

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Thursday, 9 October 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

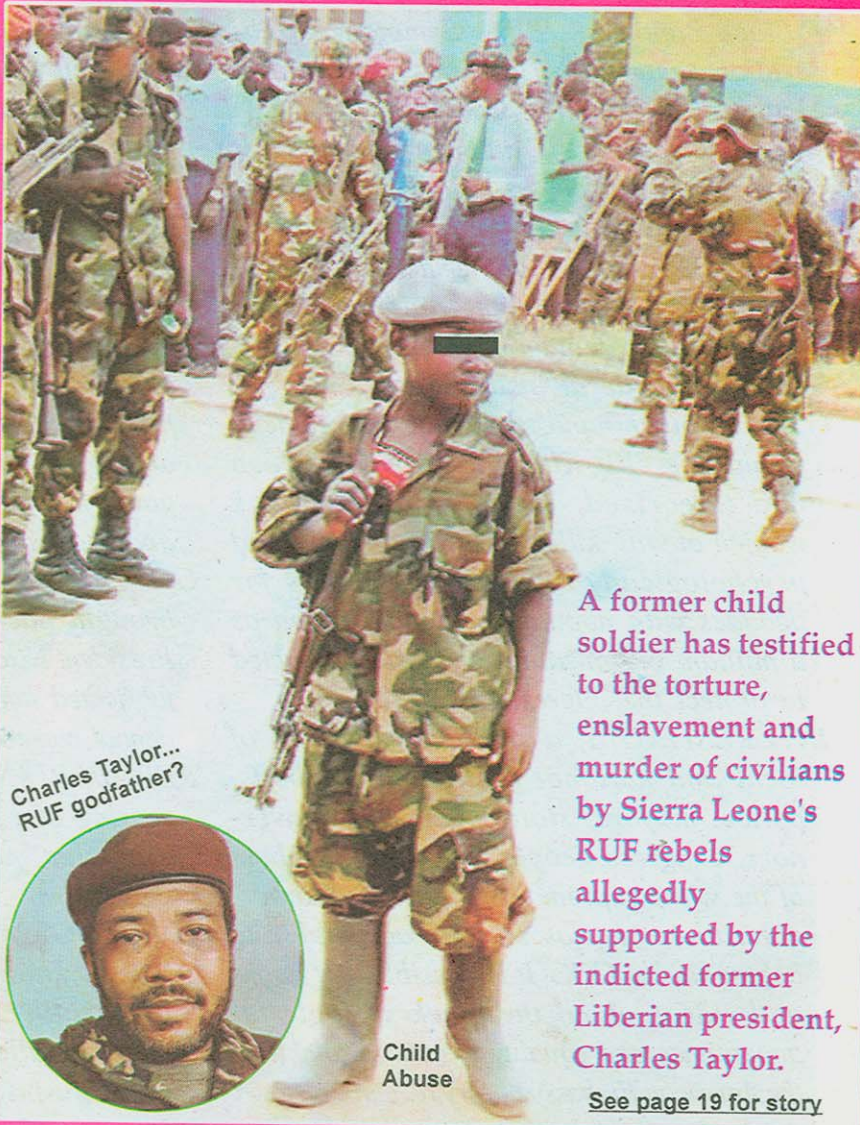
Ex-Child Soldier Tells of Torture, Murder... / <i>Standard Times</i>	Pages 3-4
73 Year Old Amputee Narrates Ordeal / <i>New Citizen</i>	Page 5

International News

Charles Taylor's Lawyer Expresses Shock / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Page 6
Report from The Hague / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Pages 7-8
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 9-11
The UN Security Council and Omar al-Bashir / <i>Chicago Tribune</i>	Pages 12-13
Genocide Museum for Rwanda Palace / <i>BBC Online</i>	Page 14
UN Court Upholds Martić Sentence / <i>BBC Online</i>	Page 15

Standard Times
Thursday, 9 October 2008

At Charles Taylor's trial... Ex-child soldier tells of torture, murder and enslavement by RUF



Charles Taylor...
RUF godfather?



Child
Abuse

A former child soldier has testified to the torture, enslavement and murder of civilians by Sierra Leone's RUF rebels allegedly supported by the indicted former Liberian president, Charles Taylor.

See page 19 for story

Former child soldier tells of torture, murder and enslavement by RUF

BY JOSEPH CHEESEMAN

Captured by rebels at age 12, Komba Sumana gave a vivid account of his ordeal saying he was captured by people he identified as Liberian English-speaking men commanded by one Major Wallace formerly of Alhaji Kromah's ULIMO rebel group.

Sumana, who is now in his early 20s, is the 51st prosecution witness. He told the court that he hid in a forest when he saw the rebels pour boiling water on the head of a man who had just got a new hair cut, simply because he failed to produce rice as the rebels had demanded.

Mr. Sumana testified to the invasion of their hiding place by six AK-47-toting rebels whom he said spoke Mende and Liberian English. He re-

called that his father, mother, and other captives under gun point carried looted goods for the rebels.

The witness described to the court his recruitment into the rebel faction along with 200 captives which included being taken on a three-week walk to Kailahun for training. He said a Liberian woman he could only identify as Monica trained them in various manners of warfare. "They trained us how to attack a town, how to burn a house, how to take over a town" he said. Under cross-examination by the prosecution, Sumana said that they were badly treated as they were beaten and starved.

Once they had passed out from the training, Sumana went on, the rebel battlefield commander Sam Mosquito Bockarie gave them AK-47 rifles, RPG

bombs and other weapons. He told the judges that during the distribution of the arms he saw some men dressed in military uniform and wore red caps. He told the court that one of the fighters identified the men as Liberians. "There was one rebel who was standing close to me at the time I was standing in the line. I asked him about the soldiers who had come and he said to me that they were Charles Taylor's soldiers".

Sumana told the judges that his father was amputated and his elder brother was killed by the rebels.

Crime against humanity which includes murder, cruel treatment, and rape are some of the charges against Charles Taylor.

New Citizen
Thursday, 9 October 2008

73-year-old Amputee Narrates Ordeal

When former president Charles Taylor returned to court after observing a Jewish holiday he was met in court by a 73-year-old man who had his right arm amputated below the elbow and the bones in his left hand broken. Not knowing Osman Jalloh was an amputee, the judge asked him to hold the Koran as the oath was being administered. Jalloh said he came into contact with a group of men in January 1999 at Calaba Town in the outskirts of Freetown singing, "We want peace" and threatening that anyone who failed to join them would be flogged. He gave testimony of how eight people were amputated at Calaba Town because of what he quoted the rebels as saying was a revenge for the bombing of their positions by the West African intervention force, ECOMOG.

Recounting how his friend Otick was killed, Jalloh

said he was asked to place his hand on a pounding block. When he pleaded with the rebel, he was ordered for a second time to place his hands for amputation warning him not to plead with him. But he pleaded again. "So the man chopped him on his head with a cutlass then blood started oozing from his head, and all over his body was blood... Otick [started] rolling on the ground...and after three days Otick died."

The 73-year-old man told the court that after Otick it was his turn. He narrated to the court how the rebels amputated him and gave him a message to ECOMOG and the Sierra Leonean government. "He struck me once, and he told me to put the right hand again, and he chopped it, and it [was dangling]. He chopped the left hand again with both dangling as gave me a message" for the pro-government

forces.

Asked what the message was, Jalloh said it was a message for the then-president Tejan Kabba and ECOMOG not to ever come to rebel territory. The witness wept in court while a court assistant removed the sleeves of his gown from what remained of his amputated hands. His right hand was cut below the elbow and the left hand broken but not severed from the body.

Under direct examination Jalloh told prosecution lawyer Catherine Howard that the first rebels he saw had come from Liberia because Charles Taylor had threatened in a radio interview that Sierra Leone would taste the bitterness of war.

He ended his testimony weeping for his condition. He lamented that he can no longer eat or relieve himself without being aided by someone else.

Courtesy: BBC World Service Trust

BBC World Service Trust

Wednesday, 8 October 2008

Charles Taylor's Lawyer Expresses Shock

Former President Charles Taylor's Lead Lawyer has expressed shock about what he called the quality of evidence that the prosecution has brought against his client.

Mr. Courtney Griffiths said given the profile of the case and the many years the prosecution had to build its case against Mr. Taylor, one would have thought the evidence would according to him never be as contradictory as it is.

Mr. Griffiths told BBC World Service Trust in an interview that Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp last week said he was surprised at the strength of the prosecution's evidence.

Speaking about potential witnesses for Mr. Taylor, Griffiths said some people in West Africa have expressed their willingness to testify for the Former President.

He however said some of the potential witnesses expressed fears that associating themselves with Mr. Taylor would stigmatize them.

The Defence Lawyer said the media have associated the Former Liberian Leader with wickedness.

Speaking about tracing Mr. Taylor's alleged hidden money, Mr. Griffiths wondered why the prosecution is taking so long to locate his client's money.

Mr. Griffiths said the prosecution has the power to trace Mr. Taylor's money irrespective of the names under which the money was hidden or banked.

BBC World Service Trust

Wednesday, 8 October 2008

Report from The Hague

QC Courtney Griffiths Interviewed by Joseph Cheeseman

Defence Lead Lawyer in Former President Charles Taylor's case is not happy about a statement made by the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, Stephen Rapp last week. Mr. Courtney Griffiths said Mr. Rapp made a public statement expressing surprise at the strength of the prosecution's evidence. Well, in an interview with Joseph Cheeseman, Mr. Griffiths reacted to the Chief Prosecutor's statement by giving his own description of the prosecution's evidence. Mr. Griffiths also spoke about Mr. Taylor's indigent status and fear still being expressed by potential witnesses.

GRIFFITHS: And contrary to what Mr. Rapp stated publicly last week that he's surprised at the strength of the prosecution evidence, I take a contrary view. I'm shocked that this is the quality of the evidence that they've brought against former President Taylor. One would have thought given the profile of this case and given the many years the Prosecution have had to build a case against him, that the evidence against Mr. Taylor is so tenuous, and in many cases contradictory.

CHEESEMAN: The other day you told me that people were apprehensive of associating themselves with Mr. Taylor because of what you called Western propaganda against him. Are you succeeding in getting some witnesses now?

GRIFFITHS: We are getting witnesses. And those witnesses are willing to attend court. But at the same time they express fears to us that through associating themselves with President Taylor they may get stigmatised in West Africa because of the aura of wickedness which the media has built up around the former President. Because the last thing we want is for, once we've declared to the Prosecution who our witnesses are, for any individual to approach them and seek to dissuade them from coming to the Hague to give evidence on behalf of former President Taylor.

CHEESEMAN: You implied former President Taylor endures and indigent status- he's a poor man. The Prosecution doubts that. What do you think?

GRIFFITHS: The Prosecution have been making noises about former President Taylor having millions of dollars stashed away around the world. It's curious given the kind of power that investigators now have to trace resources, you know how it's developed in order to trace in particular drug money and the like, it's curious that given all of these powers and given the length of time they've had- remember he was arrested years ago- it's curious that they haven't been to locate any of these funds. And that's probably because there are no funds to be located.

CHEESEMAN: So you believe he doesn't have money?

GRIFFITHS: I have to act on my instructions. And my instructions are, and the evidence clearly is, that he has no money.

CHEESEMAN: Mr. Taylor served Liberia as a popular rebel leader for more than 5 years, he was President for 6 years and what have you. Are you saying that Mr. Taylor is indeed talking the truth that indeed he doesn't have money to finance his trial?

GRIFFITHS: Well if he does have money, why has it not been traced given the efforts that the Prosecution tell us they've been consistently making over the years to trace it?

CHEESEMAN: They are saying probably Mr. Taylor did not put some of the money in his own name- he transferred it to other people's accounts.

GRIFFITHS: Well the powers that the Prosecution have enable them to trace funds irrespective of the name under which the those funds have been banked or hidden. And so again I have to ask why is it that they still haven't found anything?

CHEESEMAN: Mr. Taylor's daily attire contradicts his indigent status. What do you think? He looks Presidential still.

GRIFFITHS: Well he's a former President. He has every right to dress Presidentially, as you put it. And the fact of the matter is, he's merely showing his respect of the court by insuring that he's properly dressed when he attends court. And the fact that he dresses well doesn't mean that he has money. How do we know that his wardrobe doesn't date from the time when he was president? You don't know that. There's nothing to suggest that he's been ordering suits whilst he's been in the United Nations detention facility in Scheveningen. So it's quite obvious that his wardrobe dates from his time as President of Liberia.

CHEESEMAN: So the clothes are the same that he's wearing today- they came from Liberia? That's what you were alluding to?

GRIFFITHS: Well as far as I'm aware, that is the position.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
8 October 2008**

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

Newspaper Summary

US\$100 Million for Liberia to Promote Investment

(Heritage, The News, New Democrat, Daily Observer, National Chronicle, The Analyst, The Informer)

- The media reports that Robert Johnson Group of Companies and the United Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) have agreed to establish a US\$100 million Finance Protocol that will promote investment in the country. Under the program, both groups will develop various projects including affordable housing which will be financed on a project-by-project basis.
- According to an Executive Mansion release, the disclosure was made Tuesday during a meeting held at the Foreign Ministry between the financial officer of the Robert Johnson Group of Companies, Ms. Lisa Pickrum and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. President Sirleaf welcomed the support and praised American businessman Robert Johnson for his continuous interest in Liberia. She described as 'deliverables on target' the support of the Robert L. Johnson Group of companies. The Liberian leader assured the Bob Johnson representative of Liberia's appreciation of the additional support by the RLJ Group. The President expressed satisfaction that the Group has chosen housing as a major priority under the accelerated investment program.

FDA Signs Three Forest Management Contracts

(Daily Observer, The Inquirer)

- The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) on October 6, 2008, signed three major forest management contracts with Liberian timber corporations in Monrovia. Speaking separately at various ceremonies held at the FDA's boardroom in Monrovia, FDA's Managing Director, John T. Woods urged the representatives of the three timber corporations to uphold the terms and conditions stipulated in the contracts.

Commerce Ministry Official Dismissed for Forgery

(The Analyst, Heritage)

- In an interview, Acting Commerce Minister, Fredrick Norkeh has confirmed the dismissal of a senior employee of the Ministry for forgery. Roland Belleh was dismissed for forging the signature of Assistant Minister Adokor Coleman on an Import Declaration Permit popularly known as IPD.
- Minister Norkeh said Mr. Belleh was found guilty by an investigative panel set up to probe the matter. Meanwhile, the Commerce Ministry has placed a temporary ban on the import of a baby milk powder and other dairy products from China. The Acting Commerce Minister said the action was necessary due to the contamination of three milk products that has led to the death of many children in China. The milk products are identified as sanlu, sun care and yashili.

25-Year Old Woman Arrested for Child Trafficking

(Heritage, The News, The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Informer, National Chronicle)

- The Liberian National Police have arrested a 25-year old woman identified as Tina Sarpa for alleged child trafficking. Tina was arrested following a complaint filed at the Women and Children Protection Section at the Liberia National Police (LNP) by the father of one year, three month old Salma Haroon. Mr. Mohammed Haroon informed the police that the mother of his baby, Tina Sarpa took her to the West African Children Support Network located in Congo Town for adoption.
- A release issued by the LNP on Tuesday said Tina lied under oath when she told Justice of the Peace, S. Peter Doe-Kpar of Montserrado County that her daughter's father was not supporting the child contrary to documents in the possession of the police which showed that Haroon has been providing support for the child. Tina is presently undergoing investigation at the Headquarters of the police.

Presidential Candidates Must be Fewer in 2011 Elections ...Winston Tubman Recommends

(Daily Observer, National Chronicle, The Analyst, The News, New Democrat)

- Three years before the 2011 general and presidential elections, a Liberian politician has suggested that presidential candidates must be fewer than the 22 who participated in the 2005 elections. Counsellor Winston Tubman, former Standard Bearer of the National Democratic Party of Liberia, said there is a need for the Liberian political class to go back to the drawing board and discuss the issue.
- Addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia ongoing Thematic and Institutional Inquiry Public Hearing on the Contemporary History of the Conflict Monday, Counselor Tubman unless political leaders decided on the reduction of presidential candidates before the next general election they would fail the Liberian people. Under the theme: "Understanding the Conflict Through its Principal Events and Actors," the ongoing hearings are addressing the root causes of the conflict, including its military and political dimensions. The hearings are focused on events between 1979 and 2003 and the national and external actors that helped to shape those events.

Intellectual Council Disagrees with PUL over Government's Donation

(Public Agenda)

- In a release issued in Monrovia Tuesday, the National Students Intellectual Council of Liberia criticized the Press Union of Liberia for receiving the US\$100,000 from President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The council said the donation is a cause for alarm and that the union's decision to receive it must be carefully scrutinized by the Liberian public.
- Deputy Information Minister Cletus Sieh, on behalf of government, last week, announced a donation of 100-thousand U.S. dollars to the PUL. This followed a formal request to the government to assist the union with its Headquarters construction project on 14th Street in Monrovia.

Radio Summary

Star Radio (News culled today from website at 11:00 am)

Commerce Dismisses one official for Forgery

Student Group Scorns PUL Over Government's Donation

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Liberia Scores High Mark in International Index

- An international index published on Monday says governance has improved in almost two-thirds of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The 2008 Ibrahim Index of African Governance said thirty-one of the forty-eight sub-Saharan nations recorded higher scores than in last year's survey.

- The index published in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa said post-war Liberia is the best improver in the region.
- Mauritius was the best-run country and Somalia the worst.
- The index also said governance performance across a large majority of African countries is improving.
- The head of the institution said he hopes the reports would be used as a tool by Africa's citizens to hold their governments to account.

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

One "Kidnapped" in Lofa Land Dispute

- Reports from Voinjama, Lofa County say one person has been "kidnapped" in a land dispute in Voinjama District, Lofa County.
- Correspondents say a 33-year old youth leader, David Ballayan recently went missing while on his rice farm between Sammie and Lawulazu Towns.
- The people of Sammie Town recently marched through Lawulazu with cutlasses and single barrel guns in demand of their missing kinsman.
- Reports say school activities in the area have come to a standstill due to the recent reprisal action by the people of Sammie town on Lawulazu.
- According to correspondents, the conflict has lasted for over a year now and the Civil Affairs Section of the UNMIL and local government officials have tried to mediate.

Truth F.M. *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

Liberia Gets US \$100 Million to Promote Investment

Chicago Tribune

Thursday, 9 October 2008

The UN Security Council and Omar al-Bashir

By Jonathan Fanton

Three years ago I was in Abuja, Nigeria, at a lecture given by Justice Richard Goldstone, the first chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. He talked about preventing and prosecuting crimes against humanity.

During the question period, a member of the audience stood up. His arms had been amputated. His voice trembled with anger as he asked a piercing question: "How can the Nigerian government protect Charles Taylor from justice?"

Taylor, the disgraced former president of Liberia, had been responsible for a campaign of mutilation, rape and mass killing in Sierra Leone. Indicted for war crimes by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Taylor fled to Nigeria in 2003, where he was granted asylum and lived in considerable comfort.

The incident moved me deeply and convinced me of a principle: The voice of victims seeking justice must be heard above the negotiations of politicians and diplomats. Peace without justice is no peace at all.

This principle is once more being tested as the UN Security Council considers whether to suspend proceedings against the president of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, by the International Criminal Court.

The mass atrocities in Darfur shocked the conscience of the world. On March 31, 2005, the Security Council responded, referring the situation to the ICC—a move that gave hope that the perpetrators would be held to account.

After careful investigation, the prosecutor of the ICC announced this year that he would seek an arrest warrant for Bashir. The allegations included war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. At once, the government of Sudan launched a diplomatic campaign to end the legal process.

According to the court, the council has the right to suspend any ICC proceedings for up to 12 months, renewable. The court assumes that any such action would be to promote peace.

Sudan has apparently persuaded almost half of the council to support suspension. In July, Libya and South Africa amended a resolution renewing the UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur to express concern about the actions of the prosecutor. They were supported by China, though—to its credit—not by the U.S.

Objections to action against Bashir are not limited to the Security Council. Both the African Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference have demanded a suspension; it is feared that some of their members may even withdraw from the ICC.

Opponents contend that proceeding against Bashir would interfere with the peace process in Darfur—the same claim used against the indictment of Charles Taylor.

That argument does not convince. Taylor's indictment was unsealed by the Special Court for Sierra Leone at a sensitive moment—just as he was arriving for peace talks in Ghana. Many diplomats greeted the news of the indictment with frustration and anger, convinced that it would spark attacks in Liberia and thwart the peace process. The feared retaliatory violence never materialized. No matter how they felt at the time, those who took part in the negotiations now agree that, because Taylor was removed from the peace talks, the indictment contributed to their success.

Peace talks in Sudan are stalled while Bashir plays for time. Allowing the legal process against him to move forward is unlikely to make the unpromising diplomatic situation worse, and could provide leverage to speed a resolution.

Three million people in Darfur have been forced from their homes, perhaps 400,000 killed. If there is to be peace, there must be justice for the victims as well as a diplomatic resolution to the conflict.

The Security Council should not stand in the way of the ICC. To do so would undermine the fledgling system of international justice, may not advance peace in Darfur and would betray those who have suffered terrible crimes.

The victims of Darfur deserve to be heard as they ask: "How can the Security Council protect Omar al-Bashir from justice?"

Jonathan Fanton is president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

BBC Online

Wednesday, 8 October 2008

Genocide museum for Rwanda palace

The downing of Mr Habyarimana's plane is seen as triggering the killings

The luxurious home of Rwanda's former President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose assassination helped trigger the 1994 genocide, is to be made into a museum.

The culture minister said the palace would promote reconciliation and as a reminder never to repeat the genocide in which some 800,000 people died.

Exhibits will include the wreckage of the plane in which Mr Habyarimana died.

Meanwhile, Germany has extradited an ex-minister to face trial at the UN war crimes tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania.

Former Planning Minister Augustin Ndirakobuca was arrested in Germany last year.

He faces charges including genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, crimes against humanity and rape.

Some 800,000 minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered by Hutu militias in just 100 days in 1994.

Crash near palace

Culture Minister Joseph Habineza said the former presidential palace would "showcase Rwanda in its entirety".

Everything will remain as it is and within that luxury we want to tell the history and culture of Rwanda

"Our children should grow up knowing that what happened was very bad and should never be repeated," Mr Habineza told journalists, Reuters news agency reports.

Mr Habyarimana's eight-bedroom home has been left much as it was in 1994.

"Everything will remain as it is and within that luxury we want to tell the history and culture of Rwanda," Reuters quotes John Butoto, who is overseeing the museum conversion project, as saying.

Mr Habyarimana's plane was shot down in 1994 as it was coming in to land near the presidential palace.

Judges in France and Spain have accused current Rwandan President Paul Kagame and other senior officials of shooting it down - allegations they have always denied.

Mr Kagame has said Mr Habyarimana, a Hutu, was killed by Hutu extremists who then blamed the incident on Tutsi rebels, led by Mr Kagame, to provide the pretext for the genocide.

Since the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was set up in 1997 to try the most high-profile genocide cases, 29 have been completed and five people have been acquitted.

BBC Online

Wednesday, 8 October 2008

UN court upholds Martić sentence

Appeal judges at the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague have upheld the 35-year jail sentence handed to former Croatian Serb leader Milan Martić.

The judges overturned minor elements of Martić's conviction but left the sentence unchanged.

In 2007, Martić was found guilty of charges relating to murder, torture and displacement of thousands of non-Serbs in Croatia in 1991-95.

Martić was a close ally of late Yugoslav President Slobodan Milošević.

"This chamber affirms the term of imprisonment," presiding Judge Fausto Pokar said on Wednesday.

He said that the elements overturned had "minimal impact on Martić's overall culpability".

As the head of the Serb separatists' police force and later president of the self-proclaimed Serb republic of Krajina in Croatia, Martić was convicted for the forcible removal of Croats and other non-Serbs from Serb-held areas.

He was one of the pioneers of ethnic cleansing during the wars that tore apart the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, correspondents say.