

**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 Outreach and Public Affairs Office**

**as at:**

Monday 3 – Friday 7 March 2003

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

## Local News

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Special Court to Catch Many / <i>Concord Times</i>                                    | Page 3  |
| Special Court Delegation of Donors Visits Kailahun / <i>Rokel Times</i>               | Page 4  |
| Prosecutor Courts Perpetrators / <i>Midweek Spark</i>                                 | Page 5  |
| In US Call for Special Court to Try Taylor / <i>Concord Times</i>                     | Page 6  |
| Workshop on Reconciliation and the Special Court / <i>Sierra News</i>                 | Page 7  |
| Those Who Bear The Greatest Responsibility / <i>Wisdom</i>                            | Page 8  |
| Special Court Chief Prosecutor Encourages Perpetrators to Talk to TRC / <i>Wisdom</i> | Page 9  |
| Special Court to Indict Politicians / <i>Concord Times</i>                            | Page 10 |
| Police to Effect Arrest / <i>Independent Observer</i>                                 | Page 11 |
| I Have The Legal Power to Indict Taylor / <i>For di People</i>                        | Page 12 |

Concord Times  
Monday, 3 March 2003

Concord Times

Monday March 3, 2003

# Special Court to catch many

## ... Special Court prosecutor

The Special Court Prosecutor David Crane says "national, regional, and international" investigations are ongoing.

"I want our work to be absolutely thorough. These cases are rather

complex and I've instructed my staff to follow the evidence wherever it leads," said Crane. He indicated that investigations would likely continue into the rainy season.

David M. Crane has however assured soldiers of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces that only those bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes will be prosecuted.

Crane was speaking at a weeklong seminar organized by the U.S. De-

fence Institute of International Legal studies (DIILS). The audience included over forty members of the RSLAF, as well as civilian leadership from the Ministry of Defence.

"While I believe that accountability is the cornerstone to democracy

and a sustainable peace, the mandate given to me by the international community asks me to only prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility," said Crane, adding: "I do encourage citizens to talk to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, whether they be vic-

tims or perpetrators."

The weeklong DIILS seminar focuses on "The Legal Aspect of the Military in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Society." Participants engaged in discussions on issues such as the role of law, military organiza-

Rokel Times

Tuesday March 4, 2003

## Special Court Delegation of Donors visits Kailahun

Representatives of the Special Court's management committee visited Kailahun on Wednesday as part of their efforts to talk with Sierra Leoneans and hear their views on the Court. Hundreds of people in the area turned out to meet them at the local court barry, the town's

official meeting place. Also part of the delegation was Mr. Ralph Zacklin, Assitant Secretary General of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs; Ambassador Alieu Kanu from the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, as well as officials from the

Governments of Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The committee oversees the Special Court's non-judicial operations and has been on a three day visit to Sierra Leone evaluating the Court's progress.

Midweek Spark  
Wednesday, 5 March 2003

Midweek Spark  
March 5, 2003

## Prosecutor courts perpetrators

The Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone David M. Crane addressed members of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) today at a week-long seminar organised by the US defence Institute of International Legal Studies (DIILS). The audience included over forty members of the RSLAF, as well as civilian leadership from the Ministry of Defence. The prosecutor stated that his investigations would focus only on "those bearing the greatest responsibility" for violations of international humanitarian law - not the rank and file of the military.

"While I believe that accountability is the cor-

nerstone to democracy (rainy season).

and a sustainable peace, the mandate given to me by the international community asks me to only prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility," said Crane. "I do encourage citizens to talk to Truth and Reconciliation Commission, whether they be victims or perpetrators".

The Prosecutor also told participants that "national, regional, and international" investigations are ongoing. "I want our work to be absolutely thorough. These cases are rather complex and I've instructed my staff to follow the evidence wherever it leads," said Crane. He indicated that investigations would likely continue into the summer

The weeklong DIILS seminar focuses on "The Legal Aspect of the Military in the 21st Century Society". Participants are engaged in discussions on issues such as the rule of law, military organization, and human rights.

Crane returned to Sierra Leone from a one-week trip to London and Washington, D.C. He is scheduled to make the third in a series of diplomatic missions later this month, where he will make initial visits to Germany, Norway, and Denmark to brief senior government officials and human rights leaders on the establishment of the court. Trips are also planned for April.

Concord Times  
 Wednesday, 5 March 2003

Concord Times  
 Wednesday March 5, 2003

## In US: Call for Special Court to try Taylor

Former interim president of Liberia Dr. Amos C. Sawyer is now among those agitating for the trial of President Charles Taylor.

Amos Sawyer wants Taylor and all those who were major players in the Sierra Leone tragedy to be tried by the Special Court in Sierra Leone. According to The Perspective in the US, Sawyer has challenged Liberians to take the initiative in bringing Taylor and his cohorts to judgment.

He added, "It is time for Liberians who have information as to how Mr. Taylor provided, how he was engaged in the diamond business and how he exploited a relationship with Sierra Leoneans to aid and abetted murder to make their testimony available," Sawyer said. He said the use of Liberia as an epicenter of a system of conflict is a stain on Liberia and its citizens urging

those with information that they owed it to themselves, to their country and to our largest humanity to testify

"The Liberian people who care about how their presidency has been used as the instrument of criminality and of plunder, how their presidency has been used as a murder chamber by Mr. Taylor are partially responsible for his persecution," Sawyer said.

The Sierra Leone Court set up to try those who committed atrocities during the war were created through an agreement between the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone. David Hecht, spokesman for the court recently said the court will not be looking at "each individual but rather at those who bear the greatest responsibility" for the atrocities carried out during the war.

# Sierra News

Wednesday, 5 March 2003

## CSM-SL Workshop on Nationwide Awareness Raising and Sensitisation Campaign on Anti-Corruption, Justice, Truth and Reconciliation and the Special Court

By Sabir Albaro

The Civil Society Movement Sierra Leone (CSM-SL) last week organised a three-day workshop on Nationwide Awareness Raising and Sensitisation Campaign at the Young Men's Line (YML) Association (YMLA) at Fort Street and CSM-SL National Headquarters (ROWAS) Street in Freetown.



ICC Boss, Valentine Collier

According to CSM National Coordinator, Alibar Freeman, the workshop was designed to provide orientation for 22 Regional and District Committees (RCs and DCs) from 14 districts, to be the first step towards a nationwide awareness raising and sensitisation campaign. The workshop was held from Friday, 28th February to Sunday, 30th February at the YMLA Headquarters in Freetown.



Mrs. Maudie Caillie, UNDP Representative

He said specific objectives of the workshop were to inform participants on the role of the Special Court, the importance of the judiciary, the role of the police, the role of the public sector, the role of the private sector, the role of the media, the role of the civil society, the role of the religious community, the role of the traditional leaders, the role of the youth, the role of the women, the role of the children, the role of the disabled, the role of the elderly, the role of the sick, the role of the poor, the role of the rich, the role of the powerful, the role of the powerless, the role of the brave, the role of the coward, the role of the honest, the role of the dishonest, the role of the just, the role of the unjust, the role of the good, the role of the bad, the role of the beautiful, the role of the ugly, the role of the wise, the role of the foolish, the role of the kind, the role of the unkind, the role of the generous, the role of the stingy, the role of the humble, the role of the arrogant, the role of the meek, the role of the aggressive, the role of the peaceful, the role of the violent, the role of the loving, the role of the hateful, the role of the forgiving, the role of the unforgiving, the role of the patient, the role of the impatient, the role of the strong, the role of the weak, the role of the confident, the role of the insecure, the role of the brave, the role of the coward, the role of the honest, the role of the dishonest, the role of the just, the role of the unjust, the role of the good, the role of the bad, the role of the beautiful, the role of the ugly, the role of the wise, the role of the foolish, the role of the kind, the role of the unkind, the role of the generous, the role of the stingy, the role of the humble, the role of the arrogant, the role of the meek, the role of the aggressive, the role of the peaceful, the role of the violent, the role of the loving, the role of the hateful, the role of the forgiving, the role of the unforgiving, the role of the patient, the role of the impatient, the role of the strong, the role of the weak, the role of the confident, the role of the insecure.



A cross-section of participants at the workshop.

to the general public on the institutions and to provide relevant skills and knowledge on anti-corruption strategies.

At the three-day workshop, presentations were made on Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Human Rights and the Special Court, as well as understanding the issues raised and developing a framework for information dissemination and pipeline for anti-corruption.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, the Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission, Mr. Valentine Collier, urged Parliamentarians to pay attention to issues that affect the people they represent. Mr. Collier noted that the absence of Parliamentarians at public functions, and meetings where issues of national interest are discussed, does not augur well for their people and the country at large.

the activities of public officials, adding that "where the political will exists to move, people's will should instead come in". Mr. Collier commented the Civil Society Movement for organising the workshop, pointing out that Sierra Leone has no leaders where it stands, saying, "it should have been awarded the red card with all her resources".

The Chairperson for the opening session, Mrs. Maudie Caillie, said the role of civil society as a catalyst for instilling pressure on governments and multi-lateral governmental organisations to adopt public sector reforms, cannot be underestimated.

Mrs. Caillie expressed the belief that it is because of its role that the Civil Society Movement decided to map out a strategy to conduct the activities of organisations that specialise in the area of human rights, justice, truth and reconciliation, and the Special Court.



Mrs. Maudie Caillie, Chairperson



Mrs. Maudie Caillie, Chairperson



Mrs. Maudie Caillie, Chairperson

## Business Raising and Sensitisation Campaign on Reconciliation and the Special Court



Mr. Fergus Mnah, Chairman



Mr. Fergus Mnah, Chairman



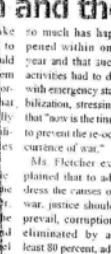
Mr. Fergus Mnah, Chairman

so much has happened within one year and that such activities had to do with emergency stabilization, stressing that "now is the time to prevent the re-occurrence of war". Mr. Fletcher explained that to address the causes of war, justice should prevail, corruption eliminated by at least 80 percent, addressing the lack of educational opportunities and good governance.

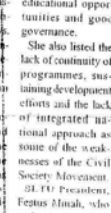
She also listed the lack of continuity of programmes, sustaining development efforts and the lack of integrated national approach as some of the weaknesses of the Civil Society Movement (CSM).

On the issue of judicial justice and human rights by the ordinary citizen, he said the Judiciary had been very instrumental in this regard, adding that adults who are involved in the implementation of human rights through their profession such as judges, lawyers, parliamentarians and the public at large should be trained in the practical application of human rights.

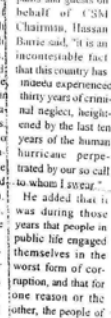
Mr. Balon also spoke about the training of Justices of the Peace on judicial and legal matters which would improve on the court's services. In her keynote address, the Senator Governance Adviser, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mrs. Maudie Caillie, said that this country's developed cold feet and



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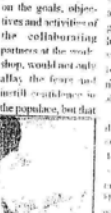
Mr. Fergus Mnah, Chairman



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on the goals, objectives and activities of the collaborating partners of the workshop, would not only ally the force and merit of the workshop in the country, but that the people's will should instead come in".

Mr. Collier noted that the absence of Parliamentarians at public functions, and meetings where issues of national interest are discussed, does not augur well for their people and the country at large.

Mr. Fletcher explained that to address the causes of war, justice should prevail, corruption eliminated by at least 80 percent, addressing the lack of educational opportunities and good governance.

Mr. Balon also spoke about the training of Justices of the Peace on judicial and legal matters which would improve on the court's services. In her keynote address, the Senator Governance Adviser, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mrs. Maudie Caillie, said that this country's developed cold feet and

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## Wisdom

Thursday, 6 March 2003

## **COMMENTARY**

### **'THOSE WHO BEAR THE GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY'**

The Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone said in Freetown that those who have committed high crimes will face possible prosecution. He made these words at a seminar organized for both the military personnel of the Sierra Leone armed forces and some civilian personnel from the Ministry of Defense, that his investigations will focus ~~only on those bearing the greatest responsibility for violations of international humanitarian law - not the rank and file of the military.~~

In the release, the prosecutor said "While I believe that accountability is the cornerstone to Democracy and Sustainable Peace, the mandate given to me by the international community asks me to only prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility"

With reference to a recent scramble between police security personnel and Johnny Paul Koroma who slipped and escaped from police hands on the aftermath of a shoot-out at Wellington, the truth is not too far that Johnny Paul Koroma may be possibly tried for violations of international humanitarian law

Though the prosecutor further said -Not the rank and file of the military, yet Johnny Paul Koroma may not be seen here to be pardoned. Aside from his present status as a civilian and Member of Parliament, Mr. Koroma is in the good books of history as one of those responsible to lead regimes which may have violated international humanitarian law

Although the statements contained in the release did not denude or condemned anybody as a war criminal to be prosecuted; yet they are not favourable to people like Johnny Paul. Legally, he seems to be a possible indictee. Koroma, likely affords with key players in the conflict like Foday Sankoh and Hinga Norman. All of these men share a common link - they are not members of the military.

Wisdom

Thursday March  
6, 2003



Wisdom  
Thursday, 6 March 2003

Wisdom  
Thursday March 6, 2003

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> -Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2003

### **SPECIAL COURT CHIEF PROSECUTOR ENCOURAGES PERPETRATORS TO TALK TO THE TRC**

The Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone ~~Leone~~ David M. Crane has addressed members of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) at a weeklong seminar organized by the U.S. Institute of International Legal Studies (DILLS).

The audience included over forty members of the RSLAF, as well as civilian leadership from the Ministry of Defense.

The Prosecutor stated that his investigations will focus only on those bearing the greatest responsibility for violations of international humanitarian law-not the rank and file of the military.

Mr. Crane believes in accountability as the cornerstone to democracy and sustainable peace. He said the mandate given by the international community asks him to only prosecute those who bear the 'Greatest Responsibility'. He encourages citizens to talk to Truth and Reconciliation Commission,



David Crane

whether they are victims or perpetrators.

The Prosecutor also told participants that national, regional and international investigations are ongoing. 'I want our work to be absolutely thorough. These cases are complex and I have instructed my staff to follow the evidence wherever it leads', said Crane. He indicated that investigations will continue into the Rainy Season.

The DILLS Seminar focuses on 'The Legal Aspect of the Military in the 21 Century'. Participants were engaged in discussions on issues such as the

rule of law, military organization, and human rights.

Crane returned recently from a one-week trip to London and Washington D.C. and is scheduled to make the third trip in a series of diplomatic missions later this month, where he will make initial visits to Germany, Norway, and Denmark to brief senior government officials and human rights leaders on the establishment of the Court.

Concord Times  
Friday March 7, 2003

# Special Court to indict politicians



Charles Taylor

Chief prosecutor David Crane says it is not only military commanders that the Special Court will direct its investigations towards, but politicians also connected with the war will be forced in for trial.

According to Sierra Leone Web, indictments by Sierra Leone's Special Court may come sooner rather than later, and will include international indictments. David Crane says it is evident as prosecutors follow the evidence that Sierra Leone's civil war was regional and international, and that it boiled down to diamonds. He stresses that prosecutors intend to follow the evidence wherever, and to whom, it leads. "We are not just going after military commanders," he says, adding "we're going after the politicians. We're going after those who benefited from the war."

conflict through a plan or scheme that was very specific. At any one time in the beginning of December, I had investigators in North America, Europe, West Africa and Sierra Leone. We are dealing with some very, very dangerous people who are involved in this. We are moving witnesses in some instances in life and death situations."

Crane acknowledges that endemic corruption in Sierra Leone provided "a breeding for discontent," but he insists that the conflict in Sierra Leone was not started for ethnic, political, cultural or religious reasons. "This is the most black-and-white, good-versus-evil situation that I have ever seen in 20 years of public service," he says, adding "this was a ritual ceremony and the diamonds made money for the guys and wanted to see

them in power so they could influence others in the region. The bottom line is, it boils down to the diamonds in eastern Sierra Leone."

According to Sierra Leone Web, Crane declines to say how many people

might ultimately be indicted, but when asked whether he has the authority to indict the leader of a neighbouring nation - a veiled reference to Liberian President Charles Taylor - he re-

sponded: "I have the appropriate legal power to indict those who I think bear the

greatest responsibility. You can logically follow that through to wherever you'd like to go". Crane stresses that "When the indictments are issued, they will be executed by the Sierra Leone Police or by others,

and the court is already making arrangements for arrests to be effected abroad. "Everybody in this country right now is a victim, a witness or a perpetrator, or a combination really. There are survivors. There isn't one human being who lives in Sierra Leone who wasn't affected by his conflict", he says.

# Special Court: Police to effect arrest of suspects

*"We are not just going after military commanders. We're going after the politicians, those who financed and supported this conflict."*  
-David Crane, Prosecutor

Indictment by Sierra Leone's Special Court may come sooner rather than later, and will include international indictments, Chief Prosecutor David Crane told *Newsweek* Magazine, according to *Sierra Leone Web* yesterday. When the indictments are issued, Crane said, they

will be executed by the Sierra Leone Police or by others, and the court is already making arrangements for arrests to be effected abroad. Prosecutors, he went on, intended to follow the evidence wherever and to whomver it led. "We are not just going after military commanders;

We're going after the politicians, those who financed and supported this conflict through a plan or scheme that was very specific," Crane said he has investigators in North America, Europe, West Africa and Sierra Leone. "We are dealing with some very, very dangerous people who are involved in this. And we are

moving witnesses in some instances in life and death situations." Crane acknowledged that endemic corruption in Sierra Leone had provided "a seedbed for discontent," but he insisted that the conflict in Sierra Leone was not started for ethnic, political, cultural or religious reasons. "This is the most black-and-white, good-versus-evil situation that I have ever seen in 30 years of public service," he said. "This was a cynical attempt to take over a country to control diamonds to make money

to buy guns and weaponry to keep them in power or they could influence others in the region. The bottom line is, it boils down to the diamonds in eastern Sierra Leone." Crane declined to say how many people might ultimately be indicted, but when asked whether he had the authority to indict the leader of a neighbouring nation, a veiled reference to Liberian President Charles Taylor, he responded: "I have the appropriate legal power to indict

those who I think bear the greatest responsibility. Crane charged that the president had "exploited the fear of the Liberian people... They put out the people of Sierra Leone, the victims both men and women," he said. "Everybody in this country, right now is a victim of a crime of a magnitude that I have not seen before. How can one human be so evil as to do this in Sierra Leone? How can a man be so evil?"

*Independent Observer  
Friday March 7, 2003*

For di People  
Friday, 7 March 2003

For di People  
Friday, March 7, 2003

# I Have The Legal Power To Indict Taylor



**David Crane**

SPECIAL COURT Prosecutor David Crane has said that his mandate gives him the appropriate legal power to indict those he believes bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes be they locals or leaders of neighbouring nations.

Prosecutor Crane responded to questions by the Newswatch Magazine as to whether he had the authority to indict the leader of neighbouring country in a veiled reference to Liberia's President Charles Taylor for his role in the civil war conflict. Crane said the state appoints legal power to indict those who "bear the greatest responsibility" for war crimes and to follow the evidence wherever it may lead.

"It is evident as you report followed the evidence that Sierra Leone's civil war was regional and international. It boiled down to diamonds.

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vided "a seedbed for discontent," but insisted the conflict in the country was not started for ethnic, political, cultural or religious reasons.

"This is the most black-and-white, good-versus-evil situation that I have ever seen in 30 years of public service.

"This was a cynical attempt to take over a country to control diamonds, to make money to buy guns and weaponry to keep them in power so they could influence others in the region.

"The bottom line is, it boils down to the diamonds in eastern Sierra Leone," Crane maintained.

Prosecutor Crane said indictment by the court may be sooner rather than latter and will include

TAYLOR: sure candidate for the Special Court international indictees.

He said when the indictments are issued, they will be executed by the Sierra Leone Police or others and that the court is already making arrangements for arrests to be effected abroad.

"As prosecutor, my clients are the people of Sierra Leone, the victims both gone and current; everybody in this country right now is a victim - witness or perpetrator or a combination really. There isn't one human being who lives in Sierra Leone that was not affected by this conflict," he said.