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:
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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Norman's Ghost locked in the shadow of VP's Visit

BY KARAMOH KABBA

B
do City, Bo District - The Hon. Chief Sahr Sam Sumana, on the 30th and 31st of March and 1st of April, 2012 says, "Thank you Bo District!" And he further explained, "Thank you for your great feat in the biometric voter registration exercise. You have made me proud." But the thank you tour was all amidst emotional reminiscences and tributes to Sam Hinga Norman and other Civil Defence Forces (C.D.F.) war heroes from the South.

While Bo District registered the highest voters [249,763] in the provinces against 2012 elections, Norman - the great former regent chief, statesman and warrior, renowned for his luck that finally ran out on February 22, 2007 before the 2007 elections while awaiting a verdict from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, is at rest in his grave - he died mysteriously in Senegal ending his 40-year span of cheating death. Norman had survived several treason trials and death threats between 1967 and 2007. The Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)'s leadership had signed the Special Court deal that fell short of accommodating the protection of Norman, awfully betraying the man who many Sierra Leoneans had called "First Class National War Hero #1." This in itself contravened the Truth and Reconciliation submissions that indeed advocated amnesty for all.

Wartime records reveal that "Once the Special Court was instituted, Norman was arrested from his office. According to the spokesman for the C.D.F., Rev. Sam Foray, 'President Kabbah called Hinga Norman for no reason apparently other than making sure he was in his office. Few minutes after he hung up, officers were in Norman's office, and he was arrested by the Special Court," for the police officers to pull off what was considered by the people of Bo the greatest SLPP betrayal of their kindred.

The Vice President had earlier swept through Moyamba and Bonthe districts during the biometric voter registration exercise in the bid to capture a big chunk of voter registration for the re-election of his most revered boss, President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma for November 2012. In these southern districts, the Vice President encouraged the people to register, "I have come here to encourage you to register to vote. The time will come when we shall compare eleven years of SLPP report vs. four years of Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma's Agenda for Change."

In Bo city, Lugbu and Bagbo chiefdoms, the Vice President listened with rapt attention to revelations of betrayal and deception from "used, abused and refused former SLPP supporters", paramount chiefs and very prominent southerners during "eleven years of unprogressive SLPP governance and neglect". One Paramount Chief stated "We are blessed with such an illustrious stranger in our midst in a

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Norman's Ghost locked in the shadow

long time," before comparing the visit of the Vice President to the "coming of Prophet Mohammad to the holy city of Medina".

In asking for forgiveness, the renovators of KPC stated, "We did not know what we were doing. Our eyes are wide open now - no one can lay claim on stronghold status here - Lugbe is for all of us," he stated, taking a swipe at previous popular opinion that the south-eastern region of Sierra Leone is one SLPP stronghold. Notably among the prominent strongholds in attendance was the usually Njor Joe Amara (Bangala), who simply stated that "I am here to ensure ANC victory in Lugbe".

The Vice President and the Secretary General of the All People's Congress (APC), Victor Foe, appeared together at all the stops in the city, Lugbe and Bagbo chieftaincies. In Jimmy Buguma, his home town, Victor Foe mobilized the largest crowd that ever welcomed the Vice President in the South.

There in Jimmy, Paramount Chief Kebbi of Puwana explained, "We fought for VP because we wish for APC properly to reach you here in Lugbe and Buguma. We have given the right long time ago. Once we complained for signal, we got it. We believe in the leadership of ANC. We are ready to help in all things to maintain the things that we have worked for in all the years of ANC's government." The ANC, in his submission.

In well-placed parables, the well-spoken Chief Kebbi said, "It is that we are all from the same house, but it turned out that we are realizing much patronage and kindness from our good neighbors. Therefore, I encourage you all to join me in recognizing the good neighbors from our good neighbors this time around. And this one. The level of pleasure from the bonfire is measured by the sweet songs that come from the girl's mouth. She kept on singing. She continued, "We will certainly vote for APC this time. The government has done so much here to deserve another chance," she concluded.

Another family member of the same household, Joseph Muna explained that, "My little sister, Ma Muna, would've been a casualty of maternal mortality if not for the President's Health Initiative," as she fidgets the tiny fingers of her sister's three month's old baby she was carrying. She continued: "We will certainly vote for APC this time. The government has done so much here to deserve another chance," she concluded.

The Vice President was very sentimental when he stated "It's been over 30 years since I left Sumbuya," the childhood headquarters town of Lugbe. "And the Sumbuya I know," he stated, "is not what I met this time - it means that we have gone through many challenges over the years."

The Vice President went the extra mile to assist the people, "There is light in the tunnel, our government has no prisoners of conscience, our government has no journalists in jail, our government has no political prisoners, and above all, President Ernest Bai Koroma's Agenda for Change is hard at work for you. In fact, we have released fourteen people from the death penalty, not only have we been there before previous administrations to be executed. They are all men and women today who have learnt their lessons."

At the meeting, many people gathered to a sweet song not from Chief Kebbi's bonfire bush but from bitter memories of SLPP's betrayal of the people's First Class National War Hero #1, Chief Sam Hinga Norman and others.

Hinga Norman came
He was betrayed by SLPP
He was killed for SLPP
H.E. Kabbah said nothing

Moinina came
He was betrayed by SLPP
He is still in jail
H.E. Kabbah said nothing

Now Lavallie came
She was killed by SLPP
She has done nothing
She is still in Parliament

Yet, bigwigs in the SLPP are trying to force us to vote SLPP
Ambassador Rapp speaks on international criminal justice in IC

By Emily Busse

IOWA CITY – After more than an hour of discussing his experiences of heading the Office of Global Criminal Justice, Ambassador-at-Large and Iowa native Stephen Rapp gave one more reason for international intervention with crimes against humanity.

“All human beings deserve to be free of the kinds of crimes we’re talking about,” he said.

Rapp, who President Barack Obama appointed to the Office of Global Criminal Justice in 2009, spoke to a crowd of roughly 60 people at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City Tuesday night.

The University of Iowa Center for Human Rights invited Rapp to speak, noting his achievements in the interest of human justice and his ties to Iowa. The Iowa native also formerly served as United States Attorney in the Northern District of Iowa.

Rapp served spoke about his experiences serving as Senior Trial Attorney and Chief of Prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda from 2001 to 2007. He also recounted his time as Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, leading the prosecution of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and others.

During his talk Tuesday, Rapp touched on cases of international crimes against humanity from several years ago, as well as more current issues like the many accusations against Joseph Kony, who heads the Lord’s Resistance Army in Uganda.

Rapp said proposed legislation is looking to expand the United States’ Rewards for Justice Program, which encourages individuals internationally to supply information on wanted terrorists and criminals, such as Kony. The program is finding bipartisan sponsorship, Rapp added.

“It is not a ‘Dead or Alive’ poster,” Rapp said of the program. “It is for information leading to the arrest and transfer of Joseph Kony to the International Criminal Court.”

Rapp’s past accomplishments include his office winning groundbreaking convictions for recruitment and use of child soldiers as well as the use of sexual slavery and forced marriage.

Rapp also addressed the violence in Syria, and explained what they are doing to prepare for potential future prosecution.

“What we’re doing on this is announcing our support of an international, multilateral effort working with Syrians who are trying to leave the country and those inside to gather evidence against … those committing these crimes in order to create prosecution dossiers,” he said.

In countries in obvious turmoil, Rapp said the question isn’t always if international organizations should get involved, but how. Armed intervention isn’t his preferred response, but partnership with the affected countries and use of a judicial process sends “the message that there’s going to be justice,” he said.
“Shooting people down in your streets is not an internal affair,” he said. “…The question is how to positively affect it.”

Greg Hamot, director of the UI Center for Human Rights, said bringing in speakers like Rapp to expose students and locals to international cases of seeking human justice is crucial.

“Our hope is that we bring some of these issues to the heartland,” Hamot said.

Hamot added that Rapp’s visit also reminds Iowans of the many contributions Midwesterners have made toward human rights.

“We’re the best kept secret in America,” he said.
Slobodan Miloshevich: the unvanquished prisoner of Hague Tribunal

The figures of the Hague Tribunal are frighteningly biased. Of all the people convicted the Serbians are the majority (66%); of the 58 convicted heads of states, prime ministers, commanders in chief, heads of the parliaments, prominent party and political figures and officers 50 are Serbian; of the 19 who died in the Tribunal's prison 16 are Serbian. However among the convicted besides Serbians there are Croatians, Muslims, Albanians and even Macedonians.

Serbian President Slobodan Miloshevich is among the best-known politicians who died in the Tribunal's prison. At the end of 2011 the book entitled “The Unvanquished” was published in Russian. The book depicts Miloshevich as a strong and brave person who openly fought against the judges and prosecutors of the Tribunal and who won the fight at the expense of his own life. Besides two interviews of Miloshevich himself, the book contains the memoirs of prominent Russian politicians about him – of Evgeniy Primakov, Gennady Zuganov, Leonid Ivashov, Alexander Zinoviev and some others. Another section of the book is dedicated to poetry – it is amazing how many Russian poems were dedicated to Slobodan Miloshevich while it appeared that there was little talk about him, little was known and nobody remembered much.

As a politician Miloshevich was shaped by Josip Broz Tito who single handedly ruled Yugoslavia. He was a firm believer in the party, the power of a word given, stability of his own power, party hierarchy and the unshakeable authority of the leader. But when time came for change, he opened to change in 1990, although with caution, and tried to preserve the system in balance without major shock. He just changed the name of the Communist party he was at the head of for the Socialist party and agreed to allow other political parties. However, the multi-party system brought with it unexpected changes as well as new system of values. For a while in that new value system he stayed at the top and incontestable remaining the most popular political figure of the republic. But only in Serbia, because the leaders of the other parts of Yugoslavia already started working towards the separation from the federation. Slobodan Miloshevich is without doubt a historic figure, a prominent personality, which usually means an ambiguous and contradictory personality. During his rule everybody had a hard time, everybody grumbled and criticized him, but kept voting for him. Many world politicians dreamed about his resignation, but they all preferred to negotiate only with him. Being Serbian president Miloshevich in fact was the leader of the entire Yugoslavia.

In the Russians' memoirs he appears to be a responsible and brave man. Primakov writes about Miloshevich: «in his comments and statements he demonstrated not only phenomenal knowledge of the situation, not only any absence of stubbornness that were so often attributed to that political figure, but a clear openness and a sense of responsibility for what was going on». According to
Slobodan Miloshevich was killed in the Hague Tribunal's prison by no accident. For the West that controls the activities of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) it was extremely important to convict Miloshevich and thus legally justify their aggression against Yugoslavia. However, they underestimated the power of president Miloshevich. His defense was so strong and so destructive to the Tribunal that there remained only one solution – to stop the process without making a verdict. This is how a well-known Russian expert on the Tribunal’s activities Alexander Mezyayev characterizes Miloshevich’s role. In his opinion, «the West allowed itself to stand trial since Slobodan Miloshevich not only proved himself innocent, but most importantly he proved guilty those who destroyed Yugoslavia and Serbia”.

Miloshevich left the Tribunal no hope for a guilty judgment. That is why for the Hague Tribunal there was only one way out – to remove the defendant... The fact of the cold-blooded murder of president Miloshevich in the Hague Tribunal is unbelievable only for those who have not read the testimony of the defense witnesses during the hearings. Those who committed the crimes discussed during the process including the judges of that unfair trial did not hesitate to kill the one who proved them guilty of those crimes.

Unfortunately, the Tribunal continues its activities and continues to kill. The state of health of Vojislav Seselj deteriorated to the point that the doctors are at a loss and a malfunctioning pacemaker is implanted into his heart. General Mladic who is physically exhausted after three strokes and other serious illnesses is forced to attend the preliminary hearings on a regular basis and is pushed to start the trial. The health of Radovan Karadzic is seriously damaged as well. Hopefully, the world community will realize what the true goals and tasks of the Tribunal are and completely revises the results of its activity.
ICTR Concludes Ngirabatware Case

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), on Monday, closed the hearing of prosecution witnesses in the trial case of former Minister of Planning, Augustin Ngirabatware.

Ngirabatware, 52, is charged with nine counts which include; Genocide, Conspiracy to Commit Genocide; Complicity in Genocide and Direct and Public Incitement to Commit Genocide.

Others are; Crimes against Humanity for Murder, Extermination, Rape, Inhumane Acts and Serious Violations of the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II.

Prosecution Attorney Wallace Kapaya told the Tanzania-based court that a witness codenamed PRW3, due to personal security, is still waiting for authorisation from the Nigerian government to travel to ICTR's headquarters, yet the country had promised to allow him come to ICTR to witness.

The other witness, who bears the pseudonym PRW6, had assured the prosecution that he would be available after Presidential elections in Senegal, but prosecutors said he appears increasingly less cooperative and he keeps setting new deadlines.

Like other five prosecution witnesses, prosecution witness PRW4, on Monday, refuted Ngirabatware's alibi that he was in Dakar between April and May 1994.

Witness PRW4 affirmed that he was in charge of receiving foreign affairs ministers only, therefore stating that Ngirabatware was not among them.

Prosecution insists that the accused is individually responsible for killing members of the Tutsi ethnic group in the then Gisenyi Prefecture, and for raping Tutsi women, as part of a widespread or systematic attack on civilians.