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:
Monday 17-Friday 21 March, 2003

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Today the people of Sierra Leone took back control of their lives and of their future. They have spoken as one voice, a voice that shouts “no more,” a voice that declares to the world “never again.”

The dark days of the rule of the gun are over. The bright shining light of the law burns back the shadows of impunity in this ravaged country.

As the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone, today I announce the following approved indictments against:

Foday Saybanah Sankoh, aka Popay, aka Papa aka Pa, Johnny Paul Koroma, aka JPK.

Sam Bockarie, aka Mosquito, aka Maskita, Issa Hassan Sesay, aka Issa Sesay, Alex Tamba Brima, aka Tamba Alex Brima, aka Gullit, Morris Kallon, aka Bilai Karim, and Sam Hing Norman; for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of international humanitarian law.

Specifically the crimes alleged within the indictments include murder, rape, extermination, acts of terror, enslavement, looting and burning, sexual slavery, conscription of children into an armed force, and attacks on UNAMSIL peacekeepers and humanitarian assistance workers, among others.

Indictees Sankoh, Sesay, Brima, Kallon, and Norman currently are in our custody.

I call upon the people of Sierra Leone and West Africa to turn over indictees Koroma and Bockarie. They are indicted war criminals with outstanding warrants for their arrest.

This is an historic day for Sierra Leone and West Africa. A just and sustainable peace looms on the horizon for all who move towards this new dawn.

The international criminal case continues. Further indictments will follow.

I will leave you with a quote by Robert Jackson, the Prosecutor at Nuremberg, quoting from his opening statement on 21 November 1945:

“We are able to do way with domestic tyranny and violence and aggression by those in power against the rights of their own people when we make all men answerable to the law.”

Thank you.
GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

Since the arrests effected by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on Monday the 10th March 2003, views have been expressed by some people, more particularly, in respect of a Cabinet Minister, Sam Hinga Norman.

It is therefore useful for a statement to be made for the purpose of clarifying issues relevant to the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone which effected those arrests.

It will be recalled that after due consideration of all the evidence, the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations concluded an agreement in 2001 under which a Special Court for Sierra Leone established with powers to try persons who bore the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed in that country, during the civil war for the period commencing 30th November 1996. That Agreement was ratified and enacted by the Sierra Leone Parliament and it became law in this country. After the passing of that Act the Special Court continued throughout the country for a period.

The Special Court has considered the performance of its functions and it now appears that it has investigated a number of persons in respect of the offences falling within its mandate. As a result of those investigations, the Special Court had ordered the arrest and detention of Mr. Sam Hinga Norman and others.

It must be stated that the Special Court as established by law, is required to act independently of Government or of any person or authority and it is not subject to the direction or control of Government or any person or authority. It acts on its own deliberate judgment.

It needs to be emphasized that the purpose for which the Special Court for Sierra Leone was establishment was to eradicate the culture of impunity and to implant the supremacy of the rule of law in this country. In doing so, the court need not only act independently but must act with impartiality and objectivity. The other purpose for the establishment of this court is to ensure that peace prevails in this country permanently, and this can happen only if, as a passage quoted by the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, "we are able to do work with tranquillity and without the violence and aggression by those in power against the rights of their own people and, only when we make all men answerable to the law."

Finally, it should be stated that the Special Court would have served its intended objective if any by the manner in which it carries out its mandate it is able to ensure that peace prevails in this country and that no individual or authority can ever again commit gross human rights violation against any citizen with impunity, whatever his/her status.

The Special Court must also be seen to be administering justice not selectively.

Although Government is not aware of the factual basis for the arrests of the individuals in question, however, the public is entitled to have confidence in the Special Court and its ability to dispense justice in a fair and objective manner.
Special Court Special

Foday Sankoh being carried into Court in a Wheel Chair

Issa Sesay being led into court

How it happened in Bonthe Island

By Kelvin Lewis

10:35 a.m. Foday Sankoh was carried in a wheel chair by three security personnel from the Prison next door into the refurbished Criminal Court room. Dressed in the faded green gown with the green hat, Sankoh which had earned him the name Rasta Sankoh by the Sierra Leonean press, looked more drier than ever. Sankoh seemed to almost deliberately bow his head as soon as he signed the court room. Shown to his right was his lawyer, one of the prominent lawyers of the left side, Sankoh insistently continued to bow his head as the sitting were announced and the Prosecution and Defence counsels announced their representations. There was one Sierra Leonean on the Prosecution team along with an American born Senior Trial Attorney James Johnson. On the Defense bench were three West African Couns. Page 2
How it happened March 15 in Bonthe

From Your Page

lawyers: Two Sierra Leonean (and one Gambian) who made it clear that they were temporarily holding brief for the accused persons to ensure that justice is served, that they were as yet not the substantive lawyers for the accused persons. The initial First Communion girl justice Benjamin Jasseh then addressed the court, adding all concerned must now be dealing strictly according to the rules and the agreement signed between the United Nations and the Sierra Leonean government. He stated that they were here "to do justice". He appealed for the rights of the accused to be respected. According to their rules they said "the guilty men in the hands of the executioner to be proved," noting that the functionaries in the security law is that the accused is deemed innocent until proven guilty. Justice Jasseh called the regular court to begin the first case. The judge informed the court that the sitting was only a one-day trial according to rule. The judge then asked, "Is the accused in court?" The registrar answered "Yes Please." Justice Jasseh then asked, "Can I talk to him?" All during this, Sankoh held his head fixing his steady glare on the ground and in a different world.

The judge looked at him again and called out "Mr. Sankoh! You are Mr. Foday Sankoh also known as Papa aka Papa Pa." Hearing the name, Justice Jasseh said "Let me put the quotation to the third time. Can you look up and face me this way can you look up?" When Sankoh continued to look downward, Justice Jasseh said "The court is wondering whether he is hearing the court at all." He continued "Are you Mr. Foday Sankoh also known as Papa aka Papa Pa, also known as Papa?" The man then said that he is not Mr. Foday Sankoh. At this point, Sankoh very slowly raised his left hand and scratched his dirty grey mop of Rastafarian locks on his head. "Being this movement justice law was encouraged and he said "I see you running your fingers yet I'm coming to you." When he was asked about Sankoh's own "to stretch his hand. Justice Jasseh turned to the defense counsel and asked to "Will your client does not have the identity clearly from the court?" The Government lawyer then said that the judge that she was requesting an identification. He had not been given an identification card that there was a letter to the effect because even when she asked to the prison Sankoh sentences to make difficult understanding the defendant. After hearing from the prosecution who did not appear, Judge Jasseh agreed that there seems to be a confusion on both sides for a medical examination. He then asked the defendant what type of examination they are requesting. Sankoh's temporary counsel then said that he was requesting a psychiatric and psychiatric examination. Judge Jasseh asked him about the matter indicating that the prosecution demand the very sight cannot be anything to do with anything that he had done. "What is this?" the next person with Sankoh was brought in handcuffed, wearing a white jumper which seemed like his jail clothes. As he approached the court he could be seen mumbling, which he stopped on entering like the other room. His face looked ramified like someone who had been stared off sleep for long time. Several times he seemed to have a sleep in the ear that he had to be provided. Before the oath Judge Jasseh shared a joke with the crowded court, which they said that they were in Kameroun. He told the interpreter that "you should interpret faithfully, not like the Sierra Leonean interpreters to the colonial masters." After the brief assessment the interpreter a Christian took the oath and stepped short of saying "to help me God." Justice Jasseh apparently a stickler for detail demanded "you should end by saying "with God I. You better take it again, that is the final time." With a final composition the judge addressed the court that the accused is not guilty of the charges. Justice Jasseh informed the court that the sitting was only a one-day trial according to rule. The judge then asked, "Is the accused in court?" The registrar answered "Yes Please." Justice Jasseh then asked, "Can I talk to him?" All during this, Sankoh held his head fixing his steady glare on the ground and in a different world.
President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has emphasised that the arrest of individuals by the Special Court is outside his domain, furthermore it is not proper for people in authority to meddle with the operations of courts.

On the issue of Klinga Norman, one of the arrested people by the Special Court, President Kabbah said that he had earlier held discussions with Chief Klinga Norman to look at the possibility that a member of the CDF could be implicated in the operations of the Special Court.

But Chief Klinga Norman, the head of the Kamajors, had assured both President Kabbah and Vice President Berewa that nobody in the CDF committed deliberate and serious atrocities.

President Kabbah said both Vice President Berewa and himself assured Chief Klinga Norman that if for some reason any member of the CDF who fought to restore democracy was implicated, the President and the Vice President would provide a first class lawyer to defend such an accused.

The President said Chief Klinga Norman went home very satisfied that the President and Vice-President had not abandoned the CDF.

In any case, according to the rules of the Special Court, each accused would be provided with an excellent lawyer. "The rumour that the President is meddling with the judicial process is unfounded," said for the arrest of Chief Klinga Norman and that of Issa Sesay who cooperated in helping to disarm the RUF rebels, but the law is the law."

The following is the statement made by the Sierra Leone Government.

Since the arrests effected by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on Monday the 10th of March, 2003, views have been expressed by some people, more particularly, in respect of a Cabinet Minister, Sam Klinga Norman.

It is therefore useful for a statement to be made for the purpose of clarifying issues relevant to the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone which effected those arrests.

It will be recalled that after due sensitization of the citizenry for the need to bring to an end the culture of impunity, the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations concluded an agreement in 2001 under which a Special Court for Sierra Leone was established with powers to try persons who bear the greatest responsibility, for the atrocities committed in this country during the civil war for the period commencing 30th November 1996.

That Agreement was ratified and enacted by the Sierra Leone Parliament and it thus became law in this country. After the passage of that Act, the sensitization continued throughout the country for a long period. The Special Court has commenced the performance of its functions and it now appears that it has investigated a number of persons in respect of the offences falling within its mandate. It is as a result of those investigations that the Special Court had ordered the arrest and detention of Mr. Sam Klinga Norman and others.

It must be stated that the Special Court is established by law is required to act independently of Government or of any person of authority and it is not subject to the direction or control of Government or any person or authority. It acts on its own deliberate judgement.

It needs to be emphasized that the purpose for which the Special Court for Sierra Leone was established was to eradicate the culture of impunity and to implant the supremacy of the rule of law in this country. In doing so, the court must not only act indiscriminately but must also appear manifestly to be doing so. The other purpose for the establishment of this court is to ensure that peace prevails in this country permanently and that can happen only if, in a passage quoted by the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, "we are able to do away with domestic tyranny and violence and aggression by those in power against the right of their own people and only when we make all men answerable to the law."

Finally, it should be stated that the Special Court would have served its intended objective if by the manner in which it carries out its mandate it is able to ensure that peace prevails in this country and that no individual or authority can ever again commit gross human rights violation against any citizen with impunity, whatever his/her status.

The Special Court must also be seen to be administering selective justice. Although Government is not aware of the factual basis for the arrests of the individuals in question, however, the public is entitled to have confidence in the Special Court and in its ability to dispense justice in a fair and objective manner.
"DON'T PANIC ABOUT SPECIAL COURT" - FILLIE FABOE

By Saffa Moriba

The arrest of the high profile Government Minister Hinga Norman, and top RUF leaders on Monday, sent waves of fear to the provincial towns of Bo, Kenema and Makeni.

The tension that started to gather momentum caused the Resident Minister East to address a crowd of ex-combatants from Kenema, Kono and Kailahun.

Our Eastern Province reporter, Saffa Moriba reported that the Resident Minister East, Sahr Randolph Fillie Faboe on Wednesday addressed all stakeholders in the peace process not to panic in the wake of the arrest of Sam Hinga Norman, Foday S.

Sankoh and others.

Mr. Fillie Faboe explained that the Monday's arrests were effected by the Special Court and that the SLPP was democratic enough to protect innocent citizens.

Mr. Fillie Faboe also said to the gathering drawn from residents in Kenema, Kono and Kailahun, that the government would continue to seek the welfare of the people.

The Resident Minister commended the Regional Police Commander, East, Mr. V.A.I. Bangura for expediting police administration that has beefed up the security of the region.

Mr. Fillie Faboe said that the people of the East should continue to take into consideration Government's concern and that the majority of the people in the East support the Government and the Special Court.

Mr. Fillie Faboe reiterated that the people should not panic about the ongoing Special Court arrests, as the Government continue to seek the welfare of innocent people.
International Warrant of Arrest For 20

As the Special Court of Sierra Leone sorts out individuals who are responsible for the commission of serious war crimes in Sierra Leone during the course of the 10-year fratricidal war, it is in the process of preparing international warrants of arrest for suspects that are currently out of touch. Those fingered for prosecution by the Special Court for the atrocious roles they played during the war in Sierra Leone are:

- President Charles Taylor of Liberia
- President Blaise Campaore of Burkina Faso
- President Muammar Gaddafi of Libya
- Vice-President Abu Salam Ahmed Jadu of Libya
- General Ibrahim Bah (BUC of the Gambia)
- Colonel Joseph Gbagbo Zuarungu and his allies -Sanan Coulibaly, Miriam Sidikie Sillah (Liberia)

By The Policy’s Investigative Team

Adviser Sir Quessam Baraka (Burkina Faso), Alexis Zvezdoz (Ukraine), Igor Tarasyuk (Ukraine), Olen Golley (Croatia), former junior leader Johnny Paul Kormoa (Sierra Leone), Mike Lamin (Senegal), Paul Thomas (Belgium), Eddie Kanneh (Liberia), Sam Boakye (Liberia), and Dennis Manga (Libya)

President Charles Taylor, Blaise Campaore, and Muammar Gaddafi provided training, personnel, arms and ammunition for the Revolutionary United Front. Charles Taylor and Campaore also received blood diamonds from the RUF in return for men and arms. Between 1996 and 1998, Liberia exported 6 million carats of diamonds. Every year, they were all Sierra Leonean diamonds!

Gaddafi provided the initial training for RUF rebels in 1998. In August of that year, many disgruntled Sierra Leoneans, led by Cpl. Eddie Sankoh, were trained in the Libyan town of Kumba.

General Ibrahim Bah of the BUC (Liberia) and Sam Boakye (of the APC and RUF) are currently coordinating international efforts. However, President Charles Taylor of Liberia and Gbagbo Zuarungu used to supply Ukrainian arms to the RUF in Sierra Leone. General Ibrahim Bah of Burkina Faso, Omer Galleh of Croatia and Colonel Komba Francis of the Gambia were doing the international liaison work for the RUF. Alexis Zvezdoz and Igor Tarasyuk of Ukraine were APC mercenaries.

The Policy
Monday, March 17, 2003
Press Statement

Wednesday, 12th March 2003

Since the arrest effected by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on Monday the 10th of March 2003, views have been expressed by some people, more particularly, in respect of a Cabinet Minister, Sam Mangs Norman. It is therefore useful for a statement to be made for the purpose of clarifying issues relevant to the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone which effected those arrests.

It will be recalled that after due sensitisation of the citizenry for the need to bring to an end the culture of impunity, the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations concluded an Agreement in 2001 under which a Special Court for Sierra Leone was established with powers to try persons who bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed in this country during the civil war for the period commencing 30th November 1996. That Agreement was ratified and enacted by the Sierra Leone Parliament and it thus became law in this country. After the passage of that Act, the sensitisation continued throughout the country for a long period.

The Special Court has commenced the performance of its functions and it now appears that it has investigated a number of persons in respect of the offences falling within its mandate. It is as a result of those investigations that the Special Court had ordered the arrest and detention of Mr. Sam Mangs Norman and others.

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The Special Court must also be seen not to be administering selective justice. Although Government is not aware of the factual basis for the arrest of the individuals in question, however, the public is entitled to have confidence in the Special Court and in its ability to dispense justice in a fair and objective manner.
Omrie Golley doesn’t fear Special Court

Speaking to Concord Times three days after he arrived in town, he said, “My conscience is clear and I will continue to help my people to have lasting peace and development.”

A lawyer by profession, Golley stressed, “It is incumbent upon all of us to support the Special Court,” and continued, “I continue to be most interested in having my people learn the real truth of this war and the Special Court will assist in achieving this objective.”

For him, “those who genuine have not committed war crimes and crimes against humanity have nothing to fear.”

Golley says he is in town to formally launch his National Reconstruction Foundation and came in exactly the same day when the Special Court Prosecutor, David Crane was handing in his first list of indictments.

He maintained that during the past ten years, he devoted himself to achieving peace and the people supported the role he played.

Golley already has three pilot programmes in Freetown, Makeni and Kenema for his project.

“From start, two hundred people, mainly jobless youths, ex-combatants of RUF and Civil Defence Force will benefit from the programme,” Golley said.
Special Commentary

Where is the line, Mr. Prosecutor?

BY AUGUSTINE BRECKER

The Prosecutor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone, David Crane has well been doing a very good job, trying to understand our war and identify those responsible for grievous crimes committed during our decades-long civil conflict.

The indictments and subsequent arrests last week of alleged prominent suspects, including the former Deputy Defence Minister and currently Minister of Defence Affairs, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, however came as a big surprise to almost all who have been following the court's progress since its inception.

Even the court's personnel have not yet been completely, along with the prisoners for those who may be found guilty and must serve a prison term, despite the Prosecutor's conviction that all his indictments "will never see the light of freedom again."

The multi-nations of almost all the new in court and also those still at large, especially of the Revolutionary United Front leader, Foday Sankoh and members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and RUF, were very much expected. If that were otherwise, however, that Chief Sam Hinga Norman certainly gives cause for another thought, and leads to the conclusion of clearly identifying the victim and perpetuators in a war that has characterized by a level of savagery and impunity not seen in the history of mankind.

There have certainly been atrocities before in history, like the Second World War, Rwanda, and Liberia, but that committed here, especially to children, the aged and women is beyond comprehension and requires the special attention accorded it by the United Nations.

Many of us were however of the view that with the accumulated knowledge and experience of the Prosecutor and his team of investigators, they would come up with a clear and concise line between the victims and perpetrators of our war in the choice of indictors.

What we have seen thus far is a complete overlook of the nature of the majority of the people of this territiorial country, the people who were not against the very conviction that the Prosecutor claims to be seeking to prosecute.

The indictments so far are like Mr. Crane is trying to appeal to everyone, with very little regard for the facts or realities of the matter.

My dear Mr. Crane, is to redirect you, like every other nation or international official, whenever you tend to be going away on issues that have to do with our lives.

A clear line between victims and perpetrators is indeed hard to draw, but when it is a matter of life and death every effort should be made by the Prosecutor to ensure that victim are not further victimized by him, turning them into perpetrators.

How did Mr. Crane come about his conclusions that Chief Hinga Norman, former leader of the pro-government Kamajors unit was to face a perpetrator of war crimes and hence indicible, when the requisite nation knows that the Kamajors unit which he led met legal constraints and established by the victims of the RUF and others fighting for supremacy of the state and its democratic institutions.

In other words how did Mr. Crane arrive at the point where Chief Norman became a perpetrator and not a victim?

All through the war, Kamajors never tried to take power for themselves, like the RUF and AFRC were determined to, and which they still actively desire, but the maintenance of the legitimate government, democratically elected, and the defence of the innocent and defenseless people of this country.

The Chief has always had means, especially since the establishment of the militias, which became the only stumbling block in the way of the rebels and rogue soldiers' desire to control the country.

But his enemies are those who are bent on disrupting the peaceful democratic system that has already all been眼皮ing, and we are not expected to expect some people want me to look up for.

Does Mr. Crane know that without the sacrifices and determination of people like Chief Hinga Norman to stop the RUF in their tracks, there would have been no Special Court to talk about?

And does the Prosecutor know that the Kamajors which he led were in fact assigned to the current President and government, and were also active to the early deliberations during the war?

Does he know whether the militia has actually been disbanded, or whether the President has also actually severed all relations with them?

The facts of the matter is that Kamajors are a traditional fighting and hunting force that is firmly organized and lack any special characteristics, except the general determination to defend themselves and their people from attacks by the rebels and renegade soldiers.

There is no reasonable way in which the Chief could be found guilty of war crimes without implicating the President, who has always been at the head of all operations and deliberations.

The only conclusion is that they did what they did in defence of the state, legitimate government, and the people of this country, the Chief of which persist is made.

Mr. Crane must be very careful not to fall into our traps and even use this tool to look up on.
Crane: No hiding place for Maskita, JP

Special Court Chief Prosecutor David Crane says the arrangements of Foday Sankoh and Issa Sesay for war crimes hearings "should show the Sierra Leonean people that no one is above the law.

Cranes has also renewed calls for fugitive ex-APRC junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma and former RUF field commander Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie to turn themselves in. "There is nowhere to hide," he warns, adding: "Warrants have been put out for their arrest. Koroma and Bockarie should surrender and face the numerous serious charges against them."

The arraignment of Morris Kallon and Alex Tamba Brima also took place Monday, yesterday in Bonohe. Their charges were read in Krio. Crane has rejected allegations that Interior minister Hinga Norman was maltreated. He says Norman was treated in accordance with international standards.

Foday Sankoh, in Saturday's trial did not look sane and healthy. Sankoh's Gambian defence lawyer had to ask that the rebel leader be given a full psychiatric and medical examination. Judge Itoe agreed. "The court is taken aback and wonders whether he is hearing the court at all," Itoe was quoted as saying.

On Saturday also, Issa Hassan Sesay was arraigned before Judge Itoe on 17 charges including murder, rape, extermination, acts of terror, sexual slavery, conscription of children into an armed force and attacks on U.N. peacekeepers, pleaded not guilty on all counts. "I do understand all the charges read against me," Issa Sesay told the judge.

According to a court statement, the hearings will continue at Bonohe while a permanent court building in Freetown is under construction. The court is expected to be ready for trials by September.
The Pool
Tuesday, 18 March 2003

COMMENTS
By Sarah Komana

When the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) issued his statement on 10 March 2003, he identified the role of the court as "to ensure justice and peace for all people who have suffered as a result of the conflict in Sierra Leone". This was echoed in the statement by the President of the SCSL, Vinod Suri, who said "the Special Court is a body of people, not a court of law, but a body that serves the interests of the people of Sierra Leone".

The Special Court’s starting indictments

The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) was established by the United Nations Security Council in 2002 to try individuals responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international law committed in Sierra Leone. The SCSL is based on the principle of "universal jurisdiction", which allows states to prosecute individuals for certain crimes, regardless of where the crimes were committed.

The SCSL has issued a number of indictments against alleged perpetrators of war crimes in Sierra Leone. These include indictees from both the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces of Sierra Leone (AFRC), as well as suspected leaders of the National Democratic Party (NDP) and the Sierra Leone Revolutionary Party (SLRP).

The SCSL has received a number of challenges to its jurisdiction, including appeals to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). However, the SCSL has continued to issue indictments and to prepare for its eventual opening.

In conclusion, the SCSL is a significant step forward in the pursuit of justice for those affected by the conflict in Sierra Leone. By establishing a court with the power to try individuals for serious violations of international law, the SCSL provides a mechanism for accountability and justice.

The success of the SCSL will depend on the willingness of the international community to support it, and on the cooperation of the governments of Sierra Leone and other countries involved in the conflict. The SCSL also faces challenges in terms of resource constraints, and the need to ensure that its work is transparent and fair.

The SCSL is an important step in the process of reconciliation and healing in Sierra Leone, and it is hoped that its work will contribute to the establishment of a peaceful and stable future for the country.
Court jittery over trial... Opposition mounts on Special Court

Miles. South
Liberia have
publicly called
the holding of the
trials of alleged
members of the
Boucher regime
in this country
unfair. The case
involves 10 other
suspects who are
accused of war
crimes in the
province.

The government
called for
transparency in
the conduct of
the trials. The Civil
society activist, Charles
Samuel, who was former
civil relations officer of
the government,
said the trials are
important because they
will help bring justice
to the victims of war.

The trials are
expected to begin
next week.

The accused
persons include
Sankoh, a
former
Liberal Party
leader,
who is
accused of
crimes against
humanity.

Some big guns to war criminals
who fled from the country.

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Will Norman Indict Kabbash?

By David Tom-Barysh

Editor and Human rights activist Paul Kagama left the
PTI's 95th Congress in Kasese last month. It was
reported that the Special Court for Sierra Leone had
indicted and arrested Kabbash's former Ministe-
rian, trade minister, Kabbash, for

exchange. In the meantime, he was

The two men did not meet at the
gate of the Kasese prison on
Tuesday, 18 March 2003. Despite
their claims of the newly exchanged persons. Twenty
four hours later, considering the security nature of
Kabbash, the Special Court government allegedly
issued a press release, re-

maining silent about the Special Court. In his
release, it was revealed that the Special Court was
unwilling to comment on the

The two men, one of whom is
Kabbash, were reportedly unharmed and the

exchange was not

sight. He has not been seen since.

The Kabbash issue came to

The Special Court was initially

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Special Court
Officials Warned

A spokesman for Sierra Leone's fractured former RUF rebel movement said past Thursday that the group had no official statement on the indictment of four of its senior members for war crimes because its leaders had not yet met. RUF leader Foday Sankoh and interim leader Issa Sesay, together with ex-military Commander Morris Kallon, were arrested, taken into custody and forced to appear before the Special Court. The spokesman also confirmed that former battlefield commander Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie fled the country in December 1999 and is being sought under an international arrest warrant. "I have not seen the others as yet," RUF Party Public Relations Officer Eldred Collins told the Sierra Leone Web. "The arrests were surprising to everybody."
NO WHERE TO HIDE

As Special Court Drops first bomb

It is now crystal clear that the purpose and intentions of Special Court is not something anybody should under-
estimate after it took the whole nation by surprise in
arresting key players who are responsible for the worst
atrocities committed in the decade long way.

It would be recalled that, while the special court was
putting its house in order, many were of the view that the
special court is not going to succeed as its integrity by
then was totally doubtful, even though when Prosecutor
Crane had been reiterating that the special court is
completely independent and will have to prosecute
whosoever happens to be a victim.

What is more interesting in this arrest is that the RUF
had long been agitating for neutral court because they felt
that the apportion of crimes against atrocities should not
squarely shifted to them and that the Civil Defense Force must
also share equal responsibilities as far as the decade long
way is concerned. About some months ago the special court
brought in the service of Biologist who were able to perform
some DNA test country wide as they did in other part of the
world. In that test they were able to disclose that most mass
g. ares consists persons buried as a result of bombs and
other related killings by either CDF, Rebel or Armed Forces.
AS SPECIAL COURT BITES DEEPER

SLPP TEN MAN COMMITTEE VANISHED

Following the initial appointment of four members of the Special Court of Sierra Leone for war crimes and crimes against humanity last Saturday, March 15, 2003, many concerned citizens have started petitioning renovations at the ten-man Special Committee that was set up to investigate the allegations made by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

The ten-man Special Committee was also expected to examine the allegations of human rights violations and war crimes made by former President John Sahr Koroma.

President Kabbah has received assurances from the US government that it will support the Special Court in its efforts to bring to justice those responsible for war crimes.

The Special Court was established by the UN Security Council to try those accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international law.

The court will try those accused of human rights violations, war crimes, and other serious violations of international law.

The court is currently housed in the former presidential palace in Freetown and is expected to begin trials in July 2003.

African Champion

Wednesday, March 19, 2003
Gibril Massaquoi, former spokesperson for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) sold out the RUF and the AFRC to a top government official.

According to sources the RUF self-styled Brig. Gibril Massaquoi was deceived by a highly placed individual close to the seat of power to supply relevant information to government on the atrocities committed by the RUF and the AFRC. The source further revealed that Gibril Massaquoi was offered a huge sum of money to write a book on the RUF. The book according to sources was to chronicle the atrocities of the RUF including the in-fighting within the organisation.

Cash strapped and finding it difficult to survive, Massaquoi accepted the offer, and went ahead to write the book and later gave it to the official in question who is believed to have handed the manuscript to the Special Court. Massaquoi who was expecting a lump sum from government was only fortunate to receive some cash.
Aftermath of Special Arrest,
Kabbah Change
Security at State Lodge

Following the arrest and detention of Internal Affairs Minister, Chief Hinga Norman, and four others a week ago by Special Court Prosecutor David Crane, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, has with immediate effect, changed the entire security team at State Lodge, save for the Chief Security Officer (CSO).

According to a State Lodge source, the president has also ceased unofficial visits of ministers and party stalwarts to State Lodge, with the exception of the CSO and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Momolu Koroma.

Our source maintained that this latest Presidential order could not be unrelated to persistent calls from mostly Cabinet Ministers and party stalwarts, in the wake of the Special Court indictments and arrest of five persons, especially the Interior Minister, Chief Hinga Norman. The source went on to state that the arrest of the government minister has left a psychological blow on the psyche of President Kabbah, who, the source continued, has been bombarded with questions of betrayal ever since the Spec.

Cont'd Page
solicit their assistance by referring to them as his clients. Count Motuba out!

How could Sierra Leoneans be your client when you don’t listen, interact or even afford them the opportunity to see the transparent side of your work?

The UN referred to the court as “Special”, because the vice president of the court is to be a Sierra Leonean and that besides, the court is mandated to sit in this country.

When you barr local journalists from covering the proceedings, how then would you want our people to know exactly what is happening, behind those thick cement walls.

It is unfortunate the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists failed to step in this matter, to call on its members to give a complete news blackout to the court’s proceedings.

Motuba believes the whole process of keeping local journalists out is utter nonsense. In fact, those in the diaspora would prefer to rely on the local newspaper reports than the vetted propaganda stuff the court would put out there on its website.

You better move the Special Court from here if our people are not going to be afforded the opportunity to know exactly what is happening.

Lonta! Motuba is always In His Corner To When our Appetite.
"No one is above the Law" – Crane

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court David Crane has said in Freetown that Chief Norman was not treated badly contrary to reports. Speaking at a press conference Tuesday David Crane said “the indictee Norman ... was treated with respect, and arrested in accordance with international standards.” He went on “there was no mistreatment or abuse of that gentleman.” The Special Court prosecutor reiterated that “all of these arrests demonstrate that no one is above the law, regardless of their power, stature, or wealth.” It must be seen he said “that justice is open, impartial and fair.” On the question of why Hinga Norman’s trial was held behind closed doors, the Registrar Robin Vincent said “in the Sierra Leonean society he (Norman) is a high profile man distinguished and respectable man who has a huge following.”

Contd. Page 2

From Front Page went on “it was largely for those reasons that we felt that in the interest of all concerned, not least his fair trial, that we didn’t allow the possibility that any well meaning but otherwise misguided followers felt that they should try and shorten the trial process.”
Kitchen Talk

SLPeePee Talks On Special Court

A release from the totally useless and alaki SLPeePee government has said it really regrets the setting up of the Special Court to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the senseless rebel war. The totally useless and good-for-nothing Tokpol party has said that although it now regrets the establishment of the Special Court, it has found it almost impossible and of course ashamed to condemn it now, considering the fact that the Court was established on the invitation of the president and people of this country.

The Tokpol party wants it to be known that they never knew the nature of the Special Court. They never knew that it will have anything to do with government officials but only the HUP and that is why they were unable to come out with a clear position on the arrest and subsequent detention of Hinga Norman.

"Nar dat mek we press release pan dat issue deh nor able say na'nin pass bigful business", the release went on adding: "not that although some of us within the SLPeePee are happy about Norman's arrest considering the fact that he didn't support Agba Kabbay in the Tokpol convention, we are worried because this was the man who sacrificed a lot to defend this nation only to be paid back in bad coin".

Meanwhile, an official of the alaki Tokpol party has strongly reacted to yesterday's report in the local press in which the wife of Hinga Norman accused both the president and his party as ungrateful.

The official said: "dis woman nor understand, es want mek dem see we, supposein da man deh go call we name, nar di Special Court. Bo duya mek ar nor see trouble ein go buy yam".
Omrie Golley, who previously worked for the disbanded Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in the 1990s, has recently agreed to serve on a UN special court. He is reported to be afraid of standing trial before the Special Court, despite new reports of his current whereabouts.

Golley is under current investigation by the United Nations Security Council for his alleged involvement in the RUF's wartime atrocities.

The RUF, which has been designated a terrorist organization by the United Nations, has been involved in widespread human rights abuses and war crimes. Golley is accused of being involved in the group's activities.

Golley is currently believed to be in Sierra Leone, where the RUF is active. He is reportedly under UNAMIRI (United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone) protection.

The exclusive report reveals that Golley is being held at the UNAMIL headquarters in Freetown. He is feared to be the target of serious threats from both the RUF and rival factions within the UN mission.

The report also mentions that Golley is being shielded by a UNAMIRI-ordered ceasefire. The Special Court is reportedly preparing to issue an arrest warrant for Golley.

The Special Court is a war crimes tribunal established by the United Nations to try individuals responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law in Sierra Leone. The court is currently investigating over 200 cases.

Golley's arrest is expected to be the first major development in the Special Court's proceedings. The court has received over 400 cases, but only a handful have been publicly announced.
Special Commentary

Vice President

Berewa, Judicial Reforms!

One thing the Special Court for Sierra Leone has indubitably impressed in the minds of Sierra Leoneans, particularly with the arrest of Internal Affairs Minister, Sam Hinga Norman, is that of impartiality of the law and equality before it.

The apparent uninfluenced relationship between the Special Court and this government should be a hallmark for our judiciary and that of our government. That the culture of hithered dispensation of justice in the Sierra Leone justice system continues into the advanced stages of our democracy is not pleasing at all.

What we expect from government, as often pronounced by Vice President Solomon Berewa, that the age of impunity is over, is the actualization of the rule of law for the benefit of all. Our democracy should develop alongside with its democratic institutions. The judiciary is the bulwark of this democracy; this cannot be over-emphasized.

For the time being, however, which we believe we should enjoy with justice.

At a recent conference in Botswana, Vice President Berewa explained his government’s adherence to the rule of law and the inadmissibility of all to enjoy from it. This position, this medium believes, has not changed since.

One thing we can still not understand is how the Master Registrar’s office can hold on an appellant’s court verdict transcript for six months, whilst that convicted person finishes his jail term in prison. If this is not miscarriage of justice, then we wonder what is more. Cases of such judicial hold-ups of pertinent files up to today in Sierra Leone have irreparably hindered our justice delivery system.

It is hoped that Vice President Berewa himself, a former trial lawyer and Attorney General, should now embark on a Judicial Reform, in a way akin to what the Special Court for Sierra Leone has mapped out for us.
Special Indictment

The ramifications which developed thereby brought in new and essentially dangerous players whom the Special Court should call for investigations.

Sanioho and some of his generals have been arrested save for his war director Sam Mosquito Bockarie.

Sam Hinga Norman, until his arrest was the Minister of Internal Affairs and formerly deputy Defence Minister during the war is also one of the indicted big names. Norman who was regarded by SLPP supporters as the hero of the war was the head of a pro government militia group.

Literally, the war has finished and the guns burnt but another war is certainly uphill the war against impunity. What does this mean?

During the war, the nation was convulsed with violations of International humanitarian law war crimes and crimes against humanity.

By Article IX of the Lome Peace Ratification Act 1999, a pardon was provided which granted a blanket amnesty for everything done by everyone during the war. However, in spite of this provision and following a United Nations resolution the Special Court for Sierra Leone was born upon which duty the Australian Geoffrey Robinson presided. International law does not make any provision for amnesty for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. The duty is to dispense justice and this Sierra Leonians must accept.
The Special Court Arrests: Text & Context

The Special Court is expected to return to its original judicial function after a successful resolution of the current trial. In the meantime, the court has been conducting pre-trial proceedings for several defendants. The hearing is currently underway, with the proceedings expected to continue for several months. The case involves allegations of widespread human rights violations committed during the conflict. The court has jurisdiction over crimes committed by the parties to the conflict and has the authority to prosecute individuals responsible for such violations.

Crime And Punishment

The Special Court has jurisdiction over crimes committed during the conflict, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The court aims to deliver justice to victims of these crimes and to contribute to the prevention of similar atrocities in the future. The court's establishment has been controversial, with some arguing that it is necessary for the prosecution of war crimes, while others argue that it is a luxury the country cannot afford.

The Americans

The Special Court is widely seen as a symbol of hope for justice and accountability. It has the potential to bring closure to victims of atrocities committed during the conflict. The court's establishment was supported by a coalition of US and European countries, with the United States providing significant financial and technical assistance.

The Arguments

Despite the Special Court's progress, there are still concerns about its effectiveness. Critics argue that the court's jurisdiction is limited, and that it cannot address all cases of human rights violations. There are also concerns about the adequacy of resources and the capacity of the court to deliver justice. Some argue that the court has not achieved the level of accountability and justice that was hoped for.

Between Text and Context

The Special Court is a tool for the reconstruction of a failed state, with the aim of promoting peace and stability. The court has the potential to play a crucial role in restoring trust and confidence in the justice system. The Special Court's establishment is a testament to the international community's commitment to accountability and human rights.

Crime And Punishment

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Special Court's David Crane Explodes...

'We Mean Business'

The indictment of seven people for war crimes, including a government minister and leaders of the former, as well as those of the Revolutionary United Front, signals "we mean business," said the Special Court's Chief Prosecutor, according to a news agency. "The fact that victims can see someone [sentenced] before the court is justice," David Crane said. He added that the court was still working to identify those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes committed in Sierra Leone, wherever inside or outside the country. "As long as it falls within the mandate of the court...I can go anywhere, reach out, and get them," he said.

"This case is far bigger than Sierra Leone. There is clear evidence of regional and international involvement - in terms of funding, political backing and military support," he said. "While Crane would not comment on individual cases or on future indictments, charges leveled against rebel leaders alleged they acted in concert with Liberian President Charles Taylor at all relevant times." Fuelling speculation that the Liberian leader could himself be a target of future indictments, Crane wouldn't say, "We haven't followed the beat of any one. We are looking at everything and everyone."

"Liberia is unshielded from the AFRIC and their international associates have come together in what we call a joint criminal enterprise," he said. "Sierra Leone was the diamond bonanza. The whole conflict was about diamonds," he added. "How did the rebels keep the war going for such a long time? They traded loans for diamonds without diamonds, they wouldn't have had the guns and there wouldn't have been a decade-long war."
A spokesman for Sierra Leone's fractured former RUF rebel movement said past Thursday that the group had no official statement on the indictment of four of its senior members for war crimes because its leaders had not yet met. RUF leader Foday Sankoh and interim leader Issa Sesay, together with ex-military Commander Morris Kallon, were arrested, taken into custody and forced to appear before the Special Court. The spokesman also confirmed that former battlefield commander Sam "Mosquito" Borderick fled the country in December 1999 and is being sought under an international arrest warrant. "I have not seen the others as yet," RUF Party Public Relations Officer Eldred Collins told the Sierra Leone Web. "The arrests were surprising to everybody."

"The RUF Party has been without a leader since the resignation of Palo Bangura as secretary-general last July. Collins said that, even before the May 2002 elections there had been leadership problems. "Before the elections there was no convention where these executive positions are supposed to be voted in by delegation," he said. "It was just an interim leadership that was there and we have no had any convention." Among the rank and file, the former rebel movement had begun to dissolve, with many of the group's combatants supporting other political parties in the election.
THE ATTENTION of this press has repeatedly been drawn to an announcement believed to emanate from the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, according to sources, says the Special Court promises to impose heavy fines to the tune of thousands of dollars or several years' imprisonment on any journalist who reports something contrary to what the Court is doing.

VIEWING SUCH statement critically, we feel morally bound to bring to the attention of those dealing with the issues of Special Court that the press in this country has been doing very well even before the coming of any Special Court.

IT WILL therefore be totally unacceptable, particularly with this press, if the authorities of this so-called Special Court make any attempt to shape the method of handling news in with regards to its proceedings.

WHILE WE cannot say with certainty that the press has been perfect in all its coverage, there is however the established fact that nothing can go right in this country, and many others, without the explicit involvement of the press.

EVEN DURING THE hay days of the AFRC/RUF illegal regime, most of the media institutions stood their grounds and exposed the cruelty of what was then a tyrannical regime.

HOW CAN this Special Court now begin to issue threatening remarks of fines and long-term imprisonments?

PERHAPS WE need to hammer home this message to those concerned authorities that we have a role to reassert to our people what is happening.

NOTHING VIRTUALLY can stand in our way in our bid and desperate desire to discharge this function.

THIS BESIDE, may we endeavor to inform the authorities of the Special Court, that this country is ours, and as such we have the burning desire of ensuring peace and stability?

CERTAINLY, we are aware of the power of the Special Court, even as its power continues to grow, but since our government is the having for ever it.

BUT THERE is the salient question of where were these authorities who today want to impose restrictions on journalists regarding reporting on the activities of this Court.

CERTAINLY WHILE as a press we are prepared to do a professional work of accurately reporting on our people, we cannot yield to any threats.

SINCE THE first sitting of Special Court on Bouthe Island, this press has been bombarded with calls from several concerned Sierra Leoneans stressing that the activities of this Court cannot be conducted behind closed doors.

THERE IS an axiom that justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done, so like the large number of Sierra Leoneans who expressed this same sentiment during the phone in programme on Sunday "Si Leone Di day" we believe the proceedings of this Special Court ought to be transparent for all to see.

THAT IS, it ought to be conducted in the full view of Sierra Leoneans and in a place like Freetown, and not somewhere like Bonthe or Accra where the majority of our people cannot reach.

THE PIONEERS of this Court ought to understand that it was the majority of Sierra Leonean that were wronged, and hence the proceedings of this Court must be conducted in Freetown, so that a large number of victims will see and hear the defence of those who wronged them.

THERE IS also the concern raised in some quarters that even those going through the trials ought to be given access to their people.

THIS IS of vital importance, because most of those indicted were literally grabbed away, without allowing them to even talk to their people.

WE ARE sure that though being a Special Court we ought to presume the suspects innocent until they are found guilty of the charges brought against them.

PERHAPS WE are picking on the issues of holding this Court in Bonthe primarily because the Special Court could not endeavour to take local print journalists to that Island for hearings.

IF THIS is the case, how does this Special Court expect the local newspapers to accurately report the proceedings?

WE CANNOT continue to accept mere press releases written by a Special Court press team if we cannot be allowed to witness the Court proceedings for ourselves.

THE SPECIAL Court is after all going on because those involved in it are sure of permanent peace, so why take the Court outside Freetown?

We insist that the Special Court must be open and transparent.
Plain Talk

The Special Court: A Review

Of Ibrahim Bangoura’s Article

BY NAREE VAN DER VLOK

Ibrahim Bangoura is a Senior Research Associate (for no other clauses) attached to Africa Analysis International, AAI, in the Wednesday edition


The analysis encourages the reader, the pecuniary of research discovers him and some of the comments hurry the inquisitive reader back to the library.

The article takes off on a rather prospect note discrediting the library of war, village and plunder which Sierra Leone underwent during the years 1991-2002.

This is not a new construction. Every intelligent Sierra Leonean is aware of these gory facts. Nor can it be a welcome addition to the hard work and industry of Abdul Kareem Karoma’s Sierra Leone: The Legacy of a Nation (1990) or Paul Richards: Fighting for the Rainforest (1996). Both works thoroughly highlight the systematic factors that invaded Sierra Leonean crisis leading to the intensity of the war in 1991-1999.

Superficially Bangoura seems to be a convert to the impunity advocacy he noted: “The creation of the United States justice system is a special court for Sierra Leone to try individuals groups responsible for war crimes committed against humanity is not only a noble idea but also an irreversible venture.

An irresistible venture!” It is astounding however that his introduction and conclusion are not mutually reinforcing. For example, the existing and prevailing success for the Special Court should change and be subject to a surgical or sober reflection. Or else, there could be a potential to return to the past which should be more disastrous than the previous.

This undermines the impunity advocacy to which the writer affirms to be seriously committed to:

But why is this article rich in emotion, but marred in contents? Some suggestions could be professed. Although the subject of the Special Court is not exclusively within the legal domain, one way do better if the issues are dissected in an open and transparent court. Lamentable the author does not approach the subject with a very mind.

The author is indeed ingrained with ideological and legalistic prejudices and bias, it is less surprising that many of his observations on possible industries are not entirely free of postcolonial bias and Robinson. The question of “who goes to Special Court?” (to use his own language) is not an exercise in conjecture, political persuasion, regional affinity or ethnic sympathy factors that contribute to undo what might otherwise be a highly polished article.

Here is one notable instance: killed one example... was the brutal killings... Sheik Mujahid, Chief Abu Black, Musa Karg... All these men were killed simply because they were opposed... (OON)

South Africa, Argentina, and Chile.

There are at least three ways in which the Special Court can address the TRC process:

a. Acknowledging the experience and suffering of the victim;

b. Adding to the historical record of events;

c. Combating impunity by showing that those who commit gross violations of humanity will be punished, if they are proved guilty.

Recent academic papers on the relative benefits of truth commissions and criminal trials as promoting peace and reconciliation are admirably contained in M.O. Osei: “Promoting Peace? Crisis of Punishment in Africa” (2000) and Yvonne Arens, “Justice in Telecom” Report on the Basin of Eswatini (1994). The TRC is not merely a substitute for the Special Court, both may travel in the same train, but certainly in separate compartments.

Conclusion:

In the particular circumstances of Sierra Leone, the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law will significantly contribute to the process of national reconciliation.

Editor’s Note: We are reproducing Ibrahim Bangoura’s analysis by popular request from readers to compare and contrast the two for the sake of objectivity on page 2.
Blood Diamond Dealers To Face Special Court

The issue of Blood Diamond Dealers to face Special Court was wholeheartedly welcomed in most Sierra Leoneans since the United Nations call for the ban of the sale and dealing with the Blood diamonds that contributed immensely in fuelling the war in Sierra Leone, Congo, etc. Most diamond dealers flout the U.N. order with impunity, rather, they endeavour to encourage the rebels particularly in the diamond district of Kono and Tonkolili which was under the control of the murderous RUF rebels for two (2) bloody years and A.F.R.C for nine (9) months respectfully.

The U.N. sanction busters too were also believed to be roped in as they all aided and abetted the rebels by financing them in a form of boosting their morale to continue their operations against humanity, and uncivilized acts of barbarism against the armless and poor wishes of civilians.

It was an open secret when some of these Lebanese and Foreign nationals established their offices in the township of Kono and Kenema even though when President Tejan Kabbah was in exile at Conakry-Guinea.

However, Radio 98.1 D could be advised residents (both citizens and foreigners) not to have any dealings with the rebels through Radio 98.1 Democracy whilst President Tejan Kabbah was in exile at Conakry-Guinea.
Special Court hunts foreign collaborators

The U.S. prosecutor for Sierra Leone’s special war crimes court, David Crane, has vowed to hunt down any foreigner who played a major role in fuelling one of Africa’s most brutal conflicts, be it with money or guns.

It has been widely speculated that Liberia’s President Charles Taylor, who backed Sierra Leone’s rebels with arms in return for diamonds, would be among those indicted by the U.N.-backed court, others also include Asians in the middle-east who suspected of having links with al-Qaida.

David Crane, a 52-year-old former Pentagon lawyer says he is still working to find those bearing the greatest responsibility in the conflict, be they inside or outside Sierra Leone.

“As long as it falls within the mandate of the court, I can go anywhere, reach out and get them,” Crane told Reuters.

“This case is far bigger than Sierra Leone. There is clear evidence of regional and international involvement — in terms of funding, political backing and military support.”

Crane also says Sierra Leone’s gems, some of the world’s purest, fuelled the creation of what he called a “joint criminal enterprise” bringing together rebels, members of a former military junta and international accomplices. Their aim was to gain power and take control of diamond mining areas.

“The court is expected to try some 20 ringleaders, although Crane did not give a precise figure.

“We haven’t closed the book on anyone. We are looking at everything and everyone,” he says.

He says last week’s indictment of Interior Minister Sam Hinga Norman, a close ally of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, and six other people has shown that “we mean business.”
In Fear Of Special Court
RUF Commanders Flee Freetown

Reports reaching The New Storm indicate senior members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have embarked on escaping secretly from the capital Freetown, following the massive roping of indictees by the hybrid court which was set up to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for crimes committed during the ten years war. The latest top gun who fled the city on Wednesday March 19, is self-styled Colonel Kposowa who was the RUF’s general commander.

According to reports reaching this press, ‘Colonel’ Kposowa’s escape from the city, came about as a result of a tip-off he got from close quarters that by next week he will be indicted by the Special Court as a consequence of his activities as a senior commander in the rebel outfit’s top hierarchy. Kposowa was believed to have discussed the matter with some relatives who advised him to flee to any area of safety. On Wednesday at about 3.30 pm, this former warlord, left the city. According to information gathered Kposowa’s first port of call is Makeni. From there, he hopes to travel to Kabala and sneak into Guinea, from where he will make his way to a safer place of domicile.

Kposowa’s escape comes in the wake of earlier escapes made by notably former junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma. A local tabloid reported this week that former RUF spokesman Gibril Massaquoi, plans to escape. It is not known what the Special Court officials hope to do to check the escape of possible indictees, but information gathered indicate that there is no hiding place for any indictee.

Today Sankoh, left boys in trouble

The New Storm
Friday March 21 2003