

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



See additional photos from the Prosecutor's Outreach to Yiffin, Alikalia and Kurubola in Koinadugu District in today's *'Special Court Supplement'*.

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:

Friday, 4 November 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Exclusive

Friday, 4 November 2011

RCS Dismisses Sierra Leonean Prisoners' Claims

The Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) has refuted claims by Sierra Leone war crime prisoners that they are not accorded standard care.

The Commissioner General of RCS,

Paul Rwarakabije, said that the government had essentially provided all it was required of by the MoU, adding that the prisoners had been provided extra incentives.

He was reacting to a series of media reports published in The Exclusive that the prisoners want the Special Court to review their MoU with Rwanda and instead be relocated to another country to continue with the rest of their terms.

"Prisoners will always complain, but the fact is we have accorded them more than what we are required. They are frequently visited by their relatives and are also accorded conjugal rights. These are international prisoners and we treat them in a special manner," said Rwarakabije.

He added that the Sierra Leone prisoners have access to telephone and special meals, contrary to the claims made.

"We know and we have heard of their claims, but we are always in touch with the court which usually sends its representatives to visit the prisoners. There is a team from the Special Court which is in the country and will be visiting them soon," said the prisons boss.

Currently, eight Sierra Leonean war crime prisoners sentenced by the United Nations Special Court are serving their respective sentences at Mpanga Prison in the Southern Province of Rwanda.

The eight who were transferred to Rwanda in 2009 are Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, Alex Tamba Brima, Santigie Borbor Karno, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara, Augustine Gbajiro, Musa Kondowa and Moinina Fofana.

Kallon, who is serving a 45 year sen-

tence, told Sierra Leonean newspaper that "Despite the international training provided for the Rwandan officers, they keep mistreating us".

According to sources, the government spends Rwf 17 million annually on health insurance of the prisoners.

The prisoners are insured with SORIAS insurance company, according to the source, who said that they receive their medical treatment from King Faisal Hospital, Kigali, where they go for regular checkups.

Sources also say that Rwanda hired a chef specialised in West African food to cook for the prisoners, contrary to claims by the convicts that they have failed to adapt to East African food.

Rwanda also set up a fully furnished house close to the prison where wives of the prisoners stay for two months and visit their husbands every day from 10:00am to 03:00pm.

"The prisoners are entitled to an allowance of US\$150 every month for communication. They are supposed to use the money to call their families and relatives," sources added.

However, officials say that the prisoners abused the communication funds by calling the media back in Sierra Leone to smear the Rwandan government claiming that it had mistreated them.

The Exclusive is still following up on the matter.

The New Dawn (Liberia)

Friday, 4 November 2011

Taylor's Trial Not Tie to Election

The UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone says the delay in the trial of ex-President Charles Taylor is not tied to politics here, while clarifying that the late Judge Cassese was not a judge of the special court.



Reacting to an article in this paper "Tragedy Hits the Special Court", the Court's Communication Chief, Peter Andersen in an email said "We were surprised at your article referenced above; since the press release was very clear that Judge Cassese was not a judge at the Special Court"

"Also, if you have "unconfirmed reports" that the judges are taking the Liberian elections into consideration, and then I can only say that it is "unconfirmed speculation" by people not close to the court. Those of us here know that the delay has nothing to do with politics," Mr. Andersen added.

Mr. Andersen in a follow-up email said the delay in the trial's verdict is unrelated to the elections in Liberia. Rather, it is related to the more than 50,000 pages of transcripts, the 1,100+ exhibits, and other matters relating to the judicial process.

Verdict had been expected in few months since the trial came to an historic end in March this year, but it has been 8 months since and not a specific date has been given.

The judges received all of the evidence tendered by the parties—amounting to testimony from 115 witnesses and 1097 exhibits. Having heard all of the parties' assertions and arguments about whether this evidence indicates Taylor's guilt or innocence, the judges had since retired to deliberate and come to a final judgment on whether Charles Taylor is guilty of eleven counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international law.

The opposition Congress for Democratic Change or CDC Winston Tubman told Congress for Democratic Change or CDC Standard Bearer Cllr. Winston Tubman told the British Independent Newspaper recently that under his Presidency, he would allow ex-President Charles Taylor back to Liberia, if not convicted by the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone, a comment which have received sharp criticisms from two influential US Congressmen, who have warned that a return of Taylor to Liberia would have far-reaching consequences, including cutting support and seriously undermine relations between the United States and Liberia.

The New Times (Rwanda)

Thursday, 3 November 2011

RCS Dismisses Sierra Leonean Prisoners' Claims

The Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) has refuted claims by Sierra Leone war crime prisoners that they are not accorded standard care and instead, saying they receive 'extraordinary' care.

The Commissioner General of RCS, Paul Rwarakabije, said that the government had essentially provided all it was required of by the MoU, adding that the prisoners had been provided extra incentives.

He was reacting to a series of media reports published in Sierra Leone's The Exclusive newspaper, that the prisoners want the Special Court to review their MoU with Rwanda and instead be relocated to another country to continue with the rest of their terms.

"Prisoners will always complain, but the fact is we have accorded them more than what we are required. They are frequently visited by their relatives and are also accorded conjugal rights. These are international prisoners and we treat them in a special manner," said Rwarakabije.

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"The prisoners are entitled to an allowance of US\$150 every month for communication. They are supposed to use the money to call their families and relatives," sources added.

However, officials say that the prisoners abused the communication funds by calling the media back in Sierra Leona and smeared the Rwandan government claiming that it had mistreated them.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that the prisoners want to be relocated to Europe so that their wives can seek asylum in the host countries under the guise of being near their husbands.

The Telegraph

Wednesday, 2 November 2011

Libya: Nato to be investigated by ICC for war crimes

NATO forces are to be investigated by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes during the Libyan conflict.



ICC chief prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo arriving at a news conference to comment on the arrest warrant issued for Libyan leader Gaddafi in The Hague

By Damien McElroy

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the court's chief prosecutor, told the United Nations yesterday that Nato troops would be investigated alongside rebel soldiers and regime forces for alleged breaches of the laws of war during the battle to overthrow Col Muammar Gaddafi.

As well as the original charges that Gaddafi and his close family perpetrated attacks on Libyan civilians, there are a series of complaints about the Western alliance and its allies in the National Transitional Council (NTC) under consideration.

"There are allegations of crimes committed by Nato forces, allegations of crimes committed by NTC-related forces ... as well as allegations of additional crimes committed by pro-Gaddafi forces," said Mr Moreno-Ocampo. "These allegations will be examined impartially and independently by the prosecution."

In the last weeks of the war, the Gaddafi regime alleged that 85 civilians were killed in a Nato air strike near the front line town of Zlitan. Khaled Hemidi, a regime general, filed a lawsuit before a Belgian civil court in Brussels accusing Nato of killing his wife and three children in an air strike on June 20 near the town of Surman.

Mr Moreno-Ocampo also said that reports continued to emerge that Gaddafi's son, Saif, is trying to flee Libya with the help of mercenaries. He said his organisation had "received questions from individuals linked to Saif al-Islam about the legal conditions attaching to his potential surrender".

Representatives asked questions such as what would happen if he appeared before judges and the various conviction and acquittal possibilities, the prosecutor told the UN Security Council, which referred the Libya case to the ICC.

The court had “clarified” that under its founding Rome statute “he may request the judges not to order his return to Libya after his conviction or acquittal”.

“Judges can also decide if he may be extradited to another state,” the prosecutor said. “We are also receiving information that a group of mercenaries may be endeavouring to facilitate his escape from Libya. We are calling upon states to do all that they can to disrupt any such operation.”

Mr Moreno-Ocampo said it was possible that Libya’s new government could be given jurisdiction in the case against Saif Gaddafi and Abdullah al-Senussi, the late dictator’s brother-in-law and intelligence chief.

In the written text of a speech to the Security Council, Mr Moreno-Ocampo said he was investigating if Gaddafi, who died shortly after his capture by government forces last month, and his former spy chief ordered mass rapes.

The ICC issued warrants on June 27 against Gaddafi, Saif and Senussi accusing them of crimes against humanity during operations against Libyan protests.

Charges against Gaddafi could be formally dropped when the court gets official proof of the former dictator’s death on Oct 20, the prosecutor said.

Saif Gaddafi and Senussi had not been seen since and Mr Moreno-Ocampo said his office was “galvanising efforts” to bring the pair to justice.

Radio Netherlands

Thursday, 3 November 2011

ICC looks into possible Nato crimes in Libya

The International Criminal Court says it will probe serious crimes committed during this year's fighting in Libya by troops loyal to former leader Moammar Gaddafi as well as NATO and revolutionary forces.

"There are allegations of crimes committed by NATO forces, allegations of crimes committed by NTC-related forces, including the alleged detention of civilians suspected to be mercenaries and the alleged killing of detained combatants, as well as allegations of additional crimes committed by pro-Gaddafi forces," ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo told the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday.

He did not provide details of possible crimes by NATO forces but said his office will examine all allegations "impartially and independently."

Ending the case against Gaddafi

It was the first time Ocampo addressed the Security Council since Muammar Gaddafi was killed last month. The former Libyan leader faced ICC charges of crimes against humanity for persecuting and murdering civilians during the violent crackdown of protests earlier this year. The charges against Gaddafi could be formally dropped when the court gets official proof of the strongman's killing on October 20.

"The Registry of the Court is following the formal procedures to obtain official documents from the Libyan government to certify the death. The Pre-Trial Chamber, after reviewing the documents, may decide to withdraw the warrant against Muammar Gaddafi and to end the case against him," Ocampo said.

Discussing surrender

There are two outstanding warrants of arrest but both suspects - Seif al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdullah al-Senussi, the late dictator's brother-in-law and intelligence chief - have not been seen since. Ocampo said his office was "galvanizing efforts" to bring them to justice.

He said his office had "received questions from individuals linked to Seif al-Islam about the legal conditions attaching to his potential surrender." It had only been "several days" since he had been in contact with Seif's entourage. Seif's representatives have asked questions such as what would happen to him if he appeared before judges and the various conviction and acquittal possibilities, the prosecutor told the 15-member Security Council which referred the Libya case to the ICC.

But the ICC prosecutor also highlighted fears that mercenaries were trying to help Gaddafi's heir-apparent to escape.

Rapes

ICC investigators went to Libya last week to collect more evidence in the case against Seif and also into allegations of mass rapes by Gaddafi's forces during the crackdown against protesters. "Hundreds of rapes are suspected to have been carried out," Ocampo said, adding that in Lybia, "rape is considered to be one of the most serious crimes, affecting not just the victim, but also the family and the community."

Investigators have "interviewed a limited number of victims, who were kidnapped and raped in unknown secret detention centers," Ocampo said. Witnesses have indicated that Gaddafi and Senussi and other top officials "were discussing the use of rape to persecute those considered dissidents or rebels," he concluded.

But the prosecutor said he was also mindful of the delicate nature of these investigations and had adopted a strategy which seeks to limit the exposure of victims as this could trigger retaliation and honour-based violence.

Court of last resort

Ocampo concluded his presentation saying that he was was informed "that the new Libyan authorities are in the process of preparing a comprehensive strategy to address crimes, including the circumstances surrounding the death of Muammar Gaddafi." He explained that the ICC should not intervene if there are genuine national proceedings. The ICC is a court of last resort.

"Should the Libyan authorities decide to prosecute Saif al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdullah al Sanussi for the same crimes under investigation by the International Criminal Court, they should submit an admissibility challenge and it will be for the ICC Judges to decide," he said.

Ocampo said he will update the Security Council again in his investigations in Lybia in May next year, underlining "that the possibility to carry out all of these investigations will depend on the budget available to the office."

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