual Court to perform other important functions, albeit at a low scale

“The Residual Court will not issue any new indictment,” she assured MPs.

Explaining the functions of the Residual Court, Fatmata Hanciles said the Court is limited to persons who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violation of International Humanitarian Law under Sierra Leone Law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone since November 1996.

It also has the power to prosecute the remaining Special Court fugitives, but it will not intrude into the national jurisdiction.

She pointed out that the court’s operations will be funded by voluntary contributions and that 16 judges have been put on its roster to run its operations of which 10 will be appointed by the United Nations while the six will be appointed by the Government of Sierra Leone.

The document is expected to be debated in the Well of Parliament before its approval.

It could be recalled that the Special Court for Sierra Leone was set up by the government and the United Nations to prosecute individuals who bore the greatest responsibility in human rights violation and was enacted by an Act of Parliament in 2002. The Court was mandated to look into cases like murder, extermination, enslavement, torture, rape, and recruitment of child soldiers. **by DESRIL COLE**

Awoko

Wednesday, 30 November 2011

Female lawyer wins award for child defense

By Emmanuella Kailon

Haffie Haffner, working for Pilot National Legal Aid (PNLA) as a pupil barrister, has won an award as the most outstanding Lawyer and activist on issues relating to child protection in the Sierra Leone Judiciary.

She was given the certificate on November 21, in a programme organized by Youth and Child Advocacy Network Sierra Leone (YACAN-SL) in their fifth annual children's creative contest award ceremony marking World Day for prevention of abuse and violence against children.

Haffner said she works in the juvenile court with the responsibility of giving free legal representation to cases that concern juvenile justice. She has passed the Bar exam and is completing a one-year pupillage, working at PNLA under a senior barrister.

The lawyer also said she sits in juvenile courts from start to the rising of the court from Monday to Friday, defending juveniles. Her organization has representation all round the courts giving free legal aid to the poor so that justice can flow in the Judiciary.

The Barrister said her organization has represented over 4,000 Sierra Leoneans since it was launched in January 2010.

PNLA's main focus is to provide advice, assistance and representation, in the criminal justice system at the entry points of Prisons, Police Stations and Courts.

She said before the coming of PNLA, cases of juveniles charged with crime would last in court for six months and women, disabled, children and juveniles went without representation because they did not have the money. PNLA has addressed some of these issues, she said.

The Barrister said though there are many successes, there are challenges. Most of the matters involving children who come in conflict with the law are street children, while some

stay with friends and others have left their parents in the provinces. "When they are discharged where do they go, ... back in the street and their involvement into crime again is possible," she said.

She added that there is no reformation programme so children return to the courts for the same crime.

Haffner called for other organizations to network with them as her organization will continue to assist the poor who come in conflict with the law so they can have access to justice.

She said it is a great concern for PNLA because these children are the future leaders so if PNLA is working for them to be free from crime, advise them, represent them in the Judiciary and at the Police Station, they need government and other agencies to complement their efforts and work in the interest of the children to construct a safety rehabilitation center that will cater for children after they are free in court.

She added that another challenge is that most of the Police station in the Western Area did not have an exclusive juvenile cell though children are to be held separate from adults. It is stated in the Child Rights Act that children issues should be investigated by Family Support Units but most cases are investigated by the Criminal Investigation Department which she said is a concern to them working in the interest of justice.

The Lawyer added that when a juvenile is found guilty and sentenced to Approved School, there is no formal schooling which shows it is not the best reformation centre.

Pilot National Legal Aid (PNLA) was established by the Government of Sierra Leone and the Justice Sector Development Programme funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) on January 6, 2010 to provide a sustainable, affordable, credible, and accessible legal aid scheme for those living in Sierra Leone who cannot afford to pay for the services of a lawyer.

[Haffie Haffner served as an intern with the Taylor defence team.]

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
29 November 2011

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

Local News on Liberian Issues

NEC Certifies Elected Officials

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) has certified all elected officials in the just concluded elections.
- Topping the certification was re-elected President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Vice President Joseph Boakai. Others certificated were 15 Senators and 73 Representatives-elect.
- The lawmakers-elect of the main opposition Congress for Democratic Change were received their certificates despite rendering the electoral process fraudulent and illegal.

Government Minister Stresses Boundary Harmonization

- The Acting Deputy Internal Affairs Minister for Operations has stressed the need for boundary harmonization in order to promote vibrant economic activities at the community levels.
- Madam Florence Dukuly said there are too many unnecessary boundaries existing in the country which she said are creating huge proximity from one period to another.
- According to her, if the communities are to achieve their desire goal in the area of economic development, the harmonization of some boundaries should not be taken lightly.
- The Acting Deputy Internal Affairs Minister also called for the reduction of some existing cities noting that some of those cities don't conform to current day reality.
- Dukuly spoke Monday to newsmen in Monrovia at the start of a two-day community planning and development workshop.

Expelled CDC Members Rubbish Party's Decision

- Two expelled officials of the main opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) have termed the party's decision as unacceptable.
- Representative-elect Edward Forh and Public Affairs Officer Amos Swaray said they will resist their expulsion as some of those who took the action are not members of the party's National Executive Committee.
- The CDC expelled five of the executive members for what the betrayal and reportedly holding secret meetings.
- But Forh said their intervention on the party's planned demonstration was the basis for their expulsion, which he said is out of order and remains an eligible member of the party.

UNMIL Radio (News monitored at 1:000 p.m.)

UN Envoys End Meeting in Dakar

- Under the Chairmanship of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for West Africa, Mr. Said Djinnit, the Heads of United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in West Africa have held their 22nd high-level consultation in Dakar to facilitate the coordination of the UN action in promoting stability in the sub-region.
- Ellen Margrethe Løj, SRSG of UNMIL, Albert Gérard Koenders, SRSG in Côte d'Ivoire's UNOCI and Joseph Mutaboba, SRSG of UNIOGBIS in Guinea-Bissau also participated.

International clip on Liberia

Liberia police chief fired after pre-poll violence

<http://news.yahoo.com/liberia-police-chief-fired-pre-poll-violence-225235194.html>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-11-28/liberia-police-chief-fired-after-election-violence-analyst-says.html>

Liberia's police chief Marc Amblard has been fired after a police shooting at an opposition rally on the eve of elections earlier this month, the presidency said Monday. An independent electoral commission set up by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to probe the incident, recommended that Amblard be dismissed. "Mr. Amblard accepted the recommendation and stated that although he was not liable for what occurred on November 7, 2011, he accepted responsibility as head of the **Liberia** National Police," read the statement. Opposition presidential challenger Winston Tubman called the rally on the eve of an election which he boycotted, claiming a first round which he lost had been riddled with fraud. Riot police struggled to contain the angry protesters who surged onto the street to hold an unauthorized march, throwing stones, and panic quickly broke out, with police firing teargas and later live bullets into the crowd. The United Nations Mission in **Liberia** has said that there were two deaths.

CNN

Wednesday, 30 November 2011

Former Ivory Coast president in international court custody

From Eric Agnero, For CNN



Abidjan, Ivory Coast (CNN) -- Former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo arrived Wednesday at the International Criminal Court in The Hague to stand trial for his role in his country's post-election violence that killed thousands.

"It is exactly a year since the presidential election that led to one of the worst episodes of violence Cote d'Ivoire has ever known," said the court's Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo. "In December last year, we put Mr. Gbagbo and the others on notice. Today, we are following up."

Gbagbo was flown out of the northern city of Khorogo, where he had been under house arrest, on an airplane of the Ivorian government Tuesday evening, said his adviser, Toussaint Alain.

Alain called it an illegal transfer. "The international court has taken an illegal action. This is a political decision rather than a decision of justice," Alain said.

The action comes a week before parliamentary elections. Three political parties in an umbrella coalition (CNRD) with Gbagbo's Front Populaire Ivoirien issued a statement saying they would boycott the elections as a result of Gbagbo's transfer.

Last month, Moreno-Ocampo arrived in Ivory Coast to meet with government and opposition leaders and began an inquiry into the West African nation's post-election violence.

In his application to the judges for authorization to investigate possible war crimes and crimes against humanity, Moreno-Ocampo cited sources who said at least 3,000 people were killed, 72 people disappeared and 520 others were subject to arbitrary arrest and detentions since the November 28, 2010, election that resulted in the violence.

Gbagbo, the incumbent, refused to cede power even though challenger, Alassane Ouattara, was internationally recognized as the winner. Months of bloodshed ensued. The political stalemate was settled by Gbagbo's capture in April by forces loyal to his rival, and he has been detained in the north of Ivory Coast. Gbagbo refused to accept the results of UN-certified elections.

Human Rights Watch issued a statement saying Gbagbo is "the first former head of state taken into custody by the ICC."

President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan and the late Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi have also been subject to ICC arrest warrants, but Al-Bashir has not come into ICC custody, nor did Gadhafi, who was killed this year during Libya's revolution, Human Rights Watch said.

"The ICC is playing its part to show that even those at the highest levels of power cannot escape justice when implicated in grave crimes," Elise Keppler, senior international justice counsel at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

The court charged Gbagbo with four counts of crimes against humanity, "namely murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence, persecution and other inhuman acts."

"This is a big day for the victims of (Ivory Coast's) horrific post-election violence," Keppler said. "That Laurent Gbagbo now has to answer to the court sends a strong message to Ivorian political and military leaders that no one should be above the law."

New York Times

Tuesday, 29 November 2011

Ex-President of Ivory Coast to Face Court in The Hague

By MARLISE SIMONS

PARIS — The former president of Ivory Coast, who took his country almost to the brink of civil war after losing an election last year, was unexpectedly handed over into international custody on Tuesday and was flown overnight to the Netherlands, where the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in The Hague has accused him of crimes against humanity, Ivorian government officials said.



Sia Kambou/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

The former president, Laurent Gbagbo, was served with an arrest warrant in the small northern town of Korogho, where he had been under house arrest for seven months.

Emmanuel Altit, a lawyer for Mr. Gbagbo who is based in Paris, said that the international court's arrest warrant was dated Nov. 23, but that it had been kept under seal until Tuesday "to trick his lawyers and to short-circuit any legal action."

"What they did was illegal," Mr. Altit said. "They ignored the consent needed" to take action against a former head of state.

"This was a political operation, not a legal one, and we will challenge the court," Mr. Altit added.

The court's prosecutor has accused Mr. Gbagbo of being responsible for the violence in which more than 3,000 people were killed and uncounted numbers were raped and mistreated from last November to April in Ivory Coast's principal city, Abidjan, and in other parts of the country. The violence flared after Mr. Gbagbo refused to leave office after losing the presidential election. To hold on to power, he used his security forces, as well as militia and mercenary fighters that he armed and paid, the prosecutor has said.

After diplomacy and international sanctions failed to dislodge Mr. Gbagbo, he was defeated by fighters supporting Alassane Ouattara, who had been declared the winner of the election. French and United Nations military forces provided crucial assistance to the Ouattara loyalists.

Mr. Gbagbo is the second deposed African head of state to appear before an international court. Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia, has already stood trial and is awaiting a verdict before a different tribunal in The Hague, the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The International Criminal Court has also issued an arrest warrant for Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir; he has ignored the warrant, although it has seriously complicated his travels abroad.

Mr. Gbagbo was expected to arrive early Wednesday at a high-security prison on the outskirts of The Hague. He will join other well-known prisoners in the complex, including Jean-Paul Bemba, once a leading politician in Congo; the former Bosnian leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic; and Mr. Taylor. Although they are all in the international section, the men may not necessarily meet.

Additional arrest warrants are expected in connection with the post-election violence in Ivory Coast. The international prosecutor has opened investigations into the actions of other members of the Gbagbo government, as well as figures from Mr. Ouattara's government. Forces supporting Mr. Ouattara also committed atrocities, according to prosecution evidence and reports from human rights groups.

But the criminal investigations and the evidence sent to the international court's judges, who are required to sign any arrest warrant, have not been made public. Lawyers familiar with the inquiry said the prosecution wanted to avoid naming other suspects for fear that they would go into hiding. Mr. Ouattara's government and international observers in the deeply divided country also worry that protracted public investigations could set off new rounds of violence.

Mr. Gbagbo, a former history professor, received 46 percent of the vote in the election last Nov. 28. He came to power in a flawed election in 2000, and when his five-year term expired, he held on, rescheduling elections until they were finally held in 2010.

Among the conditions that he accepted for the presidential election was that the United Nations would be required to certify the results, to prevent his government from rigging the outcome. But as soon as Mr. Ouattara was declared the winner, the violence began, with pro-Gbagbo forces killing political opponents and peaceful protesters and shelling neighborhoods.

Human Rights Watch

Tuesday, 29 November 2011

Press Release

Côte d'Ivoire: Gbagbo's ICC Transfer Advances Justice

Promptly Investigate Ouattara Camp's Crimes as Well

(Nairobi, November 29, 2011) – The transfer of former President Laurent Gbagbo to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for his alleged role in international crimes during Côte d'Ivoire's devastating post-election violence is a major step toward ensuring justice, Human Rights Watch said today. Human Rights Watch called on the ICC prosecutor to move swiftly on investigations for grave crimes committed by forces allied with the current president, Alassane Ouattara.

Gbagbo's refusal to step down when the Independent Electoral Commission and international observers proclaimed Ouattara the winner of the November 28, 2010 presidential run-off set off six months of violence. At least 3,000 people were killed and more than 150 women raped during the conflict period, often in targeted acts by forces on both sides along political, ethnic, and religious lines. "This is a big day for the victims of Côte d'Ivoire's horrific post-election violence," said Elise Keppler, senior international justice counsel at Human Rights Watch. "That Laurent Gbagbo now has to answer to the court sends a strong message to Ivorian political and military leaders that no one should be above the law."

According to news reports, Ivorian judicial authorities informed Gbagbo of the ICC arrest warrant on November 29, 2011. Gbagbo is the first former head of state taken into custody by the ICC. President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan and the late Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, have likewise been subject to ICC arrest warrants. Al-Bashir has not come into ICC custody, nor did Gaddafi.

"The ICC is playing its part to show that even those at the highest levels of power cannot escape justice when implicated in grave crimes," Keppler said.

Efforts by both the ICC and the Ivorian government to ensure accountability for the post-election crimes are important in returning the rule of law to Côte d'Ivoire, Human Rights Watch said. However, investigations with a view to prosecutions are needed without delay for individuals implicated in grave crimes who fought in the forces allied with Ouattara.

Since Gbagbo's arrest by pro-Ouattara forces on April 11, Ivorian civilian and military prosecutors have charged more than 120 people linked to the Gbagbo camp with post-election crimes. No one from the pro-Ouattara forces has been charged with post-election crimes. This creates a perception of victor's justice and risks stoking further communal tensions, Human Rights Watch said.

"While the Gbagbo camp fueled the violence through its refusal to relinquish power and its incitement, forces on both sides have been repeatedly implicated in grave crimes," Keppler said. "The many victims of abuse meted out by forces loyal to President Ouattara also deserve to see justice done."

Human Rights Watch conducted six field missions to Côte d'Ivoire during the crisis, documenting the evolution of the post-election violence from its outbreak in November 2010 through the conclusion of fighting in May 2011. A report released by Human Rights Watch on October 5 detailed serious international crimes committed by both sides and implicated 13 military and civilian leaders as among those responsible. Gbagbo was specifically named for his role as commander-in-chief of armed forces that committed war crimes and likely crimes against humanity. Despite clear evidence of grave crimes

committed by his military and militia supporters, Gbagbo neither denounced nor took steps to prevent or investigate the crimes.

In May, Ouattara asked the ICC to open an investigation into the post-election violence, indicating that Ivorian courts would not be able to prosecute those at the highest levels for the worst crimes committed. The ICC judges authorized the prosecutor to open an investigation on October 3, citing evidence of war crimes and likely crimes against humanity by both sides' armed forces and allied militia groups. Gbagbo's arrest and transfer on November 29 is the first for the ICC's investigation in Côte d'Ivoire. Credible information suggests that several Gbagbo allies implicated in serious crimes may likewise be subject to imminent ICC arrest warrants.

The ICC prosecutor should also pursue cases involving crimes committed during the 2002-2003 armed conflict and its aftermath, Human Rights Watch said. The 2010 violence capped a decade of human rights violations and impunity in Côte d'Ivoire. The failure to address the worst earlier abuses risks undermining important efforts to enshrine the rule of law, Human Rights Watch said.

Ouattara has promised repeatedly that anyone implicated in crimes committed during the post-election period will be brought to justice. But in terms of charges brought at the national level, the reality remains in stark contrast.

“Especially given the lack of domestic accountability efforts for crimes committed by forces allied with President Ouattara, the ICC prosecutor should move promptly to investigate their grave crimes and encourage the Ivorian government to proceed with domestic prosecutions against all responsible serious crimes, whatever side they were on,” Keppler said. “Justice for crimes by both sides is key in breaking the cycles of violence that have plagued Côte d'Ivoire during the past decade.”

Background

Beginning in December 2010, after Gbagbo refused to accept the election results, elite security force units closely linked to Gbagbo abducted neighborhood political leaders from Ouattara's coalition, dragging them away from restaurants or out of their homes into waiting vehicles. Family members later found the victims' bodies in morgues, riddled with bullets.

Pro-Gbagbo militia manning informal checkpoints throughout Abidjan murdered scores of real or perceived Ouattara supporters, beating them to death with bricks, executing them by gunshot at point-blank range, or burning them alive. Women active in mobilizing voters – or who merely wore pro-Ouattara t-shirts – were targeted and often gang raped by armed forces and militia groups under Gbagbo's control.

As international pressure increased on Gbagbo to step down, the violence became more appalling, Human Rights Watch said. The Gbagbo government-controlled state television station, Radiodiffusion Télévision Ivoirienne (RTI), incited violence against pro-Ouattara groups and exhorted followers to set up roadblocks and “denounce foreigners.” This marked, in many ways, the culmination of a decade of Gbagbo's manipulation of ethnicity and citizenship, in which northern Ivorians were treated as second-class citizens and West African immigrants as unwelcome interlopers.

Hundreds of people from both groups were killed in Abidjan and the far west between February and April, sometimes solely on the basis of their name or dress. Mosques and Muslim religious leaders were likewise targeted.

Abuses by pro-Ouattara forces did not reach a comparable scale until they began their military offensive in March 2011 to take over the country. In village after village in the far west, particularly between Toulepleu and Guiglo, members of the Republican Forces allied with Ouattara killed civilians from pro-Gbagbo ethnic groups, including elderly people who were unable to flee; raped women; and burned

villages to the ground. In Duékoué, the Republican Forces and allied militias massacred several hundred people, pulling unarmed men they alleged to be pro-Gbagbo militia out of their homes and executing them.

Later, during the military campaign to take over and consolidate control of Abidjan, the Republican Forces again executed scores of men from ethnic groups aligned to Gbagbo – at times in detention sites – and tortured others.

By the conflict's end, both sides' armed forces had committed war crimes and likely crimes against humanity, Human Rights Watch said. An international commission of inquiry presented a report to the Human Rights Council in mid-June that likewise found war crimes and likely crimes against humanity to have been committed by both pro-Gbagbo and pro-Ouattara forces. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Operations in Côte d'Ivoire, the International Federation of Human Rights, and Amnesty International have all released similar findings.