

**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 Press and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Tuesday, 9 October 2007

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

Jail Sentence for Kondewa, Fofana Today / Concord Times	Page 3
Special Court Jail Two CDF Men Today / Independent Observer	Page 4
Special Court to Sentence CDF Today / The Spectator	Page 5
Judgement Day Today / Premier News	Page 6
Trial Chamber II of the AFRC / Premier News	Page 7

International News

S / Leone War Crimes Sentence Due / BBC Online	Pages 8-9
Nigeria: Country, Others to Raise \$62 Million for Charles Taylor's Trial / Leadership (Abuja)	Pages 10-11
UN Seeks Funds for Charles Taylor's Trial / Afriquenligne	Page 12
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / UNMIL	Pages 13-14
Peace-building Commission official Heads to Sierra Leone / Maxim News	Page 15
Ban ki-Moon Welcomes World Court's Judgment in Central American Land Dispute / Maxim News	Page 16
Fujimori's Trial Could be Truly Historic - If He is acquitted / The Guardian	Pages 17-18

Jail sentence for Kondewa, Fofanah today

By Ibrahim Seibure

The United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone will today

pass jail sentences on the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) war crimes indictees, Moinina

Contd. page 7

Jail sentence for Kondewa, Fofanah today

From page 1

Fofanah and Alieu Kondewa.

Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu, all senior commanders of the AFRC, were the first set to be convicted by the Court for crimes against humanity and war crimes

committed in a non-international armed conflict, including unlawful killings, extermination, rape, acts of terrorism, collective punishment, and mutilation.

To date, the Special Court for Sierra Leone has indicted 13 individuals under its

limited mandate

Out of the 13, nine are still in custody while three have died and one remains at large.

The verdicts today will send a message to the thousands who bear the terrible scars of war, especially children and the many women and girls who were victims of rape.

Special Court Jail Two CDF Men 2day

Lengthy jail term is certainly going to be handed down this afternoon on two members of the CDF, the climax of about three years of trial before the Special Court.

The two are Moinama Fofana and Alieu Kondewa whose lawyers, two weeks ago, asked the Trial Chamber not to impose lengthy sentences against the desire of Prosecution wants a similar judgement as was in the case of the AFRC indictees. Stephen Rapp, the Court's Prosecutor will address a press conference after the verdict would have been delivered.

Special court to sentence CDF today

The Special Court for Sierra Leone will today sentence the two remaining Civil Defence Force (CDF) fighters for crimes and crimes against humanity.

Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondowa were indicted together with Chief Sam Hinga Norman who later died in detention for various crimes ranging

from recruiting child soldiers and other violation of Human Rights.

Sierra Leoneans all over the world are still going through pain for those CDF fighters whom we all know took up arms to liberate their mother land from rebels. Today they stand accused of committing crimes against humanity.

Where was the International

community when rebels were slaughtering the people in cold blood? Did they ever knew that they too committed crimes against the people of this land?

Sierra Leoneans still bleeds for its heroes and heroine.

What happened in East Timor was not as bad as the war in Sierra Leone but so

many people were tried even to those who committed lesser crimes. While in Sierra Leone a good number of them are today walking free. The likes of Leather boot, Tom Nyumah, Eldred Collins, Gibril Massaquoi, Fayia Musa and a good number of them are today living in Europe or Asia under International protection while the people they distressed are living in abject poverty. We ask that the Court tampers justice with mercy.

Judgement Day Today!!

The Trial Chamber of the Special Court in Sierra Leone is today expected to deliver judgement on two Civil Defence Force (CDF) indictees, Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondewa.

Before imposing sentences, the Trial Chamber headed by Cameroonian born Judge Benjamin Itoe will take into account, such factors as the gravity of the offences and the individual circumstances of the convicted persons during the decade long war.

It will also look at factors such as aggravating and mitigating circumstances including the substantial cooperation with the prosecution by the accused.

It shall also indicate whether sentences shall be served consecutively or

concurrently among others.

During the last sitting, the Prosecution requested for a global sentence of 30 years for each of the CDF indictees.

The prosecution argued that there were no mitigating circumstances which would warrant a lighter sentence and that none of the indictees were under duress when passing instructions to their subordinates or even expressed remorse.

Mr. Charles Margai, Lawyer representing Allieu Kondewa, asserted that the sentence being asked for by the

prosecution was excessive, citing a similar matter in the ICTR in which the accused 'Nasra' was sentenced for only seven years.

He then submitted for a considerably shorter sentence of three years since his client had spent four years in custody.

His client, he said, did express remorse and is also an illiterate with a family.

Lawyer Margai said his client was committed to sustain the hard won peace through several peace initiatives.

In a brief statement, Mr. Kondewa apologized to all Sierra Leoneans and asked for forgiveness while promising to reconcile with his community.

TRIAL CHAMBER II

ARMED FORCES REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (AFRC) TRIAL: BRIMA, KAMARA AND KANU

The case against Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Kanu (the AFRC trial) commenced on 7 March 2005, and was conducted throughout 2006.

All three accused are charged with 14 counts alleging crimes against humanity (murder, extermination, enslavement, rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence, and mutilations and forced marriages as other inhumane acts), was crimes (murder, mutilations, collective punishment, acts of terrorism, outrages upon personal dignity and pillage) and other serious violations of international humanitarian law (conscription and enlistment of child soldiers). The charges cover a time period from 1997 to 2000.

After the close of the case for the Prosecution, all three Accused filed motions for judgment of acquittal pursuant to Rule 98. Trial Chamber II rendered its decision on 31 March 2006 dismissing all three motions.

Between 5 June and 27 October 2006, the Chamber heard the Defence case, encompassing a total of 87 witnesses and 101 trial days.

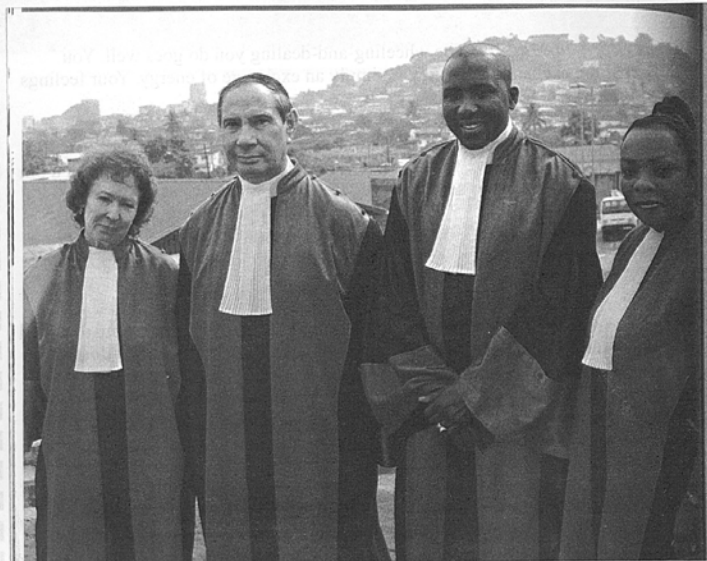
Out of the 87 Defence witnesses three were expert witnesses. The majority of Defence witnesses enjoyed protective measure under Rule 75 of the Rules. 109 Prosecution and 39 Defence exhibits were admitted into evidence during the entire trial.

On 1 December 2006, the parties filed their final trial briefs. Closing arguments were held on 7 and 8 December 2006. Thereupon, the Chamber adjourned for final judgment deliberations.

Trial Chamber II conducted the proceedings without any major delays. The Accused regularly attended the proceedings although some of them occasionally waived their right to be present at trial.

Since the assignment of the trial in January 2005, Trial Chamber II issued a total of 88 orders and decisions (excluding separate and dissenting opinions) in addition to conducting the main trial. All motions and applications filed before the Chamber during this period had been disposed of at the time of this report. Below are some of the decisions issued by Trial Chamber II during the reporting period.

Decision on Defence Motions for judgment of Acquittal Pursuant to Rule 98: On 31 March 2006, the Chamber dismissed motions by all three Accused in which they requested to be acquitted of all counts in the indictment. Reviewing the evidence adduced during the Prosecution case, and taking into account the issues raised by the Defence, the Chamber held that there was evidence capable of supporting a conviction on all counts in the indictment.



**Justice Teresa Doherty, Justice Richard Lussick,
Justice El Hadji Malick Sow, Justice Julia Sebutinde**

Decision on Principal Defender's Motion for a Review of the Registrar's Decision to Install Surveillance Cameras in the Detention Facility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone: On 3 April 2006, the Chamber dismissed a motion by the principal Defender against the Registrar's decision to install surveillance cameras in the detention facilities of the Special Court on the grounds that the Principal Defender lacked standing to represent the accused persons.

BBC Online

Tuesday, 9 October 2007

S Leone war crimes sentence due

Sierra Leone's UN-backed war crimes court is due to sentence two ex-leaders of a pro-government militia guilty of crimes committed during the civil war.

Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa were convicted in August for offences including murder and cruel treatment.

The case has been controversial as some saw the Civil Defence Force (CDF) as defending civilians against rebels in the 10-year war that ended in 2002.

Some 50,000 people were killed and many more maimed and raped during the war.

Child soldiers

Before their conviction in August, Fofana and Kondewa had pleaded not guilty to eight counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The judgement detailed some of the crimes carried out by the pro-government militia.

These included an order to destroy an entire village and consider all people found there as rebels who must be killed.

Kondewa was also found guilty of the use of child soldiers. Fofana was acquitted on this count.

They were both acquitted on all counts of crimes against humanity and of acts of terrorism, considered a war crime.

Correspondents say many Sierra Leoneans see the CDF - also known as the Kamajor militia - as a force that fought for a noble cause, to defend the population against brutal rebel groups such as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

When the head of Kamajors, Sam Hinga Norman, was indicted four years ago there was public outcry. He has since died in custody.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone originally indicted a total of 13 people in connection with the war, including the former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is accused of backing the rebels.

In July, it handed down its first sentences against three senior members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, which toppled the government in 1997.

Alex Tamba Brima and Santigie Borbor Kanu were jailed for 50 years each, and Brima Kamara for 45 years.

Mr Taylor's trial is being conducted in The Hague because of fears that trying him in West Africa could jeopardise the new-found peace of Liberia and Sierra Leone.



The Kamajor militia supported the government in the civil war

CDF CONVICTIONS

Murder and violence (war crime): Both guilty

Violence to life and mental suffering (war crime): Both guilty

Pillage (war crime): Both guilty

Collective punishment (war crime): Both guilty

Murder (crime against humanity): Both acquitted

Inhumane acts (crime against humanity): Both acquitted

Acts of terrorism (war crime): Both acquitted

Recruiting child soldiers:

Kondewa guilty; Fofana acquitted

[Q&A: War crimes tribunal](#)

Critics say the UN-backed court has been too slow in delivering justice to the people of Sierra Leone.

Three of those indicted, including RUF leader Foday Sankoh and Mr Hinga Norman, died before their verdicts were delivered.

Leadership (Abuja)

Monday, 8 October 2007

Nigeria: Country, Others to Raise \$62 Million for Charles Taylor's Trial

United Nations secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, has listed Nigeria among six-member nations expected to raise about \$62 million for the trial of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor.

The amount is to cover the expenses of the special court trying Taylor between now and 2009.

The UN committee set up by Ban is chaired by Canada and has Sierra Leone, Nigeria, The Netherlands, UK and the U.S.A. as its members.

In a letter of urgent appeal sent to all member-states, the UN chief said the committee became necessary to tackle the problem of funds threatening to stall the activities of the special court trying Charles Taylor, who is currently on trial for "crime against humanity."

He called on the UN members to provide "necessary funding" for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is handling the case, "to ensure the successful completion of its mandate".

The letter, addressed to each of the court's Management Committee member-state as well as to other UN members-states, obtained by NAN at the UN at the weekend, stated that the appeal was "urgent in order to resolve the financial crisis".

"As you are aware, the Special Court is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions and presently, the court has insufficient funds to allow it to continue its operations beyond October 2007," Ban said.

He listed the budgetary requirements for the court for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2007 as 36 million dollars for 2007, 33 million dollars for 2008 and 20 million dollars for 2009.

The secretary-general underscored the importance of the court, which he said was aimed at promoting the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law.

According to him: "It is for these reasons that I have decided to appeal once again to your governments to provide funding for the court as a matter of urgency."

The UN chief also noted that "it is now vital that member-states provide the necessary financial support so that the court can focus on completing its important work, which is crucial to peace and security in the region."

He further appealed to member-states to consider entering into enforcement of sentences in agreement with the court.

"I will be grateful for a response from your government by October 15, 2007," Ban said.

Taylor is facing 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, including mass murder, mutilations, rape, sexual slavery and the use of child soldiers.

The crimes were alleged to have been committed during the decade-long civil war that engulfed Sierra Leone, which borders Liberia.

NAN reports that the UN Security Council authorised the staging of the trial at The Hague, Netherlands, citing security and expediency.

The Special Court, established in January 2002 by an agreement between the Sierra Leonean government and the UN, is mandated to try "those who bear greatest responsibility" for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the country after November 30, 1996.

Under an agreement with the UK, Taylor will be imprisoned in that country, if he is convicted.

Afriquenligne

Tuesday, 9 October 2007

<http://www.afriquenligne.fr/news/daily-news/>

UN seeks funds for Charles Taylor's trial

New York, UN - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appealed to member states to help alleviate the financial constraints that may stall the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, PANA reported Sunday.

Ban called on the member states to provide "necessary funding" for the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), which is handling the case, "to ensure the successful completion of its mandate". A letter addressed to each of the Court's Management Committee member states as well as to other UN member states, obtained by PANA at the UN headquarters in New York, said the appeal was "urgent in order to resolve the financial crisis".

The committee is chaired by Canada and has the UN, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, The Netherlands, UK and the U.S. as its members.

"As you are aware, the Special Court is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions and presently, the Court has insufficient funds to allow it to continue its operations beyond October 2007," Ban wrote.

He listed the budgetary requirements for the Court for the period of 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2007 as US\$36 million; 2008 US\$33 million and for 2009, US\$20 million.

The Secretary-General underscored the importance of the Court, which he said was aimed at promoting the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law.

"It is for these reasons that I have decided to appeal once again to your government to provide funding for the Court as a matter of urgency," he explained.

He further appealed to member states to consider entering into enforcement of sentences agreements with the Court, adding: "I will be grateful for a response from your government by October 15, 2007."

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UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 8 October 2007

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

International Clips on Liberia

Country, Others to Raise \$62m for Charles Taylor's Trial

Abuja, Oct 08, 2007 (Leadership/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- United Nations secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, has listed Nigeria among six-member nations expected to raise about \$62 million for the trial of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor. The amount is to cover the expenses of the special court trying Taylor between now and 2009. The UN committee set up by Ban is chaired by Canada and has Sierra Leone, Nigeria, The Netherlands, UK and the U.S.A. as its members.

International Clips on West Africa

10/08/2007 04:10:00

Sierra Leone leader declares new era dawning on war-racked nation

By Rod MacJohnson

FREETOWN, Oct 5, 2007 (AFP) - Sierra Leone's new leader, President Ernest Bai Koroma, on Friday declared that the war-scarred country has turned a page on its bloody past and is headed for economic growth again. "A new era of peace, security stability and social economic progress has come to our country," he said in his first ever address to the nation since taking office three weeks ago.

Local Media – Newspaper

“Sex for News” Report Causes Stir in Government

(Daily Observer, The Informer and Liberian Express)

Germany Pledges 4M Euros to Liberia’s Reconstruction

(Heritage, The Inquirer, The News, Daily Observer, New Democrat, Public Agenda and The Monitor)

- The German government has pledged an additional four million euros to Liberia’s infrastructure fund in addition to an eight million euros support set aside for roads, bridges and ports rehabilitation.
- Speaking at a news conference, German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged her country’s support to Liberia’s multilateral debt relief and assured her country’s continued support towards Liberia’s economic revitalization and reconstruction programs.
- For her part, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said the visit of the German Chancellor indicates that Liberia was stable and now has a good image in the international community.

Government to Shut down “Bogus” Universities

(The Informer, Heritage and National Chronicle)

- The Government of Liberia says it is troubled and disappointed over the proliferation of a number of “bogus” universities.
- Information Minister, Laurence Bropleh says there are over 20 of these “universities” operating in the country and said such schools are doing disservice to the country’s education sector.

- Minister Bropleh disclosed that the Ministry of Education recognizes only six universities and colleges in the country and named them as the University of Liberia, Cuttington University, African Methodist Episcopal University and the United Methodist University.
- Others are the African Methodist Episcopal University and the Stella Maris Polytechnic. He said that the commission on higher education is meeting and putting together a report on the issue of the bogus universities.

Supreme Court Summons Former Transitional Chairman Bryant, Judge

(The News and Daily Observer)

- The Supreme Court has summoned former transitional chairman Gyude Bryant and Judge Boima Kontoe of the Criminal Court 'C' to appear before the full bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday.
- A Bill of Information filed by state prosecutors accused Mr. Bryant of frustrating the execution of the Supreme Court's mandate in the US\$ 1.3 million economic sabotage case against him.
- The prosecutors claimed Bryant's request for the Criminal Court 'C' to quash the indictment against him is a gross disrespect to the High Court and claim that Judge Kontoe contributed to what they called the willful disrespect of the Supreme Court by entertaining Bryant's request bill.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

German Chancellor Pledges Additional Support to Liberia

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

Government Calls on Female Journalists to Prove Allegation

- Briefing the press in Monrovia, Information Minister Laurence Bropleh said that the Government is concerned about Daily Observer reporter Mae Azango's allegation that female journalists in Liberia were being sexually harassed during reportorial duties.
- As such, the Government will ask her to prove the allegation on her return from the United States where she made the remark. During this process, Minister Bropleh added that the Government will give Ms Azango full security protection.
- However, according to its Secretary-General Peter Quaqua, the Press Union of Liberia said it is astonished by the revelation and vowed to investigate it, and therefore advised the Government to keep off.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

Maxim News Network

Monday, 8 October 2007

<http://www.maximsnews.com/107>

Peace-building commission official heads to Sierra Leone

Dutch Ambassador Frank Majoor, in his capacity as Chair of the Peace building Commission's Sierra Leone configuration, is headed to Sierra Leone today to meet with newly-elected President Ernest Bai Koroma and members of his cabinet. Ambassador Majoor will also have meetings with members of Parliament and civil society and with the UN Country Team.

The visit is expected to advance development of a "peace building cooperation framework" with the Sierra Leone Government. It will also highlight efforts in areas including good governance, justice and security sector reform, and youth employment.

Ambassador Majoor will brief members of the Peace building Commission when he returns to New York on 15 October.

Maxim News Network

Monday, 8 October 2007

<http://www.maximsnews.com/107>

Ban ki-Moon welcomes world court's judgment in central American land dispute

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has delivered its judgment in the territorial and maritime dispute between Nicaragua and Honduras in the Caribbean Sea. In the judgment, which is final, binding and without appeal, the Court found unanimously that Honduras has sovereignty over Bobel Cay, Savanna Cay, Port Royal Cay and South Cay.

A majority of ICJ judges also voted to delineate the starting point of the single maritime boundary that divides the territorial sea, continental shelf and exclusive economic zones of Nicaragua and Honduras.

Another majority of judges ordered that the parties negotiate in good faith with a view to agreeing on the course of the delimitation of their 1906 land boundary and their maritime boundary determined this morning by the Court.

The Secretary-General welcomes the judgment and expresses trust that the Parties will implement it in full. This important judgment illustrates the essential role of the International Court of Justice in peacefully resolving international disputes.

The Guardian

Tuesday, 9 October 2007

Fujimori's trial could be truly historic - if he is acquitted

Former leaders are never presumed innocent when arraigned, for their prosecutions are driven by their victorious rivals

John Laughland

Whenever a head of state or government faces trial these days, human rights activists say the event is unprecedented. Slobodan Milosevic's trial was "ground-breaking"; the conviction of Jean Kambanda of Rwanda was "historic"; the trial of Charles Taylor of Liberia was "a break with the past". No surprise, therefore, that Human Rights Watch welcomed Alberto Fujimori's extradition from Chile to his native Peru, where he will stand trial next month, saying it was "the first time that a court has ordered the extradition of a former head of state to be tried for gross human rights violations in his home country".

It is true that, in the past, ex-leaders have usually been handed over for trial by the same politicians who overthrew them, not by the courts. Milosevic was sent to The Hague in 2001 by his enemies in the government of Serbia, in contravention of a court order issued against his extradition by the Yugoslavian constitutional court. However, the illegality of that transfer did not trouble Human Rights Watch at the time, which welcomed the appearance in the dock of a man whom, like Fujimori, it had already proclaimed to be guilty.

But there is nothing new about trials of former heads of state as such. Fujimori is the 24th head of state to face criminal trial for acts of state since Charles I was executed in 1649, and there have also been numerous additional trials of heads of government. Yet in three centuries of trials of former political leaders, there has not been a single acquittal. In the grim words of Danton to a French exile who returned from England to help Louis XVI's defence in 1792, "Can one save a king who is on trial? He is dead as soon as he appears in front of his judges."

Erich Honecker and Slobodan Milosevic are the only ex-leaders to have escaped conviction - the former by being about to die, the latter by actually dying during his trial. This 0% acquittal rate is due to the fact that the trials are organised by victorious regimes against defeated ones. The conviction of the old leader is an essential source of legitimacy for the new one. Just as the new international tribunals are run by the great powers to justify their doctrine of military and judicial interventionism against weak and third world states, so the original prosecutions against Fujimori in 2000 were not brought by the Peruvian police but by the then president himself, Alejandro Toledo.

Toledo forced his governments to file more than 60 charges against Fujimori, indicting him for everything from his resignation in 2000 to the purchase of tractors from China while in office. Yet Toledo is hardly a neutral figure. He led the opposition against Fujimori and he was still clinging on to power when Fujimori announced he would return to Peru to stand for election last year. Fujimori's detention in Chile on the Peruvian warrant torpedoed that challenge.

Trials of ex-leaders are often used by a victorious regime to cover up its own crimes. The Americans phrased the prosecution of Saddam Hussein in such a way that the invasion of Kuwait in 1990 could be regarded as a crime but not the invasion of Iran in 1979. Although the latter cost a million lives, the Americans presumably did not want their support for Iraq then to be discussed in court. Fujimori's trial will now take place under the aegis of President Alan García, whom

Fujimori defeated in 1990. When García was first president (1985-90), far more Maoist guerrillas were killed than under Fujimori, who in fact brought Peru's dirty civil war to an end. But it is "El Chino" who will be prosecuted for human rights abuses, not García. Fujimori is being accused of corruption as well, which was also more rampant under García.

The guilt of the defendant is often pre-announced in such trials. In 1941 in France, Marshal Pétain said publicly that the Third Republic prime ministers, Edouard Daladier and Léon Blum, were guilty before their trial had started, and insisted that the court's job was simply to dole out the appropriate sentences. Both Fujimori's successor and predecessor as president have declared him guilty, as have the world's main human rights organisations - Amnesty, Human Rights Watch and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights - who are in fact his main accusers. They seem uninterested in the presumption of innocence, and the media generally do not question the accusations.

However inevitable their conviction, former leaders often seem to relish their day in court. Vidkun Quisling of Norway in 1945 and Monsignor Tiso of Slovakia in 1947 both spoke for two whole days at their trials. They were shot shortly thereafter. Ex-leaders often make pompous appeals to the world outside and say that history will be their judge - although when the Greek military leader, George Papadopoulos, tried this in 1975, the judge snapped back: "Do you think history is absent from this courtroom?" Alberto Fujimori has many supporters in Peru, and maybe he will adopt this strategy. If it succeeds, that really will be unprecedented.

· John Laughland's A History of Political Trials from Charles I to Saddam Hussein is published next May jlaughland@btinternet.com