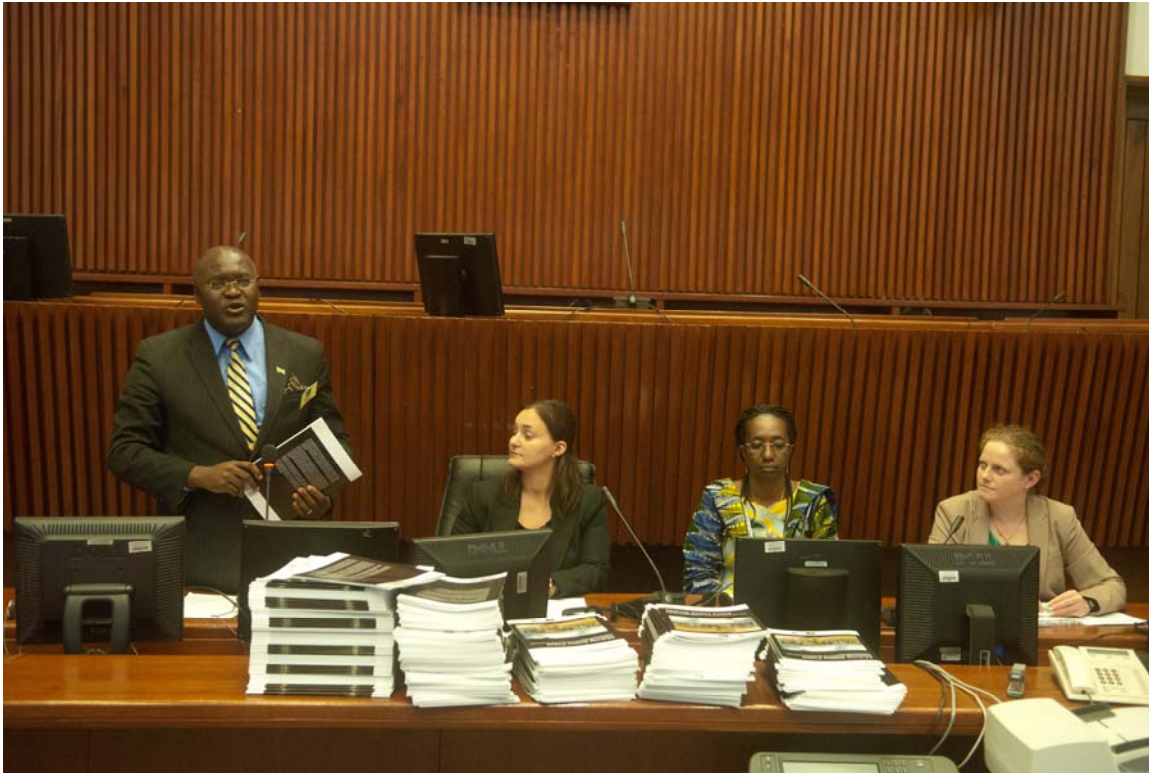


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Former Deputy Prosecutor Joseph Kamara launching the NPWJ Making Justice Count survey report yesterday at the Special Court. See more photos in today's *Special Court Supplement*.

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:

Tuesday, 8 January 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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January 22nd ...

Having been found guilty on nearly all the war crimes' charges levied against the former Liberian warlord and head of state, Charles Ghangay Taylor, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) has rescheduled to January 22 and 23, 2013 the oral hearing of appeals in his case.

The hearing was ordered by the pre-trial judge to be held on December 6 and 7, 2012. However, this was delayed as the court deliberated on a motion from the defense team for admission of additional evidence in the case.

Charles Taylor was on April 26, 2012 convicted by the SCSL of war crimes and crimes

Continued page 2

Taylor Again!

Charles Taylor Again!

From front page

against humanity for aiding and abetting rebels during Sierra Leone's civil war. Sentenced to 50 years in jail on May 30, he became the first ex-head of state to be convicted by an international war crimes court.

While Taylor's defense seeks a reversal of his conviction, the prosecution too

appeals against his acquittal on more serious charges and asking for his sentence to be upped to 80 years behind bars.

The Taylor appeals trial seem threatened by the absence of funds as the SCSL requested a hefty sum of \$16 million from the court's international backers for Taylor's trial to continue.

Human Rights Commission is an Embarrassment

-Rightsway Coordinator

Rightsway National Coordinator Alpha Umarr Barrie said in a press briefing that the "secretive and toothless Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission", is an embarrassment and is falling short of expectations for its inadequate response to the unchecked human rights abuses and widespread abuse of power with impunity.

By Abubakarr Jalloh

He made this statement at his Small Waterloo Street office, after a report was issued out which states "From Kono to Kambia: Abuse of Power and Abuse of Human Rights Continues". He warned against such act across the country.

He said the Human Rights Commission has long been a cover-up for the government who see it as an agency of the state to be exploited, adding that it has also been criticised by the public for lack of transparency and accountability of financial and administrative management and its failures to investigate and pursue human rights abuses at the material time.

He said the RightsWay calls for the prompt review and investigation into activities of the Human Rights Commission for its failures to deliver its obligations and that the Commission should be independent of government and political appointment and be empowered to investigate and pursue human rights abuses without fear or favour.

The coordinator further maintained that the report exposes a dysfunctional legal system, unchecked police misconduct, crimes against humanity of imprisonment, torture, rape, persecution, disappearance of persons, other inhumane acts and the terrible failures of state and non-state actors to promote human rights and uphold the rule of law.

He said the report follows the killing of two innocent civilians, wounding of several people including children and women and the widespread destruction of property during a

labour strike by mineworkers at OCTEA, formerly Koidu Holdings, the disappearance of an elderly woman, the illegal detention of some persons including an elderly man and continued persecution of youths in Kono and Kamabai.

The Coordinator said the RightsWay is disappointed that government has delayed its decision and rejected outright calls to establish an independent Commission to investigate and prosecute those involved. "RightsWay is also disappointed in the Police' use of secret evidence to defend claims of their complicity in committing crimes against humanity- but now some state and non-state actors are effectively trying to cover-up these grave human rights abuses and crimes against humanity."

The Coordinator of RightsWay said the full extent of Police powers to detain people without charge and cover up police errors, is worrying. He added that the systemic state abuse of power and abuse of human rights is real.

Legal Advisor of RightsWay, Messeh Kamara said they are getting on the way to becoming a lawless and reckless police state, adding that the continued misconduct and criminal behavior of the police with impunity to commit such horrific crimes reach the threshold of crimes against humanity. He said crimes against humanity, as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Explanatory Memorandum are particularly odious offenses that constitute a serious attack on human dignity or grave humiliation or a degradation of one or more human beings.

Macleans.ca

Thursday, 3 January 2013

Refuge for Cindor Reeves

Cindor Reeves, once the brother-in-law of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, and the man who risked his life to bring Taylor to justice, has been granted landed immigrant status in the Netherlands.

Reeves helped Taylor run guns and diamonds between Liberia and Sierra Leone during the 1990s and 2000s. He has never denied this. Then, at great risk to himself and without asking for anything in return, he helped the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone build its case against Taylor. Taylor is currently serving a 50-year sentence for aiding and abetting war crimes, including murder, terror, and rape.

Reeves was initially put under witness protection in Holland and then Germany, but took his family to Canada on his own accord and in doing so lost the Special Court's protection.

He lived here for six years and left in 2012, following a deportation order against him. Canada alleged he had been involved in crimes against humanity though it could not produce a shred of evidence that he had ever personally harmed anyone. Prosecutors at the Special Court were explicit that they would never had considered charging Reeves, regardless of the help he gave them. Reeves didn't receive immunity because of the risks he took on the court's behalf.

Reeves' wife and children remain in Canada. This country granted them refugee status on the grounds that their relationship with Reeves would endanger their lives if they returned to Liberia, where Taylor still has allies. Canada didn't extend this consideration to Reeves himself.

Reeves is 40 years old. He's starting his life over for at least the fourth time. Canada, to its shame, denied him a chance to do so here. The Netherlands, to its credit, has shown more honour and morality than Ottawa.

Voice of America

Tuesday, 8 January 2013

UN War Crimes Trial Resumes for Hadzic

Stefan Bos

January 07, 2013

BUDAPEST — The trial of former Croatian Serb leader Goran Hadzic, the last fugitive sought by the United Nations Yugoslav war crimes tribunal, resumed at the Hague on Monday. Hadzic is one of several key officials to face trial at the Netherlands-based court for alleged involvement in atrocities during the Balkan wars.



Goran Hadzic, the last of Serbia's alleged war criminals, makes his initial appearance to stand trial on crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the Hague July 25, 2011.

With those words, the U.N. tribunal at The Hague resumed the trial of war crimes suspect Goran Hadzic, who led Croatian Serb rebels when Croatia's government broke away from Yugoslavia in 1991.

As president of a self-styled Serbian mini-state in Croatia, the Republic of Serbian Krajina, Hadzic allegedly oversaw atrocities such as the murder and persecution of non-Serbs. He is also accused of having supervised detention centers where torture, beatings and killings of civilians and other detainees were carried out.

Hadzic is accused of leading the forcible transfer of tens of thousands of non-Serbs from across the region under his control during the 1991-1995 conflict. He was apprehended in 2011 near Belgrade after eight years on the run.

Although Hadzic faces 14 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, prosecutors on Monday mentioned specifically the killing of patients in what was one of the worst massacres in the Croatian conflict. Serb forces under Hadzic's command allegedly took some 260 non-Serbs from Vukovar Hospital after a three-month siege of the city.

Hague Prosecutor Matthew Gillett said most of the men and boys were slaughtered in November 1991 on a farm in Ovcara, near Vukovar.

"It's been agreed essentially, I am summarizing, that the 194 named victims in the annexed, the paragraph 32 of the indictment, were murdered at Ovcara -- that they were detained when they were murdered, that they were buried in a mass grave at Ovcara, that the grave was protected by U.N. personnel, and [that] the exhumation and autopsies were carried out by international and domestic experts, and [that] representatives of the Croat and Yugoslav authorities were present," he said.

Croatian forensic pathologist Davor Strinovic has investigated the massacre. Speaking as a witness at the trial, Dr. Strinovic said the youngest victim discovered so far was 16-years-old; the oldest was 72.

Speaking through an interpreter, Dr. Strinovic said it has been difficult to find and identify the more than 200 victims of the Vukovar Hospital massacre.

"Of course, we are trying and have been trying from the very start to find all of those who are on on the list. We will never stop looking for those people. To this day, we have not been fully successful in finding all the people from the list. The forensic pathologist said that, in at least one case it was too emotional for survivors to acknowledge a victim's name," he said.

Delays in exhuming the remains have also made it difficult to identify all those who were killed in the massacre, and dozens of suspected victims remain missing.

If convicted on even some charges against him, Hadzic could face life in prison. Monday's proceedings, came only days before the trial of another prominent Serb, Ratko Mladic. The former Bosnian Serb general has been charged with war crimes, including involvement in the massacre of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys by his forces in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica in 1995.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia is under pressure to end its operations. It already closed its main field offices in Croatia and Kosovo, but it is continuing its activities in Serbia and Bosnia.

Russia and Serbia have sharply criticized the tribunal over what they say is its bias toward Serbs following rulings to free two Croatian generals and a Kosovo Albanian former guerrilla commander.

Since it was established in 1993, the tribunal has indicted 161 people for Balkan war crimes, of whom 15 have been acquitted. Proceedings are ongoing for 31 suspects.

Last month, the U.N. Security Council extended the work of the court, but Russia abstained from the vote because it said the resolution did not address the tribunal's "inefficiencies."

The court expects to rule on its final appeals by 2016. After that, any more cases arising from the Balkan wars of the 1990s must be tried in the countries where the crimes were allegedly committed.

The Star (Kenya)

Monday, 7 January 2013

Kenya: Fatou Bensouda - the ICC Prosecutor Eyes Her Biggest African Prey Yet

By Joe Adama

The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague, Fatou B. Bensouda of the Gambia, has enjoyed an international career as a non-governmental civil servant since at least 2002, beginning at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, where she dealt with the aftermath of a genocide that actually happened.

That career is fast approaching one of its highest peaks with her prosecution of three very high-profile Kenyan public figures and one broadcaster for crimes against humanity in the case of what can legitimately be characterized as a stillborn genocide.

The ICC cases against Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, Eledoret North MP William Ruto, former Head of the Civil Service and Secretary to the Cabinet Francis Muthaura and radio journalist Joshua arap Sang arise from the post-election violence in Kenya of 2007-08.

Bensouda's prosecution of a son of the late Jomo Kenyatta, one of the 20th Century's most iconic political prisoners, Uhuru, and of a presidential right-hand man who also happens to have been a career diplomat, Muthaura, and the Rift Valley political operative who dismantled Daniel arap Moi's hold on the region, Ruto, will be a sensation, an international cause célèbre.

ICC's most unusual suspects:

And yet the ICC has never encountered suspects like Uhuru, Ruto and Muthaura - or a country like Kenya. The Kenyan crisis was a spasm, the first generalized outbreak of far-flung violence since the 1950s. And Kenya is no failed state, the ICC's usual hunting grounds.

All four accused are not fugitives, indeed they have carried on with their lives much as they used to, except where dealings with Western governments and their representatives in Nairobi are concerned.

Despite being accused of some of the most heinous crimes in the global statute books, including inciting murder and the eviction of populations, the four have lost no social standing or prestige among Kenyans, whereas in a Western setting they would have lost even exclusive club memberships and been painted as pariahs everywhere until proven innocent.

In the greatest contradistinction with how a Western society treats war crimes suspects, Uhuru, Ruto and Muthaura remain pillars of the Central Kenya elite and are not shunned elsewhere in Kenya, including in their nemesis Prime Minister Raila Odinga's Nyanza backyard, where Uhuru took his The National Alliance (TNA) road-show on a daylong tour a couple of months ago to a rousing welcome.

Indeed, not even in the flashpoint areas of the worst of the PEV violence itself in the Rift Valley are they treated with anything but the respect accorded all other Kenyan leaders in the VIP category.

Uhuru has instead quit Kenya's oldest party, Kanu, the political vehicle his father rode to Independence in, and then founded one of the fastest growing parties in Kenyan history, TNA, in the process gaining enormously in prestige and as a presidential candidate.

Ruto and his own political vehicle, the United Republican Party (URP) have joined Uhuru in the Jubilee Alliance, which seeks to bring together two of the largest vote blocs in Kenya, who also happen to be two of the foremost warring ethnic communities in the PEV. The consensus choice of Jubilee presidential candidate is Uhuru, installed on Sunday December 23, 2012.

Most influential civil society figure:

When Bensouda, herself a consensus candidate for Chief Prosecutor in succession to Luis Moreno-Ocampo, undertook a tour of Kenya in October this year, Kenyans got to see her up close for the first time.

Her reputation preceded her. It was leading francophone magazine Jeune Afrique that voted Bensouda the 4th Most Influential Personality in Africa in the Civil Society Category and global newsmagazine Time included her in its list of 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Bensouda may hail from a country whose president and political situation look like much more suitable fodder for the ICC than Kenya, the Gambia of Yahya Jammeh, a far cry from the Gambia of Sir Dawda Jawara, an admirer of Jomo Kenyatta, but she has made her name and reputation on a far bigger stage in an infinitely larger and more complex arena.

It is in that arena that she fully intends to tear into her biggest African prey yet - the three Kenyan VIP accused and one diminutive journalist.

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