

**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:**

Monday, 5 November 2007

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

### Local News

Single Legs Applaud Special Court and Africell / *The Exclusive* Page 3

### International News

Sexual Violence Against Women as a Universal Principle of War / *Infoshop News* Pages 4-7

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / *UNMIL* Pages 8-10

Helicopter Crash Near Ganta / *UNMIL* Page 11

'Don't Extradite' Rwanda Suspects / *BBC Online* Pages 12-13

Rwanda Criticizes Amnesty International Comment on Extraditions / *VOA* Page 14

LRA Rebels Want Ugandan Justice / *BBC Online* Pages 15-16

Bosnian Serb's 15-year Sentence Upheld by UN War Crimes Tribunal / *United Nations* Page 17

## The Exclusive

Monday, 5 November 2007

# Single Leg Applauds Special Court and Africell

*By Shilton 033-496973*

*Executive members of the Single Leg Amputee football team have heaped enormous praises on the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone and Africell mobile network for the tremendous assistance the two institutions have rendered them.*

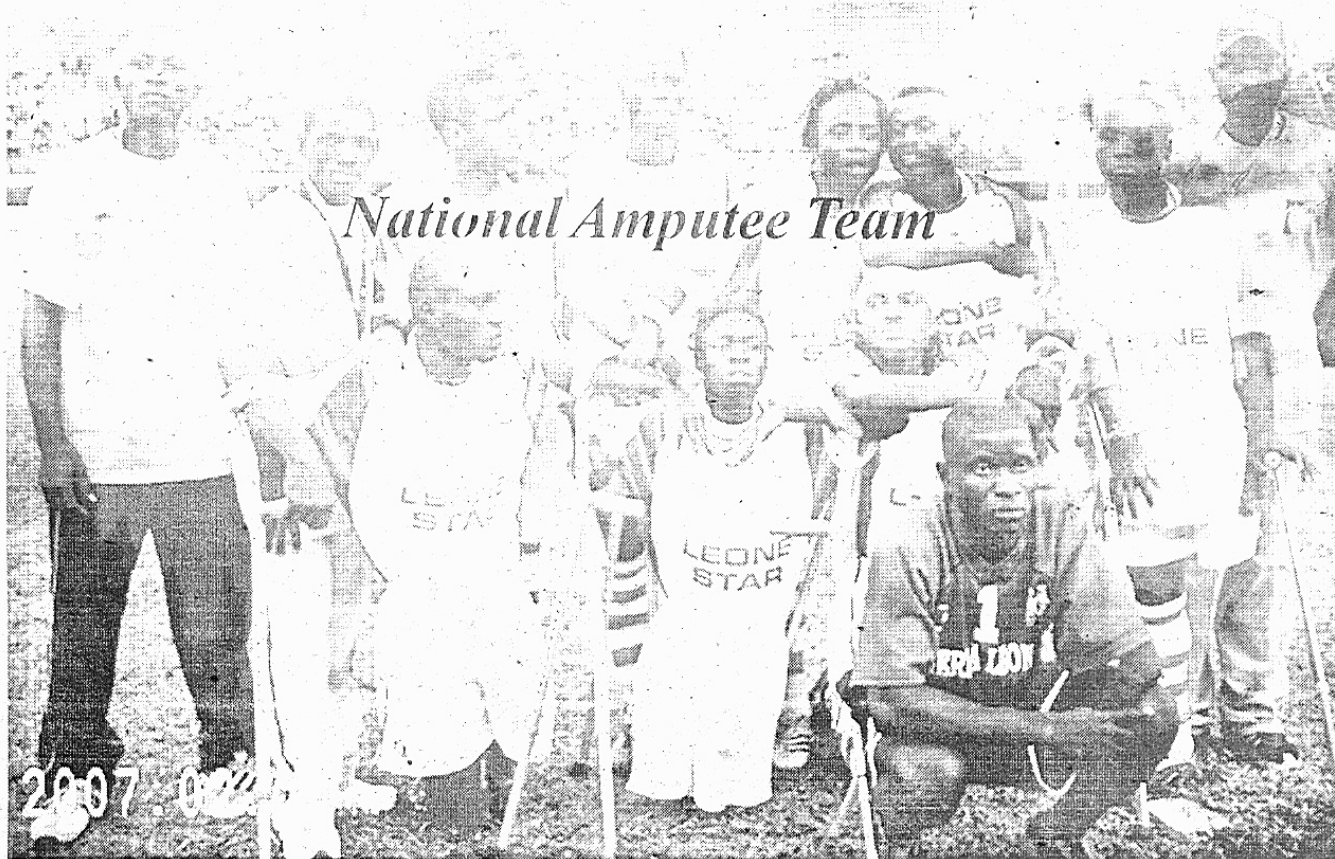
The Public Relations Officer, (PRO) Albert M. Mustapha revealed to The Exclusive that they are disappointed at the non-financial assistance from the government, parastatals, the Football Association and individuals. He added that even though they will be flying the Green, White and Blue flag high in Istanbul during the World Cup tournament, they have received nothing like com-

mitment from the stakeholders.

"As executive members, we wish to tender our profound thanks and appreciation to the Special Court Outreach staff especially to the Deputy Registrar Binta Mansaray for her assistance during our difficult moments, and also to Africell - Lintel for supporting one of our members who participated in the All African Amputee Football Federation Conference in Ghana recently.

The team continues its usual training every day at the Aberdeen Beach until they depart November 9 for the tournament.

"We're still appealing to Sierra Leoneans to contact us at our Aberdeen Beach training ground in the morning hours for financial boost," the PRO stated.



## Infoshop News

Friday, 2 November 2007

### Sexual Violence Against Women as a Universal Principle of War



The civil war in Sierra Leone attracted some attention for some things, but little note was made of the use of rape as a weapon of war...against women. "Violence against women was not just incidental to the conflict," Binaifer Nowrojee of the Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations told Africa Renewal a few years ago, "but was routinely used as a tool of war. Sexual violence was used in a widespread and systematic way as a weapon, and women were raped in extraordinarily brutal ways."

#### SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AS A UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE OF WAR

"Targeting of women is not based on ethnicity, it's not based on religion...it's actually based on the fact that they are women."

— Corinne Dufka, Human Rights Watch

The civil war in Sierra Leone attracted some attention for some things, but little note was made of the use of rape as a weapon of war...against women.

"Violence against women was not just incidental to the conflict," Binaifer Nowrojee of the Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations told Africa Renewal a few years ago, "but was routinely used as a tool of war. Sexual violence was used in a widespread and systematic way as a weapon, and women were raped in extraordinarily brutal ways."

In fact one thing that united all the factions fighting in that war was their common assault on the women of their country. Every armed groups carried out human rights violations against women and girls. These included killing, rape and other sexual violence, sexual slavery, slave labour, abduction, assault, amputation, forced pregnancy, disembowelment of pregnant women, torture, trafficking, mutilation, theft and the destruction of property. The warring parties sought to dominate women and their communities by deliberately undermining cultural values and community relationships, destroying the ties that hold society together. Child combatants raped women who were old enough to be their grandmothers, rebels raped pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, and fathers were forced to watch their daughters being raped.

Tens of thousands of women and girls who survived mass rapes, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and other crimes of sexual violence continue to suffer as so-called "rebel wives," targeted for discrimination and exclusion and denied access to health care, jobs and schools, Amnesty International said today in a report just released.

But there is much more to the story.

The war ended. The violence against women continued unabated. Nearly six years after the end of civil conflict, violence against girls and women is still rampant.

And, of course, Sierra Leone is not some isolated case of the use of rape as a weapon of war.

Wherever there are men, wherever there are wars, sexual violence against women seems to be a well accepted tactic.

Recently the United Nations following reports of rape in conflict particularly the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) denounced the use of rape as a weapon for war, urging nations to combat gender-based violence especially in armed conflicts and their aftermath.

"The woman's body has become a battleground and it seems to be taken for granted that this should continue," Rachel Mayanja, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, said at a press briefing at UN headquarters.

Briefing the Council last month after returning from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes reported that "brutal sexual violence is a particularly horrific feature of the DRC."

"For many victims, registering a case and speaking out means almost certain ostracism by their own family and community," he told the Council.

"In any case, the chances of redress in a situation of virtually total impunity are close to zero", he said.

It's nice that the UN is speaking out now, but, unfortunately, the use of sexual violence against women as a weapon of war is nothing new.

Human Rights Watch wrote:

"Widely committed and seldom denounced, rape and sexual assault of women in situations of conflict have been viewed more as the spoils of war than as illegitimate acts that violate humanitarian law. As a consequence, women, whether combatants or civilians, have been targeted for rape while their attackers go without punishment. Not until the international outcry rose in response to reports of mass rape in the former Yugoslavia did the international community confront rape as a war crime and begin to take steps to punish those responsible for such abuse. Rape, nonetheless, has long been mischaracterized and dismissed by military and political leaders—those in a position to stop it—as a private crime, a sexual act, the ignoble act of the occasional soldier; worse still, it has been accepted precisely because it is so commonplace."

Rape is a form of torture. It attacks a woman's identity and personal integrity. Lepa Mladjenovic, a psychotherapist and Serbian feminist antiwar activist, stated that it renders a woman "homeless in her own body." Rape is a violation of a woman's power that degrades and seeks to destroy her.

Back in the year 2000, Christine Chinkin pointed out that the impact of the sexual violence does not end with the rape. She wrote in the *European Journal of International Law*:

"The pain, agony, and consequences of rape do not end with the attack of these victims. The effects often last for the rest of these women's lives. Those who survive risk contracting sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, or becoming pregnant. Those who are forced to bear the child of an attacker are constantly reminded of the invasion of their community and of their person. Some have been so badly injured in attacks that they will never be able to bear children. Some societies have religious or cultural restrictions on those who are no longer

virgins. These women may never be able to be a part of their families or communities. These women may never receive any professional help for the physical, psychological, and economic damage inflicted upon them. Many are unable to bear the pain and shame and take their own lives."

It is 2007 and nothing really has changed. Humanity should be ashamed.

The following is a press release from Amnesty International.

#### Mass Rally in Support of Survivors of Conflict's Sexual Violence

At a mass rally held in Makeni in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone today, Amnesty International members and hundreds of other local activists called on the newly elected government of Sierra Leone to commit to ensuring justice and full reparations for the tens of thousands of Sierra Leonean women who have been the victims of sexual violence.

The organization also released a 35-page report entitled "Getting Reparations Right for Survivors of Sexual Violence," revealing the extent to which women are still stigmatized and suffering the after-effects of the sexual violence perpetrated during the conflict in Sierra Leone.

"The unimaginable brutality of violations committed against up to one third of Sierra Leone's women and girls, although well-documented, has still not been fully addressed by the government," said Tania Bernath, Amnesty International's researcher on Sierra Leone.

"For the women of Sierra Leone, the story is not over. They need appropriate healthcare and access to justice, work, economic opportunities and educational opportunities to help them to begin to re-build their lives."

Under international law, those responsible for rape, sexual slavery and sexual violence amounting to war crimes, crimes against humanity and torture must be brought to justice and the survivors must receive full and effective reparations. Reparations must, as far as possible, wipe out all consequences of the illegal act and re-establish the situation that would have, in all probability, existed had the act not been committed.

The Lomé Peace Accord, signed in 1999, provided for the establishment of a "Special Fund for War Victims" and for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Despite the government's obligation to establish such a fund and repeated calls from civil society, the fund has not been established.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission also called for the establishment of a reparations process. This is now being set up, with the National Commission for Social Action taking the lead, but it will need the full support of the government to be effective.

"The delay in setting up a special fund for war victims of Sierra Leone's devastating conflict has undoubtedly resulted in further suffering -- especially for the women of Sierra Leone," said Bernath. "Survivors of sexual violence have been denied rehabilitation -- extending their suffering and compounding their physical and psychological problems."

"Implementing the reparations program recommended by the TRC is also crucial and it will be important for the government to get it right so the survivors of sexual violence do not miss out on the much needed reparations"

Amnesty International stressed in its report that the justice process is an important complement to other forms of reparations.

"A properly functioning justice system should enable survivors to describe what has happened to them in an environment that protects their dignity and helps to end impunity for the horrific crimes they have suffered -- holding the perpetrators to account and bringing them to justice."

"It is almost six years since the end of the devastating conflict that wracked Sierra Leone for years, causing immeasurable suffering to civilians in the country -- particularly women," said Bernath. "And yet, the suffering for women has not ended. The lack of justice and effective remedies has to a certain extent set the stage for further violence against women. "

Despite the passage of several women's rights bills, violations of women's rights in Sierra Leone continue unabated. Not only is violence against women and girls rampant, but efforts to prosecute perpetrators have been largely ineffective.

"Family mediation aimed at restoring 'peace' in rape cases contributes to impunity -- rather than furthering justice," said Bernath. "Such mediation facilitates the government evading its responsibility to ensure that all violence against women is prosecuted."

#### Background

There has been little justice for survivors of war-related sexual violence in Sierra Leone. On 20 June 2007 the Special Court for Sierra Leone found three senior members of the AFRC guilty of 11 out of 14 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. These included rape and outrages on personal dignity including sexual slavery. Remarkably, this was the first instance of anyone in Sierra Leone being held to account for war-related crimes. While this is a significant step forward in the fight against impunity, it is only a small and partial response to addressing impunity for these crimes, since thousands of others have escaped justice.

However an amnesty clause in the Lomé Accord bars prosecution of anyone accused of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity and other crimes between 1991 and 1999. The amnesty also precludes victims from seeking reparations from perpetrators in Sierra Leone's national courts.

Amnesty International continues to call on the government of Sierra Leone to revoke its amnesty law as a matter of urgency and to prioritize rebuilding the justice system in order to effectively investigate all crimes committed during the conflict and prosecute those suspected to committing the crimes.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

---

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 2 November 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

AP 11/02/2007 08:47:59

#### **UN helicopter crashes in Liberia**

MONROVIA, Liberia A U.N. helicopter carrying three crew crashed Friday on a routine flight in northern Liberia, a U.N. spokesman said. The U.N. had no details on casualties but Saye Gornleh, a reporter for Liberia's independent Star radio station, said in a broadcast that he'd seen ambulances take the bodies of two crew members from the burning chopper in the town of Dagamo in Nimba County. The nationalities of those aboard was not immediately known. "We are organizing a rescue mission," said Ben Malor, spokesman for the 15,000 strong peacekeeping mission in the West African country. He said it was not known what caused the crash. Malor said the aircraft was on a routine flight from Ganta on the border with Guinea and was heading to Loguatu on the border with Ivory Coast. The U.N. has had peacekeepers in Liberia for years, helping maintain security since the nation's civil war ended in 2003.

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

#### **Sierra Leone clears ex-rebel spokesman of coup charge**

FREETOWN, Nov 1, 2007 (AFP) - Sierra Leone's government released wartime rebel spokesman Omrie Golley from prison Thursday after clearing him of attempting to stage a coup. "The Attorney-General's office has established that there is no evidence to substantiate the allegation of plotting to commit a treasonable offence levied against Mr. Omrie Golley and others," the government said in a statement that ordered Golley's "unconditional release" after nearly two years in prison. A former spokesman for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) militia group supported by ex-Liberian president Charles Taylor, Golley was arrested in January 2006 on attempted coup charges against the former government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and for allegedly trying to assassinate then-vice president Ernest Berewa.

#### **Help war-time sexual abuse victims, Sierra Leone government told**

DAKAR, Nov 1, 2007 (AFP) - Amnesty International on Thursday urged Sierra Leone's government to do more to ensure effective and meaningful reparations for survivors of sexual assaults during the country's 10-year civil war.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **Police Inspector Admits to Increase in Armed Robbery**

*(The Informer, Daily Observer, The Inquirer, Heritage, Public Agenda, New Democrat and National Chronicle)*



- Police Inspector General, Beatrice Munah Sieh has reported a sharp increase in armed robberies in the country.
- Speaking on Wednesday at UNMIL regularly press briefing, Col. Sieh said the overall crime situation in the country continues to show a downward trend with the exception of armed robbery which accounts for 42 of the total of 667 offences that occurred during the month October.
- The disclosure by IG Sieh appears to be a contradiction to a claim made by Solicitor General, Tiawon Gongloe a fortnight ago that armed robbery was not on the increase in Monrovia and its environs and blamed the media for sensationalizing the issue.

### **Police Demolishes Market Stall**

*(The News and National Chronicle)*

- The Liberian National Police on Thursday morning began the demolition of market stalls at the Waterside Market in Monrovia following a 72-hour ultimatum given for marketers to leave the streets.
- On Monday, an LNP release issued in Monrovia said selling on the streets by petty traders is posing embarrassment to pedestrians and vehicles which is in violation of city ordinance and gave a three-day ultimatum to the peddlers and said at the time that it will leave no stone unturned in evicting street peddlers who will ignore government's warning.
- The National Chronicle however reports that the demolition of the market stalls is in response to a directive from President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for police to clear the streets of makeshift market stalls and petty traders.

### **Jordanian Medical Contingent Awarded UN Medals**

*(Heritage and Public Agenda)*

- One hundred and fifteen members of the current Jordanian Medical contingent working with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) have been awarded UN peacekeeping medals in recognition of their valuable contribution to the work of the mission.
- Speaking during the ceremony, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jordan Ryan told the team of doctors and medical specialists that their work, understanding of duty and cooperation has earned the gratitude, not only of the United Nations but the people of Liberia.

### **Faculty Association at State-Owned University issues 72-Hour Ultimatum** *(National Chronicle, Heritage and The Informer)*

- The University of Liberia Faculty Association (ULFA) has issued a 72-hour ultimatum to the administration of the University to pay what they refer to as an approved adjusted salaries and corresponding arrears.
- The Association said the administration should pay the approved adjusted salary together with corresponding arrears owed from July this year and two months salary arrears from previous negotiations. In a statement issued in Monrovia, the faculty association warned that failure to meet up with its demands it will not comply with the deadline for the submission of grades for the first trimester as required.

### **Several Appointments at Finance Ministry**

*(National Chronicle, The News, Heritage and The Informer)*

- Several new appointments have been made at the revenue department of the Ministry of Finance.
- According to a Ministry of Finance statement, those appointed are Jerry Taylor, Project Coordinator, Tax Administration Reform; Edward Dagoseh, Commissioner, Internal Revenue; Milton Sonpon, Acting Director, Internal Audit and Ansumana Kromah and Acting Director for Tax Payment and Reconciliation.

- Others are, Alexander Washington, Supervisor, Revenue Supply and Forms, Roosevelt Smokie, Acting Director of Tax Appeals among others.
- Deputy Finance Minister, Elfreda Tamba said reorganization of the department was critical to the efficient performance of national government.

**Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

### **Government Makes New Appointments at Finance Ministry**

*(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)*

### **Rift Develops in County Legislative Caucus**

- Correspondents said that a rift has developed with the Grand Gedeh County Legislative Caucus and that the citizens of the County called on the Lawmakers to find an amicable solution to the problem. Various youth groups and students of the County that told reporters that maintaining the current Chairman Representative Zoe Pennue was the best way forward because he was instrumental in the visits to the County of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the subsequent establishment of a junior college in Grand Gedeh County.

*(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio, SKY FM and Truth FM)*

2 November 2007

## **UNMIL Statement**

### **Helicopter Crash near Ganta**

The UN Mission in Liberia, (UNMIL), regrets to announce that a cargo helicopter flight from Ganta, Nimba County to Loguatu on the Liberian-Ivorian border, crashed at around 10.30 a.m GMT today, Friday, 2 November 2007.

The cause of the crash is not yet known.

A search and rescue mission organised by UNMIL has reached the site and confirmed that of the three crew members on board, two are dead and one is missing. The names and nationalities of the casualties will be released only after the next-of-kin have been informed.

The aircraft, an MI-8, operated by UT Air, was under contract to UNMIL.

A joint investigation team, made up of the Liberian Civil Aviation authority (LCAA) and UNMIL Aviation Safety personnel have started investigations into the crash.

The UN Mission in Liberia has grounded all its civilian MI – 8 helicopters until further notice.

\*\*\*\*\*

*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](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*

## BBC

Friday, 2 November 2007

### 'Don't extradite' Rwanda suspects

Amnesty International has called on all governments not to transfer suspects of the 1994 genocide to Rwanda for trial.

There are serious concerns about the ability of the country's justice system to try them fairly and impartially, the human rights group said.

In June, Rwanda abolished the death penalty which it hoped would enable countries that object to capital punishment to extradite suspects.

The Rwanda tribunal based in Tanzania has since asked to transfer a case.

The most high-profile genocide cases are being tried by the UN-backed International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha.

Since 1997 the ICTR has convicted 28 people and acquitted five and frustrated at its slow process, Rwanda wants suspects transferred to face trial at home.

Some 800,000 Tutsis and Hutu moderates were slaughtered during the country's 100-day genocide in 1994.

### 'More time'

Amnesty also urged the ICTR not to transfer any of its cases to Rwanda until the government can demonstrate that trials would be conducted in accordance with international standards.

Rwanda had to do more to guarantee the protection of all victims and witnesses, it said.

But Rwanda rejected Amnesty's objections.

Some 12,000 local gacaca courts have been used in Rwanda to speed up the process of bringing those responsible for the genocide to justice.

"If it's about protecting victims and witnesses, that is a test we have already passed and need no more lessons," Rwanda's Prosecutor General Martin Ngoga told Reuters news agency.

Rwandan Justice Minister Tharcisse Karugarama told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme that Rwanda had tried more genocide suspects than any other country, and that thousands of people had been acquitted.

He said that although Rwanda's prison system was not perfect, the prison population had decreased



More than 800,000 people died in the 1994 genocide

“  
victims and witnesses, that is a  
”  
Martin Ngoga  
Rwanda's prosecutor general

#### ARUSHA TRIBUNAL

Opened: **1997**  
Guilty verdicts: **28**  
Acquittals: **5**  
Cases in progress: **29**  
Cases awaiting trial: **6**  
Accused at large: **18**  
Source: *ICTR*

from over 200,000 in the year following the genocide to around 60,000 today.

Amnesty's Africa programme director Erwin van der Borghst said the group fully supported "the development of the national justice system in Rwanda".

"But until we are satisfied that all the criteria necessary for fair and impartial trials are met, we urge the ICTR and national governments to refuse to transfer any cases to Rwanda," he said.

"The ICTR should inform the UN Security Council that they need more time and resources to complete their caseload, instead of seeking to transfer cases to a system where there is a risk of torture and unfair trial."

The ICTR is due to complete its work by 2010.

## Voice of America

Friday, 2 November 2007

### Rwanda Criticizes Amnesty International Comment on Extraditions

By Noel King

Kigali

Rwanda's Prosecutor General has condemned a statement by advocacy group Amnesty International that urged foreign governments not to extradite genocide suspects to Rwanda. The Amnesty statement questioned the impartiality of Rwanda's justice system. Noel King has more on the reaction in this report from Kigali.

Prosecutor General Martin Ngoga told VOA that he will accept criticism of Rwanda's legal system, if it comes through legitimate channels.

Ngoga called Amnesty's statement poorly researched and said it does not allow Rwanda to rebut the allegations in a court of law. "Anybody is free to challenge our opinion, but with evidence and fact," said Ngoga. "What Amnesty International is not offering is actual facts and evidence. It's just blatant allegations."

Amnesty International says countries in which genocide suspects are living, including Britain, France and Canada, should try the suspects themselves. Amnesty says reports of unfair trials within Rwanda's community-based gacaca courts have cast doubt on the nation's justice system.

Rwanda started using the gacaca courts in 2001. The system, in which the alleged participants in the genocide are tried in their home villages, was implemented because the nation's regular courts were overwhelmed by the prospect of trials for thousands of suspects in the genocide.

Ngoga said Rwanda welcomes international organizations to the country to view court proceedings. "I have no recollection of ever meeting anybody from Amnesty International," commented Ngoga. "I'm not even aware if they are represented in Rwanda. We highly doubt the credibility of the methods of their investigation and we believe their findings are completely wrong."

Amnesty also urged the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, currently based in Arusha, Tanzania, not to turn over pending cases to Kigali when the court's mandate expires. After Rwanda abolished the death penalty in July, the ICTR said it would return suspects to Rwanda for trial.

The International Criminal Tribunal was created in 1994 by the U.N. Security Council. The court has tried 27 cases and handed down 22 convictions, according to the ICTR's official website.

Rwanda's genocide saw an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus slaughtered by Hutu militias, and by ordinary Rwandans, in a little over three months time.



**A Rwandan genocide suspect stands trial before a gacaca court in Zivu, southern Rwanda, 10 March 2005 (File photo)**

## BBC

Friday, 2 November 2007

### LRA rebels want Ugandan justice

Ugandan rebels say they have come home to find a way to get International Criminal Court arrest warrants against four of their top commanders set aside.

A rebel team arrived in the capital, Kampala, on Thursday for an historic first visit before heading north to discuss justice and reconciliation.

Despite last year's truce to end the Lord's Resistance Army's 20-year war in the north, the region remains insecure.

An aid agency says two of its employees were killed there on Wednesday.

The Paris-based Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development said unidentified gunmen attacked a vehicle carrying the aid workers in Amuru district.

A third member of staff was injured while a fourth was able to escape.

### Sticking point

The LRA's chief negotiator Martin Ojul said the crucial next step in the peace process was to get the ICC warrants set aside so that the LRA leaders are given the confidence to go to Kampala.

"What we are looking for is a way out on how we can handle the ICC issue and the warrant of arrest," Mr Ojul told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

He said he wanted the ICC warrants withdrawn so that these issues can be handled "within the country".

Mr Ojul said he was looking forward to discussing the issue of justice and accountability with President Yoweri Museveni.

He said he would stress to the president the commitment of the LRA negotiating team and that of the movement's military commanders to the peace process.

LRA leader Joseph Kony remains at a rebel camp across the border in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He has refused to take part in long-running talks in southern Sudan unless the ICC arrest war crimes warrants issued two years ago for four LRA commanders are dropped.

The BBC's Sarah Grainger in Kampala says accountability is a key sticking point in the negotiations.

Traditional forms of justice have been suggested as an alternative to the ICC - these are likely be much less punitive.



LRA leader Joseph Kony (l) and his deputy (r) are wanted for war crimes



In the coming days, the LRA representatives will consult the general public in northern Uganda on how they would like to see justice done.

On Friday morning, the delegation visited parliament and saw other government officials to explore ways of ending the conflict.

### **Vital**

In his interview, Mr Ojul again dismissed reports of a split in the LRA as alleged by former member Opiyo Makasi who arrived at Entebbe airport on Thursday evening after surrendering last week in DR Congo.

During their rebellion, the rebels used the abduction of children and mutilation of adults to bolster their cause.

More than one million people were driven from their homes.

In recent years, with dwindling support from Sudan, the LRA fighters have been on the run.

The BBC's Africa analyst Martin Plaut says finding sanctuary in remote areas of DR Congo and funding their operations from diamond mines, the rebel movement is a shadow of its former self.



More than 1.5m people still live in displacement camps in the north

But ending their rebellion is still vital if peace is to come to northern Uganda, he says.



## United Nations

Thursday, 1 November 2007

### **Bosnian Serb's 15-year sentence upheld by UN war crimes tribunal**



Dragan Zelenović

*1 November 2007* – The United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) has upheld a 15-year prison term for a former Bosnian Serb soldier who pleaded guilty to charges of torture and rape of Bosnian Muslims during the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

The Tribunal's Appeals Chamber yesterday unanimously dismissed all grounds of appeal filed by Dragan Zelenović against the Trial Chamber's sentencing judgment of April 2007 and thereby rejected his request to lower the sentence.

Mr. Zelenović, who was also a former military policeman, came into the Tribunal's custody in June 2006 after several years on the run. In January 2007, he pleaded guilty to three counts of torture and four counts of rape of Bosnian Muslim women and girls from the Foca municipality in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In total he was found guilty of personally committing nine rapes, four of which were gang rapes. Many involved torture.

Mr. Zelenović will serve his prison term in one of the States which have concluded an agreement with the ICTY on enforcement of sentences. He is entitled to credit for the time he has already spent in detention since 22 August 2005.

This judgement concludes the last case before the Tribunal specifically focused on crimes committed in Foca after the take-over of the municipality by Serb forces in April 1992.

The Tribunal has previously convicted three persons for the rape, torture and enslavement of Bosnian Muslim women and girls and one person for the persecution, torture and murder of non-Serb men held in the KP Dom detention camp. Four other accused were transferred to Sarajevo for trial before the War Crimes Chamber of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina.