U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Amendment to Registration Statement
Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended

OMB NO. 1124-0003

Privacy Act Statement. The filing of this document is required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, for the purposes of registration under the Act and public disclosure. Provision of the information requested is mandatory, and failure to provide this information is subject to the penalty and enforcement provisions established in Section 8 of the Act. Every registration statement, short form registration statement, supplemental statement, exhibit, amendment, copy of informational materials or other document or information filed with the Attorney General under this Act is a public record open to public examination, inspection and copying during the posted business hours of the Registration Unit in Washington, DC. Statements are also available online at the Registration Unit's webpage: http://www.fara.gov/. One copy of every such document, other than informational materials, is automatically provided to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, and copies of any and all documents are routinely made available to other agencies, departments and Congress pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Act. The Attorney General also transmits a semi-annual report to Congress on the Administration of the Act which lists the names of all agents registered under the Act and the foreign principals they represent. This report is available to the public in print and online at: http://www.fara.gov/.

Public Reporting Burden. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.5 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Chief, Registration Unit, Counterespionage Section, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Name of Registrant	2. Registration No.
Hill & Knowlton, Inc.	3301

3. This amendment is filed to accomplish the following indicated purpose or purposes:

- ☐ To give a 10-day notice of change in information as required by Section 2(b) of the Act.
- ☒ To correct a deficiency in
  - ☐ Initial Statement
  - ☒ Supplemental Statement for the period ending May 31, 2009
  - ☐ Other purpose *(specify):*
- ☐ To give notice of change in an exhibit previously filed.

2010 MAY 14 PM 4:04
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4. If this amendment requires the filing of a document or documents, please list -
Informational materials.

5. Each item checked above must be explained below in full detail together with, where appropriate, specific reference to and identity of the item in the registration statement to which it pertains. *(If space is insufficient, a full insert page must be used.)*
Please see documents attached.

EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)	(Type or print name under each signature[1])
MAY 5, 2010	LISA SCHUYLER

2010 MAY 14 PM 4:04
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1 This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

The information below is being supplied in addition to what was filed with the Supplemental Statement for the period ending May 31, 2009.

Question 9

The Information Technology and Industry Development Agency, ITIDA (through Hill & Knowlton, London)

Attachment III (11)

The Information Technology and Industry Development Agency, ITIDA (through Hill & Knowlton, London): Provide public relations counsel and assistance to promote Egypt's information and communications technology industry and Egypt as an outsourcing location.

Attachment IV (14-a)

The Information Technology and Industry Development Agency, ITIDA (through Hill & Knowlton, London) : $89,840.47

Attachment IV (15-a)

The Information Technology and Industry Development Agency, ITIDA (through Hill & Knowlton, London)

- Newswire: $2,732.50
- Telephone: $30.75
- Office Service Fee: $1,864.20
- Graphics: $1,296.17
- Copy/Collates: $220.00
- Travel: $2,612.69
- Meals: $660.37

Question 17

Special Court for Sierra Leone

The Information Technology and Industry Development Agency, ITIDA (through Hill & Knowlton, London)

2009 MAY 14 PM 4:05
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INFORMATIONAL

MATERIALS

itida
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IT in Egypt

2009 MAY 14 PM 4:05
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Egypt to strengthen ties with India at NASSCOM's Leadership Forum 2009

Mumbai, 28 January, 2009: Egypt, one of the world's fastest growing locations for global outsourcing, will be showcasing its ICT industry at NASSCOM's India Leadership Forum in Mumbai from February 11-13, 2009. The Forum has long been India's premier global meeting for the IT-BPO industry and this year sees Egypt's Information Technology Development Agency (ITIDA) as a platinum sponsor.

Egypt will be strongly represented through its own country session and will have a delegation of both multinational and local Egyptian outsourcing companies, including Xceed, Vodafone, Teleperformance and Raya, on-hand to demonstrate Egypt's strong position as a global service delivery location and a leading partner of India's outsourcing industry.

Mr. Amin Khaireldin, Strategic Advisor and Board Member of ITIDA, along with other delegates from ITIDA, will be speaking at the NASSCOM Leadership Forum on the emerging importance of Egypt in the global outsourcing market.

Commenting on the benefits of Egypt as a global service delivery location, Mr. Amin Khaireldin said, "Egypt is well placed to be the next location for geographical expansion for Indian outsourcing companies and we are proud to be associated with NASSCOM. Egypt's competitive advantages position the country as a strategic location for global ITES/BPO and as an ideal gateway especially to Middle Eastern and European continental markets, which remain largely untapped."

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Currently Indian direct investment in Egypt totals $800m in more than 200 Egyptian companies and with its relatively large and burgeoning talent pool of IT professionals, the Egyptian outsourcing sector has received strong support from its government to develop the industry further. It is projected that the Egyptian outsourcing sector will generate revenue of more than $1 billion by 2010, four times the 2005 revenue.

Last year, ITIDA signed a number of Memorandum of Understandings and Letter of Intents with Indian bodies and companies including NASSCOM and three of India's top five IT/BPO companies to extend the collaboration between Egypt and India.

Egypt has been making huge strides in the world of outsourcing and according to Yankee Group[1] "Egypt is by far the Middle Eastern country currently best positioned to take advantage of the boom in outsourcing. It has a relatively young population, a multilingual workforce, a large and burgeoning talent pool and strong government support for outsourcing."

Egypt was also named the Offshoring Destination of the Year (2008) by the UK's National Outsourcing Association (NOA) and was recently listed in Gartner's Top 30 global outsourcing destinations.

- Ends -

About ITIDA:
The Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) is a governmental entity affiliated to Egypt's Ministry of Communications and

[1] *Yankee Group, "Can Middle Eastern countries fulfill the 'Eastern' promise?" published in July 2008*

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Information Technology. It is responsible for growing and developing Egypt's position as a leading global outsourcing location by attracting foreign direct investment to the industry and maximizing the exports of IT services and applications.

Located in the heart of the modern business environment at Smart Village, the six hundred acre business park on the outskirts of Cairo, ITIDA is a self sustainable entity that drives the IT industry in Egypt and raises awareness among the Egyptian people of the benefits and use of ICT to advance socio-economic welfare of the whole community.

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Press release

London School of Economics launches 'Beyond BRIC' Study of offshoring in non-BRIC countries shows Egypt as a new growth market

London, 1 April 2009

The Outsourcing Unit at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and ITIDA, the Information Technology Industry Development Agency of Egypt launched the 'Beyond BRIC' Report in London. The study, researched independently by the LSE over 5 months, provides an original analysis of the offshoring competitiveness of 14 non-BRIC countries setting Egypt within the context of these locations.

The ITIDA-commissioned study was presented by Professor Leslie Willcocks, Director of the LSE Outsourcing Unit. Also present was Dr Hazem Abdelazim, CEO of ITIDA who spoke about Egypt's continuing progress as a global offshoring location.

The Report's findings suggest that Egypt's investment strategy in education, infrastructure and IT is paying off and is attracting offshoring and outsourcing business. Egypt scored particularly highly in terms of attractiveness of its low cost base, skilled workforce and market potential.

Beyond BRIC utilised the LSE Outsourcing Unit's database of 1,000 plus global sourcing IT, BPO and offshoring studies from 1993-2009 as well as interviews with 50 plus client organisations, suppliers and analysts to compare Egypt with the following countries: Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Belarus, Morocco, Tunisia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Venezuela, Vietnam and the Philippines.

According to Professor Leslie Willcocks: "The Beyond BRIC study sheds new light on the global offshoring industry outside of traditional outsourcing markets, such as India. Egypt fared particularly well – coming top of our analysis of cost perception, skills comparison and market potential. It's been a privilege and education to undertake this research."

Dr Hazem Abdelazim commented: "The Beyond BRIC study gives excellent first-hand evidence of Egypt's recent development as a centre for offshoring.

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We are delighted by the report's recognition of Egypt's key IT offering and hope to be able to continue this positive growth trend."

A key finding of the report was that the non-BRIC countries investigated are creating new and profitable offshoring opportunities, capable of development even in recessionary times. Though it remains to be seen how all non-BRIC countries stand to benefit from this dynamic, the authors of the report make clear that Egypt has made a substantial start in this market.

To download a full copy of the Beyond BRIC Report, Beyond BRIC: Offshoring in non-BRIC Countries: Egypt – a new growth market, please go to:

www.egypton.com

ENDS

Egypt on

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About ITIDA
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Located in the heart of the modern business environment at Smart Village, the 600-acre business park on the outskirts of Cairo, ITIDA is a self sustainable entity that drives the IT industry in Egypt and raises awareness among the Egyptian people of the benefits and use of ICT to advance socio-economic welfare of the whole community.

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Egypt on

(1)

Press release

ITIDA agreement with Intel will see advances in Egypt's technological, industrial and economic development

London, 8 December, 2008: Egypt's Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) has signed an agreement with Intel Corporation and Boraq for Electronics and Industries that will lead to advances in the country's technological, industrial and economic development.

Intel Corporation Chairman Craig Barrett announced that the agreement will see Intel motherboards assembled in Egypt before being shipped across Africa. A total of 85% of the production will be exported to African markets in a bid to support the marketing and promotion of Egypt.

As part of the agreement signed by ITIDA CEO Dr. Hazem Abdelazim, Boraq CEO Eng. Tarek Eissa and Dr. Khaled El-Amrawy, Intel Country Manager for Egypt, Levant and North Africa, Intel will be opening a research lab for developing micro-electronics and for teaching new generations of engineers and designers. Intel is also committed to training Egyptian human resources working for the company that will operate the firm and the new factory will offer 400–600 new job opportunities within the coming two years.

ITIDA will offer the support necessary to finalize the motherboards' exports which is estimated to reach $20 million per annum.

Commenting on what the agreement means for Egypt, Dr. Hazem Abdelazim, CEO for ITIDA said, "This agreement with Intel not only demonstrates the commitment we are seeing from international companies to set up projects here in Egypt but it is also aligned with the country's goals to stimulate the economy, attract technology-related business, and develop a thriving export industry for information technology."

Boraq for Electronics and Industries is the first company in Africa to assemble Intel motherboards and shipping is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2009.

In another development, Dr. Kamel, Minister for Information and Communications Technology in Egypt, witnessed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing between Nile University (NU) and Intel Corp. on establishing a lab for developing micro-electronics and for teaching new generations of engineers and designers. The lab, donated by Intel, will help acquaint engineers and designers with up-to-date information on the field.

The Intel lab that opened today at NU is associated with the school's Nanoelectronics Integrated Systems Center (NISC). The lab will focus primarily on research and development (R&D) of new technologies in nanoelectronics. Acting NU President Dr. Tarek Khalil co-signed the agreement with Dr. Al-Amrawy. Intel's role will include providing student internships in the United States, sponsoring post-graduate fellowships for engineers in Egypt, and supporting NISC with equipment and course materials.

As part of Intel's visit to Egypt, Dr. Barrett also inaugurated a new Intel office in Smart Village Cairo, a technology-focused business park that is home to a growing number of IT industry companies. The office includes a lab where visitors can watch demonstrations of the latest information and communications technologies, such as Intel multi-core processors and WiMAX broadband Internet connectivity.

- Ends -

Notes to editors:
The Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) is a governmental entity affiliated to Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

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Egypt breaks into Gartner's top 30 leading locations for outsourcing services

Cairo, 15 December, 2008: In fresh evidence on its growing fame as a hotspot for global outsourcing, Egypt has joined Gartner's alphabetically-ranked annual list spelling out the world's top 30 leading locations for outsourcing services.

Egypt joins the heavy-weight list for the first time and Gartner's thorough analysis of the country highlighted substantial support by the Egyptian government to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. The analyses also indicated the cost competitiveness of the country and its attractive location for businesses.

One of Egypt main traits as a favored outsourcing location is its abundant and sustainable talent pool regarded by the country as the long-term investment. The government pays special attention to devising and implementing programs to ensure there is enough supply of qualified and trained professionals to its growing outsourcing industry.

Dr. Hazem Y. Abdelazim, CEO for Egypt's Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) commented on the Gartner report by saying: "This is a great achievement for Egypt and we are delighted that our hard work in promoting Egypt as a viable global outsourcing location has been recognized. We hope this will encourage companies to take advantage of the progress we are making in developing our ICT infrastructure and the investment we are continuing to make in the outsourcing industry."

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In order to compile such a robust report, Gartner gathered information from numerous independent sources and devised ten categories for assessment including language, infrastructure, labor pool, cost and educational system.

Egypt is receiving enormous support from the government, particularly in the ICT industry with a reported $2 billion investment in its telecommunications infrastructure. It also benefits from its close proximity to Europe, operating on a similar time zone, and this coupled with its highly skilled and multi-lingual workforce mean it is an ideal location for those wishing to take advantage of the competitive costs it has to offer, without compromising on quality.

The Gartner report aims to provide clarity for organizations, advising that sourcing managers and service providers should use the list of countries and ratings to help determine which locations are right for their organizations.

Inclusion in the report will mean that Egypt will be considered alongside other long established outsourcing locations. With its dedicated technology and contact center parks, excellent infrastructure and highly skilled workforce, it cannot fail to attract investment from companies looking to realize the benefits of outsourcing to a country with so much opportunity.

Further to this report, Egypt was also named Outsourcing Destination of the Year at the 2008 National Outsourcing Association Awards highlighting the progress Egypt is making within the ICT sector and helping to position it as a future leader in global outsourcing.

- Ends -

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Egypt Hosts a Regional Conference on "IPR Enforcement in the Digital Age"

A Governmental Workshop will examine an Action Plan to Maximize Cooperation in Enforcement Activities across the Region

Cairo, 15 December, 2008

Buoyed by its improving piracy ratings and successful efforts to protect Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Egypt hosts the second regional conference on "Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement in the Digital Age...Procedures and Practices" that will kick-start on the 9th of November and will close on the 11th with a governmental workshop designed to enhance regional cooperation and explore the way forward.

The conference is being held under the auspices of H.E. Dr. Tarek Kamel, Minister of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) (www.mcit.gov.eg), and is organized by the Egyptian Center for Intellectual Property and Information Technology (ECIPIT) (www.ecipit.org.eg) and Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) (www.itida.gov.eg) in cooperation with the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) (www.uspto.gov) Global Intellectual Property Academy (GIPA), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (www.wipo.int).

The two-day conference and the workshop will bring together leading experts and practitioners from various disciplines and backgrounds to exchange viewpoints and expertise to better deal with challenges related to enforcement, copyright protection, counterfeiting, managing IP assets, and maximizing the IP values. The regional event will address the effect of IPR on economies and the competitive advantages of small and medium businesses.

Representatives from more than 10 countries are expected to show up for the conference along with those representing the international organizations concerned with IPR enforcement and strategic planning. The conference is targeting enforcement agencies, IPR governmental officials, patent and trademark attorneys, investors, bankers, venture capitalists, and ICT

business development professionals. Attendees will be engaged in topics ranging from international anti-piracy and counterfeiting to IPR management and maximizing return on investment strategies.

Discussions on software and databases protection practices, legal and technological obstacles in the process of protecting IPR, and IP enforcement will enable judges, prosecutors, and lawyers to have a form of roadmap to deal with the issues at hand.

The closing workshop will be dedicated exclusively to discussions by Arab governmental officials aiming at devising an action plan to maximize cooperation in enforcement activities within the region.

The conference underlines the joint efforts exerted by the Egyptian government and local IPR NGOs to ensure IPR protection and enhance the IPR awareness in the country and across the region. According to the fifth annual BSA and IDC Global Software Piracy Study, Egyptian piracy ratings dropped to 60% in 2007 which is 1% below the global median piracy rating (61%).

-ENDS-

Notes to editor:

2009 MAY 14 PM 4:05
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2009 MAY 14 PM 4:05
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From: Deborah Nelson
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009
To: anna.r.schecter@abc.com
Subject: Special Prosecutor Stephen Rapp in DC March 12-13

Hello again, Anna –
I do hope you are well. A quick reminder that Special Prosecutor Stephen Rapp – the highest ranking American in the international justice community - will be in Washington, DC this Thursday-Friday, March 12-13. My colleagues at the U.N tell me that you may be interested in speaking with Rapp for a long form magazine piece for 20/20. I've attached a few of Rapp's most recent interviews in the wake of the Feb. 25th verdict for your reference. (New York Times, TIME magazine, and Christian Science Monitor)

As you likely know, the sentencing judgment will soon follow in the next week or two. It is also important to note that in this judgment the Special Court made history – it was the first time that a court ruled and convicted individuals on the specific war crimes of recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, and forced marriage as a separate crime against humanity. (Please see judgment details below, and relevant materials attached)

As I said in my previous note, ultimately, it is the hope that the successful prosecution of all such war criminals will send a message that the international community - by supporting the courts and funding such judicial enterprises – will punish such crimes against humanity. And by delivering justice, some argue that this legacy of the court will serve as a catalyst for peace and as a vital part of the war on terror, and importantly signals that "the rule of law is more powerful than the rule of the gun." No message is no more timely, especially in light of the recent news in the Sudan over the International Criminal Court's (ICC) attempt to bring President Omar Hassan al-Bashir to justice.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions or to schedule an interview this week.
Thanks,
Deborah Nelson
On Behalf of the Special Court of Sierra Leone
(202) 944-3374 office
(202) 321-9140 cell

(CNN alumna 1993-2005)

Judgment Background:

- The Special Court for Sierra Leone is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone.
- Three former leaders of Sierra Leone's rebel Revolutionary United Front were found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the country's decade-long civil war.
- Former RUF Interim Leader Issa Hassan Sesay and RUF commander Morris Kallon were each found guilty on 16 of the 18 counts in the indictment. Former RUF Chief of Security Augustine Gbao was found guilty on 14 counts. Some of the war crimes and crimes against humanity include murder, mutilation, rape, sexual enslavement, cruel treatment, using child soldiers and attacks on UN soldiers during the civil war.
- The 11-year conflict in Sierra Leone witnessed some of the worst atrocities known to mankind. Innocent civilians, including thousands of women and children, were targeted by all warring factions of the conflict. The Revolutionary United Front was one of three factions being tried by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, an international war crimes tribunal established to "prosecute persons who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone since 30 November 1996."
- Sesay, Kallon and Gbao were found guilty of Count 8 relating to forced marriage. The Court today for first time in world history convicted each of these individuals of forced marriage as a separate crime against humanity.
- Sesay and Kallon were also found guilty of Count 12 relating to the use of child soldiers. This first instance decision reaffirms the SCSL's groundbreaking stance on the recruitment and use of child soldiers. The AFRC judgment was also the first by an international court to rule and convict on the recruitment and use of child soldiers.
- Sesay, Kallon and Gbao were found guilty of Count 15 relating to attacks against peacekeepers. For the first time in history, a court convicted individuals of the specific war crimes of attacks on peacekeepers.
- Charles Taylor, the former Liberian head of state, is also indicted by the Special Court and is on trial in The Hague. The prosecution alleges that Taylor controlled, supported, aided and abetted the RUF. Proving the crimes committed by the RUF, and their links to Taylor, is essential to the Prosecution's case.
- The Special Court is funded entirely through voluntary contributions from interested states. Due to the current financial crisis, the Special Court could be facing a funding shortfall of up to 6 million USD in 2009. This could potentially delay the Taylor trial.
- The funding shortfall has the potential to severely disrupt the judicial activities of the Court, including the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. The Taylor trial is crucial for the maintenance of peace and security in the region. Halting the trial because of a lack of funding would send the wrong message to the international community and would jeopardize the fight against impunity.

Please the attached press release announcing the judgment. Please advise if you are interested in speaking with any of the following sources on their reaction to the judgment and the urgent need for financing of the Court:

- Stephen Rapp, The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone
- Herman von Hebel, The Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone
- Binta Mansaray, The Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

From: Deborah Nelson
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 10:19 PM
To: anna.r.schechter@abcnews.com
Cc: brian.ross@abcnews.com
Subject: Sierra Leone war crimes court to issue verdicts on Wednesday

Hello, Anna - My colleagues at the U.N tell me that you are interested in doing this story for 20/20. (all details below) Please let me know how I can help arrange an interview with any of the principal players - the Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp or Herman von Hebel and Binta Mansaray, the Registrar and Deputy Registrar of the Special Court, respectively – for your coverage. They are all in Freetown and will be available for remote interviews on Wednesday, or later in the week. And with the global financial crisis impacting the funding of the courts – (see AP/Reuters pieces attached) – this story has both a financial crisis as well as foreign policy angle. I look forward to hearing back from you.
Best,
Deborah Nelson
On Behalf of the Special Court of Sierra Leone
(202) 944-3374 office
(202) 321-9140 cell
(CNN alumna 1993-2005)

Trial Background:
On Wednesday, February 25, the war crimes judgment of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) trial is expected to be rendered by The Special Court for Sierra Leone. This is the culmination of the three war crimes trials of the three main rebel groups – the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) - who all fought a failed ten-year war in Sierra Leone, starting in 1991 and ending in 2002. You may be familiar with the RUF as their activities have been depicted most recently in the movies *Blood Diamond* and *Lord of War* and the book *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah.

In early 2003, five alleged leaders of the former Revolutionary United Front were indicted separately on 18 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. The war which was led by the RUF is estimated to have cost the lives of 120,000 people. Accused leaders Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao face charges including some of the most brutal acts in recent history, including sexual slavery, terrorism, murder, rape, use of child soldiers, abductions and forced labor, looting and burning, and intentionally directing attacks against U.N. personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission. Sesay, Kallon and Gbao pleaded not guilty. The indictments against Foday Saybana Sankoh and Sam Bockarie were withdrawn on December 8, 2003 due to the deaths of the two accused.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone, set up jointly by the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations, is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone. This is the last of three special court trials held in Freetown. The only trial still ongoing before the Sierra Leone tribunal is the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor which has been moved to The Hague for security reasons. The Taylor trial is currently in the prosecution phase at The Hague, and some believe the RUF judgment could reflect the upcoming judgment in the Charles Taylor trial, as RUF is closely associated with Taylor.

Ultimately, it is the hope that the successful prosecution of all such war criminals will send a message that the international community - by supporting the courts and funding such judicial enterprises – will punish such crimes against humanity. And by delivering justice, some argue that this legacy of the court will serve as a catalyst for peace and as a vital part of the war on terror, and importantly signals that "the rule of law is more powerful than the rule of the gun."

As soon as I have the judgment on Wednesday, I will release it to you for your review. Please advise if you are interested in speaking with any of the following sources on their reaction to the judgment or on background:

- Stephen Rapp , The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone
- Herman von Hebel, The Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone
- Binta Mansaray, The Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,
Deborah

Deborah Nelson
On behalf of the Special Court of Sierra Leone
(202) 944-3374 direct

February 26, 2009
WORLD BRIEFING | AFRICA

Sierra Leone: Rebel Leaders Convicted

By LYDIA POLGREEN

An international court on Wednesday convicted three leaders of the rebel group that terrorized civilians in Sierra Leone during the country's decade-long civil war. The men were top leaders of the Revolutionary United Front, a group whose signature atrocity, amputation, became a symbol of the unfettered brutality of the war. The group also abducted children and turned them into soldiers, and forced young girls into servitude as "bush wives" to rebel commanders. Corinne Dufka, a senior researcher for Human Rights Watch, said, "These verdicts validate the suffering of countless civilians whose lives were brutally torn apart by the decade-long campaign of terror by the R.U.F." The war ended in 2002. The last defendant, Charles Taylor, the former president of neighboring Liberia, is accused of training and supporting the rebels. Mr. Taylor, above, is now on trial in The Hague

TIME Magazine: Guilty: Justice in Sierra Leone At Last

http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1881862,00.html

By Alex Perry

Remember *Blood Diamond*? Remember how all the bad guys died? In reality, most of them not only survived, they went free. As Sierra Leone's civil war wound down in 2002 after 11 years of fighting marked by some of the most brutal human rights abuses in history, much of it fueled by competition over the country's diamond fields, the leaders of the Revolutionary United Front and other militias, as well as their sponsor, Liberian President Charles Taylor, negotiated themselves an amnesty.

Days before the conflict finished, though, the government of then President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah asked the United Nations to help it set up a process to bring the worst offenders to justice. Out of that plea was formed the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a first of its kind: a collaboration between international and national justice and, unlike similar courts set up after wars in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, one established on the soil where the crimes took place. (See pictures of the fallout in the Congo by James Nachtwey.)

On Wednesday, the court convicted two surviving RUF leaders, Issa Hassan Sesay and Morris Kallon of 16 out of 18 counts of war crimes, and a third commander, Augustine Gbao, of 14 counts. The charges included "acts of terrorism" against the civilian population, the use of forced marriage and, for Sesay and Kallon, the use of child soldiers.

Leaders of other militias have already been convicted. The Court's last case is the trial of Taylor, who initially fled to Nigeria under his amnesty agreement but is now being held in The Hague. Taylor's trial was moved there for security reasons. After Wednesday's judgment, the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp, spoke to TIME's Africa bureau chief Alex Perry by phone from the court's offices in Freetown.

TIME: I imagine you're pleased.
Rapp: Very, very pleased. It's a historic judgment.

What does it mean for Sierra Leone?
This country suffered enormously during this conflict. Some of the most heinous and brutal acts in the history of human warfare were committed here. Tens of thousands were murdered. Tens to hundreds of thousands of women were raped or turned into bush wives and sex slaves. There was this incredibly bestial practice of cutting off limbs, chopping arms and hands. Children were made to commit acts that adults could not commit. It was a campaign of terror. And this was not a war fought as we think of it, but one exclusively targeted at civilians. (See pictures of African diamonds.)

These convictions means that suffering is recognized. The leaders have been held criminally responsible. It's very important to the victims. Of course, they need more, they need reparations. But I know this is important. They have told me it is extremely important.

What of the age-old debate between justice and peace: that justice can get in the way of peace, but that lasting peace demands justice? At the outset of the Court's work, there were many who argued that by ripping up the amnesties granted to the militias, the Court would plunge Sierra Leone back into war.

The whole experience of the Court indicates how important it is to have justice if you are going to have peace. It has confirmed that. There were those amnesties, granted just days after those leaders had committed some unspeakable atrocities. They did not work. The militias refused to disarm and demobilize. They attacked peacekeepers who were sent to disarm them. It just didn't work. Some may have viewed that as peace — with these militias still armed, still committing any crimes they liked — but it was not.

That's why the President asked us to establish a court. And what happened was kind of a grand experiment. We're different from what happened in Rwanda or [the former] Yugoslavia. We are in country. We are a partnership between the country and the U.N. Except for Taylor, all the trials are being held at the scene of the crime. The judges and the court staff are mixed between international and Sierra Leonean. And we keep people informed of what's going on. Surveys show 90% of the country is aware of what's happening at the court.

Has the experiment worked?

I guess [the] proof of the pudding is that the country held an election in August and September 2007 where not only was the opposition not expected to get in, they were allowed to get in. That's pretty positive. What the court has done is reinforce the peace and restore the rule of law to allow events like that to happen. Of course, profound challenges remain. Sierra Leone is one of the world's least developed nations. Infant mortality is the worst in the world. Infrastructure is terrible. And a court can only deliver so much. Some people ask whether the money spent on the court wouldn't be better spent on development. But at the end of the day, it's restoring law and order that makes development possible.

What are the wider implications of today's judgment?

It sends the message to heads of state around the world that impunity has ended. The biggest example of that is Charles Taylor on trial in The Hague. Taylor was a chief of state and a big power in West Africa. When he was indicted in 2003, he was allowed to go into exile. That was the solution of choice in the past, for leaders like Idi Amin [the Ugandan dictator who found exile in Saudi Arabia].

But because of what had happened with the tribunals over Rwanda and Yugoslavia, that was no longer possible. The world had changed. Now we knew that it we could put these people on trial and do it fairly. And all over the world, people expected the same action to be taken against their leaders. And we had to do it. You know, when we indicted Taylor, we had no idea of how we were going to get him arrested. Now, since he has been arrested, and despite an amnesty, when you are indicted, you know that day, that arrest will come. It's not a question of if but when. The symbolism of it is immense.

There are also some specific lessons from our experience. In many of the situations where you need to bring leaders to account, [you can apply the Sierra Leonean model of] a hybridized court, where you obtain local and international support to bring people to justice and call their bluff. The International Criminal Court is often told: 'You are just prosecuting cases in Africa. You are biased against Africa.' The answer, I think, is a hybrid model able to deliver the kind of cooperation that an international court, sitting outside the region with an exclusively U.N. staff, cannot do.

I understand the court's work is in danger, however. You're running out of money.
From the beginning, the decision was taken to have the court funded by voluntary contributions. That makes it very challenging. Countries make their decisions on whether to fund it annually. There are other priorities, particularly in the current climate, and getting that funding is very difficult. Some days we have been down to our last $6,000. We have had some very hungry days. When I look at our pledges today, we can get to June or July, maybe August, but I just don't know after that, and I don't know where we will get the money. It's a real challenge. But I'm hopeful. It's the most important case in the world.

Why?
It's the trial of a chief of state. A strongman accused of committing horrific crimes, and not even in his own country, but one next door. It's being held at the crossroads of international justice in The Hague. And we're showing that we can do it in a fair and transparent manner. That sends a signal to every chief of state in the world. This is not some guy down the pecking order. We were not able to finish with Milosevic [who died mid-trial]. This is international justice on trial. And we are working very hard to ensure it acquits itself.

Sierra Leone verdict warns world's warlords

Rebel leaders Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, and Augustine Gbao were found guilty Wednesday on more than a dozen counts each of crimes against humanity.

By Scott Baldauf | *Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor*
from the February 27, 2009 edition

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - Found guilty of crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone's civil war, three rebel commanders will soon begin serving time for ordering the systematic mutilation of civilians, forced marriage of captured women, and the recruitment of child soldiers.

But the ripples of the international tribunal's decision on Wednesday in Freetown, Sierra Leone – finding rebel leaders Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, and Augustine Gbao guilty on more than a dozen counts each of crimes against humanity – are already reaching around the continent and the world. Coming just a week before the expected arrest warrant for Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, and in the middle of the ongoing trial of former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor, this trial sets a very tough tone about the consequences of cruelty in wartime.

"The Sierra Leone decision is another notch on the slowly tightening belt of international accountability," says John Prendergast of the Enough Project, a Washington-based rights group. "This is a good day for potential future victims of crimes against humanity everywhere, as it takes the world a little further down the track of deterring future crimes."

Made famous by the movie "Blood Diamond," the civil war in Sierra Leone was a precursor to many wars of the current decade – most notably the Democratic Republic of Congo – where warlords and their ill-trained armies carry out horrific attacks on civilian populations. Nearly 500,000 people were either killed or mutilated between 1991 and 2002.

In Sierra Leone, rebel units often asked civilians if they wanted a "long sleeve" or a "short sleeve," and then chopped off a hand for the former answer, and the entire forearm for the latter answer. What paid for the mayhem was the global economic boom, and the world's appetite for Africa's natural resources, such as timber, gold, and diamonds.

Few other nations have witnessed brutality on the scale of the Sierra Leone conflict – made worse by Mr. Taylor's drive to control Sierra Leone's diamond trade – but experts

say that warlords in other conflicts, such as in Congo, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and some would argue in Iraq, should take note of the proceedings in Sierra Leone.

"We've seen already that there is a rising expectation for international justice, and the beginnings of deterrence," says Stephen Rapp chief prosecutor of UN backed court in Sierre Leone, adding that "the case can be made" that Kenyan leaders pulled back from further violence during last year's ethnic clashes because they feared international prosecution.

"[The Sierra Leone verdict] sends a very clear message to warlords, not just in Africa, but all over the world who are doing this sort of crime," says David Monyae, a professor at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg. "It's a good start, but at the same time, the [International Criminal Court] and those that are pro-ICC need to be very careful in terms of which countries get chosen for prosecution."

The danger, Mr. Monyae adds, is that by choosing weak, mainly African countries such as Sierra Leone, Congo, and Sudan for war-crimes prosecution, the ICC sends an unintentional signal that countries are not equal before the law.

"It's like Animal Farm by George Orwell, where some animals are better than others. In the cold war, [former Congolese dictator Mubutu Sese Seko] ordered torture and extra-judicial killings, but in Washington, President Reagan said, 'He's our dictator.' Same thing today with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, which commit extrajudicial killings and nobody says a word. But if 'Mad Bob' [Zimbabwe President Robert] Mugabe does it, people say, 'send him to The Hague.' It erodes the credibility of the international court."

In addition, there is a balance between justice and peace, says Monyae, noting that his own country, South Africa, chose peace in 1994, rather than jailing the country's top apartheid-era leaders for crimes against humanity, including extrajudicial killings and torture. "You can't just say that Bashir must go, because if he goes, does that mean more people are dying?"

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REUTERS

Lack of funds may mean Liberia's Taylor freed-prosecutor
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Reuters News

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* Global financial crisis hits donations

By Katrina Manson

DAKAR, Feb 24 (Reuters) - Former Liberian President Charles Taylor may walk free because the global financial crisis has cut donations to the court trying him for war crimes committed in neighbouring Sierra Leone, its chief prosecutor said.

The U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is pursuing those held most responsible for atrocities during the country's 1991-2002 civil war, faces a budget shortfall of more than $5 million from May, officials said.

"With the economic crisis continuing, to get funds is not easy ... If we run out, it is now possible the judges will have to release him. That's our real anxiety," Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp told Reuters in a phone interview late on Monday.

Taylor, a warlord in a civil war in Liberia and later president, is being tried in The Hague due to fears a local trial may threaten regional stability. He denies all 11 counts of crimes against humanity and other charges including rape, enslavement and conscripting child soldiers younger than 15.

The main section of the court sits in Sierra Leone's seaside capital Freetown and, together with the proceedings regarding Taylor in The Hague, is funded centrally.

Taylor's trial, which began in June 2007, involves the same Special Court judges and prosecutors and he would stay indicted even if freed for lack of funds for his detention. Rapp had said earlier this month a verdict could be expected early next year.

The Freetown session of the court is due to hand down its last verdict on Wednesday, in the trial of the three most senior surviving members of the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

The defendants may become the first people in the world convicted for attacks against peacekeepers and forced marriage.

The Special Court has already scored several legal firsts, ensuring the recruitment of child soldiers is now recognised as a crime under international humanitarian law, alongside forced marriage and acts of terrorism against civilians, Rapp said.

"In terms of writing the law, this is one of the most active courts there's ever been," he said from Freetown.

"THE REALLY BIG ONE"

Of nine surviving indictees, five have already been convicted of war crimes. Four of the most senior indictees bar Taylor died or disappeared before they could be tried or judged.

"The really big one, we allege, is there in The Hague -- that's Charles Taylor," Rapp said.

"We allege he led the RUF into Sierra Leone in 1991 and was their effective leader for much of the conflict."

Drug-crazed rebels hacked off villagers' limbs with machetes and over 50,000 people were killed in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 war, made infamous by the 2006 movie 'Blood Diamond'.

Officials fear lack of funds will jeopardise the court, the first of its kind, relying on voluntary contributions from donor governments to foot the entire bill for the proceedings, estimated to run to $68.4 million for 2008-2010 alone.

"A few important donors have so far not been able to provide financial support to the Court or have provided less than in previous years," Court Registrar Herman von Hebel told Reuters.

"These countries include Ireland, France and Germany, as these have always been important donors to us, but there are other donors as well," he wrote in an email.

Britain's contribution of about 3 million pounds a year has slipped by $1.6 million in value due to the pound's depreciation.

The court is now turning to "a few countries in the Middle East" for funding, as well appealing to U.S. President Barack Obama's new administration for speedy help to raise a further $30m to see it through to the end of 2010, von Hebel said. (Editing by Alistair Thomson; Editing by Charles Dick)

Associated Press

Sierra Leone war crimes court to issue verdicts
By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY
Associated Press Writer
693 words
24 February 2009
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FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) - They chopped off hands, legs, lips, ears, breasts. In their decade-long battle to take control of Sierra Leone and its diamond fields, rebels of the Revolutionary United Front wielded their machetes to maim thousands of victims.

On Wednesday, a U.N.-sponsored war crimes court is to deliver verdicts for three of the rebels' commanders accused of crimes against humanity, marking an end to the special tribunal in Freetown, more than four years after their joint trial began.

"There is a great need for the activities of the Special Court, which is a chapter of the war, to be quickly concluded so that the nation can move on," Sierra Leone's president, Ernest Bai Koroma, said last week.

Former interim rebel leader Issa Sesay and battlefield commanders Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao each face an 18-count indictment and have pleaded not guilty to the charges against them, which include war crimes and crimes against humanity. If convicted, a sentencing hearing is expected in two weeks.

The special tribunal was set up following the end of the West African nation's 10-year conflict in 2002.

It is estimated that about a half-million people were victims of killings, systematic mutilation and other atrocities in Sierra Leone's war, during which illicit diamond sales fueled years of devastation. The conflict was depicted in the 2006 film "Blood Diamond," starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly and Djimon Hounsou.

Prosecutors say the three defendants facing verdicts Wednesday are criminally responsible for crimes committed by the rebels, including the mutilation of civilians, sexual violence and the use of child soldiers. The three also face charges in connection with rebel attacks on U.N. peacekeepers and aid workers.

The court says the trial has marked the first time that forced marriage has been prosecuted before an international criminal court as a crime against humanity.

Sesay, Kallon and Gbao were indicted in 2003 and their joint trial began in 2004. Closing arguments were heard in August and initially a judgment was expected in October, but no reason was given for the delay.

The rebels' founder and longtime leader -- Foday Sankoh, known as 'Pa' to his often drugged and drunken child fighters -- died of natural causes in U.N. custody in 2003. An indictment against a fifth battlefield commander, Sam Bockarie, also was withdrawn in 2003 due to his death.

Wednesday's verdicts are the last of the three Special Court trials to be held in Freetown.

The court's only unfinished business is with former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is accused of training and backing the Sierra Leonean rebels.

Taylor is being tried in a special session of the Sierra Leonean court in The Hague, Netherlands, for war crimes and crimes against humanity. His trial is being held outside of Freetown because of fears the case could trigger fresh violence and that Taylor might escape from the court jail in Sierra Leone.

Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp said Tuesday that the final prosecution witness was completed in the Taylor trial last month and that the defense might begin presenting its case as early as April. A verdict could be reached sometime within the first half of 2010, he said.

The court relies on voluntary contributions from governments, a process which Rapp said has been complicated by the global economic crisis. The court currently faces a shortfall of about $5 million, he said.

"We have to work very hard to convince them, find other states, or to try to get those states who have given us money in the past to increase or accelerate their contributions," he said.

"But we think this crisis will come in June or July, and that gives us three or four months to relieve it and certainly to show the world that we're doing great work, that the court has rendered these historic judgments in Sierra Leone," he added.

Associated Press Writer Krista Larson in Johannesburg contributed to this report.

From: Deborah Nelson
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009
To: richard.roth@turner.com
Subject: U.N.-sponsored Special Court of Sierra Leone to issue verdicts on Wednesday

Hello again, Richard -
Please let me know if you are turning a piece on the verdict and if I can help facilitate interviews with the principal players. (all details below) Naturally, I've also reached out to Bruce and Earl with regard to CNNI coverage.
Best,
Deborah Nelson
(CNN alumna 1993-2005)

From: Deborah Nelson
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009
To: bruce.conover@turner.com; Casey, Earl
Subject: Sierra Leone war crimes court to issue verdicts on Wednesday

Hello again, Bruce/Earl – I do hope you both are well. As you know the U.N.-sponsored Special Court of Sierra Leone will deliver its final verdict tomorrow. (details outlined below) Please let me know if you'd like to arrange an interview with any of the principal players - the Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp or Herman von Hebel and Binta Mansaray, the Registrar and Deputy Registrar of the Special Court, respectively. They are all in Freetown and will be available for remote interviews on Wednesday, or later in the week. And with the global financial crisis impacting the funding of the courts – (see AP/Reuters pieces attached) – this story has both a financial crisis as well as foreign policy angle.
Best,
Deborah Nelson
(202) 944-3374 office
(202) 321-9140 cell
(CNN alumna 1993-2005)

Background:

On Wednesday, February 25, the war crimes judgment of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) trial is expected to be rendered by The Special Court for Sierra Leone. This is the culmination of the three war crimes trials of the three main rebel groups – the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) - who all fought a failed ten-year war in Sierra Leone, starting in 1991 and ending in 2002. You may be familiar with the RUF as their activities have been depicted most recently in the movies *Blood Diamond* and *Lord of War* and the book *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah.

In early 2003, five alleged leaders of the former Revolutionary United Front were indicted separately on 18 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. The war which was led by the RUF is estimated to have cost the lives of 120,000 people. Accused leaders Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao face charges including some of the most brutal acts in recent history, including sexual slavery, terrorism, murder, rape, use of child soldiers, abductions and forced labor, looting and burning, and intentionally directing attacks against U.N. personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission. Sesay, Kallon and Gbao pleaded not guilty. The indictments against Foday Saybana Sankoh and Sam Bockarie were withdrawn on December 8, 2003 due to the deaths of the two accused.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone, set up jointly by the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations, is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone. This is the last of three special court trials held in Freetown. The only trial still ongoing before the Sierra Leone tribunal is the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor which has been moved to The Hague for security reasons. The Taylor trial is currently in the prosecution phase at The Hague, and some believe the RUF judgment could reflect the upcoming judgment in the Charles Taylor trial, as RUF is closely associated with Taylor.

Ultimately, it is the hope that the successful prosecution of all such war criminals will send a message that the international community - by supporting the courts and funding such judicial enterprises – will punish such crimes against humanity. And by delivering justice, some argue that this legacy of the court will serve as a catalyst for peace and as a vital part of the war on terror, and importantly signals that "the rule of law is more powerful than the rule of the gun."

As soon as I have the judgment on Wednesday, I will release it to you for your review. Please advise if you are interested in speaking with any of the following sources on their reaction to the judgment or on background:

- Stephen Rapp , The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone
- Herman von Hebel, The Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone
- Binta Mansaray, The Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

I will call you on Wednesday to answer any questions and schedule any interviews. However, if you are interested in scheduling in advance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks,
Deborah

Deborah Nelson
On behalf of the Special Court of Sierra Leone
(202) 944-3374 direct

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Associated Press Writer Krista Larson in Johannesburg contributed to this report.

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
Office of the Prosecutor

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 25 February 2009

Special Court Prosecutor Hails RUF Convictions

The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp, today welcomed the convictions of three leaders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

RUF leaders Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon were convicted on 16 counts and Augustine Gbao was convicted on 14 counts of an 18-count Indictment charging them with atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's civil war.

"Today's judgement recognizes the terrible crimes committed against the innocent people of Sierra Leone," said Rapp. "It respects the suffering of the multitude of victims who were mutilated or enslaved, who were murdered or raped, and who were rendered homeless or destitute. It does this in a review of evidence that concludes that these individual leaders were responsible for some of most serious crimes known to humankind."

"Significantly, the judges convicted each of the three of the war crime of 'acts of terrorism' against the civilian population," said Rapp. "This recognizes that their targets were not military bases or enemy soldiers but innocent men, women, and children. It means that these men chose to commit acts so horrible against persons so innocent in order to frighten the population into submission."

"The Court also convicted two of these men for the use of child soldiers – the employment of those under 15 in a force where they would be ordered to maim and to murder. Abducted from their families, brutalized if they resisted, furnished with drugs and guns, they were turned into tools of terror at a horrible cost to their victims and to themselves," said Rapp.

"This Court today for first time in world history convicted each of these individuals of 'forced marriage' as a separate "crime against humanity." In doing so, it recognizes the very deep and long lasting suffering inflicted upon women through conscription as 'bush wives' during the Sierra Leone conflict," said Rapp.

"Of great significance in the conflict zones of the world, this Court also for the first time in history convicted individuals of the specific war crime of 'attack on peacekeepers,'" added Rapp. "This recognizes that peacekeepers were targeted during the Sierra Leone conflict. It sends a message that may deter such attacks against the men and women who are protecting individuals, restoring security, and keeping the peace across the globe."

The Special Court has now delivered judgements against the Accused in all of its Freetown-based trials, with all eight Accused persons convicted. The case against former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, is ongoing in The Hague, where it was moved for security reasons. The Prosecution's last witness, its 91st, completed testimony at the end of January 2009.

However, while the Charles Taylor's trial is tremendously important to the maintenance of peace and stability in West Africa, the lack of financial support from the international community risks undermining the Court's capacity to compete its mandate.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone is based on voluntary contributions from interested states. Although its operations have regularly been threatened by financial problems, the difficulties that the Court now faces are unprecedented. A disruption in the Court's proceedings would seriously undermine the efforts of the international community to effectively implement the fight against impunity.

Following today's RUF judgement the parties will make submissions on sentencing, which is expected to be pronounced in March.

The final stage in the case will be the appeals phase. "We will closely examine today's judgement and decide whether and on what points to appeal," said Rapp.

* * *

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