An original uncoloured engraved map of Bunce Island in Sierra Leone by Jacques-Nicolas Bellin. Beneath the map is an engraved view of the island. The engraving was printed in Antoine Francois Prevost's *L'Histoire Generale des Voyages* in Paris in the 1750s.

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: Wednesday, 12 May 2010

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

Taylor Begs To Escape Court

The trial of Charles Taylor sitting in The Hague was adjourned on Monday morning and will resume on Tuesday as the former Liberian president was absent in court.

Mr. Taylor was conspicuously absent for reasons that were not discussed in public.

Mr. Taylor’s defense counsel, Courtenay Griffiths, asked that the court be put into closed session where the reasons for Mr. Taylor’s absence were discussed. When court returned into open session, the judges announced that based on a request by defense lawyers, a request which was granted by the judges, the court will adjourn for the day and resume on Tuesday.

The judges also asked defense lawyers to give an indication of when the defense case will be concluded. In his response, Mr. Taylor’s lead defense counsel Mr. Griffiths informed the judges that an optimistic position would be that the defense case will be concluded at the end of August or early September this year when all defense witnesses would have testified.

Presiding judge of the chamber, Justice Julia Sebutinde, cautioned Mr. Griffiths that the bench reserves the right or authority to order the defense to reduce their witness list as according to her, the burden of proof in this case lies on the prosecution, and not the defense.

Mr. Taylor’s trial will continue tomorrow with the continuation of the testimony of the 11th defense witness, Mr. Timan Edward Zanny.

Credit charlestroytrial.org.
Social Realities in Accessing Justice in Sierra Leone

By Festus Robin-Taylor

Sierra Leone’s formal courts, where an adequate legal aid structure is yet to come into existence makes contesting parties responsible for court fees, legal representation, and other services fees; costs are prohibitively high for all yet even in local courts, which are designed to be closer to the people, unnecessary costs are often too high to encourage use.

Like customary law itself, the rules for fees and fines in customary courts are unwritten and many chiefs are found to distribute arbitrary fines, often in a discriminatory manner. This is perpetuated even though the local courts act 1965 provides some guided.

Time

Both the formal and the informal legal systems are though to encourage long delays in the resolution of cases, especially in rural areas.

Transportation

Transportation presents a formidable obstacle to accessing the formal courts, particularly for citizens in remote areas. The limited numbers of functioning magistrates courts are based in district headquarters, which are distant form many communities and villages. With minimal access to adequate roads or vehicles, many inhabitants of rural communities find it physically and financially impossible to access the formal courts, especially for cases that can take several visits to provincial capitals before being resolved.

Structures

The structures of the formal and informal courts, presents and challenge. Elements of the court procedures, such as: formality, language, views of justice and the current state of the courts e.g. skills of officials also present a barrier to access. While the first category primary affects access in the formal courts system, the second can be encountered across the justice system.

Formality and language
With its basis in English law and legal procedure, the state justice system in Sierra Leone is very formal in its rules, processes, and appearances. Court proceedings are in English which is not widely understood by people outside the urban environs; it is even not well understood by many even in Freetown, the capital.

Lack of information
Unlike the customary courts, the formal courts maintain procedural rules that are known to court insiders such as judges and lawyers, but remain mystery to many individuals outside the legal system. To a large extent Sierra Leonean are not a war of what the laws either formal or customary are. While customary law is traditionally bound in customary practice many chiefs pass new laws without any form of control. Citizens are less likely to know the content of formal laws and recent legislations, and court rulings are reportedly difficult for legal professionals to access.

Social Barriers and Gender Discriminations and why access to justice matters
Access to justice matters most for women's rights, gender equality and the rights of the child. Hundreds of women and girls sometimes as young as three have suffered crimes of sexual violence. The obstacles hindering justice for women are even greater. It is believed that not only is it morally right to take action by helping women to enjoy equal right, removing the fear of sexual abuse, and safeguarding their access to justice, but that equality under the law will liberate them to make their full contribution to the development of their country and communities. Though women are afforded some degree of equality and protection in the 1991 constitution of Sierra Leone, and the recently passed gender related laws, these constitutional and legislation guarantee do not always translate to equal access or opportunity in the judicial or social sphere because mostly, these laws are un-tested. These social and gender barriers are those that arise from a lack of information, gender based bias, or form perceptions of the role of the justice system itself.

Juvenile justice
Juveniles' fact particular social, financial institutional and legal barriers when accessing justice. They are particularly susceptible to mistreatment and abuse by the police and other justice sector personnel. As well as interacting with the justice system in their own capacity, children and young people are also affected when parents or guardians are victims of crime or are sanctioned through the justice system. Juveniles should be affordable the same rights as adults by the justice system. In addition, they have specific needs relative to their age and vulnerability. It must be noted that access to justice requires that the public have available and understandable information about the justice system, its resources, and means of access.

The justice system should promote ongoing public knowledge and understanding of the tools afforded by technology to access justice by developing and disseminating information and materials as broadly as possible in forms and by means that can reach the largest possible number and variety of people. Litigants should be treated with respect for their dignity. They are entitled to access to the mechanisms of justice and to prompt redress, as provided for by national legislation, for the harm that they have suffered. Judicial and administrative mechanisms should be established and strengthened where necessary to enable people to obtain redress through formal or informal procedures that are expeditious, fair, inexpensive and accessible. Litigants should be informed of their rights in seeking redress through such mechanisms.
Charles Taylor ordered the execution of commanders in his Liberian rebel group because they sold arms to Sierra Leonean rebel forces, and he ensured that rebel fighters who committed crimes against civilians were punished, a defense witness for the former president told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges in The Hague today.

Mr. Timan Edward Zammy, a former commander in Mr. Taylor’s National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group today sought to explain how Mr. Taylor frowned at any perceived NPFL association with Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone. According to the witness, Mr. Taylor ordered the execution of two NPFL commanders because they had sold arms and ammunition to the RUF. Mr. Taylor himself in his testimony as a witness in his own defense told the court that he had disciplined certain NPFL commanders because he found out they wanted to provide assistance to the RUF, an action which he was opposed to. Today, Mr. Zammy corroborated the former president’s testimony on this incident. Mr. Zammy pointed out that one of the NPFL commanders who had sold arms and ammunition to the RUF and therefore executed was Anthony Munkunagbe. Prosecutors have alleged that Mr. Taylor ordered the execution of Mr. Menkunagbe and a few other NPFL commanders because he thought they were opposed to his leadership of the NPFL. Mr. Taylor on his part has said that the men were executed because they committed acts of treason against the NPFL by forming a group called Black Gadhaffa and planning to associate themselves with the RUF.

To justify Mr. Menkunagbe’s execution, Mr. Zammy told the court that Mr. Menkunagbe himself had admitted to him that he had sold arms and ammunition to the RUF.

“He [Menkunagbe] sent me a hundred and fifty bags of rice and some pigs feet, about five barrels, three motorbikes, and some food stuffs. And he told me that those are your own proceeds from the deal. He said but don’t worry, I sold the arms, not you. We are fighting a rebel war,” the witness explained.

The witness also dispelled claims that the NPFL targeted people belonging to the Madingo and Krahn tribes during the conflict in Liberia. Defense lawyer for Mr. Taylor, Silas Chikera, sought to know whether this was the case.

“The prosecution alleges that when you were fighting in Liberia in 1990, you were targeting Madingos and Krahns, especially civilians. Did you target Madingo and Krahn civilians?” Mr. Chikera asked the witness.

In his response, the witness said “no.”

Mr. Chikera also pointed out portions of a previous transcript where prosecutors had asked Mr. Taylor during his cross-examination about the NPFL rebels targeting Madingos and Krahns at check points in Liberia.

Again, the witness said, “No. No one attacked Madingo or Krahn people from the rear at check points.”
The witness explained that when NPFL recruits were trained, they were given strict warnings on how to treat civilians. He said that the NPFL recruits were told that “no rape, no civilian target, no one should kill civilian targets, except those who shoot at you.”

He added that the recruits were, however, told that if a person in civilian clothes shot at them, they were at liberty to treat such person as an enemy combatant.

“If a person fires at you even if in civilian clothing, you should consider that person as enemy.” the witness said.

This was because “some people will take off their uniforms and wear civilian clothes and so if a civilian shoots at you, he should be considered an enemy,” he added.

Some members of the NPFL, including senior commanders, were executed because they went against the advise given to them not to kill civilians, the witness told the court.

“Some fighters who violated were executed at the full level of implementation,” the witness said.

Such execution, the witness said, would be carried out only after the accused person had been investigated and tried by a Court Martial constituted by the NPFL hierarchy.

“When you violate, you’ll be arrested, investigated, and court martialed. And if you are found guilty, you’ll be executed,” he said.

Prosecutors have suggested that Mr. Taylor led a rebel group that committed crimes against civilians with impunity. Mr. Taylor, they claim, did not prevent the commission of these crimes and when he knew that they had been committed, he did not take steps to punish his fighters who were the perpetrators. Prosecutors say that RUF rebels in Sierra Leone—a group that Mr. Taylor allegedly had control over and provided support for during Sierra Leone’s 11 year conflict-conducted themselves just like the NPFL did in Liberia. They say that Mr. Taylor, while supporting the RUF, gave a blind eye to the crimes they committed. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations. It is in this light that Mr. Taylor’s witness, Mr. Zammy, has testified that Mr. Taylor did not only take steps to prevent the commission of these crimes by telling his fighters to treat civilians well, but also that when he knew that such crimes had been committed, he took steps to punish the violators.

Mr. Zammy’s testimony continues tomorrow.
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary

11 May 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

Star Radio (News monitored today at 09:00 am)

UNHCR Signs Agreement with 15 Local NGOs

- The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Monday signed grant agreements with fifteen local NGOs through the UN Peace Building Fund.
- The small grant project aims to support grassroots initiatives for peace-building in different communities in Liberia.
- The grant agreement provides each of the 15 local NGOs with US$26,000 to implement various peace-building projects in the counties.
- The beneficiaries include Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC), the Children Assistance Programme (CAP), Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons and the Foundation for International Dignity (FIND).
- Others are the Women NGO Secretariat, the Centre for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE) and Rural Integrated Organization among others.
- The Associate Protection Officer of the Peace Building Fund (PBF), Ms. Tomoko Semmyo said the PBF process in Liberia excluded local NGOs especially those outside Monrovia, noting that local NGOs had less opportunity to access the PBF due to the high criteria and complex procedures.
- UNHCR Country Representative Ibrahima Coly signed on behalf of the UN System while the heads of the NGOs signed on behalf of their respective groups.

Truth FM (News monitored today at 10:00 am)

WFP Supports Girl Education, Gives US$7,000 to LET

- The Liberia Education Trust (LET) says it has received US$7,000 from the World Food Programme (WFP) as part of support to girl education.
- According to a release, the amount was received in check and represents proceeds generated from WFP’s 2009 Work the World for Hunger Programme.

Local News on Liberian issues

Two West African Leaders Discuss Economic Cooperation

- Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade has held talks with his Liberian counterpart, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf during a one-day visit to Liberia.
- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio said the two West African leaders discussed issues of cooperation in the areas of trade and commerce.
- Mr. Badio said Presidents Wade and Sirleaf also discussed economic cooperation between their two countries.
- The Presidential Press Secretary said the Senegalese leader who is the Coordinator of New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) was keen on infrastructure development including rail and road constructions.
- Mr. Badio said the infrastructure development focuses on connectivity across the sub-region in terms of the exchange of goods and services.
**Former President Taylor Reportedly Develops Heart Trouble**  
[Heritage]

- [SIC] Reports say former Liberian President Charles Taylor has developed a heart problem at his war crimes trial in The Hague.
- According to the report, Mr. Taylor’s heart problem started early Monday.
- The spokesman of the Taylor family in Liberia, Sando Johnson described the heart problem facing the former Liberian leader as very serious.
- Mr. Johnson said the news of the heart problem on the former President was revealed by the wife of Mr. Taylor in Liberia, Victoria Addison-Taylor.
- According to him, the situation has created fear in the Taylor family because the former President is allegedly being denied advanced treatment.
- Mr. Johnson has meanwhile called for the speedy intervention of the Liberian government and the international community to avoid the potential death of Mr. Taylor.

**Liberty Party, New Deal Movement Join Alliance**  

- Two opposition political parties have formally joined the organizing committee of the Democratic Alliance, a non-political party.
- The Liberty Party and New Democratic Alternative Movement of Liberia (New Deal Movement) said the decision is to strengthen the partnership for a vibrant opposition in Liberia.
- At a ceremony Monday, the Chairmen of the two parties pledged to work with the Democratic Alliance to provide what they called a solid option for national development.
- Liberty Party Chairman Israel Akinsanya said the collaboration will ensure the bringing of opposition political parties together to contest the 2011 elections.
- The Chairman of the New Deal Movement, Moses Mady-yuu said the declaration by the party is a move to confront the ugly scheme of a one party state.
- Also, the organizing chairman of the Democratic Alliance Lewis Brown stressed the importance of a solid opposition to provide a credible and viable alternative.

**Circuit Judges Want Jury Trial Abolished**  

- Circuit Courts throughout the Country Monday opened for the May term of court.
- During the joint opening of Criminal Courts A, B, C and D, circuit judges in Montserrado called for the abolition of jury trial.
- The judges said jury trials usually lead to terrible verdicts due to several factors.
- In the absence of the abolition, the judges called for senior civil servants and citizens to be selected as jurors to avoid tampering.
- In separate development, the Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in Bong County, Mardea Chenoweth has called for the dismissal of cases that have been on the court’s docket for more than two terms.
- Judge Chenoweth also stressed the need for justice to be dispensed without fear or favor.

**Civil Society Organizations Want Threshold Set At 54,000**  
[Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The News]

- Ten civil society organizations in Liberia have jointly issued a position statement calling for the speedy passage of the threshold bill by the National Legislature at 54,000.
- The group in a statement said if the bill is set at 54,000 there would be no increment in the number of representation at the Legislature, which it says will be helpful for the country’s economy.
- The organizations are the Liberia Democratic Institute (LDI), Federation of Liberian Youths (FLY) and the West African Network for Peace Building (WANEP).
- The executive director of LDI, Dan Saryee said there is a need to rehabilitate the country’s damaged infrastructures including farm-to-market roads and the rehabilitation of the educational and health facilities.
- He said while they call on the lawmakers to vote the 54,000 threshold, civil society organizations will not relent to mobilize its constituents to rise up in the demand of the speedy passage of the bill if their position falls on what he called deaf ears.
Ex-Bong Mines Workers Storm LBDI Headquarters’ Complex, Demand US$1.7M Debt Payment
[Daily Observer, Heritage, In Profile Daily]

- Hundreds of former workers of the Bong Mining Company early Monday morning stormed the headquarters complex of the Liberia Bank for Investment and Development (LBDI), demanding the immediate payment of debt owed them by the bank.
- The former Bong Mines workers, who held placards and chanted slogans in demand of their money, put the amount at US$1.7 million.
- The US$1.7 million according to the striking former workers was deducted from their salaries while in active service.
- The LBDI served as the custodian bank for the money that was deducted from the salaries of the former Bong Mines workers.
- The action by the striking former workers was warranted by the recent ruling of the Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice that the money in question be paid by LBDI to the former workers.

Star Radio (News monitored today at 09:00 am)
Two West African Leaders Discuss Economic Cooperation
(Also reported Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Former President Taylor Reportedly Develops Heart Trouble
(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Schoolgirl, 14 Disappears At Sime Darby Rubber Plantation
- Reports say a 14-year old school girl has disappeared at the Sime Darby Rubber Plantation in Bomi and Grand Cape Mount Counties.
- Fatu Ville a fourth grade student at the Sime Darby Central School reportedly disappeared on April 8 and has not been found.
- Fatu’s father Ansu Ville said the girl boarded the company’s school bus on the morning of April 8 and never returned home.
- The disappearance of the little schoolgirl brings to two the number of people that have gone missing at the plantation since Sime Darby took over in January this year.
- Amos Ganteh, a patient at the Sime Darby Hospital disappeared from his hospital bed in March and has not been found.

Circuit Judges Want Jury Trial Abolished
(Also reported Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Liberty Party, New Deal Movement Join Alliance
(Also reported Radio Veritas, Truth FM, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Truth FM (News monitored today at 10:00 am)
Civil Society Organizations Want Threshold Set At 54,000

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia: Need to Address Past Violations Extends Beyond TRC Process

http://allafrica.com/stories/201005110511.html

International Center for Transitional Justice (New York) - Despite serious weaknesses in the Liberia Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report, accountability and victims’ rights are critical to Liberia’s recovery process and the TRC’s recommendations must still be debated and taken forward, said the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) today in the release of its report: Beyond the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Transitional Justice Options in Liberia. “The issues raised by the TRC process, including the need for justice, accountability, and reconciliation, are critical to the country’s future and its possibilities for sustained peace,” said Suliman Baldo, director of ICTJ’s Africa Program. The ICTJ report is based on extensive research and monitoring. It reviews the truth-seeking process, examines the TRC final report, and suggests a number of steps that Liberians can take to meet the needs of victims and account for past violations. Among the TRC report’s weaknesses are a lack of evidentiary data, coherence between and within sections, specificity, and the unanimous support of all
commissioners, two of whom refused to endorse it. These factors have raised doubts about the viability of the TRC’s more controversial recommendations on prosecutions and lustration, with questions about whether and how these can be implemented.

Liberian Diaspora Critical for Poverty Reduction


Liberia’s Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs has said the government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf believes the Liberian Diaspora has a major part to play in the reconstruction of the country. Amara Konneh said no post-conflict country has ever recovered successfully without tapping the potential of its Diaspora community. The planning minister is leading a delegation of government officials that has been holding town hall meetings in five major cities around the United States to explain the government’s Poverty Reduction Strategy. Minister Konneh said that, contrary to the views of some Liberians, the delegation is not on a propaganda mission for the government of President Sirleaf ahead of next year’s general elections. “The reaction of Liberians here has been very, very positive beyond my own expectation. The town halls have been filled to capacity; our people are speaking from their hearts. Contrary to what was circulated, we are not here to do propaganda on behalf of the government or to sort of sugarcoat things to Liberians here,” he said. Konneh said Liberians in the United States have been responsive to the delegation’s invitation to forge a partnership between the government and Diaspora community in the United States to open up a new frontier. The Poverty Reduction Strategy is the Liberian government’s framework for national development covering the period 2008-2011.

Liberian parents of 9-year-old rape victim released


A Liberian couple charged with seven counts of felony child abuse were ordered released from jail Monday because the court cannot find interpreters who speak their languages. They are the parents of a 9-year-old girl who was gang-raped last summer by four boys who are refugees from the war-torn African nation. The victim’s parents were arrested last November after an investigation turned up allegations of child abuse, including beatings, dating to 2007. The Arizona Republic is not identifying the parents to protect the identity of the girl, whose family came to the Valley as refugees. The parents were held on $30,000 bond, but Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Susan Brnovich released them to a third-party adult and set release conditions forbidding them from having contact with their daughter or other children. Brnovich also ordered that they surrender their passports. The parents speak two dialects of a language called Grebo.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

UNICEF and the NGO ‘Search for Common Ground’ launched a $1.6 million programme supported by the Peace Building Fund


NEW YORK/CONAKRY, GUINEA, 10 May 2010 – UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Mia Farrow launched a $1.65 million project geared at youth to encourage them to be peaceful actors of change in the lead up to the elections. "Working with young leaders to build understanding and help them work through their differences is essential during the political transition and beyond" said Mia Farrow, at the ceremony yesterday in Conakry. Working approximately with 23,000 young involving men and women in the disadvantaged neighborhoods of Conakry and in Forest Guinea, the project, supported by the United Nations’ Secretary General Peace Building Fund, will be implemented by UNICEF in partnership with the NGO ‘Search for Common Ground’, the United Nations Industrial Development Fund (UNIDO) and the Ministry of Youth and Sport. Young people aged 15-34 years old represent 30% of the population in Guinea. Many of them have not completed basic education, often unemployed and lack access to information. They have very few opportunities to express their needs, aspirations and grievances, and to participate in social, political, and economical decision making processes. The lack of understanding and opportunities paired with the deficit of information has led to youth being easily manipulated and caught in outbreaks of political violence.

Guinea hopeful for new iron mining deal: minister

Reuters - Guinea is hoping for a second major international investment in its mining sector to follow Brazilian giant Vale's $2.5 billion deal last month, mines minister Mahmoud Thiam said on Monday. He said London-listed junior
miner Bellzone was in advanced talks with potential partners to develop its high-potential Kaliah iron concession in the West African state, but denied earlier reports that a Chinese firm was the front-runner. "We are aware of negotiations between Bellzone and several major foreign partners. To our knowledge, it is not the Chinese who are in the best position in these talks," Thiam told Reuters in an interview. Any deal for the Kaliah deposit in Guinea's interior would come close on the heels of Brazilian mining giant Vale's $2.5 billion purchase of a majority stake in a division of mining company BSG Resources, giving it access to the high quality Simandou iron ore reserves. A Bellzone official was not immediately available for comment, but the company was quoted by the Financial Times newspaper as confirming talks with several parties interested in the Kaliah concession. Thiam said the potential for a second deal could eventually make Guinea the world's top producer of iron ore by accelerating development of the huge deposits. The country is already the top supplier of aluminum ore bauxite.

Guinean prison guards demand payment of 10 years' overdue wages

APA - Conakry (Guinea) - A group of more than 1200 Guinean prison officers are threatening to stage a strike as from next Wednesday to demand the payment of ten years' arrears of wages, official sources told APA on Monday. In a strike notice to the Minister of Justice of Guinea, the prison guards reminded that the government had promised since September 2009 to recruit them into the civil service. A promise which is yet to be realized, they recalled. To date, no response from the Guinean government has been noted following the strike notice. The transitional government is still to deal with other demands by workers in most social and professional sectors in addition to its mission to organize the presidential election on June 27.

Sierra Leone

Chinese technological company enhances Sierra Leone Presidential security


The Senior Vice President of Huawei Technologies Company in Shanghai, China Mr. Jiang today donated equipments worth one point two million United States dollars for the enhancement of State Security to President Ernest Bai Koroma when he visited the Company's Headquarters in Shangai, China. In his welcome address, Senior Vice President Mr. Jiang thanked the President for the honour accorded him and his Company and the long time support of his government in the realization of their project. He added that Huawei endeavours to become a leading provider of all -IP based FMC solutions that ensure that users enjoy consistent communications services and experiences any time, anywhere, via any terminal. Mr. Jiang assured the President that with the basic infrastructure in Sierra Leone, the possibility is there for the enhancement of State Security and that in the not too distant future there will be a State Security mechanism in operation all over the country. He again expressed gratitude for their company being in strong partnership with the leading operators in the country including Sierratel, Zain SL and Comium and promised the President that Huawei will try its best to partner with the Government of Sierra Leone in accelerating the development of ICT for the Country. In his bid to ensure that the State Security Mechanism is enhanced in the Country, the Senior Vice President, Mr. Jiang made a of donation of one point two million dollars worth of security equipments towards the realization of the project of enhancing State Security to the Government.
Spain's Garzon requests work transfer to The Hague

Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon, who is facing three Supreme Court enquiries, has asked for a transfer to work at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said on Tuesday.

Garzon has asked the Spanish judges' governing body, the CGPJ, to give him permission to work as a consultant at The Hague for seven months, according to high court sources in Madrid.

"The request was submitted this morning and the CGPJ will review it tomorrow," a CGPJ source said.

Moreno-Ocampo said he expected the CGPJ to approve the transfer.

"Judge Garzon's extensive experience in investigating massive crimes committed by states and non-state organisations will be a great contribution to my office," Moreno-Ocampo said.

Garzon won international fame for his attempt in 1998 to extradite former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet for human rights abuses.

Right-wing unions and political parties accused Garzon this year of abusing his judicial powers by opening an investigation into alleged crimes carried out under the 1939-75 dictatorship of Francisco Franco.

The Supreme Court ruled that he had probably abused his judicial powers in ordering the probe, a ruling against which Garzon appealed last month on the grounds of partiality on the part of the Supreme Court justice in charge of the case.

He also faces two other Supreme Court enquiries: one for bugging corruption suspects linked to the opposition Popular Party, and another for dropping an investigation into the head of Spain's biggest bank Santander after receiving payments for giving courses sponsored by the bank in New York.

Rights activists around the world have praised Garzon for pioneering the principle of universal jurisdiction, under which alleged perpetrators of crimes such as genocide can be tried anywhere if the courts of their own countries fail to prosecute.

In Spain he is a divisive figure, praised by descendants of civil war victims and members of the left for his attempt to investigate the crimes of Franco, but derided by conservatives as a publicity-seeking tool of the ruling Socialists.

The International Criminal Court is an independent, permanent court that investigates and prosecutes those accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

(Reporting by Blanca Rodriguez and Itziar Reinlein; writing by Judy MacInnes and Jonathan Gleave; editing by Andrew Roche) (Reuters Messaging: blanca.rodriguez.reuters.com@thomsonreuters.net + 34 915858341; blanca.rodriguez@thomsonreuters.com)