

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Wednesday, 4 April 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Awareness Times
Wednesday, 4 April 2007

PRESS RELEASE

HINGA NORMAN FAMILY REJECT AUTOPSY RESULTS

The public is informed that the family of Chief Sam Hinga Norman does not accept or endorse the recently released forensic pathologists' report alleging that Chief Norman died of "natural causes" as a result of myocardial infarction (heart attack) as the definitive and exclusive cause of death. The family still stands by its original assertion that Chief Norman died under sub-standard medical and clinical conditions, medical neglect and / or possible human intervention in the natural healing process at the Aristide La Dantec Hospital in Dakar, Senegal on 22 February 2007.

It is also profoundly disgraceful that lies propagated by the information department of the so-called special court for Sierra Leone with respect to Chief Norman staying at "the VIP wing" of a military hospital in Senegal have being subsidized by bogus photographs of the alleged hospital where the Chief died and that attempts are presently being made by certain officials of the court to cover up what now appears to be gross mishandling of the Chief's medical care and post-operative therapy.

The public is further advised that the family is presently in legal and medical consultations abroad of their own choosing and at their own expense and will make a official statement in response to the autopsy and toxicological reports as soon as possible. Meanwhile, friends and supporters of Chief Hinga Norman, in particular members of the Kamajor Movement, are well advised that the struggle to vindicate the good name and character of Mr. Moinina Fofana, Dr. Alieu Kondewa and Chief Hinga Norman was not buried with Chief Norman. We still anxiously await the long-delayed verdict in the matter of Prosecutor versus Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Alieu Kondewa which has now rested with the Trial Chamber for the last four months while Mr. Fofana and Dr. Kondewa languish in prison and Chief Norman rests with his ancestors.

It goes without saying that neither the CDF leaders presently on trial nor members of the Kamajor Movement did any thing in the defence of their motherland for which to be ashamed. When the constitutional army rebelled against the State and the nations of the world some of whom now sit in judgment of the CDF packed their bundles and left Sierra Leone, the President and Commander-in-Chief twice ordered Kamajors to restore civil authority by force of arms.

When rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rampaged Freetown first in January 1999 and again in May 2000, the President again put the Kamajors into armed service to liberate the country. So to the extent that those who time and again engaged the services of the Kamajors for the greater good of the nation have now abandoned their cause and betrayed their leaders for short term political and fiduciary gains, it is to their shame and eternal damnation.

As we anxiously await the verdict in the trial of the CDF leaders, Kamajors are encouraged to stay the course. We know that any one who puts his hands on the plow and turns back is not worthy of the prize. With respect to the indicted CDF leaders, their cause to defend and to stand for their rights continues to be our eternal refrain until in the words of the Hebrew Prophet Amos, "judgment rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

God Bless All,

Alfred Munda SamForay,

Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund.

The Spark

Wednesday, 4 April 2007

David Crane's Reactions To The Late Norman's Indictment: 3rd June 2004

With the establishment of a Special Court for Sierra Leone the Prosecutor, David M. Crane made the following statements against the leadership of the Civil Defence Forces, the Late Sam Hinga Norman on the 3rd June 2004.

'The Jackals of death, destruction and inhumanity are caged behind bars of hope and reconciliation.' According to him thousands of ghosts standby the Special Court waiting to see fair trials that the universe would get a glimpse of dastardly activities carried by the indictees during the brutal war. He made reference to similar events in Rwanda in the early 1990s and Yugoslavia

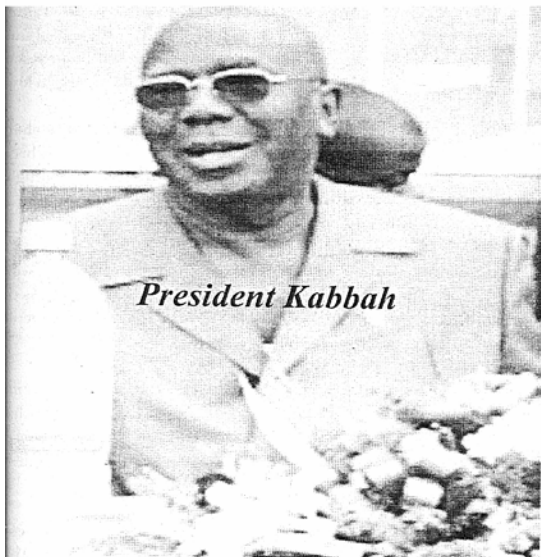
The SCSL is a hybrid of International War Crimes Tribunal set up to probe into the inhumane activities and other violations of International Laws on women, children and men perpetrated by the leaders of the various fighting forces. Sierra Leoneans at home and abroad have demanded justice for all victims of the decade long brutal internal armed conflict which was fuelled by the greed of a joint criminal enterprise that spread across the sub-region.

The Prosecutor informed the court that the late Norman, National Coordination of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) was indicted for the following International Crimes;

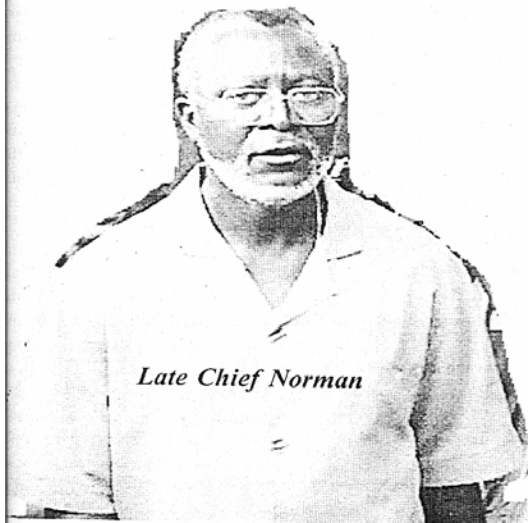
Crimes against humanity

Violations of Article 3 common to the Geneva Convention and Article 2, 3, and 4 of the Special Court which deal with unlawful killings, murder, violence to life, health or mental well being punishable under Article 3 of the statute.

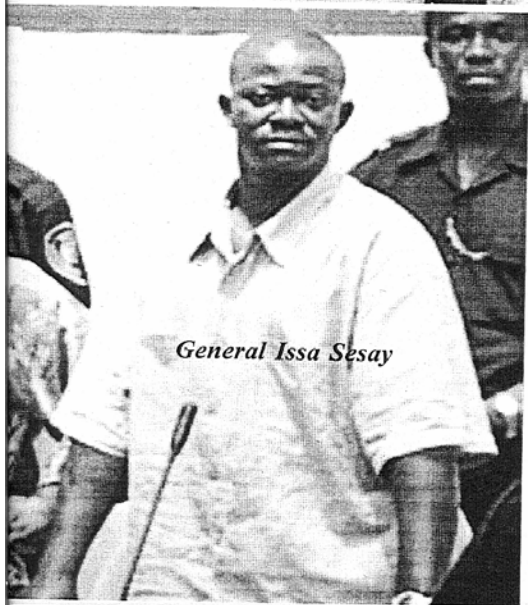
Count 3- physical violence and mental suffering which is punishable under article 2
 Count 4 violence to life, health and physical or mental wellbeing of a person. Count 5- looting and burning which is punishable under Article 3.F of the statute. Count 6 - the acts of terrorising the civilian population is punishable under Article 3.D of the statute.



President Kabbah



Late Chief Norman



General Issa Sesay

Count 7, which is collective punishment as punishable under 3.D of the statute

Count 8- the use of child soldiers is also punishable under article 4.C of the statute. According to the prosecutors charges against the CDF leader, the group was an organised armed faction comprising of traditionally based hunters who were to abide by the International Humanitarian Law and laws governing armed conflict

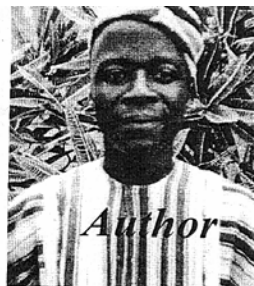
He was indicted on the grounds that after 30th November 1996 when the democratically elected Government of President Alhaji Ahmad Kabbah assumed office. As leader, he either directly or indirectly planned, instigated, ordered and aided the crimes committed by their fighting forces but failed to put measures in place to avert such acts.

In principle , the International Law.

1. Any person who commits an act which constitute a crime under International Law is responsible and liable to punishment'

Crane further went on to state that the late Norman was the National Coordinator charged with the responsibility of establishing, organizing supporting and also the former leader of the KAMAJORS for which he had adjure and de facto command and control over their activities and operations. But failing to institute corrective measures against the activities of his subordinates, he as leader was held responsible to all the charges in Article 6.1 of the statute.

During the trial, crimes committed on the following bases were investigated . Koribundo, Kenema, Base Zero in Bonthe District Moyamba, Bo and Tongo. Children who actively took part in the civil conflict were brought forward to narrate horrific stories Other victims were brought forward to recount horrific events or acts to themselves or family members. For example the looting of shops, food stuffs, wealth of shops, food stuffs, wealth killing and raping of women.



Author

The Cybord era in Tongo between 1997 -98 in which it was alleged that people were hacked to death.

With all these, thousand of fleeing civilian either run to the bush or hide between the thick banana Stems. Others were killed and body rolled down a hill into a valley below. Different weapons were used to carry out this dastardly act A breach of duty- the charge against the late Norman were that, as former Chief of Koribundu and leader of a fighting force, he failed to perform his responsibilities in protecting innocent civilians during the conflict

As a result, their just causes in fighting the Revolutionary United Front faction and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) turned out to be an unjust course. For example on the 13th February 1998 due to an attack by the Kamajors at Koribundu, a witness testified that he was caught with his brother and taken to Kamanjor Headquarters were they were beaten and tortured to the point of watching his dead brother and given the task to report the event to the people of Koribundo if they collaborate with the Sierra Leone Army.

At this point, it was alleged that that even the late Norman travelled to Koribundu and held a meeting in the town bari informing them not to hold them responsible but he the late man as they were acting on his behalf.

Unfortunately, his remains was flow to Sierra Leone from Senegal where he passed away while receiving medical treatment. He died as an indicttee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone for crimes against humanity though he pleaded not guilty to all the charges levied against him.

At his death, all charges were dropped against him. At this point some people compare the honour bestowed on him to be that of the Great Caesar of Rome. R.I.P.

The Spectator
Wednesday, 4 April 2007

Six Colleges for the Third Moot Court Competition in Sierra Leone

Freetown (ICRC) - As part of its mandate to support states in raising awareness of International humanitarian law (IHL), six colleges from two universities in Sierra Leone will participate in this year's Moot Court Competition in International humanitarian law (IHL), which will be held at the facility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in April 2007. The competition is an annual event organised by the ICRC and open to all students of higher education in the country with a fair knowledge of IHL.

Unlike previous years, only one application per institution is allowed in the forthcoming Moot Court competition but the teams could be made up of students from different departments of the same college. It is the third consecutive year that the competition is held in Sierra Leone. The teams of three students from each university or college will have to face a jury of IHL experts in a real court setting and the winning team will be sent to represent the country in the 7th Pan-African Moot Court Competition in Arusha, Tanzania, in November 2007.

Concord Times
Wednesday, 4 April 2007

Six qualify for Third Moot Court Competition

By Bhoyv Jalloh

As a way of supporting states in raising awareness, six colleges from the universities of Sierra Leone will participate in this year's Moot Court Competition in International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which will be held at the facility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in April 2007.

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United Nations Security Council

Friday, 30 March 2007

Res. 1750 (2007) (Excerpts)

Security Council, Extending Mandate of United Nations Mission in Liberia, asks Secretary-General to present detailed plan for operation's drawdown

-SNIP-

Unanimously adopting resolution 1750 (2007), the Council further decided to include an additional element to UNMIL's mandate, by providing administrative and related support and security for activities conducted in Liberia by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Those activities would be carried out on a cost-reimbursable basis and with the consent of the Government of Liberia.

-SNIP-

Resolution

The full text of resolution 1750 (2007) reads as follows:

-SNIP-

5. Notes the intention of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to reach agreement with the Government of Liberia on carrying out a programme of activities in Liberia, and decides that UNMIL's mandate shall include the following additional element: to provide, within its capabilities and areas of deployment and without prejudice to the performance of its other mandated tasks, administrative and related support and security, on a cost-reimbursable basis, for activities conducted in Liberia by the Special Court for Sierra Leone with the consent of the Government of Liberia;

-SNIP-

Star Radio (Liberia)

Tuesday, 3 April 2007

UN mission mandated to support Special Court for Sierra Leone

The UN Security Council has mandated UNMIL [United Nations Mission in Liberia] to provide administrative and related support and security to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

In a resolution adopted on 30 March, UNMIL would provide the services within its capabilities and areas of deployment and without prejudice to the performance of other duties. Under resolution 1750, UNMIL would provide the services on a cost-reimbursable basis, with the consent of the government of Liberia.

The resolution was in response to the intention of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to carry out unspecified activities in Liberia.

The Security Council also extended the mandate of UNMIL by six months.

Star Radio (Liberia)

Friday, 30 March 2007

ICC removes surveillance camera from Taylor's consultation room

The International Criminal Court [ICC] in The Hague has removed the surveillance camera in the consultation room where former President Charles Taylor meets his defence counsel.

Mr Taylor's defence counsel last month complained of the planting of a camera in his consultation room, which according to the lawyer constitutes a violation.

The spokesman of the UN-backed special court in Sierra Leone said that consultations had resumed between Mr Taylor and his defence counsel. Mr Peter Anderson told Star Radio the attorney/client consultations resumed on 23 March.

Mr Anderson said the ICC informed the special court that the camera was intended to monitor movements and not conversations between Taylor and his defence counsel.

Mr Anderson told Star Radio that the special court was also against the presence of the camera in the consultation room of the detained former Liberian president.

International Enforcement Law Reporter

April 2007

Taylor Trial to Begin in June 2007

Jason McClurg

The trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor is scheduled to begin on June 4, 2007. Justice Teresa Doherty of the Special Court for Sierra Leone set the date at a Status Conference held in The Hague on January 26, 2007. The trial, originally calendared for April 2, 2007, was delayed after Taylor's lawyers argued that they had not had enough time to prepare their case in light of the volume of prosecution evidence. Although prosecutors maintained that they were prepared to begin presenting their case, both sides agreed to an extension. Taylor's lawyers wasted no time taking advantage of the delay, traveling to Liberia to gather evidence and locate witnesses.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone indicted Charles Taylor in March 2003 for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity during Sierra Leone's eleven-year civil war. Taylor allegedly provided support to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group during the civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone in exchange for access to diamond mines located along the Liberia-Sierra Leone border. On the basis of his acts and omissions, and for his responsibility as a superior, Taylor faces multiple charges, including murder, mutilation, recruitment of child soldiers, and use of forced labor by armed groups.

Although the Taylor indictment was issued on March 7, 2003, it remained under seal for several months until Charles Taylor left Liberia to attend a June 4, 2003 conference in Ghana. Special Court Chief Prosecutor David Crane unsealed the indictment and an international arrest warrant upon Taylor's arrival in an attempt to force Ghanaian authorities to apprehend Taylor. Although Taylor returned to Liberia without being apprehended, he did not stay for long. As part of a political compromise to bring peace to Liberia, Nigerian President Olusegan Obasanjo, with the support of western allies, offered Taylor asylum in exchange for his willingness to relinquish control of the Liberian government, leave the country, and refrain from interfering with its internal affairs.

Following the agreement, President Obasanjo faced significant international pressure to extradite Taylor to Sierra Leone to stand trial. After several months of inaction, the Nigerian government announced on March 25, 2006 that it would end Taylor's asylum and allow the government of Liberia to take Taylor into custody. Although Taylor nearly escaped while the Nigerian government prepared for his transfer to Liberia, Nigerian customs officials detained Taylor as he tried to cross the border into Cameroon. He was immediately transported to the Special Court in Sierra Leone. At his initial appearance on April 3, 2006, Taylor pled not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes. Taylor's indictment relates to crimes allegedly committed between November 1996 and January 2002; if convicted, he faces a life sentence.

While other Special Court for Sierra Leone trials are being conducted in the nation's capital, Freetown, the proceedings against Taylor will take place in the facilities of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. The decision to move the trial was a result of negotiations aimed at keeping the peace in Sierra Leone and the region as a whole. The United Nations and the key governments of the region, including Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, supported the decision.

Although many have expressed concerns that trying Taylor in The Hague would prevent Sierra Leoneans from seeing justice be done, the Special Court has engaged in extensive outreach programs. According to the current Special Court Prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, "last year, 780 meetings were held [throughout Sierra Leone] to inform the public of the court's work."

Taylor's trial is expected to last approximately 12 to 18 months, considerably shorter than other UN-backed war crimes trials. For example, the trial of Slobodan Milosevic, conducted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), spanned four years before his death obviated the need for it to continue.

Since the extension of the trial's start date, Taylor's lawyers have been busy preparing his defense. According to *The Inquirer*, a Liberian newspaper, defense attorneys have been in Monrovia encouraging "all Liberians to demand justice in the trial of their former leader." Karim Khan and Avi Singh, both seasoned war crimes lawyers with extensive experience in the Yugoslavia, East Timor and Rwanda tribunals, were in Liberia in February for the first time to drum up support from citizens, encouraging them to avoid being "distracted by petty politics and resist their citizen languishing in foreign courts for crimes allegedly committed in a different country." Taylor's lawyers have gone to Liberia to set up liaison offices and recruit witnesses to testify in his defense. They are demanding that the trial be broadcast live on international radio.

Khan, a member of the U.K. bar, has been a barrister for several years in private practice at 2 Hare Court, a specialist criminal law set, and has coauthored numerous articles and publications on international criminal law. Singh is a member of the California and Indian bars, and a specialist in international criminal law with extensive experience in investigations, evidence gathering and criminal trials in various jurisdictions. He has been centrally involved in the government cabinet case at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) for the past several years. Former Liberian Solicitor General Cllr. James Lavalé Supuwood has also agreed to assist the team in a pro bono capacity.

Jason McClurg, Esq., is an Associate at Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe, L.L.P. He has closely monitored West African politics for over five years, and has written numerous articles on violations of international criminal and humanitarian law in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 3 April 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

UNHCR Resumes Voluntary Returns of Liberians by Sea

Apr 02, 2007 (United Nations High Commission for Refugees/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --UNHCR has resumed this week the repatriation of Liberian refugees by sea. The Panama-registered "Kiriaki 1" docked on Wednesday evening in Monrovia port, bringing back 214 Liberian refugees from Nigeria and Ghana. This was the first repatriation by sea since October 2006. UNHCR also charters commercial flights to repatriate Liberian refugees from Nigeria and Ghana in addition to the on-going repatriation by road from countries neighbouring Liberia.

Belgium Envoy, Ambassador Dirk Verheyen, Presents Letter of Credence to President Sirleaf

Monrovia, Apr 02, 2007 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Belgium for its continuous support to Liberia's national reconstruction process. The President traced the longstanding relationship between both countries dating back to the days of King Leopold, former King of Belgium.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivorian army, rebels agree force for buffer zone

ABIDJAN, April 3 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's army and New Forces rebels have agreed to deploy a joint force of 180 troops to begin taking control of a buffer zone patrolled by U.N. and French forces, a senior army source said on Tuesday. The mixed units, controlled from a joint command centre in the Ivorian capital Yamoussoukro, were mandated under a peace deal signed last month between President Laurent Gbagbo and New Forces leader Guillaume Soro, aimed at reuniting the country.

Ivory Coast broadcaster vows objective coverage

ABIDJAN, April 2, 2007 (AFP) - Ivory Coast public broadcaster RTI on Monday said it would launch a revamped programming schedule aimed at balancing out its coverage of the country's political players following a landmark peace deal.

Local Media – Newspaper

Liberia's Defence Minister Fears UN Troop Reduction

(The Inquirer and New Democrat)

- In response to the United Nations Security Council's Resolution and request for an eventual troop reduction in Liberia, Defence Minister Brownie Samukai said that the

request is "premature" on the grounds that there are no security structures in place in Liberia to encourage such a plan.

- Minister Samukai said Liberia does not have the capability to take over its own security should the peacekeepers leave the Country. He feared a repeat of the East Timor scenario in which after all of the enormous investments and sacrifices made by the international community, that country fell back into chaos.
- It can be recalled that the UN Security Council in a Resolution on Friday extended by six months, the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia on the basis that there are still significant challenges including massive development and reconstruction needs, judicial reform and the extension of the rule of law to overcome in the country.

Canada Joins Liberia's Debt Relief Campaign

(The Informer, New Liberia and New Democrat)

- The Government of Canada stated that it would join the United States and other countries to press for the waiver of Liberia's multi-lateral debt during the upcoming G-8 Conference, the Executive Mansion has said. The Conference is scheduled to held in June this year.

UN Special Court to Conduct Activities in Liberia

(National Chronicle)

- The United Nations Security Council has authorized the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone to conduct some unspecified activities in Liberia with the consent and support of the UN Mission in Liberia and the Government of Liberia.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 6:45 pm)*

President Lauds Belgium

- Speaking Monday in audience with Belgium Ambassador Dirk Verheyen, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf lauded the Kingdom of Belgium for its support to Liberia's reconstruction, citing the work of the Belgian medical non-governmental organization Medicine Sans Frontieres which treated emergency medical cases during the civil war. She recounted that Liberia and Belgium enjoyed long-standing relationship which dates back to the days of King Leopold. Ambassador Verheyen pledged Belgian's continuous support to Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)

President Must Appoint Disabilities Commission

- The Acting Executive Director of the National Commission on Disabilities Mr. Roberts Williams yesterday called on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to appoint members of the Commission, contending that the Act establishing the Commission calls for the appointment of an Executive Director and two deputies. Mr. Williams entreated the Liberian leader to increase the budget of the Commission from US\$75,000 to more than US\$1 million in the new fiscal year to accelerate its work.

(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)

Canada Agrees to Press for Liberia's Debt Waiver at G8 Summit

- The Press Secretary to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Mr. Cyrus Badio said that the Canadian Government would join the United States and other Countries to press for the waiver of Liberia's multilateral debt during the upcoming G8 Summit in Germany in June.
- Mr. Badio added that as a result of meetings President Johnson Sirleaf held with the Canadians, a Canadian Firm, CPCS Transco, submitted proposals to privatize the Liberia Electricity Corporation while it expressed interest in the mining sector and rehabilitation of the Freeport of Monrovia as well as the ports of Buchanan, Sinoe and Harper.

(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)

Major Relief Hospital Ends Services in Liberia

- According to a press release, Medecins Sans Frontieres/France announced that it would close its operations in Liberia this year, emphasizing that after three years of relative peace it was closing its project and withdrawing from the Country.
- The medical NGO said that it would shutdown its Mamba Point hospital at the end of June and would stop receiving patients for internal medicine by mid-April while the hospital would stop receiving surgery patients after April 30. MSF/France has worked in Liberia since 1991 to complement the Government's efforts in the health sector.

(Also reported on ELBC and Star Radio)

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

United Nations News

Tuesday, 3 April 2007

International judges at UN-backed Khmer Rouge trials say fee dispute rules out meeting

3 April 2007 – International judges at the United Nations-backed trials of former Khmer Rouge leaders, accused of mass killings and other horrific crimes during the late 1970s, said today they would not hold a plenary session this month to adopt the court's internal rules because Cambodian barristers were still insisting on a \$4,900 fee for foreign lawyers, something the judges warn goes against all international practice.

In a letter to the Supreme Court Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the judges said they were "saddened that at the time of writing, the Cambodian Bar had not reconsidered its position" over the first-year fee, which they added would create a prohibitive entry cost.

The proposed fee would severely limit the number of foreign lawyers able to appear before the ECCC and would allow the accused to argue that they have not been afforded the right to have the counsel of their choice, thereby breaching the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the judges believe.

Further, such a fee would exclude many lawyers that are volunteering to represent victims for free, as they would be left significantly out of pocket for offering their services pro bono, according to a press statement released in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital.

The international judges expressed hopes that discussions between the Cambodian Bar and the ECCC's Defence Support Section would lead to an acceptable solution but the statement emphasized that the "window of opportunity is closing quickly and they simply cannot allow for endless delays."

This dispute is the latest delay in the long-awaited trials, and the international judges said they would re-examine the situation during the last week of this month, adding that if no progress has been made they will propose organizing the participation of foreign lawyers without the assistance of the Cambodian Bar Association, in line with established practice in other international and hybrid tribunals.

Judges and prosecutors for the trials were sworn in last July. Under an agreement signed by the UN and Cambodia, the trial court and a Supreme Court within the Cambodian legal system will investigate those most responsible for crimes and serious violations of Cambodian and international law between 17 April 1975 and 6 January 1979.

The UN will pay \$43 million of the \$56.3 million budget for the trials, with the Cambodian Government providing \$13.3 million.