

**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, 5 June 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Justice Gelega-King is new Head of Sierra Leone Special Court

Justice George Gelaga King is President of Special Court

Justice George Gelaga King of Sierra Leone has been elected Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber, a post which makes him President of the Special Court. He succeeds Justice Shireen Avis Fisher of the United States, whose term ended on Monday.

Justice Emmanuel Ayoola of Nigeria was re-elected to a fourth term as Vice President, and Justice Renate Winter of Austria was elected as Staff Appeals Judge. Justices King, Ayoola and Winter were among the first set of Judges appointed to the Special Court at its inception in 2002, and they will serve in these posts until the Court completes its mandate.

Justice George Gelaga King has been President of the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal and of Court of Appeal of the Gambia. He served as Sierra Leone's Ambassador to France, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland from 1974 to 1978, and was at the same time Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to UNESCO. Between 1978 and 1980 he served as Sierra Leone's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Justice King taught law at the Sierra Leone Law School from 1990 to 2005. He is Chairman of both the Sierra Leone Law Journal and the Gambian National Council for Law Reporting, and was a member of the Sierra Leone Council of Legal Education. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He holds an LLB degree from London University, and was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn, London.

In May 2007, he received Sierra Leone's highest honour when he was named a Grand Officer of the Republic of Sierra Leone (GORSL). He is a "Distinguished Visiting Professor" of Kingston University in Essex, U.K.

Justice King has been a Judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone since 2002. He previously served two terms as President; he was first elected in 2006 and re-elected in 2007.

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ICC takes more time to build case against Ivory Coast's Gbagbo

Judges at the International Criminal Court on Monday gave prosecutors until November to rescue their case against former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo, saying the evidence submitted so far was not strong enough to merit a trial.

Prosecutors now have until November 15 to carry out further investigations in a case that is testing the ICC's credibility after a string of collapsed prosecutions and criticisms from African leaders who accuse the court of targeting Africans.

Gbagbo, 68, the only ex-head of state to have appeared at the court, is accused of plunging his country into civil war instead of relinquishing power after losing elections in 2010.

In their ruling, judges said the evidence was not strong enough to

allow the case to move to trial, but not weak enough for them to throw out the charges. Gbagbo will remain in detention in the Netherlands.

The judges said prosecutors could refine their case in six areas, including looking more closely at the organizational structure of pro-Gbagbo forces during the conflict and at alleged cases of sexual violence.

In a blow to the ICC's reputation earlier this year, prosecutors dropped charges against Kenyan civil servant Francis Muthaura. Judges also acquitted the Congolese warlord Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui. Both men faced crimes against humanity charges.

Ethiopian President Hailemariam Desalegn has accused the court of

Project Syndicate

Wednesday, 5 June 2013

The Globalization of Justice

PARIS – When the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) was established by the United Nations Security Council 20 years ago, on May 25, 1993, many regarded it as a meaningless gesture. At the time, the war in Bosnia was already more than a year old; the city of Sarajevo was under siege; tens of thousands of civilian noncombatants had already died; and hundreds of thousands had been forcibly displaced.



Illustration by Paul Lachine

The Bosnian Serbs – and their supporters in Serbia – seemed to be winning the war, while the UN made no provision for taking into custody those charged with ordering or carrying out atrocities. Indeed, some saw the creation of the ICTY as a poor substitute for the military intervention that was needed to halt the slaughter.

For a long time, that cynical response seemed to be justified. The ICTY was slow in getting off the ground. It took the UN 14 months to appoint a chief prosecutor. Another year passed before his office issued indictments against high-ranking figures responsible for major crimes. By then, the massacre of about 8,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica, the largest mass killing in Europe since World War II, had already taken place.

But, though some aspects of the ICTY's performance merit criticism, its overall performance and achievements over the last two decades have made it a great success. That success is twofold: the tribunal's achievements with respect to the former Yugoslavia, and its impact worldwide on ending impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

As for the former Yugoslavia, the ICTY eventually obtained custody of all whom it indicted, except those who died in the interim. It has conducted fair trials and has provided a meaningful appellate process that has led to significant convictions and equally significant acquittals. Its work has paved the way for the establishment of local courts in Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia that have supplemented its work. By now, hundreds of those responsible for atrocities in the former Yugoslavia in the wars of the 1990's have been held accountable and have served – or are still serving – judicially ordered prison sentences.

The impact of the ICTY worldwide has been multifaceted. It has fostered the establishment of additional ad hoc international criminal courts with jurisdiction over such countries as Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, and Lebanon. It also provided impetus to the establishment of the International Criminal Court, while encouraging prosecutors in many countries to charge senior officials and guerrilla leaders for war crimes and bring them to trial in national courts.

The recent trial and conviction, in a national court, of former Guatemalan President General Efraín Ríos Montt on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity is only the latest blow against the impunity that previously protected high officials responsible for atrocities. Though the conviction has since been overturned by Guatemala's Constitutional Court, Ríos Montt joins dozens of former heads of state and government leaders who have been prosecuted for gross abuses of human rights since the ICTY was established.

But, despite the achievements of the past 20 years, the movement for international justice is still in its infancy. Inevitably, mistakes have been made. Even so, the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the ICTY is worth celebrating, because the movement it has led has forced military commanders, guerrilla leaders, and heads of state around the world to take into account the possibility that they will face justice if crimes against humanity are committed on their watch.

To that extent, the ICTY has done more than bring a measure of justice to victims and survivors in the former Yugoslavia. It has also contributed to the prevention of injustice in contexts far removed from the Balkans.

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Associated Press
 Wednesday, 5 June 2013

After Liberia massacre, a neglected mass grave

Birds twittering in the trees are among the few signs of life in Carter Camp, an abandoned former workers' housing compound now overgrown with untamed grass and where hundreds of bodies are buried in an unmarked mass grave.

Twenty years ago this week, one of the worst atrocities in Liberia's war _ a conflict that was marked by its sheer brutality and high civilian casualties _ occurred in Carter Camp when some 600 people were slaughtered on the night of June 5-6, 1993.



FILE - In this file photo taken Saturday Sept. 5, 2009, bones and skulls lie scattered on the ground in Kpolokpai, Liberia. Twenty years ago this week, one of the worst atrocities in Liberia's war a conflict that was marked by its sheer brutality and high civilian casualties occurred in Carter Camp when some 600 people were slaughtered on the night of June 5-6, 1993. (AP Photo/Jonathan Paye-Layleh, File)

The neglect shown the victims mirrors the lack of action in bringing the perpetrators to justice. A United Nations-commissioned inquiry found the army of the late president Samuel Doe responsible, but other accounts have since challenged the report. No one was ever put on trial even though Liberia's post-conflict truth commission recommended prosecution for perpetrators of crimes in the war generally.

Nyenati Allison, who was then a reporter for The Associated Press, visited the area soon after the carnage and described a horrible scene: "Strewn through the camp were babies with crushed skulls, mothers hacked by machetes, elderly people butchered like livestock."

The victims were hastily buried. A profusion of bushes now renders the mass grave, dug between two aging trees on the outskirts of the old camp, all but inaccessible.

"The government needs to build a memorial here so that at least generations unborn will know what happened here," said Yelesah Mark, a 48-year-old survivor of that hellish night as he struggled to control his emotions.

Carter Camp existed originally as home for low-income rubber tappers of the Firestone tire company, situated 48 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Monrovia near the world's largest rubber plantation which began operations in 1926. When fighting between rival rebel forces and regional peacekeepers displaced locals, they sought refuge in Carter Camp, swelling its population to over 3,000. By the time of the massacre, those in the camp of mud huts were a combination of company employees and people displaced by fighting.

The camp was immediately abandoned after the massacre and visitors have to be told there once was a camp here. Grass has taken over everywhere. Apart from a Nigerian-originated church which operates here, the few visible living things are birds building nests in trees that once provided shades for camp residents.

Mark was among the displaced people who nearly lost their lives in the Carter Camp Massacre, one of the worst atrocities in Liberia's 14-year civil war that ended in 2003. When gunmen dressed in military uniform entered the sprawling camp, said Mark, "we saw two tactical jeeps in which they came taking positions at the two ends of the camp, but we did not know their intent at first."

The slaughter soon began, with the attackers using firearms and machetes. Over 200 of those who were butchered were children.

"My brother-in-law Baina and my friend Sackie were among the batch of displaced people slaughtered behind a poultry house down there," he said. "The killings were all over the camp; as people cried for help, all you could hear were `ba-ba-ba, ba-ba-ba'" Mark said, imitating the sound of automatic weapons fire.

"Whenever I ... tell the story to people, it brings back that sad memory; it looks like we are digging out old wounds," he said. "But again, the story has to be told."

Mark said those who drove into the camp and carried out the massacre were former soldiers belonging to the army loyal to Doe. The then president was killed in 1990, but the army he led continued to remain active, fighting other rival forces.

Flan J. Nowon was a relief worker supervising food distribution in Carter Camp 20 years ago. He and his team worked there hours before the massacre, handing out food to "desperate people." They decided to take a break and return to their homes outside the camp, planning to return and resume the food distribution the next morning.

"It was just about two hours later that we started hearing heavy gunfire in the camp," Nowon said, standing with AP reporters near the overgrown mass grave. "I believed for sure there was something terrible happening in the camp when I saw a woman who had been shot in the buttock coming out of the camp naked, bleeding and crying and carrying a child."

"I ran back inside and told my wife `Carter Camp is on fire,'" Nowon recalled.

The lack of accountability for massacres such as this one has bred suspicion that persists two decades later that some of those who orchestrated the violence are in positions of power.

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who was a leader of a rebel group in 1993 and whose fighters many people like Nowon suspect had a hand in the attack, was found guilty in April 2012 in an

international war crimes court in the Netherlands of 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity and received a 50-year prison sentence.

But that was for aiding and abetting rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone, not for atrocities in his own country.

"Liberia became a place where killing was a way of life," said Nowon. "And those who killed people deliberately in Liberia have been left to roam the streets."

Utrecht Law Review

Student Paper (Excerpt)

Experiences that Count: A Comparative Study of the ICTY and SCSL in Shaping the Image of Justice

Kristin Xueqin Wu

5. Summary and conclusion

To sum up, the SCSL has not just done everything right; it has done so at the right time, subject to the right conditions. The Outreach Programme of the ICTY only started six years after the Tribunal's establishment. By that time, the negative image of the Tribunal had been so entrenched that people simply refused to listen, despite the amount of work done by Outreach later on. Compared with the ICTY, the success of the SCSL seems inevitable. The Outreach started even before the Court was properly staffed, and the expectations of the people were carefully monitored and managed from the very beginning. In other words, when the foundation of justice is laid, the experience of justice comes naturally. Furthermore, the SCSL started swiftly after the end of the civil war, against the backdrop of the symbolic burning of the disarmed weapons. It was a time when the memories were still alive, and there was no space for denial. On the other hand, many ICTY trials have dragged on for too long to achieve any really effect: when the accused dies, all previous efforts are in vain.