

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

**Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office
as of:**

Thursday, April 08, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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African Champion

Thursday April 8, 2004

Special Court May Arrest 2 Lebanese

The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), is said to be putting final touches to indict two Lebanese diamond business men in Kono. According to an SCSL insider, the indictment

of the two emanates from their past dealings with the AFRC/RUF regime in 1997. And under the court's Act, the insider went on, they may be arrested under other offences like alleged deal-

ings in blood diamonds and money laundry.

Inside source did not rule out men like Mohamed Alie Fawaz of No 34 Kainkorodu road in Koidu who was believed to be the main

financier of the then AFRC/RUF Head of State, Johnny Paul Koroma.

Jihad Saad commonly known as 'waka fast' who everybody in the district knew as sole buyer of all

big diamonds found in Kono for Tamba Brima, now a Special Court indictee, is likely to be indicted.

However, the Special Court provides a mechanism by which those

bearing the greatest responsibility for committing violations in Sierra Leone against International humanitarian laws can be brought to account.

<http://www.dailynewsinquirer.net/>



SPECIAL COURT : IMPUNITY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN RWANDA OR SIERRA LEONE

Says victims must have justice

Wednesday April 7, 2004

The staff of the Sierra Leone Special Court has joined the world in commemorating the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda. The court today paid tribute to the thousands of victims of the Rwandan war and renewed its pledge that impunity will not be tolerated in Rwanda or Sierra Leone.

Pictured on the left is the Special Prosecutor of the Court, Dr. David Crane.

ONE THING AND ANOTHER

BY IBRAHIM KARIM-SEI

When the talk of reconciliation as a process of stabilizing our peace, won with blood and sweat, was being bandied around the idea quickly slipped into our hearts and started agitating our minds for a re-shaping of our destiny as a nation.

If we are to reflect on what we as a people went through in the last decade or so, we cannot afford a replay of that horrific past, but rather work towards a future that has all the glamour of life: durable peace, happiness, prosperity and justice for all.

But these aspirations could not be realized on a silver platter. The task is daunting but it could be overcome if we remain a peace loving people. But first and foremost we must

rid ourselves the vestiges of the brutal war: hatred, lack of patriotism, base attitudes and greed. We must come together as a people and practicalize the noble concept of love and forgiveness.

Because we cannot continue to reconcile with our consciences, our families, neighbours, former adversaries, etc while we still practice selective justice or hunting down others or holding them responsible for a past we have chosen to put behind us.

We agree that wrongs, grievous wrongs have been committed against our persons while the war lasted. We know the sufferings, the immoderate pains we endured as innocent people; but if we have to forgive let

it come from the heart, rather than the word falling on our lips.

This brings me to the thorny issue of the Special Court of Sierra Leone and how it is being perceived as impacting negatively on our new culture of reconciliation, which we are striving as a nation to nurture.

And let's for moment agree that the court is here to address the question of impunity emanating from the eleven year old rebellion and which we need to address in the most legalistic manner. But the process of addressing it is already fraught with mistrust.

Soon after its creation some Sierra Leoneans began to develop a second opinion about the relevance of the court.

For others like this writer the court was necessary if we needed to reconstruct our minds for the purpose of dispensing justice in the true sense of the word. That is, if we believed in the 'No Peace Without Justice' maxim.

But not at the time the court was set up. And this was the point of departure for some of us for the single fact that we and the court or its sponsors were singing different tunes on the same tongue - the one on peace and reconciliation, the other on impunity. But we needed this vital process of peace and forgiveness to filter down into our thought processes and become a new mode of interacting with our compatriots - the 'love one another' philosophy!

But the powers that-be had their own agenda, and so while we were trying to cope with the daunting task of forgiving those that brought immeasurable suffering to our lives in the name of reconciliation, our government was plotting a system that would circumvent that very process. They hastily invited the Special Court to try those who 'bear the greatest responsibility' during the barbaric war.

We do not in any way question the integrity of the court. We strongly believe it has a purpose to serve. But frankly speaking, the court has never been popular with a lot of Sierra Leoneans since its inception, because what we expected as a people was to consolidate our peace first, achieve true reconciliation by embracing our brothers and sisters who chose to

If Security Council could frown at Special Court...

seek justice and equity by force of arms. So, for ordinary people the court was seen as an obstruction, undermining the very effort at stabilizing the peace.

Hence, public distaste of its presence here. But its troubles did not stop there.

Now funds are running low and the possibility of replenishing them is hitting the rocks. There is also the non-recognition of the court from leaders within the sub-region just as Sierra Leoneans are fast losing faith in its operations.

And as the UN Security Council members observed during their last session, the court is becoming expensive for their comfort, with too large a personnel to try just nine persons. And council members insist on knowing how long the court will remain in Sierra Leone, as the world body will not continue to pour money indefinitely.

This leaves the secretary general, Kofi Annan with a lot of talking and persuasion to do to be able to attract funding from donor-fatigue

countries for the beleaguered court.

But that is the court's own kettle of fish.

The point I need to emphasize here is that the presence of the court has not helped matters, as it will only make mockery our quest for genuine reconciliation.

And we say the court is here to dispense justice. But is holding in custody a number of accused persons for more than a year with-

out trial. What a justice!

And as if to punish the accused twice for the same crime, the court has imposed a freeze on the bank account of one of the inditees.

That is to say, the innocent family of the inditee too must suffer.

This is justice for real! Little wonder the Security Council is developing cold feet over the court's operations in Sierra Leone.

Standard Times

Thursday April 8, 2004

Standard Times

Thursday April 8, 2004

"UN DOES NOT OWN THE SPECIAL COURT"

- Ambassador Mwakawago

BY ABUBAKARR KARGBO

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Sierra Leone, Ambassador Deudi Ngeletua Mwakawago has reiterated during a question and answer session last Friday at the UNAMSIL Headquarters that the "United Nations does not own the Special Court."

He said the court was created by both the Sierra Leone government and the United Nations, with voluntary financial donations from member states, and noted that the court is independent, working towards the sustenance of peace and security in the country.

Ambassador Mwakawago said UNAMSIL acknowledges that there are still threats to the peace and security in the country, which is why the United Nations Security Council has ap-

proved UNAMSIL's extended stay until 2005, a news the he said was very well received in the country.

"The people of Sierra Leone have a peace to keep and to build. Don't play with. Use it and guide it. To build peace takes a long time, but destroying it take

a short while only, which is not necessary," he said.

Ambassador Mwakawago who was just coming back from New York where he was to attend a Security Council meeting on Sierra Leone, said he was surprised that at one point during his stay he called a press conference that turned out to be poorly attended because there were no reports of a war or

rebellion, like Liberia or Ivory Coast.

He said he was however glad to know that the country has indeed moved from the point of war and relief to that of peace and nation building, and admonished all Sierra leoneans to work positively towards that goal as the only true way to the development of the welfare of the ordinary people.

Salone Times

Thursday April 8, 2004

Kabbah, Taylor And The Power Game

President Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone, and ex-president Charles Taylor of Liberia both leaders of neighbouring states with similar history, same people, same tropical reinforced environment, same convoluted recent history. What can Sierra Leoneans learn from the history of these two men? Both Taylor and Kabbah sprouted as a result "failed states". By 1989 when Charles Taylor launched his war from Nimba County in Northern Liberia, and 1991 when Foday Sankoh and his RUF invaded Sierra Leone from Liberia, both Sierra Leone and Liberia were essentially "failed states"-Sierra Leone more so than Liberia. In the early 1980s, the then military leader of Liberia who had the five star pips of an army general, and carried the title 'C-I-C' ("Commander-in-chief") Samuel Kanyon Doe, rigged the 1985 elections, and declared himself "the democratically elected" leader of Liberia.

Liberians acquiesced to the Doe presidency; and with only muted protests-with the Ronald Regan-tinted Cold War goggles-even the United States accepted the brazen stealing of elections which Doe had done-giving legitimacy to the Doe presidency. President Doe was a terrorist president who terrorized the Liberian people internally (regular secret killings; brutal torture; injecting naked fear into the populace), and terrorized nearly all internal opposition, forcing them into exile. It was Charles Taylor who punctured the Doe 'democratic Lie'. Taylor made history by becoming the first "rebel leader" in West Africa to invade a country from its distant borders, snowballing his rebel force, until he reached the capital city-the first 'civilian' rebel leader to call the bluff of a military man, 'five star general' Doe and forcing Doe from Power.

Taylor proved that indeed soldier-presidents do not have monopoly over the mechanics of violence. Taylor became the first rebel leader to do ferocious battle with soldiers from Nigeria who were better trained, better provisioned for in nearly every way, and with better schooled military officers. Taylor held his own against the military might of Nigeria, and eventually, Taylor manipulated the Nigerians, and psychologically coerced the majority of Liberians to elect him-democratically as 'President': Taylor who was by 1989 a political nonentity, became the first rebel leader in West Africa to be elected President. Taylor made history again by

being the first West African president who escalated what the APC's Siaka Stevens did in Sierra Leone-making the failed state of Liberia his private property: Taylor continued to make history as the first sitting president to be indicted by the first ever international 'Special Court' for 'War Crimes'. Even with rebels knocking on his capital city doorsteps crying for his blood, Taylor made history by bowing out 'constitutionally' with dignity, and panache...

Would Libeira's history have been different if the Nigerian ECOMOG commanders had not caved in to Charles Taylor's wife and guile, and possibly Taylor's dollars? Would Liberia's history have been different if former United States Jimmy Carter had not been conned into accepting the 'terrorist-democracy' elections that elected Charles Taylor; though Taylor was an escapee from United States justice, who should never have been granted diplomatic legitimacy by such high level American statesman? Would Sawyer-who headed an "interim government" in Liberia between 1990 and 1994- have been politically savvy enough to outwit the marauding rebel forces of Charles Taylor? Would Liberia's history have been different if Alhaji Tejan Kabbah had not been elected President of the Republic of Sierra Leone in 1996, allowing Taylor to control part of Sierra Leone's diamond-rich lands - through the RUF for nearly two years in 1999/2000?

What would have been Sierra Leone's history if Tejan Kabbah had not been elected President? Another Liberia? Kabbah was a political nonentity by 1996. Yet, he has made history in his own way. Whereas Charles Taylor created his NPFL rebel force, hatched his NPF political party, fighting ferociously every inch of the way to earn his presidency; Kabbah was begged to put on the presidential mantle by the held a century-old SLPP. Whereas Charles Taylor was hyper-vigilant with security, Kabbah has been comparatively lax with power-losing it twice. That reminds me of an article written in 1996 by veteran Editor George Khoryama in *The New Sierra Leonean* newspaper: 'Power is like a man holding an egg: if the man holds the egg too tightly, the egg would get crushed in the man's hand; if the man hold the egg carelessly, the egg would fall down, and get broken'. Kabbah held his 'power-egg' carelessly in 1997-it dropped; Taylor held his 'power-egg' too tightly in his hand in 2003. Kabbah has learned the 'power game' Taylor failed to learn. Though

it appeared as if Taylor knew how to handle power better than Kabbah, Taylor has lost his power, Kabbah has power in his firm grips. Kabbah, no matter what his faults are, has built up TRUST among his opposition (even enemies), so much that all his opposition do not feel threatened enough to flee into exile. No torture in Kabbah's country. No secret killings in 'Kabbah-country', where Kabbah's Godliness would make such a thing reprehensible.

Kabbah evokes trust among the international community; so much that he could boast of the largest ever United Nations peacekeeping force in his country. Whereas the Liberian economy under Charles Taylor was in complete shambles, Kabbah can brag of single unit inflation for six years of his government. No intention to rub 'oree' on the 'skin head' of President Kabbah, rather, to speak the truth about him (which includes: Kabbah never won the peace we are living in; the peace happened on 'Kabbah's watch'), and to challenge Kabbah to continue making more positive history.

Let Kabbah make 'bigger history' by having the courage to fight corruption. Let Kabbah surround himself with deep-thinking people who would understand the dynamics of corruption and be resolute about fighting corruption. Real big time corruption is being perpetuated by the cream of the educated and 'power elite'. Given the legacy of 'slave' salaries and perks in the system bequeathed by the departing colonialist, corruption is inevitable if a senior government official is not to live like a 'middle class pauper'. Kabbah has set into motion several 'governance reform' programmes, what he must do is to fast track these programmes.

The cauldron of corruption is being fuelled by the reality that productivity in government service is not rewarded, indeed, not even recognized. Even as we pay lip service to Kabbah-created institutions like the Anti-Corruption Commission, Kabbah must become forcefully aware one of the main issues in battle against corruption is rewarding productivity, and punishing mediocrity, and sheer laziness. Presently, Kabbah is soft on corruption. The ordinary Sierra Leonean would make history too by realizing that we are not just corks on a wide ocean of history-each single individual helps to make the history of the Charles Taylors or Tejan Kabbahs.

Rwanda: UN war crimes tribunal urges States to hand over remaining suspects

7 April 2004 – Calling on the world's States to hand over all remaining indicted suspects, the United Nations war crimes tribunal for Rwanda today marked the tenth anniversary of the start of the 1994 genocide with a special memorial ceremony at its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Judge Andresia Vaz, Vice-President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), led the ceremony by asking for prayers for the souls of the estimated 800,000 victims of the killings. She laid a wreath at the site of a permanent monument, which honours both Rwandans and ICTR staff members who have died, in Arusha.

Staff observed a minute's silence after the wreath was laid and there were speeches from ICTR officials, staff and the leaders of local religious institutions.

In a [statement](#) to mark the occasion, ICTR Prosecutor Hassan B. Jallow said the Tribunal's work aims not just to provide justice to the victims of the genocide, but to also help promote peace and reconciliation in Rwanda.

"It is meant to send a message to the rest of the world that there is an end to tolerance of impunity; that people who engage in such reprehensible conduct, particularly those in positions of leadership, will be held to account for their behaviour," he said.

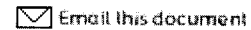
Set up by the Security Council to try people responsible for the genocide and for other human rights violations during 1994, the ICTR has so far delivered 15 judgments involving 21 accused people, convicting 18 of them and acquitting three others. Nine of the convicted have been sentenced to jail for the rest of their lives.

The trials of 21 other people are currently in progress, and two of them continued today. Another 21 people are in custody awaiting the start of their trial.

Mr. Jallow said there are still many indicted suspects who remain at large, despite several Security Council resolutions urging States to arrest them and hand them over to the [ICTR](#).

He also said that countries could cooperate with the ICTR by agreeing to accept the transfer of the cases of some Arusha detainees to their domestic jurisdictions. The Tribunal is trying to clear its backlog so that it can meet a Security Council timetable requiring all work to be finished by 2010.

"The rest of the world should support those States that are willing to accept cases but are constrained by resource difficulties," Mr. Jallow said.



Source: UN Security Council
Date: 1 Apr 2004

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1478 (2003) regarding Liberia

S/2004/272

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 1478 (2003) of 6 May 2003, the Security Council decided that the Government of Liberia had not complied fully with the demands set out in resolution 1343 (2001), in which the Council had demanded that the Government of Liberia immediately cease its support for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone and for other armed rebel groups in the region, and in particular that it take the following concrete steps:

(a) Expel all members of RUF from Liberia, including such individuals as are listed by the Committee established by paragraph 14 of the resolution, and prohibit all activities of RUF on its territory, provided that nothing in the present paragraph shall oblige Liberia to expel its own nationals from its territory;

(b) Cease all financial and, in accordance with resolution 1171 (1998), military support to RUF, including all transfers of arms and ammunition, all military training and the provision of logistical and communications support, and take steps to ensure that no such support is provided from the territory of Liberia or by its nationals;

(c) Cease all direct or indirect import of Sierra Leone rough diamonds not controlled through the certificate-of-origin regime of the Government of Sierra Leone, in accordance with resolution 1306 (2000);

(d) Freeze funds or financial resources or assets made available by its nationals or within its territory or indirectly for the benefit of RUF or entities owned or controlled directly or indirectly by RUF;

(e) Ground all Liberia-registered aircraft operating within its jurisdiction until it updates its register of aircraft pursuant to annex VII to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation of 1944 and provides to the Council the updated information concerning the registration and ownership of each aircraft registered in Liberia.

2. In paragraph 20 of resolution 1478 (2003), the Council requested me to submit a report by 21 October 2003, and thereafter at six-monthly intervals from that date, drawing on information from all relevant sources, including the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia (UNOL), the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone and the Economic Community of West African States, on whether Liberia had complied with the demands referred to in paragraph 1 above.

3. On 6 November 2003, I addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council informing him that, because of the prevailing situation in Liberia, which had necessitated the evacuation of United Nations personnel, It had not been possible to

gather the information needed to prepare the report and advising of the need to defer the submission of that report until early 2004, in order to allow the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the National Transitional Government ample time to gather the requisite information and to conduct an assessment of the new circumstances on the ground, with a view to providing inputs that would enable me to prepare the report.

II. The dissolution of the Charles Taylor Government in Liberia

4. Since my report of 22 April 2003 (S/2003/466), which was issued pursuant to Security Council resolution 1408 (2002), there have been significant developments in Liberia. On 4 June 2003, the Special Court for Sierra Leone unsealed its indictment against the President of Liberia, Charles Taylor. The indictment was accompanied by a warrant for his arrest and an order for his transfer and detention. On 11 August 2003, President Charles Taylor resigned his office and flew to Nigeria following an offer of asylum by the Government of Nigeria, which was predicated on his non-involvement in Liberian politics.

5. On 18 August 2003, the Government of Liberia, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) and other Liberian political parties signed, at Accra, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which made provision for the permanent cessation of hostilities, for disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration, security sector reform, restructuring of the security forces, release of prisoners and abductees, human rights and humanitarian issues, settlement of disputes, electoral reform, establishment of a transitional government and credible elections in October 2005. The signatories to the Agreement designated Vice-President Moses Blah to head the Government of Liberia for an interim period, until 14 October 2003. Thereafter, an all-inclusive transitional government, the National Transitional Government of Liberia, would replace the Government of Liberia, with a mandate scheduled to commence on 14 October 2003 and to expire in January 2006, when the next elected Government of Liberia would be sworn into office.

6. By resolution 1509 (2003), the Security Council established the United Nations Mission in Liberia, whose mandate includes supporting the implementation of the ceasefire agreement signed by the Liberian parties on 17 June 2003; providing support for security sector reform; facilitating humanitarian and human rights assistance; and supporting the implementation of the peace process. In view of the establishment of UNMIL, I informed the President of the Security Council in my letter dated 16 September 2003 (S/2003/899) that I intended to terminate the mandate of UNOL.

III. The dissolution of the Revolutionary United Front

7. Following the completion of the initial stages of the disarmament programme in Sierra Leone early in 2002, the Revolutionary United Front's military structure was extensively dismantled. With the encouragement of the international community and other interested stakeholders, RUF officially announced its transformation into a political party, the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFPP), so that it could participate in the country's general elections in May 2002. During the pre-electoral period, constant disagreements between the leadership and the rank-and-file combatants contributed to eroding the organizational cohesion of RUF, which had already been significantly weakened by the disarmament and demobilization process. There were sharp divisions among the cadres over the participation of RUFPP in the

elections and its presidential candidate.

8. Throughout the period leading up to the elections, RUF claimed financial hardship and consistently requested monetary and material assistance from the international community in order to participate in the elections. As a result of its apparent state of penury and poor organizational abilities, RUF was unable to launch an effective election campaign. Moreover, apart from not having a popular following, the party received little support from its members, many of whom were disillusioned over perceived corruption within the leadership. By the time of the elections, many of the disenchanted had abandoned RUF. As a result of these and other factors, RUF failed to win a single seat in Parliament. Immediately following the elections, RUF closed some of its main offices in the districts, citing financial difficulties. In addition, the Secretary-General of RUF, Paolo Bangura, who was also its nominated presidential candidate, resigned from the party on 13 August 2002.

9. Five of the key former members of RUF, Foday Sankoh, Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie, Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao, were indicted by the Special Court between 10 March and 4 June 2003. Three are currently under arrest and awaiting trial by the Special Court. Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie was killed in Liberia early in May 2003, while Foday Sankoh died in prison on 30 July 2003.

10. Reports indicate that, following the completion of disarmament in Sierra Leone, former fighters of RUF and the Civil Defence Forces were recruited to fight in Liberia on behalf of the forces of the Government of Liberia or LURD. Among these "soldiers for hire", was a group of ex-RUF fighters led by Sam Bockarie and maintained by Charles Taylor. Since the death of Sam Bockarie and the disintegration of the Charles Taylor Government, the situation of those combatants has changed considerably. As it stands, any remaining RUF elements that fought alongside Taylor's forces would probably be disarmed, demobilized and repatriated to Sierra Leone under the disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration programme provided for in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and referred to in paragraph 5 above. The Government of Sierra Leone and the National Transitional Government of Liberia are being encouraged to coordinate their actions closely in order to ensure that the ex-combatants are repatriated, resettled and reintegrated into their respective communities. As members of the Council are aware, preparations are currently under way to resume the disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration programme in Liberia. The programme was initially launched in December 2003, but was suspended after it encountered difficulties. In the meantime, consultations are ongoing between the Governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia to determine the most effective way of dealing with foreign combatants located in their territories.

IV. Observations

11. It will be recalled that the *raison d'être* for the demands in paragraph 2 of resolution 1343 (2001) was the need to help to consolidate and ensure peace and stability in Sierra Leone and to build and strengthen peaceful relations among the countries of the region. Since the adoption of that resolution, significant strides have been made in the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone, as noted by the Security Council in its resolution 1521 (2003). In addition, the Liberian peace process has progressed as a result of the departure of Charles Taylor, and the Ivorian peace process, which has also been affected by the ongoing conflicts in the subregion, is advancing.

12. Noting the changed circumstances referred to above, the Security Council in resolution 1521 (2003) revised the legal basis of its sanctions measures concerning Liberia to reflect the new reality on the ground. The benchmarks for lifting the new sanctions are not linked to the demands contained in paragraph 2 of resolution 1343 (2001). Furthermore, the Council agreed not to renew the prohibition against the import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone not controlled by the certificate-of-origin regime, thus making the demand contained in paragraph 2 (c) of resolution 1343 (2001) obsolete. In view of the above, my intention would be to make this my final report pursuant to paragraph 20 of resolution 1478 (2003). I will have the opportunity to submit a report to the Council, by 30 May 2004, on progress made towards the revised benchmarks for the lifting of sanctions, in accordance with paragraph 26 of resolution 1521 (2003).

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10 years after Rwanda genocide, Annan unveils plan to stop future massacres

7 April 2004 – Ten years after more than 800,000 Rwandan Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered by their fellow countrymen, Secretary-General Kofi Annan today unveiled a five-point plan for the United Nations to prevent future genocides while calling particular attention to the crisis unfolding now in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Addressing the Geneva-based UN Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Annan voiced his “grave concern” over reported human rights abuses in Darfur, citing a recent warning by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator of “ethnic cleansing” in the area.

“Such reports leave me with a deep sense of foreboding,” said the Secretary-General. “Whatever terms it uses to describe the situation, the international community cannot stand idle.”

With the backing of the Sudanese Government, he proposed sending a high-level team to Darfur to examine the crisis, and to seek improved access to those in need of help and protection. “It is vital that international humanitarian workers and human rights experts be given full access to the region, and to the victims, without further delay,” he said. “If that is denied, the international community must be prepared to take swift and appropriate action,” he warned.

The Secretary-General shared his personal reflections on the issue of genocide, and said decisive action in response would be “the only fitting memorial” the UN can offer to those who perished in the hundred-day frenzy of ethnic violence that overtook Rwanda in 1994.

“If there is one legacy I would most wish to leave to my successors, it is an Organization both better equipped to prevent genocide, and able to act decisively to stop it when prevention fails,” said Mr. Annan, who headed the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations in 1994 and said his thoughts since then had been “dominated” by questions about what more could have been done to stop the bloodshed.

His speech was just one of many events planned by the UN around the globe to commemorate the mass killings, including the observance of a minute of silence at noon throughout the world’s time zones and a special meeting in New York of the UN General Assembly and Security Council.

In outlining his Action Plan to Prevent Genocide, Mr. Annan said the first step must be to prevent armed conflict by addressing the issues that cause it. “We must attack the roots of

violence and genocide: hatred, intolerance, racism, tyranny, and the dehumanizing public discourse that denies whole groups of people their dignity and their rights,” he said.

Protecting civilians during war is a second step in thwarting potential genocides, the Secretary-General said. He noted that in more and more conflicts non-combatants, including women and children, are no longer just “caught in the crossfire” but have become the direct targets of violence and rape.

“Wherever civilians are deliberately targeted because they belong to a particular community, we are in the presence of potential, if not actual, genocide,” he said, warning the international community that it could no longer afford to be blind to this grim dynamic.

A third step, the Secretary-General said, is to end impunity for those who have committed such crimes. He recalled the work of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the landmark verdicts it has handed down – the first conviction for genocide of a former head of government, the first to determine that rape was used as an act of genocide, and the first to find that journalists who incite the population to genocide are themselves guilty of that crime.

He said his plan calls for greater efforts to achieve wide ratification of the Rome Statute, so that the new International Criminal Court “can deal effectively with crimes against humanity, whenever national courts are unable or unwilling to do so.”

In an attempt to establish a mechanism for an “early and clear warning” about potential genocides, the Secretary-General noted his decision to appoint a Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, who will report through him to the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as the Commission.

The adviser will work closely with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to collect information on potential or existing situations or threats of genocide, he said, serve as an early-warning mechanism to the Security Council and other parts of the UN system, and make recommendations to the Council on actions to be taken to prevent or halt genocide.

As for the fifth pillar of his plan, the Secretary-General called for “swift and decisive action” in response to warnings of genocide. “Anyone who embarks on genocide commits a crime against humanity. Humanity must respond by taking action in its own defence. Humanity’s instrument for that purpose must be the United Nations, and specifically the Security Council,” he said, adding that military action should be used as an extreme measure.

“Let us not wait until the worst has happened, or is already happening,” the Secretary-General concluded. “Let us not wait until the only alternatives to military action are futile hand-wringing or callous indifference. Let us be serious about preventing genocide. Only

so can we honour the victims whom we remember today. Only so can we save those who might be victims tomorrow.”

■ **Video of the address** [22mins]

Source: [News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) [i](#)

Terms: **ten years after genocide, rwandan children suffer lasting impact** ([Edit Search](#))

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HEADLINE: **Ten years after genocide, Rwandan children suffer lasting impact;**
Loss is painfully clear in high proportion of child-headed households

DATELINE: TORONTO and NEW YORK, April 7

BODY:

Wednesday marks the **10-year** anniversary of the **genocide** in Rwanda that took the lives of 800,000 people. A decade later, the country's **children** continue to struggle with the lingering **impact** of the atrocities.

"As we remember the horrific events of 1994, we must recognize that for Rwanda's **children, the genocide** is not simply a terrible memory of the past -- it profoundly affects their lives every day, " says David Agnew, president and CEO, UNICEF Canada. "By the time the violence subsided, 95,000 **children** had been orphaned. Today, more than 42,000 **Rwandan** households are headed by **children.**"

The proportion of child-headed households in Rwanda is one of the world's largest. An estimated 101,000 **children** live in these homes - their parents were killed in the **genocide**, died of AIDS or were imprisoned for **genocide**-related crimes.

"The **children** of Rwanda witnessed unspeakable violence," says Carol Bellamy, UNICEF international executive director. "**Tens** of thousands lost their mothers and fathers. Thousands were victims of horrific brutality and rape. Many were forced to commit atrocities. The **impact** of the tragedy simply cannot be overstated."

In addition to the staggering loss of human life, the **genocide** decimated Rwanda's fragile economic base, severely impoverishing the surviving population. **Children** still bear the extreme results of the conflict's aftermath:

- Rwanda has one of the world's worst child mortality rates, with one in five **Rwandan children** dying before their fifth birthday.
- 2,000 women, many of whom were survivors of rape, were tested for HIV during the five **years** following the 1994 **genocide**. 80 per cent were found to be HIV positive. Many were not sexually active before the **genocide**.
- By 2001, an estimated 264,000 **children** had lost one or both parents

to AIDS, representing 43 per cent of all orphans. This figure is expected to grow to over 350,000 by 2010.

- The heads of many households are as young as 15, and these **children** bear the burden of providing food, medication and schooling for the others. The absence of an adult also makes these **children** extremely vulnerable to exploitation. There is growing evidence that in order to survive, many **children** who are leading households (especially girls) are forced to perform sexual favours in exchange for money, basic goods or protection.
- More than 400,000 **children** are out of school.
- An estimated 7,000 **children** live on the streets.
- Approximately 3,000 juveniles who were between 14 and 18 **years** of age at the time of the **genocide** remain in prison.

UNICEF remains on the ground in Rwanda helping a generation of **children** to reclaim their lives. The organization provides child-headed households with school materials, counseling, income-generating activities and vocational training; works to reduce child mortality through immunization, clean drinking water and nutrition programmes; supports the regular education system and works with **children** outside the system to help them gain access to education; and works to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, including reducing the risk of mother to child transmission. At the time of the conflict, UNICEF was active in disarming, demobilizing and rehabilitating over 2,000 child soldiers.

Bellamy says the anniversary must be marked with renewed concern for those continuing to **suffer from the genocide**. "We are all still accountable for supporting reconciliation and healing, and for ensuring that such atrocities never happen again. 'Never again' means holding perpetrators accountable and restoring the dignity of victims by commemorating or alleviating their suffering."

Even more important, Agnew and Bellamy say, is to meet this anniversary with a renewed commitment to ensure that the world never again allows such a catastrophe to go unchecked.

UNICEF works for and with **children** in 158 countries and territories, advocating for **children's** rights, ensuring their basic needs are met and enabling them to reach their full potential. Guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF believes that the survival, protection and development of **children** must be a global priority, and that every child has the right to health, education, equality and protection. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, foundations, businesses and governments. Through fundraising and education, UNICEF Canada is dedicated to improving the lives of **children** around the world. Donations can be made online at www.unicef.ca, by calling 1-800-567-4483 or by mail at UNICEF Canada, 2200 Yonge Street, Suite 1100, Toronto, ON M4S 2C6.

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CONTACT: please contact Nicole Ireland, National Communications, UNICEF Canada, Telephone: (416) 482-4444, extension 831, Cellular: (416) 992-7349

LOAD-DATE: April 8, 2004

U.N. WIRE



As Rwanda Mourns 1994 Genocide, U.N. Vows "Never Again"

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In a solemn ceremony today on a hillside in Rwanda's capital city of Kigali, survivors of the 1994 genocide marked the 10-year commemoration of the slaughter by burying the remains of hundreds of victims in 20 communal caskets (Rodrique Ngowi, [Associated Press/Yahoo! News](#), April 7). In Geneva and New York, the United Nations, criticized for inaction during the 100-day bloodletting that killed an estimated 800,000 people, paid tribute to survivors, and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan unveiled a plan for the prevention of future genocides (*U.N. Wire*).

In Kigali, President Paul Kagame lit a flame that will burn for 100 days to mark the span of the government-orchestrated massacre. A \$2 million memorial at the hilltop site was to be inaugurated later in the day (Ngowi, AP/Yahoo! News).

Twenty thousand people attended a ceremony at the Amahoro ("peace") national stadium in Kigali in honor of the hundreds of thousands of Tutsis and moderate Hutus killed by Hutu militia after the airplane carrying President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down on April 6, 1994. The crowd observed three moments of silence during which, according to a reporter with [BBC Online](#), one woman's sobs reverberated throughout the stadium (April 7).

Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt was scheduled today to inaugurate a memorial for 10 Belgian peacekeepers slain on April 7, 1994, while trying to protect the moderate Hutu Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyamana.

The date of the commemoration was a sensitive issue, AP reports. The killing began hours after Habyarimana's plane was downed, but Tutsis, who now dominate the government and army, did not want the date to coincide with that event (Ngowi, AP/Yahoo! News).

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, who was in charge of U.N. peacekeeping in 1994, said today that the United Nations did not pay enough attention to the disaster as it was brewing.

"Neither the U.N., nor the Security Council, nor member states in general, nor the international media, paid enough attention to the gathering signs of disaster," Annan said in a message today (Agence France-Presse, April 7).

Annan called for a minute of silence at noon local time around the world to commemorate the genocide (BBC Online).

In an address to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Annan unveiled a five-point plan for the prevention of future genocides, calling attention to the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan, where reports of ethnic cleansing have left him, he said, with a "deep sense of foreboding."

The first point in the plan, Annan said, was to address the causes of genocide — "hatred, intolerance, racism, tyranny and the dehumanizing public discourse that denies whole groups of people their dignity and their rights."

Second was to protect civilians during war. "Wherever civilians are deliberately targeted because

they belong to a particular community, we are in the presence of potential, if not actual, genocide," he said.

Third was to end impunity for war criminals. Annan said that toward this end he will try to achieve wide ratification of the Rome Statute that created the International Criminal Court.

Fourth, Annan said, was to appoint and heed a special adviser on the prevention of genocide, who will serve as an early-warning mechanism to the Security Council.

Fifth, Annan called for "swift and decisive action" in response to warnings of genocide.

"Let us not wait until the worst has happened, or is already happening," he said. "Let us not wait until the only alternatives to military action are futile handwringing or callous indifference. Let us be serious about preventing genocide. Only so can we honor the victims whom we remember today. Only so can we save those who might be victims tomorrow" ([U.N. release](#), April 7).

At U.N. headquarters in New York, the General Assembly commemorated the genocide by focusing on preventing future atrocities. A survivor of the genocide, 19-year-old Jacqueline Murekatete, said it was a "devastating fact" that the victims "would be here today if the international community had heeded and acted" on the warnings "both before and during the genocide and acted in time to prevent their deaths."

Her voice breaking several times, she asked the assembly to remember the dead and "the merciless and barbaric ways in which they died" and also to "keep in mind the suffering that is very much prevalent in survivors today" — women who contracted AIDS after being raped, orphans and witnesses to the murders. Murekatete, whose parents and six siblings were killed by their neighbors, said preventing genocide "is a reality that can be brought about provided, of course, if each of us [is] willing to work on it — both for the sake of ourselves and that of our children."

In a video message from Kigali, Kagame said, "We are determined to overcome the problems of the past and we are confident that the foundation for a stable Rwanda has been established." He added, "We are now moving forward in the understanding that the ideas of social and economic prosperity and human dignity for all Rwandans will prevail."

"We must ask ourselves whether appropriate measures are in place to ensure that genocide never happens again anywhere in the world," Kagame said, adding that "the response of the international community to a similar situation should not be allowed to be as inadequate as it was in Rwanda" (Jim Wurst, *U.N. Wire*, April 7).

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Terms: **un peacekeepers deploy without incident in liberia** ([Edit Search](#))

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Associated Press Worldstream April 7, 2004 Wednesday

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April 7, 2004 Wednesday

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LENGTH: 198 words

HEADLINE: **U.N. peacekeepers deploy** without **incident** in **Liberia** rebel stronghold

DATELINE: MONROVIA, **Liberia**

BODY:

U.N. peacekeepers moved into a key rebel stronghold without **incident** on Wednesday, the **U.N.** military commander in **Liberia** said, as the world's largest **U.N.** peace force built toward its final strength.

"I am glad to report today that as we speak the final phase of our deployment into Voinjama is taking place," Gen. Daniel Opande told reporters in **Liberia's** capital, Monrovia.

Voinjama, in **Liberia's** far north, served as headquarters for rebels during their ultimately successful 1997-2003 campaign to oust warlord-president Charles Taylor.

As of Wednesday, the **United Nations** now has 13,943 international soldiers for a planned 15,000-troop **Liberia** peace force, said Opande, a Kenyan.

Voinjama, near the border with Guinea, changed hands repeatedly during **Liberia's** years of strife.

Taylor, then a warlord, launched **Liberia** into conflict in 1989 at the head of his own insurgency.

Taylor fled into exile in Nigeria this August as the Voinjama-based rebels attacked his capital, Monrovia.

Insurgents and the government signed a peace deal on Aug. 18. The **United Nations** later took command of an initially West Africa-led peace force that helped prod Taylor into exile.

LOAD-DATE: April 8, 2004

"LEAVE NONE ALIVE TO TELL THE STORY"!

April 6: Tenth Anniversary Of The Genocide In Rwanda

Between April and August 1994, hundreds of thousands of people were hacked to death in Rwanda.

No-one knows exactly how many: estimates range from 500,000 to close to a million.

April 6, the beginning of the Genocide, has now been recognised as an International Day of Reflection.

Seven African heads of State, including South African president Thabo Mbeki, will be attending the solemn ceremonies held in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, to commemorate the event.

The European Union, Belgium and the U.S.A

will all be sending high-ranking delegations.

As usual the world's concern comes too little, too late.

The massacres of hundreds of thousands of people could and should have been prevented.

The Rwandan Genocide was a long time in the making and in its execution.

Hutu and Tutsi

There is no real difference between the Hutu and the Tutsi. 'Tutsi' simply means 'those who have cattle': they were pastoralists who moved from the Eastern African highlands into the Great Lakes region a few centuries ago. Cattle were a source of wealth. Those who did not have herds of cattle and tilled the soil were described as 'Hutu' or 'followers'. Both groups speak the same language

Kirwanda.

Intermarriage was common until the Belgians colonised the region in the early 19th century.

Legacy of Colonialism

Under Belgian colonialism the social-anthropological divide between Tutsi and Hutu's hardened into a class barrier. As former Rwandan prime minister Faustin Twagiramungu explained,

"When the Belgians came they decided that Hutu were servants of Tutsi and began to use the Tutsi as the agents of colonialism".

It was the Belgians who began to insist that all Rwandans state their 'ethnic' identity on registration forms and I.D cards. As one scholar explains "it was the classic case of colonial divide-and-rule".

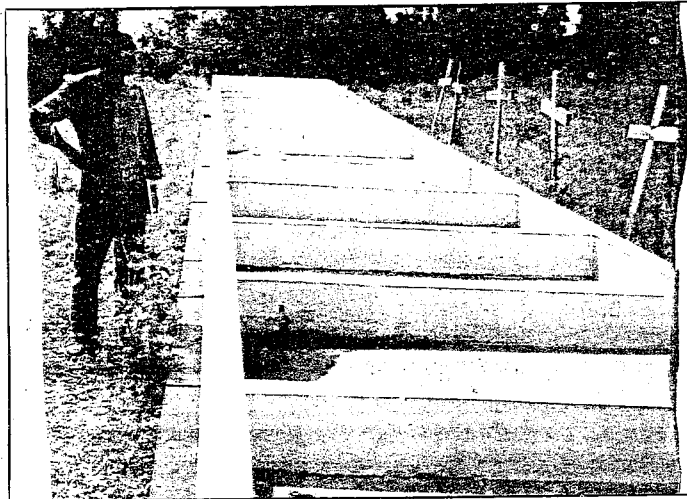
The Belgians supported Tutsi dominance and worked closely with the monarchy which was of Tutsi origin.

Wind Of Change And Exile

Between 1959-1963, the Hutu majority rose up and overthrew the Tutsi kingdom. Thousands of Tutsi were killed and tens of thousands fled into exile in Uganda, Tanzania and other neighbouring states.

The 1930 census had counted 16% of the population as Tutsi, 83% as Hutu and 1% as the indigenous Twa people.

Within a few decades the demographics of Rwanda had changed and roughly 8.4% of the population were classed as Tutsi on the eve of the Genocide. In 1973 there was a military coup led by General Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu. He ruled for two decades, and like most military autocrats



journalist stands before a mass grave just outside the Rwandan capital Kigali

in Africa at that time, put a repressive machinery in motion to suppress all opposition - Hutu or Tutsi. But the thousands of exiled

Tutsi living abroad were determined to fight their way home if necessary. Many served with Museveni's movement in Uganda, and with support of the Ugandans, the Rwandan Patriotic Front was formed and began an armed struggle in October 1990.

In his bid to hang onto power Habyarimana began to play the ethnic card. The roots of the 1994 Genocide were laid years before the killings began.

Band Of Killers

Habyarimana and his close associates began to form 'action groups'; so-called civil defense militia who were mandated to combat RPF 'subversion'.

The 'Interahamwe' ('those who stand together') were recruited from young Hutu. Many of them were brainwashed to believe that the 'Tutsi' RPF would massacre 'Hutus' if they took power.

Hutu farmers were assured that if they exposed and/or eliminated Tutsi

'subversives', they would be given the land of the 'dissident' elements.

Rwanda is Africa's most

densely populated country. This land incentive was a powerful tool in mobilising for Genocide.

Long before the killings began, plans were already in place.

In 1993 the civil defence programme began distributing thousands of machetes to the Interahamwe. Colonel Bagosura of the Presidential Guard drilled and training these killers. The U.N, which had a peace-keeping mission in place, was alerted to the pending genocide by no less a person than U.N Force Commander Romeo Dallaire - who in a January 11, 1994 telegram warned that the Habyarimana regime was preparing to kill the Tutsi.

Even the American C.I.A representative in Kigali, warned that up to 500,000 people might die if inter-communal hostilities broke out.

The storm finally broke on April 6, 1994 when president Habyarimana's plane was shot down by a surface - to - air missile

The RPF has always denied having a hand in the incident.

It's speculated that this may have been an attempt

by elements within Habyarimana's own presidential guard to seize power.

Whatever the case, April 6 became the pretext for mass killings of people the Interahamwe called 'cockroaches' - Tutsi and Hutu opposed to the genocidal regime.

Genocide In The Churches

The Genocide was indiscriminate - not just Tutsi and Hutu but even the a - political Twa were massacred.

Many took refuge in churches but were hunted out and hacked to death. Hutu officials who tried to prevent the killings were themselves killed.

The national state radio and private stations were all used to incite people to kill Tutsis. Meanwhile the world stood by...

The American State Department knew exactly what was going on; it even instructed its officials not to use the word 'genocide'. Meanwhile U.N peacekeeping chief General Dallaire's appeal

for more troops to stop the killings was ignored. On April 21, 1994 - at the height of the killings - the U.N mission was withdrawn.

It was only when the RPF troops over-ran the country that the murders stopped. The RPF itself exacted a harsh revenge on the killers though its atrocities were far, far less than the Genocide which preceded them.

Aftermath

A French expeditionary force protected and possibly even armed remnants of the Interahamwe as they retreated from Rwanda into eastern Congo.

The new RPF government called for creation of an International Criminal

Tribunal to try and punish those responsible for the Genocide. This was set up in Arusha, Tanzania a few months later. But dissatisfied with its slow pace and bias, the RPF began to use local institutions (the so-called 'gacaca courts') to try the estimated 120,000 people involved in the Genocide. To date less than 10,000 of these individuals have been tried.

It will take many decades for true reconciliation to come to Rwanda.

As former prime minister Faustin Twagiramungu, himself a moderate Hutu, lamented "we are still discussing the issue of Hutu and Tutsi, as if one were white and the other were black".

"We have lost close to a million people - and for what?"

NOTE:

Most facts for this article were taken from the definitive study of the Rwandan Genocide: "Leave None To Tell The Story" published by US based ngo Human Rights Watch..

Peep

Thursday

April 8, 2004

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

Wednesday, April 7, 2004 · Last updated 6:16 p.m. PT

UN says food access in Africa improved

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME -- Food availability in sub-Saharan Africa has improved since late last year, but millions of people are still going hungry because of poor weather, conflicts and disease, a U.N. food agency said Wednesday.

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization said in a report that 7 million Ethiopians need food assistance even though the country had a bumper harvest last year, while Somalia suffers from successive droughts and Eritrea from lack of aid.

Also in eastern Africa, Sudan produced a record cereal crop in 2003, though escalating conflict in the west of the country displaced 1 million people from their homes, the report said.

In Zimbabwe, shortages of fuel and agricultural machinery combined with massive inflation has left about 5.5 million people vulnerable, according to the report.

In West Africa, good harvests were offset by the presence of displaced people and refugees in Ivory Coast, Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

On the Net: <http://www.fao.org>

The Exclusive

Thursday April 8, 2004

RUF Man Cuts Kamajor's Ear

By Arthur Caulton

An ex-Revolutionary United Front rebel, known as Sulaiman, who lives at No. 1E Guard

Street in Freetown, yesterday bit and chew off the left ear of a former Kamajor, Joseph W. Kabia, of the same address. The fracas between the former

opposing combatants emanated from an alleged theft of a tape recorder at the said house that was blamed on Sulaiman's brother, him-

self a ex-RUF combatant. The matter, which was reported to Police at the East End Police Station on Monday. *Contd. page 2*



Horror! Ex-kamajor shows his bit off ear

RUF Man Cuts Kamajor's Ear

From front page

day, was about to be charged to court on Wednesday morning when fresh accusing fingers were pointed at Joseph Kabia, the ex-Kamajor.

This fresh accusation, eye-witnesses said, sparked-off a fight between Sulaiman and Joseph, which resulted to the former biting off the left ears of the latter. Realising the damage he has caused, and fearing reprisal from the mob

that had gathered to see the bout, Suliaman decided to sprint for his life. Whilst on the run, he is said to have taken a razor from nearby stall along Guard Street and slit his own left arm up to the shoulder. Both men then went to the Eastern Police Station to make statements.

They both were given a medical form by Crime Officer at the Station, Inspector Max Kanu, and told to go to the hospital and report back.

Salone Times

Thursday April 8, 2004

Book To Guide Human Rights Group Launched

By Tom Frank

A new book titled "A Handbook for Paralegals In Sierra Leone" was launched at Cape Guest House, Aberdeen west of Freetown on Tuesday this week.

The book is a joint effort of Global Rights -Partners for Justice and Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA).

Its objectives include understanding what Human Rights are; when these rights can be limited or suspended; explaining the roles of a paralegal and how they can contribute to ensuring that Human Rights are observed and respected in their respective communities. The book also contains chapters with simplified versions of Human Rights provisions of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights among others.

Chairman of the occasion was National Forum For Human Rights Joe Rahall. He said the book would usher in a new era in Sierra Leone with regard the observance and respect of Human Rights, adding that it is resource material for NGOs and others involved in promoting Human Rights in the country.

In his remarks, Country Director Global Rights-Partners for Justice (SL), Pierre Claver Nzeyimana gave a brief

background of his NGO. He said the NGO was established in Sierra Leone in 2001, adding that its main focus is to strengthen local organizations in promoting Human Rights. He maintained that in pursuance of their objective, 120 paralegals were trained in Kono, Kailahun and Koindu whom he said, had already started sending in reports of their work.

Speaking on behalf of LAWCLA was its Director Melron Nicol-Wilson. He said among other things that his organization was set up in March 2001. He maintained that sometime later with assistance from Global Rights-Partners for Justice and with funding by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), "LAWCLA's dream has finally come true." He expressed his gratitude to both the Agency and Global Rights for what he described as a move that would see the voiceless masses getting heard on issues of Human Rights violations.

The book was launched by the USAID Representative Abdullai Jalloh. He said USAID was proud to be associated with LAWCLA and Global Rights.

Present at the occasion were a cross-section of the public including doctors, lawyers, market women, NGOs, the press among others.