

**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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Salone Prisons Disfigure Special Court

By Amadi Abadi

Visitors to the female prisons at the Special Court are now saluted by an awkward barricade erected on the premises on the instruction of the Director of Prisons. The barricade was erected

with zinc 'Pan Body' which disturbs the beauty of the premises.

The reason behind the erection of the barricade, according to prison sources is to prevent male prison officers from visiting the female inmates. This occurred after the Officer Commanding the female prison; Superintendent

Salone Prisons Disfigure Special Court

from front page

Elizabeth Gbagla made an allegation that some senior male officers had developed the habit of having sexual intercourse with female inmates.

Elizabeth Gbagla could not substantiate her claims by naming the senior officers involved in the act and with which inmates. Prison officers regard her allegation as a cover up on claims by the female inmates that sometime in July, female officers refused to use gloves donated by JSDP to search female inmates. The officers used their bare fingers to search the inmates, which made them strip themselves naked to demonstrate that they had been infected by diseases as a result of the search with naked fingers on their private parts. The inmates claimed that the finger nails of the officers who did the search were unclean and long. One of the victims had been sent for

examination to a gynecologist.

When the Director of Prisons, Bilo Kamara visited the scene of the demonstration, he only promised that future searches on the female inmates would be done with gloves. Two of the female officers who conducted the search have been removed from the female prison. One was sent to the prison canteen and the other to the residence of Elizabeth Gbagla. Embarrassed by the 'panbody' barricade is the Director of Human Resource of the prison, Mrs. Cecelia Kaikai. Since her office is located within the premises of the female prison at the Special Court, male officers cannot have access to her on official matters.

Meanwhile, it has been suggested that if at all male officers do tampered with female inmates, Elizabeth Gbagla is to blame. "If male officers could ac-

Sierra Express Media
 Wednesday, 4 September 2013

Countries retaining death penalty on decline

Manifesto 99 in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Institute for International Law, Coalition for Justice and Accountability has concluded a one day consultative forum to raise awareness on the abolition of the death penalty in the national constitution of Sierra Leone at the Presidential Hall, National Stadium in Freetown.

The Director of Manifesto 99 Sierra Leone, Mr. Abdul Raheem Kamara, disclosed that the programme is implemented by civil society and supported by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and focuses on the world wide trends towards the abolition which has been underway for fifteen years was again confirmed in 2012 and the first six months of 2013.

He also stated that there are currently 158 countries and territories that, to a larger extent, have decided to denounce the death penalty and of this figure he said, 100 are totally abolitionists, 7 are abolitionists for ordinary crimes, 5 have a moratorium on executions in place and 46 are de facto abolitionists, that is, countries that have not carried out any executions for at least 10 years or countries which have binding obligations not to use the death penalty.

He also disclosed that countries retaining the death penalty worldwide declined to 40 as of June 30 this year, compared to 43 in 2011.

Delivering his statement, the Outreach Coordinator, Mr. Patrick Fatoma, described the seminar as important, maintaining that the Special Court never carried out the death penalty. He said the mindset of Sierra Leoneans is that when someone commits a serious offence he/she should be given a commensurate punishment. He further stated that a person does not only lose his life by the death penalty but through various ways. He entreated the civil society to start advocating for prisoners who die in custody and stressed that he would like President Ernest Bai Koroma to facilitate the abolition of the death penalty in this country.

Speaking on the Biblical perspective of the death penalty, a representative of World Vision, Reverend Daniel A.O. Goba, said our laws are flawed because they are set up by human beings. He said capital punishment to Christianity has so many instances involving Jesus Christ who was sentenced to death, James one of the Disciples of Jesus Christ who was stoned to death. He further explained that Jesus Christ denounced violence in all forms. He observed that even though the death penalty was established in order to stop people from committing murder, people still continue to kill each other. He called on all Sierra Leoneans to love one another as that is the only way that we can stop doing evil against each other.

By Abdulai Mento Kamara

Daily Maverick (South Africa)

Wednesday, 4 September 2013

Interview: Meeting Leymah Gbowee

Khadija Patel



KHADIJA PATEL caught up with Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee in The Hague, discussing her thoughts on peace, justice and the role of women as a force for reconciliation.

“When war criminals are brought to The Hague and await trial, in the meanwhile they live well, they eat well, whilst the victims of war live in places where they don’t even have anything to eat - and someone like Charles Taylor is available to see his wife, have sex and have more children whilst he’s in prison. And some of the horrendous rapes women have gone through have stopped them from ever having babies. The question you have to ask yourself is, ‘Is this justice?’”

Leymah Gbowee, who won the Nobel peace prize in 2011 with Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, is deep in conversation with librarians from the Peace Palace Library in The Hague when I find her. We are both in The Hague to celebrate the centenary of the Peace Palace, and earlier that day she had unveiled a bust of Bertha von Suttner, significantly the first bust of a woman in the Peace Palace.

Gbowee, however, is no stranger to asserting the rights of women in a male-dominated environment. After all, she won the Nobel Peace Prize for “ending Liberia's civil wars, and for her efforts to promote peace, democracy and women's rights in Africa”.

And even at the Peace Palace, when she was denied entrance into a press briefing with UN Secretary General Ban ki Moon and the Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans, she asked afterwards, “Would they treat Desmond Tutu like this?”

But if Gbowee comes across as something of a diva at times, her stress on the way women are treated in settings like these, however, is not amiss. She says women in leadership are more thoughtful. “They take steps back, to see the effects of their policy. And evil is in everybody, in men and women. Men are more about socialising and patriarchy.”

In The Hague, however, she was especially derisive of the conditions prisoners enjoy when they are incarcerated.

“The idea of the ICC is great but I believe it is detached from the people who are affected by some of the things that happened. It sends a good political signal to the world that we will no longer tolerate dictators, mass murderers. But comparing their life in prison, with three meals a day, with the life of their starving victims...

“Former President Charles Taylor sent a letter recently [saying] that the African prisoners are discriminated against as their children who come to visit have very little space to play and the Europeans prisoners have a better place for their children to play. You ask yourself: ‘What the hell is this?’

“You have people who have been amputated because of their actions. They and their children will never enjoy the joys of playing. And you are sitting somewhere and you complain about racism. It is a difficult thing to comprehend, but I think we still have a long way to go,” she says.

Gbowee, however, rankles at suggestions that the current system of international justice is skewed to focus on Africans.

“We should be irritated by our political African leaders who treat people as private chattel on their farms. We should be irritated with our leaders. They need learn to conduct themselves and treat their people in a human way. Charles Taylor behaved like a gangster and did not fulfil the hopes of the ones who elected him to give him the chance to lead.”

The celebration of the Peace Palace presented an opportunity to reflect on the state of international justice. And here, too, she voiced concerns of the narrative of international justice effectively excluding women from the way justice is meted out internationally.

“The important aspect of peace and justice is not the conferences with the men in suits. The most important aspect of peace and justice are those people who are impacted by the actions of perpetrators of war. Over time, that has been taken away from the discourse of peace and justice.”

While the threat of international intervention in Syria cast an imposing shadow over the celebrations at the Peace Palace last week, Gbowee pointed out that the discussions around Syria now excluded those most affected by the decisions that will be taken in the next couple of weeks.

“Today we are talking about drone strikes in Syria, but in fact it is about the strength of the US and the UK versus the strength of Russia, China and Assad. No one is considering the casualties in the rebel areas and the Assad areas. There are two opposing forces. In the midst of all this, there is a kebab seller in the South of France who has lost his wife and mother and has no idea where his children are. Until we bring the whole discourse around peace and justice to those people who have been impacted and not foreign governments, political leaders, political solutions, we will continue to miss the mark.”

After posing for photos in the gardens of the Palace, the unmistakable sound of protests outside drew Gbowee. While the protesters were ignored by nearly all the other dignitaries who had gathered in The Hague, Gbowee believes that is crucial for activists like herself to go “back to their roots” to recall what it is that ought to be driving their work.

While Gbowee now resides in New York where she works as a lecturer, she has been criticised for effectively abandoning Liberia in favour of pursuing her own career. She, however, claims that her criticism of the Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has embittered many Liberians towards her.

“Last year I was critical of president Sirleaf and for three months I was isolated. Local papers wrote stories about my private life, women made a position statement that I was a disgrace to women...For the first time I had to walk with bodyguards in Liberia. I could barely go to places. The church that my parents went to, my dad is on the elders council, they called a meeting without him, called the pastor to ask them to leave the church. People who I thought were my friends really turned against me.

“It’s August now and everything that I said last October, that I was bashed for, everyone now goes back to say, ‘Oh, Leymah said so’.” DM

The Post-Journal

Tuesday, 3 September 2013

Robertson Honored At Jackson Dinner

More than 130 supporters, board members, dignitaries and public officials came together at the Robert H. Jackson Center on Wednesday, July 31, for the 10th annual Jackson Society Dinner.

Master of ceremonies was **James C. Johnson**, Robert H. Jackson Center president and chief executive officer, who shared center highlights and accomplishments from the past year.

"This has been an extraordinary year for the Jackson Center. It began last August during the sixth annual International Humanitarian Law Dialogs, as the center hosted Fatou Bensouda of the International Criminal Courts and **Brenda J. Hollis from the Special Court for Sierra Leone**, who tried and convicted the first Head of State at an International Criminal Tribunal since Justice Jackson led the prosecution of the senior Nazi leaders at Nuremberg. Then in October, President Obama signed an act designating the new United States courthouse in Buffalo, N.Y., as 'The Robert H. Jackson United States Courthouse,'" Johnson said. "And let us not forget the landmark visit by Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts Jr. in May, followed by Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's tour of the center which occurred only a few days ago."



Johnson then introduced Joseph Karb, Jackson Center director of teacher initiatives, to speak about advances made in the center's Youth Education Initiative.

"Tonight I have the distinct pleasure of introducing the inaugural class of Robert H. Jackson Center teacher fellows," Karb said.

Recognized as recipients of the 2013 Robert H. Jackson Center Teacher Fellowships were Junie Eimiller, Southwestern High School; James Gang, Hamburg High School; Lynne Kutschke, Pine Valley Central School; and Timothy Redmond, Williamsville East High School.

"These highly accomplished Western New York educators will be working in collaboration with the center to create quality educational materials that can easily be incorporated into classroom curriculum," Karb said.

Karb also introduced the recipient of the second annual Robert H. Jackson Center Award for Teaching Justice, Walter Robertson III, a history teacher at the Dunkirk City Schools.

"This award is presented to an educator who has made a significant effort to teach the concept of justice in creative, inspiring ways," Karb said.

Robertson expressed surprise and pleasure at his nomination for the award and credited his family, colleagues and friends for the support they have given through the years.

"Education is the most important tool for fighting poverty. Without literacy skills and a basic education, families cannot overcome social and economic barriers. As teachers we have the opportunity to make a difference every day by giving young people access to the education they need - and deserve - to make better lives for themselves," Robertson said.

Honored for her 10 years of service to the center was Carol Drake, who retired in June. Johnson then gave special recognition to the center's board of directors, volunteer docents and interns, whom he declared "make it possible for the center to offer the vast array of programs and events that it does throughout the year."

Guest speaker for the evening was Larry D. Thompson, executive vice president of government affairs, general counsel and corporate secretary for PepsiCo and former deputy attorney general from 2001-2003. Thompson's address was peppered with "Jacksonisms," as he reflected on the various professional positions he has held in both the public and private sectors throughout his career. A question and answer session with Thompson capped the evening.

Aljazeera

Monday, 2 September 2013

Khmer Rouge tribunal staff strike in Cambodia

Ongoing trial of two ex-regime leaders could be disrupted as more than 200 employees abstain from work demanding wages.



Two former Khmer Rouge leaders are currently being tried for crimes against humanity.

More than 200 Cambodian staff at the UN-backed Khmer Rouge war crimes tribunal went on strike to demand wages that are several months overdue, an official said.

A majority of the court's Cambodian employees, including interpreters and translators essential to the court's functions, did not come into work on Monday because their wages had not been paid since June, spokesman Neth Pheaktra said.

The national component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) had a shortfall of \$3m in its annual budget, Pheaktra said.

"We are very concerned about the possible risk of disruption to the judicial process through the strike by national staff," said UN spokesman Lars Olsen.

"We call on the Royal Government immediately to meet its obligation to pay the national salaries so that

the strike can be averted," Olsen said.

The tribunal is currently trying two former Khmer Rouge leaders, former head of state Khieu Samphan, 82, and chief ideologue Nuon Chea, 87, for crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and other offenses.

Leng Sary, another defendant, died in March during the trial.

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Tuesday, 3 September 2013

Press Release

Information regarding absent national staff members

The following information is provided to ensure that the general public has access to accurate information about the current situation at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

The ECCC Office of Administration was in early August 2013 informed by a number of national staff members, that unless a solution was found for the payment of several months overdue salary, they would be absent from work from 1 September 2013 until a solution was found. Consequently, on Monday 2 September 2013, a total of 134 national staff members did not report for duty.

The national staff members, judges and officials of the ECCC have not received salary for the months of June, July and August. The current budget shortfall for the national component of the ECCC is about US\$ 2.9 million for 2013.

Both the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations are in close dialogue with international donor countries with the aim of securing sufficient funding and have appealed to the donors to come forward with funding.