

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

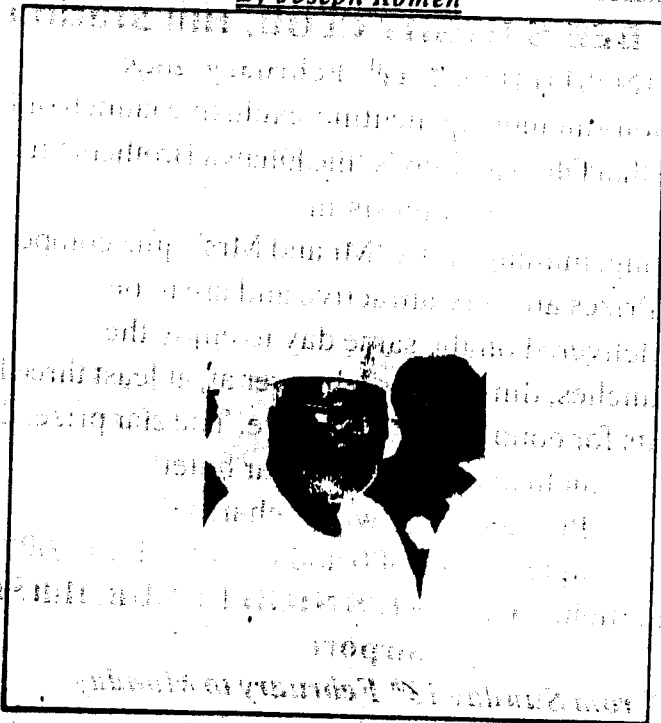
Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Wednesday, February 09, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Norman Gets New Lawyer

By Joseph Komeh



Hinga Norman: Still in Special Court noose

The office of the Principal Defender of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has sought the services of Sierra Leonean legal luminary Ibrahim Yillah to serve as court appointed counsel to add to the Defence team of Chief Sam Hinga Norman. This means Mr. Yillah has joined the company of Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie and John Wesley Hall following the withdrawal of Ms. Quincy Wittaker, who refused to sign her legal service contract with the court due to 'the nature and technicality involved'.

The CDF trials resume this morning, but it remains uncertain whether Chief Norman or his co-accused

persons will appear in court as they had long boycotted court sittings before the recess. Chief Norman boycotted sittings on grounds that he was not personally served a consolidated indictment and has not been arraigned before the Trial Chamber to enter a plea.

The New Storm
Wednesday February 9, 2005

Berewa

Booed

In Bo!



Berewa: no political base

2007 presidential hopeful Solomon Eruma Bérewa got a cold shoulder from the people of Gondama in Bo district when he attempted to campaign there last weekend.

Berewa swept into Gondama about noon, accompanied by members of the party paper *Unity* and SLBS journalists.

However the people were not happy to see him. When a public meeting was summoned, people turned up to boo the vice-president and ask him 'when is Hinga Norman going to be released?'

The reception was so hostile that Berewa and entourage left the town hurriedly. Neither SLBS or the party paper reported the fiasco.

Although Bo is Berewa's home district, the Special Court indictee chief Sam Hinga-Norman is far more popular there than the aspirant vee-pee.

Reliable sources also say that President Kabbah is making overtures to Dr James Jonah to return home to contest for the 2007 presidential mantle.



Norman: peoples hero

Rec p
Wednesday February 9,
2005



We Are The World

Registrars of International Criminal Tribunals Meet in Arusha

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

February 8, 2005

Posted to the web February 8, 2005

Arusha

All the four Registrars of International Criminal Tribunals and Courts are from Tuesday attending a two day meeting at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha to exchange views about managing the tribunals and to identify the best practices in the administration of international criminal justice based on their experiences.

The spokesperson of the ICTR, Roland Amoussouga, informed Hirondelle News Agency that those attending the meeting include the Registrar of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Bruno Cathala, the Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Hans Holthuis, the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCLC), Robin Vincent and the Registrar of the ICTR, Adama Dieng.

Similar meetings have been taking place since 2003 with the funding of the European Union and are intended to foster close cooperation between the tribunals.

According to the spokesperson, the areas of cooperation to be discussed this year will include the best practices in public information and outreach, the status of acquitted people, defence counsels and detention facility management, enforcement of sentences, handling situations of acquitted people, the legacy of the completion strategy and the post completion strategy.

Last year in March, the Registrars met in Sierra Leone where they selected co-operation in various areas, including matters concerning witness protection, legal aid and court management.

The ICTY and ICTR as ad hoc institutions are about to face the completion of their mandates in 2008.

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We Are The World

Witness Claims She Heard General Ndindiliyimana Searching for Tutsis

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

February 7, 2005

Posted to the web February 8, 2005

Arusha

A prosecution witness in the trial involving four former Rwandan army officers accused of genocide before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), on Monday claimed that she heard the former chief of staff of the Gendarmerie (Para-military police), General Augustin Ndindiliyimana, searching for Tutsis in Butare.

The eighth prosecution witness, a Tutsi, code-named ANB, testified that during Rwandan genocide she took refuge in the house of one Charles Kabeza in Nyaruhengeri, Butare (South).

ANB testified that while in Kabeza's house on the 23rd and 24th of April, 1994 she heard Ndindiliyimana lecturing Kabeza: "You are hiding Tutsis".

Kabeza denied hiding Tutsis and according to the witness, "a few minutes later, Ndindiliyimana drove away".

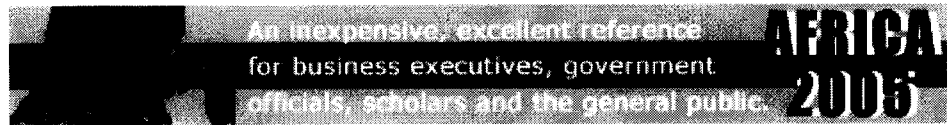
After that incident, Kabeza took the witness to his brother's place, because "Kabeza's house was visited regularly by local and high authorities".

This trial known as Military II started on September 20, 2004. Ndindiliyimana is accused with former commander of the Reconnaissance battalion, Major François-Xavier Nzuwonemeye, his deputy Captain Innocent Sagahutu and the former army chief-of-staff of the Rwandan army General Augustin Bizimungu.

ANB completed her testimony. The cross-examination could not start because Ndindiliyimana's lawyer Christopher Black (Canada) was unwell. Presiding Judge Joseph Asoka de Silva of Sri Lanka announced that the trial would proceed on Tuesday.

The four military officers are accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. They have all pleaded not guilty.

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Soldiers Killed and Raped Refugees in a Church Near Camp Kigali, Claims Witness

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

February 8, 2005

Posted to the web February 8, 2005

Arusha

A prosecution witness in the trial involving four former Rwandan army officers accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on Tuesday alleged that soldiers killed and raped Tutsi refugees in an Anglican church close to Camp Kigali in April, 1994.

The witness code-named UB for protective purposes claimed, "300 metres from the Anglican church, soldiers set up a roadblock" and that the "Anglican church was next to the military barracks and the army high command".

The witness narrated that he held a position of authority during the 1994 Rwandan genocide and he was told about the ongoing attacks upon Tutsis who had taken refuge by the Pastor of the church.

The witness explained that he went there and "two people were killed upon my arrival". Later, the witness was informed by a local official, the representative of ten houses, "Nyumba kumi" that "the attackers returned and killed the Tutsi Pastor, that no survivors remained in the church and the complex was looted by the assailants".

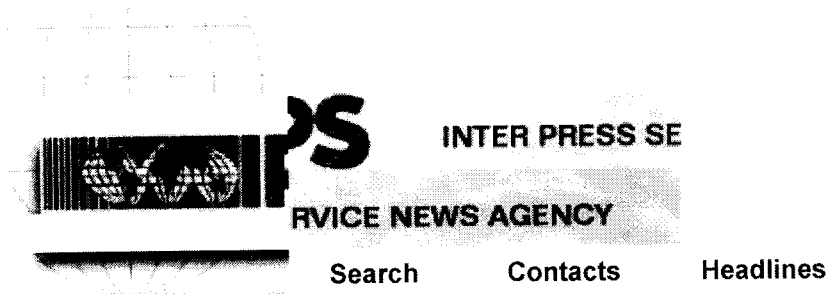
Witness UB also alleged that soldiers raped women who had taken refuge in the church. He said one victim was raped by soldiers "in front of her own children" and that "another girl of 14 years was raped in front of her parents". The witness alleged that he did not know the names "but the soldiers were from Kigali barracks".

The witness also testified that, "from the start of the war, we copied several reports to senior authorities and the gendarmerie and they did nothing, they did not react".

UB added that "at the end of June, 1994, the Nyarugenge Bourgmestre(Mayor in Kigali) told us to burn the reports". The witness claimed the Mayor said he was relaying information from the Prefect.

This so called Military II trial groups General Augustin Ndindiliyimana, the former chief of staff of the Gendarmerie (Para-military police), the former commander of the Reconnaissance battalion, Major François-Xavier Nzuwonemeye, his deputy Captain Innocent Sagahutu and the former army chief-of-staff of the Rwandan army General Augustin Bizimungu.

The four military officers have pleaded not guilty.

**POLITICS:****New U.N. Force For Sudan Will Skirt Darfur Crisis****Thalif Deen**

Over the next six months, the United Nations is planning to deploy a new 10,000-strong military force to monitor the recently concluded peace agreement in Sudan, which brought to an end the 21-year-old civil war between north and south.

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 8 (IPS) - The current African Union (AU) monitoring force in Darfur, western Sudan -- which is expected to increase from about 900 to 4,000 -- is "not big enough" and its "deployment too slow," Jan Pronk, U.N. special representative for Sudan, told the Security Council Tuesday.

Pronk said there was a need for "a robust third-party force" to maintain the peace in war-devastated Sudan. But the new U.N. force is to be based mostly in southern, not western Sudan.

The conflict, between the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), formally ended with the signing of a peace agreement in early January this year.

In a report to the Security Council, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the peace agreement puts an end to "one of Africa's longest and most intractable wars, during which more than two million people were killed, four million were uprooted, and some 600,000 were forced to seek shelter beyond Sudan's borders as refugees."

"The Security Council will be ready to establish a full-fledged peacekeeping operation (in Sudan) in order to implement the north-south peace agreement," Ambassador Joel Adechi of Benin, chairman of the Security Council, told delegates.

Of the 16 U.N. peacekeeping operations currently in force, seven are in Africa: in Western Sahara, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Burundi.

Meanwhile, Pronk painted a "dismal picture" of the situation in the Darfur region of Sudan where an estimated 400,000 Sudanese have been killed in ethnic violence.

Ann-Louise Colgan of the Washington-based Africa Action told IPS that while the successful implementation of the peace accord is very important for Sudan's future, such a huge peacekeeping force "is needed far more urgently right now to save lives in Darfur."

"Some commentators have suggested that the deployment of a 10,000-strong peacekeeping force to southern Sudan might ultimately provide 'peacekeeping by stealth' for Darfur, noting that once these troops are in place in Sudan, it may later be possible to re-deploy them to meet the urgent needs in Darfur," she said.

But this does little to help the people of Darfur in the immediate term. "It is shameful that the international community is not responding more directly and forcefully to the genocide in Darfur," Colgan said.

She also pointed out that a much larger and more robust force is needed in Darfur than what the current African Union presence provides.

"The AU troops on the ground right now lack the troop strength, the logistical capacity and the mandate to protect the huge numbers of displaced and vulnerable civilians in Darfur," she added.

Pronk said that pressure by the international community and the presence of the AU had had some effect on Darfur, "but not enough."

"The conflict in Darfur was very complicated, with various dimensions," he explained.

It was more than a civil war, he said, because the conflict encompassed an economic struggle, with environmental impacts. "The (Janjaweed) militias were strong and well-organised. And there were forces in Sudan-- not in the government, but still powerful -- that were capable of spreading terror on the ground," he added.

Addressing the Security Council Tuesday, the leader of the SPLM John Garang said that having concluded its own peace accord with the government, his rebel movement was confident that this would enhance the chances for a lasting solution to the Darfur conflict as well.

"However," he warned, "the Janjaweed militia must be reined in and eventually brought to justice after the achievement of a solution." The SPLM stood ready to offer assistance.

In his report to the Security Council, Annan said that despite several rounds of peace talks, "the Darfur political process has not succeeded so far in bearing the hoped-for fruits."

"This is due mainly to the complexities of the crisis in Darfur, the lack of confidence between the parties, fuelled by the continuous violations of the cease-fire and compounded by both parties succumbing to the temptation of improving their military and political positions before moving to the critical phase of the negotiation," Annan said.

A U.N. commission on Darfur, which released a report last week, concluded that the crimes being committed in Darfur were no less serious than genocide.

The 15-member Security Council is divided on how it should deal with the atrocities being committed in Darfur.

The U.N. commission "strongly" recommended that the situation in Darfur be referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, which is mandated to try cases involving war crimes and genocide.

But the United States, which has remained opposed to the very creation of the ICC, wants a separate U.N. war crimes tribunal in Tanzania to deal with the crimes in Darfur. (END/2005)

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United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia
(UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
8 Feb 2005**

Charles Taylor's Close Associate Expelled from Congo Brazzaville

(The News and The Concord Times)

- The Congo Brazzaville Government has expelled Dutchman Gus Kouwenhoven, a close associate of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, as he was on the United Nations sanctions list for supplying weapons to Taylor.