

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



Deputy Registrar Fidelma Donlon, with the SCSL football team as they prepared to defend their Zain corporate gala championship on Saturday. SCSL defeated Standard Chartered Bank one nil.
Photo credit: Hansel C.O.P. Mags-King, Court Management.

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:

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

Mandela Aaide Charged over Naomi Campbell Diamonds / <i>The Torchlight</i>	Page 3
Travel Ban Lifted / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Page 4
...Special Court, UNICEF Opens With Win / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 5
Fambul Tok to Launch 'Wi Na Wan Fambul' Campaign / <i>The New Citizen</i>	Page 6

International News

African criticism of ICC unfair: Goldstone / <i>Defence Web</i>	Pages 7-8
Justice in doubt for DRC atrocity victims / <i>The Citizen</i>	Pages 9-10
France Calls on Hariri Tribunal to Continue its Work to Uncover the Truth / <i>Naharnet</i>	Page 11
Jumblat: I Hope Matters Won't Come to Voting on Funding STL / <i>Naharnet</i>	Page 12
Three ministers get ICC letters / <i>The Standard</i>	Pages 13-15

Mandela aide charged over Naomi Campbell diamonds

The former head of Nelson Mandela's charity fund has been charged with illegally keeping uncut diamonds given to him by supermodel Naomi Campbell. Jeremy Ractliffe admitted he had the

gems only when Ms Campbell mentioned him at ex-Liberian leader Charles Taylor's war crimes trial in August.

He then handed the gems to police and



Naomi Campbell gave the diamonds to Jeremy Ractliffe in 1997

resigned as a trustee of the fund.

Prosecutors say the stones are "blood diamonds" which Mr Taylor gave to Ms Campbell after a dinner in 1997.

Ms Campbell gave evidence at Mr Taylor's trial before a UN special court in The Hague in August.

'Dirty-looking stones'

South African prosecutors have now charged Mr Ractliffe, the former chief executive of the Nelson Mandela's Children's Fund (NMCF), under the Diamonds Act of 1956.

His case has been adjourned until 27 October.

At the trial, Ms Campbell said she was given some "dirty-looking stones" after a 1997 charity dinner hosted by South Africa's former President Nelson Mandela where Mr Taylor was also a guest.

She said two unidentified men appeared at her room and gave her the stones.

She told the court she did not have proof they came from Mr Taylor and had

given them to Mr Ractliffe because she wanted the stones to go to charity.

In a statement at the time of his resignation, Mr Ractliffe said he took the diamonds as he thought it might be illegal for her to take them out of the country.

However, he did not want to involve the NMCF in anything illegal, he said.

"In the end I decided I should just keep them," he added.

Mr Taylor is accused of using illegally mined diamonds to secure weapons for Sierra Leone's RUF rebels during the 1991-2001 civil war - a charge he denies.

He said he kept them to shield the reputations of Mr Mandela and his fund.

Prosecutors say that from his seat of power in Liberia, Mr Taylor also trained and commanded the rebels.

The rebels were notoriously brutal, frequently hacking off the hands and legs of civilians.

The Exclusive
Tuesday, 5 October 2010

Travel Ban Lifted:



JP: free to come home



Kerefa: laughs at last

By John Koroma
Reporting from New York, Wilfred Leeroy Kabs-Kanu quoted Ambassador Shekou Touray's state-
Cont. page 11

Travel Ban

ment describing "as an important milestone", the lifting of traveling sanctions in Sierra Leone.

The Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Shekou Touray was reported Wednesday 29th September 2010 during the Security Council meeting during the 65th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, confirming that an international traveling embargo slammed on the country in 1997 has been lifted by the Security Council.

The embargo was imposed on the country during its height of the civil war and other atrocities committed by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) junta in 1997. As set out by Resolutions 1132 (1997) and 1171 (1998), the UN Security Council voted to lift the sanctions through Resolution 1941 (2010). In his response after the vote and announcement of the lifting of the ban, Ambassador Touray expressed thanks and appreciation on behalf of Sierra Leone to the Security Council for the speedy consideration of Sierra Leone's request for the sanctions to be lifted. He noted that the Security Council's decision is an important signal that Sierra Leone is on the right path in the recovery process, although the nation still faces other bottlenecks.

"Now there will be a free flow of goods and services that used to affect the economy", said Ambassador Touray to the Council, and assured that Sierra Leone will not betray the trust and confidence reposed on her.

Bloomberg News reporter Bill Varner caught up with the Ambassador in an interview outside the hall and asked him about what benefits this will have on Sierra Leone. He was responded to by Ambassador Touray saying that the lifting of the sanctions will accelerate economic recovery and stimulate trade, investment and tourism.

In another related development, the Foreign Affairs Minister Zainab Bangura expressed thanks and appreciation to the British Permanent Mission in New York which through it, she told the Sierra Leone UN Mission Information Unit that the request for the lifting of the sanctions was channeled by her ministry. According to Mrs. Bangura, the sanctions were affecting freight, flight and investment. Now that they have been lifted, it is expected that Sierra Leone skies and deep blue waters will be flown and plied by major airlines and ships coming down at Lungi International Airport and Queen Elizabeth II Quay.

The sanctions had held these freights skeptical about the prospects of plying the Sierra Leone route, which was affecting the economy and tourism.

It is expected that the lifting of the sanctions will bring down the cost of air tickets and freight and will multiply the number of business people and companies coming to Sierra Leone to invest.

Under the new amnesty, it is suggested that former junta leaders banned by the international community from traveling such as the erstwhile head of state wanted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Johnny Paul Koroma and co can now exercise their fundamental human rights of free movements.

Also former National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) Secretary of State/Spokesman Lt. Col. Kerefa Kargbo though not affected by the sanctions which were only imposed during the AFRC, and who is still not confirmed about his appointment as the new Director of Petroleum Unit, is now heading home after the sanctions were lifted.

Zain Corporate gala... Special Court, UNICEF open with victories

Defending champions, Special Court for Sierra Leone started their title defence in the annual Zain Corporate Championship with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Standard Chartered Bank at the Hockey Pitch, Wilberforce.

But the Special Court were not the only victorious side of the day, as UNICEF were

awarded two goals and three points after their opponents, UNIPSIL, failed to show up. Meanwhile, after their victory over Standard Chartered Bank, Special Court captain Umaru Zainu Deen confidently said they will retain the title for the third season in a row.

"I am very confident we are going to retain the title and win it for the third time and

today's victory is a clear message to others that we want the title to stay at the Special Court.

"It was not an easy task for us today but in football you must always prepare to face the tougher teams if only you want to win the crown. We still need to improve a bit especially with our attacking because we failed to make use of several chances," Deen said.

On the other side, Standard Chartered Bank captain, Mbayo Bayoh, said they were not too much concerned about the result as they are building a new team.

"It is our first match and though we lost, we played very well. This is a new team we are building, and also



Defending champions, Special Court hoping to retain their title

most of our players were absent due to unavoidable circumstances," he said.

However, Bayoh believes his side can go through to the final or at least the semi-finals of the tournament as

they had done in the previous corporate tournament.

In another clash, Union Trust Bank were held to a goalless draw by newcomers, Splash Mobile Money on Sunday at the same venue.

**Local
News**

2012 ELECTIONS...

By John Mansaray

Fambul Tok to Launch 'WINA WAN FAMBUL' CAMPAIGN

Fambul Tok International, a non-governmental organization engaged in the promotion of national reconciliation in Sierra Leone, will soon launch another campaign to be known locally as 'wi na wan fambul' campaign- 'we are one family.'

The campaign aims at strengthening reconciliation in the already peaceful country.

Executive Director, Fambul Tok International, John Caulker informed journalists yesterday at a press conference held at the organization's Global

Program national headquarters, 47 Robert Street in Freetown that in the first quarter of 2011, it would launch the 'wi na wan fambul' national unity campaign to ensure a violence free elections in 2012.

According to the Executive Director, the primary purpose of the campaign is to serve as an early warning to the electorates to take into consideration the importance of the country and continue to build on the spirit of one people in one united country in which we all must

see ourselves as one family, especially as we approach the 2012 local council, presidential and parliamentary elections, which to many, would be very challenging in the country's history.

John Caulker also disclosed that the campaign would be undertaken alongside the launching of the 'fambul tok' film that would tell the story of victims and perpetrators during the country's brutal conflict revealing, "the film, produced and directed by Sara Terry, an award winning photographer, features

traditional based truth-telling and forgiveness ceremonies."

He underscored that the film would explore and showcase the depth of Sierra Leone's culture of forgiveness and living together as one family and disclosed that early next year, apart from the launch of the campaign and the film, there would also be launching of a photo-intensive companion book published in partnership with the Nan Richardson of Umbage Editions. All the items to be launched are geared

towards building sustainable peace and unity among the people of Sierra Leone.

Director of Communication, Fambul Tok International, Solomon Yarjo, disclosed that currently the organization is engaged in reconciliation processes in thirty-nine chiefdoms in the four districts of Kailahun, Moyamba, Kono and Koinadugu where series of traditional ceremonies were held aimed at sustaining peace and unity among the people.

Defence Web

Monday, 4 October 2010

<http://www.defenceweb.co.za>

African criticism of ICC unfair: Goldstone

Written by defenceWeb



The criticism that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is against African countries is unfair, Judge Richard Goldstone says. “It is unfair to say the court is being used against African countries,” Goldstone said at a lecture at the University of Johannesburg.

He acknowledged that this was a perception because of Africans appearing before the court, the South African Press Association reports. The ICC has opened up five investigations into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic, Uganda, Kenya and Darfur in Sudan.

Goldstone said, however, this would change in the near future as individuals in Latin America were coming under investigation. He added that the ICC only began its activities after officials in those countries declined to open their own investigations, SAPA said. In the case of Kenya, the country’s parliament refused to begin an investigation into post-election violence in 2007. “It’s a court of last resort, not a court of first resort,” said Goldstone.

The ICC was established in July 2002 as a permanent tribunal to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the “crime of aggression”. The wikipedia says the creation of the ICC is “perhaps constitutes the most significant reform of international law since 1945. It gives teeth to the two bodies of international law that deal with treatment of individuals: human rights and humanitarian law.”

It adds the establishment of an international tribunal to judge political leaders accused of war crimes was first made during the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 by the Commission of Responsibilities. The issue was addressed again at conference held in Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations in November 1937, but no practical results followed. The United Nations states that the General Assembly first recognised the need for a permanent international court to deal with atrocities of the kind committed during World War II in 1948, following the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals.

At the request of the General Assembly, the International Law Commission drafted two statutes by the early 1950s but these were shelved as the Cold War made the establishment of an international criminal court politically unrealistic.

The idea was revived in 1989 when Arthur Robinson, then Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, proposed the creation of a permanent international court to deal with the illegal drug trade. While work began on a draft statute, the international community established ad hoc tribunals to try war crimes in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, further highlighting the need for a permanent international criminal court.

Following years of negotiations, the General Assembly convened a conference in Rome in June 1998, with the aim of finalising a treaty, the wikipedia adds. The conference adopted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court by a vote of 120 to 7, with 21 countries abstaining the next month. The Rome Statute became a binding treaty in April 2002, when the number of countries that had ratified it reached 60.

The first of the Ad hoc tribunals was the “International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, more commonly referred to as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, established by the United Nations Security Council in May 1993.

Those tried before it ranged from common soldiers to generals and police commanders all the way to Slobodan Milošević, the first sitting head of state indicted for war crimes. Other high level indictees included Milan Babić, President of the Republika Srpska Krajina; Ramush Haradinaj, former Prime Minister of Kosovo; Radovan Karadžić, former President of the Republika Srpska; Ratko Mladić, former Commander of the Bosnian Serb Army and Ante Gotovina, former General of the Croatian Army.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established in Arusha in Tanzania in November 1994 by the United Nations Security Council in order “to judge people responsible for the Rwandan Genocide and other serious violations of the international law in Rwanda, or by Rwandan citizens in nearby states.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone followed in 2002 as an independent judicial body set up to "try those who bear greatest responsibility" for the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996 during the Sierra Leone Civil War. Located in Freetown, this court was set up with the agreement of Sierra Leone and operates under both Sierra Leone domestic law and international humanitarian law.

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the Prosecution of Crimes Committed During the Period of Democratic Kampuchea, commonly known as “Cambodia Tribunal”, followed the Sierra Leone pattern and was established in 2006 as national court pursuant to an agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations to try senior members of the Khmer Rouge for serious violations of Cambodian penal law, international humanitarian law and custom, and violation of international conventions recognised by Cambodia, committed during the period between 17 April 1975 and 6 January 1979.

Goldstone also commented on Kenya’s hosting of Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir at a ceremony celebrating its new constitution. Al-Bashir has been indicted by the ICC for crimes in Darfur. As a signatory to the ICC treaty, Kenya was obligated to arrest but refused to do so. This is in contrast, said Goldstone, to South Africa where Al-Bashir was warned not to enter the country for President Jacob Zuma’s inauguration or risk arrest.

Goldstone said that while no action could be taken against country’s such as Kenya, they did risk becoming “pariah states”. “There is no action against countries that do not fulfil their obligations under the treaty except to become pariah states,” he said.

The Citizen

Tuesday, 5 October 2010

Justice in doubt for DRC atrocity victims

Katrina Manson

Rights activists are calling on Democratic Republic of Congo to ensure justice for victims of atrocities cited in a United Nations' report or see their grievances poison an already dire security situation.

The report published on Friday charts massacres from 1993-2003 that it says may amount to "genocide" if proven in a competent court, and urges Congo to seek to prosecute perpetrators, whether they come from Congo or its neighbours.

"Impunity is only sending a signal to people that they can do whatever they want," Veronique Aubert, deputy Africa director at Amnesty International, told Reuters.

"The only way to bring stability to the country and the region is for people to be brought to justice," she said of crimes committed during a period that saw the fall of dictator Mobutu Sese Seko and a conflict involving six foreign armies.

The report notes 617 violent incidents including "systematic massacre" and examples of Rwandan soldiers deliberately hunting down Rwandan Hutu refugees who were promised a return home but were instead smashed to death with hammers.

The number of victims runs into the tens of thousands. Mass rape, cutting children into pieces and burning alive feature throughout the 10 years studied. Women were forced to eat their own breasts, a husband his own ear fried by his wife.

"We're asking the state to deal with the needs of victims," said Raphael Wakenge, president of local NGO Congolese Coalition for Transitional Justice, which wants a mixed chamber of national and international judges to try the cases.

Some argue that the report, which took years to research and prepare for release, is simply too late and could inflame regional tensions just as they were thawing enough to offer the prospect of lasting security.

Rwanda threatened to withdraw its peacekeepers from Darfur in protest at the "genocide" label. While it tentatively agreed to leave them there, it remains angry as do other nations cited in the report such as Burundi, Angola and Uganda.

"It's opening up old wounds," Uganda's ambassador to Congo James Kinobe told Reuters.

"Do the people of Congo most need justice or peace right now? Most important for Congo is complete total peace," he said of violence in eastern Congo which still has a regional flavour with regular attacks by a variety of Ugandan and Rwandan rebels.

Some argue the war is too sensitive an issue for Congo itself to examine, given the direct involvement of a number of powerful figures in present-day Congolese politics in the fighting that first ousted Mobutu in 1997.

"I don't see it in the interests of (President Joseph) Kabila to have any serious transitional justice," said a western diplomat.

Post-conflict countries such as Rwanda, South Africa and Sierra Leone have all had a chance to make public victims' stories, seek legal redress and punish perpetrators, but previous attempts in Congo have all fallen short.

Congo's four-year year Truth and Reconciliation Commission ran until until 2007, but was judged "severely flawed" by the International Center for Transitional Justice, a New York-based organisation working on redress of human rights abuses.

Donors and activists are concerned that Congo's weak justice system will not be able to deliver results without international participation as well as funding.

Congo has already said it would prefer a domestic legal solution rather than a hybrid court such as that of Sierra Leone's UN-backed Special Court or to try crimes under the International Criminal Court, which tries crimes committed only after July 1, 2002. But it has not ruled out outside support.

"No one has a clear idea what should happen next, but we would support a legal mechanism if it had enough guarantees and expertise for a transparent process," said the western diplomat.

It is clear the impact and cost of the past rankles with Congo, however, which is this week putting in a confidential request for \$23.5 billion in damages and reparations from Uganda, charted in documents seen by Reuters, as part of a case overseen by the UN's International Court of Justice.

"Most people are still at liberty, or even in power -- we want everyone cited in the report to be vetted," said Raphael Wakenge. "We want a state where rights count."

The writer filed this analysis from Kinshasa

Naharnet

Tuesday, 5 October 2010

France Calls on Hariri Tribunal to Continue its Work to Uncover the Truth



France has called on the Special Tribunal for Lebanon to continue its work to find the killers of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

In response to a question on the Syrian arrest warrants, French Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernard Valero said: "We hope that the SLT continues its work in favor of revealing the truth that should not be hindered by any element."

He said the STL, itself, has ruled out some testimonies that did not contribute to "uncovering the truth."

Syria has ordered the arrest of 33 people over false testimony given in the U.N.-backed probe into the assassination of Lebanese ex-premier Rafik Hariri.

The arrest warrants were issued against judges, security officers, politicians, journalists and other Lebanese, Arab and foreign officials and individuals.

Jumblat: I Hope Matters Won't Come to Voting on Funding STL

Progressive Socialist Party leader MP Walid Jumblat hoped on Monday that matters at Cabinet would not reach the point of having to vote on funding the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

"If matters are not resolved in a consensual way, then I will take the appropriate political stand that is suitable for national consensus that is in line with political course I have been adopting since August 2, 2009," he told *As Safir* on Monday.

On Sunday, he had stated: "We don't need the STL if blood is going to be shed for its sake."

Jumblat reiterated that "unveiling the truth behind false witnesses is the gateway towards knowing who murdered ex-PM Rafik Hariri."

During a tour of the Mount Lebanon area of Aley, the Druze leader wondered "who said that there are no false witnesses behind accusing Hizbullah of assassinating Hariri," warning of "heavy clouds looming over Lebanon."

Jumblat noted that the Democratic Gathering he heads would mull its position on the financing of the tribunal if the issue was raised, adding that the gathering comprises independent MPs and lawmakers who abide by the decision of the PSP.

He said that U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon might find other sources for financing the STL.

Jumblat lashed out at those behind the "thoughtless rhetoric", asking them to "shut up" and stressing that he rejects "an armed conflict for the sake of justice."

Meanwhile, Minister of Transportation and Public Works Ghazi Aridi stated on Sunday that Prime Minister Saad Hariri had recently launched efforts to withdraw the accusation against Hizbullah in Hariri's assassination, but he had failed

The Standard

Monday, 4 October 2010

Three ministers get ICC letters

By Cyrus Ombati, Martin Mutua and Ben Agina

Three Cabinet ministers have received written invitations for separate appearances before International Criminal Court detectives in connection with post-election violence crimes.

It is, however, not clear exactly which areas of the investigations they are supposed to shed light on.

News of the invitations, which could be a pointer to the fact that the ministers are among the 22 people believed to be on the ICC's radar, as the Government agreed to appoint a High Court Judge to take witness statements from PCs and regional police chiefs who were in charge in the main clash points before and during the violence.

The politicians, it is believed, would be asked to shed light on their possible role in the 2007-2008 violence triggered by disputed presidential election results, The Standard has established.

It is also believed preliminary investigations by the ICC, cutting across political parties, as was revealed by Chief Prosecutor Luis-Moreno Ocampo, have put the ministers in a position where ICC inevitably has to talk to them.

Sources revealed the appearance others see as interrogatory, has to take place before Ocampo requests the Pre-Trial Chamber II for indictment letters on Kenyans his investigations would have established hold the highest responsibility for the killings, dispossessions and displacements.

Wako first met with the five ICC detectives at his Chambers yesterday, and he later held talks with Chief Justice Evan Gicheru, with whom it is believed he agreed to appoint a judge to take evidence from PCs and PPOs as per ICC's options.

After meeting with the ICC team, Wako held another session with the Commissioner of Police Mr Mathew Iteere, and a team of police officers, before meeting the CJ.

The meeting with Iteere was attended by some of the lawyers hired PPOs and PCs to guide them in interrogations.

Wako later told The Standard he had written a formal request to the CJ asking him to appoint a judge to handle the statements of the Government officials. "We have agreed and the Judge should be named anytime to listen to the evidence as per the ICC request," revealed Wako.

He added that he had already communicated with the lead investigator of the ICC team, who flew back to the Hague last week, and that he was happy with the development.

Sources said apart from the PPOs and PCs, the ICC officials want to interview the politicians whose names have been marked as 'High Priority'.

"I believe the individuals have received the letters and are in contact with the ICC team," said a highly placed source that saw the list, but asked not to be named.

Power-sharing

Only one of the ministers was in the Cabinet in 2007. The second was appointed in the half-Cabinet President Kibaki formed as post-election violence raged around him, while the third was conscripted into the council of ministers after the power-sharing deal signed on February 28, 2008.

Their party affiliation is in tandem with Ocampo's earlier revelation that he had on his radar top politicians in President Kibaki's Party of National Unity — who wanted to retain power — and PM Raila Odinga's party, who wanted to get hold of power.

New reports also revealed that the Cabinet sub-committee on ICC-related issues, chaired by Internal Security Minister Prof George Saitoti will meet this morning to deliberate over the reports and memos both Wako and NSIS Director General Michael Gichangi were last week mandated to vet, before their handover to the ICC sleuths.

Wako and Gichangi were asked to go through all security memos and reports that were used during the post election violence.

"We were clear on the matter of Government documents pertaining to the probe that the laid down procedures as stipulated in the International Crimes Act must be followed when it comes to issues of national security," explained our sources, in reference to the committees earlier refusal to accede to what it called ICCs "blanket demands", ostensibly because that would be prejudicial to Kenya's "national security interests".

Coming hot on the heels of the stand-off between the Government and ICC on the latter's request for the minutes of high-level security meetings held during the turbulent period, and added to ICC's failure to interrogate PCs and PPOs last week as earlier scheduled, the letters to the ministers may intensify the panic in sections of Government over the speed and direction ICC investigations are taking.

Last week, Central Kenya politicians claimed ICC was targeting their 'people' even as reports spread the court was keen on getting to the bottom of the 400 police killings during the dark period.

The judge to be appointed by the CJ will interrogate security chiefs who were in office before and during the chaos.

Sources said the judge would be named late yesterday or today, so as to embark on his or her work immediately.

ICC had requested to have face-to-face meetings with PCs and PPOs, but the officers hired private lawyers, and said they would only be interviewed in the presence of a person with the status of a judge or Registrar of the High Court, as recommended by the Rome Statute.

This was because of fears they could incriminate themselves, or be sacrificed by their superiors if seen to have talked behind their backs.

Contacted lawyers

The lawyers contracted by the PCs and PPOs are Mr Evans Monari, Mr Ken Ogeto, and Mr Gershom Otachi, while Mr Ahmednasir Abdullahi represents NSIS.

In addition, Abdullahi represents all the PCs and has written to Wako informing him of a preliminary meeting held on September 27 where legal procedures with regard to evidence-taking were discussed.

Monari represented former Commissioner of Police Hussein Ali and the Police Force at the Waki Commission that investigated the violence and gathered most of the evidence ICC is now relying on. Ogeto and Otachi are partners and are attached as defence lawyers to the International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha.

The ICC team is looking for more evidence to convince the judges at The Hague that crimes against humanity were committed in the post-election period, before they issue the indictment letters probably by December.

The team is in particular looking for more witnesses and evidence before they appear before the Pre-Trial Chamber II composed of Judges Ekaterina Trendafilova, Hans-Peter Kaul and Cuno Tarfusser to seek for indictment of the individuals it finds 'good' evidence against.

The ICC prosecutor will again appear before the three judges with his evidence to seek for indictment of the individuals he feels were responsible for the killings.

Sources revealed ICC detectives have specific questions for every Government official whom they have requested to interrogate, as they move to tie up the loose ends in their cases. In the letters signed by ICC's Head of International Cooperation Mr Amady Ba, the court says it was to interview the PCs and PPOs — most likely on where the uncompromising and selective orders they received in the field came from.