

WORLD BRIEFS

UN DEATH TOLL RISES IN SIERRA LEONE

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (PANA) - The death toll among UN peacekeepers in Sierra Leone has risen to 12 with indications that six corpses freshly discovered are members of the force. Uncertainty had surrounded the identities of the corpses - although clad in UN peacekeepers' uniforms - because rebels of the Revolutionary United Front are said to usually wear outfits of their UN captives. But the UN's spokesman in Freetown, David Wimhurst, told PANA preliminary investigations indicate the corpses "fit the location and time frame when the same number of men were declared missing." He said following a May 6 RUF attack on U.N. soldiers in Regbere, about 80 kilometers outside Freetown, six UN soldiers were reported missing. They included four Zambians and two Nigerians, who were confirmed missing by their units. Wimhurst said forensic experts are needed to further confirm the identities of the corpses. Already, six UN peacekeepers, including three Nigerians and three Kenyans, are confirmed dead in separate incidents. Two died in an armored personnel carrier accident. Only three of these bodies have been recovered, Wimhurst said. Reggae was the scene of an ambush late last month (May) in which two journalists of Reuters and the Associated Press were killed along with four soldiers of the Sierra Leone army. Two other journalists were wounded in the ambush.

VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS LYING IDLE IN ZAMBIA

LUSAKA, Zambia (PANA) - About \$1.9 million under the Trade and Enterprise Support Facility of the Zambia Venture Capital Fund was lying idle for want of local entrepreneurs, its general manager, Alex Katon, told a press briefing here. He said only \$600 was used out of the 2.5 million dollars allocated to the project by the European Union for the past three years. The Trade and Enterprise Support Facility is an organization that offers loan investment in private sector businesses in most sectors of the economy. Katon said the current harsh economic environment has contributed to the negative attitude towards the facility, as people have not moved forward to start new business ventures. He reiterated the need for a lot more people to come forward and use the facility as the funds were intended to expand their businesses. Under the fund, a businessman is supposed to contribute 30 percent of the cost for the feasibility study, while 70 percent was to be funded by the Trade and Enterprise Support Facility, which can only be paid when a financier for the project is found and at no interest. He appealed to businessmen in the country to make use of the facility to develop their enterprises.

SWAZILAND RESPONDS TO U.S. ECONOMIC SANCTION THREAT

MBABANE, Swaziland (PANA) - Swazi Prime Minister Sibuso Dlamini has said that King Mswati III would sign the Industrial Relations Bill of 1998 once all stakeholders have added an input to its amendment. His statement was a response to a recent threat by the U.S. government that Swaziland could face punitive economic sanctions if the king continued to delay the signing of the bill. The bill aims to improve workers' welfare, including paving the way for strikes, which are still outlawed in the kingdom. On his return from China and Mauritius, the king had told journalists that Americans had no right to impose the bill on the Swazi nation. The envisaged sanctions would lead to Swaziland being dropped from the Generalized System of Preferences, a special status that allows developing countries to export their major products to the US at cheaper rates. Dlamini said the king would refer the bill back to parliament shortly to get some additional clauses, which he felt were not given proper attention by both the Senate and the House before the bill was passed. He assured the nation that the bill would be accorded the urgency it deserved. He, however, blamed progressive formations for misguiding the international community. "They have attempted to pressurize the International Labor Organization and the international community to impose sanctions on Swaziland. Of late they have used the issue of the Industrial Relations Bill 1998 for self-serving purposes," the prime minister said.

INTERNATIONAL

Rwanda tribunal jails broadcaster

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AP) - A U.N. tribunal for Rwanda's 1994 genocide sentenced a Belgian-born radio journalist last week to 12 years in prison for broadcasts that encouraged the slaughter.

Georges Henry Joseph Ruggiu, who is also an Italian citizen, was the only foreigner charged in the genocide. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda sentenced Ruggiu on two counts of publicly inciting people to commit genocide while employed at the private Radio Television Libre Des Mille Collines in Rwanda.

"You cockroaches must

know you are made of flesh. We won't let you kill. We will kill you," declared one typical commentary, broadcast in the weeks before the slaughter.

The tribunal said the two concurrent 12-year sentences will run from July 23, 1997, when Ruggiu was arrested in Mombasa, Kenya.

On Oct. 24, Ruggiu pleaded innocent to inciting Hutus to kill Tutsis. He changed his plea to guilty on May 15.

"I regret the events, and I have decided to assume the responsibility," Ruggiu then told the court. "I am guilty because of what I was di-

rectly doing."

More than 500,000 people, mostly minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus, were slain between April and July 1994 in a slaughter organized by elements of the extremist Hutu-dominated government.

Ordinary Rwandans organized as militia took part in the genocide, exhorted by Hutu extremists using broadcast media.

Tutsi-led rebels ended the genocide in July.

Ruggiu could have been jailed for life, but the court said it had considered his guilty plea and remorse in determining the sentence.

Ruggiu was the third genocide suspect to plead guilty before the tribunal. The others are Omar Sherushago and Jean Kabanda, who was interim prime minister during the genocide. Sherushago was jailed for 15 years and Kabanda was given a life sentence.

Created in November 1994 and given a 10-year run, the U.N. tribunal has convicted eight people and is holding another 43 suspected genocide leaders.

Independently, Rwanda is holding another 125,000 people on suspicion of varying degrees of participation in the genocide.

South Africa fighting crime against women

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) - While 50,000 rapes are reported to police each year in South Africa, women's groups say the real number is far higher - perhaps more than 30 times greater.

They say social attitudes discourage most women from reporting rapes and other violence, and even those who do come forward can be ignored.

South Africa is fighting an uphill battle against violence targeting women, said Mmabatho Ramgoshi, director of the National Network on Violence Against Women.

Since 1994, when the country held its first all-race

elections, politicians have passed laws protecting women and drafted policy documents entrenching women's rights. Yet not much has changed.

"The challenge that we all face in this country now is to implement all of these beautiful commissions, regulations and laws," said Patricia de Lille, an opposition member of Parliament and women's rights activist.

The Domestic Violence Act, which took effect in December, aims to protect women, the elderly and children from violence, even detailing how authorities should handle domestic violence

cases.

"It's a very good piece of legislation, but not all the mechanisms are in place to implement that," de Lille said.

Too few police officers have been trained about what the law entails, she said.

Barbara Holtmann, spokeswoman for the department of safety and security, said she understood the frustration of women's organizations, but said there are places where victims get good service.

Several government departments are cooperating to prevent violence against women and to support women who are victimized, and train-

ing programs have been started to teach police and other officials about being sensitive to women, Holtmann said.

But laws can only do so much.

"We have to get to a point in this nation where we reject criminal behavior," Holtmann said. "We have to comply with the law and not be complacent about criminal activity."

In rural areas, communities often shun women who report abuse to authorities, feeling it is something that should be handled within the family so a man's dignity is not harmed, Ramgoshi said.

Reports: Zulu-Party leader Themba Khoza dies of AIDS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) - Themba Khoza, a leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party who allegedly organized deadly attacks on ANC rivals in the 1990s, has died at age 41.

At the time of his death on Sunday, Khoza - a member of parliament - was awaiting trial on 19 charges, including attempted murder, inciting violence and gunrunning.

The charges stem from attacks by the IFP, which was clandestinely supported by the apartheid police, on African National Congress supporters during bloody factional fighting in the early 1990s.

Media reports said Khoza died of AIDS, falling victim to an epidemic across southern Africa. The IFP caucus relieved him of parliamentary duties before Easter to give him time to recover from deteriorating health. He was hospitalized often recently with infections and the flu.

IFP spokesman Rev. Musa Zondi said Khoza joined the party at probably the most

difficult time in South Africa's history.

"He never abandoned his constituency during these difficult years," Zondi said. "He fought for their survival and he provided the best possible leadership to them. He was not easily intimidated."

Thousands of people died in the undeclared war between the IFP and the ANC, which led the struggle against white rule, in the run-up to South Africa's first all-race elections in 1994.

In 1990, Khoza was acquitted on firearms violations after he allegedly led an attack on a workers' hostel where ANC sympathizers lived. Thirty people died.

The attempted murder charges stemmed from an attack on two African National Congress members in 1990 at Ermelo, east of Johannesburg. He also was implicated in alleged gunrunning on two occasions.

After the 1994 elections, Khoza served in a national committee that worked toward ending hostilities. He was elected to national par-

liament in the 1994 elections and was re-elected in the June 1999 election.

Khoza is survived by his wife, Sonosini, four sons and two daughters.

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