

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Thursday, August 26, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Special Court Police to face High Court

By Regina Pratt

Sulaiman Bah, Senior State Counsel, Wednesday told Magistrate Bankole Shyllon, Magistrate Court No 3, that his reason for adjourning the matter between Inspector General of Police and Peter Halloran, and others is that the Law Office is seeking another line of action. *Continued page 3*

Special Court police to face High Court

From page 1

Replying, Defence Counsel, J.B. Jenkins Johnston informed the Court that by the last adjournment the prosecution should have done something towards the proceedings.

Speaking to the Director of Public Prosecution, Brima Kebbie after the adjournment, he intimated Concord Times that the Law Office intends to take the 1:3:6 procedure when the matter comes up for hearing

to the High Court.

Halloran and others were charged to court for unlawful canal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under the age of 14.

The defense counsels made an application for bail to be granted to the accused persons.

They were granted bail in the sum of Le10 million each with two sureties. The matter was adjourned to Wednesday September 1.

Concord Times

Thursday August 26th 2004

Special Court Investigator's Case **State Plans Another Line Of Action**

By Ishmael Bayoh

The state is seeking to take another line of action in the matter involving the Special Court Investigation Commander Peter

Halloran.

When the matter mentioned yesterday morning before Magistrate Shyllon of Court #3, State Prosecutor Sulaiman Bah informed

the court that he had instruction to seek for an adjournment because the Law Officers Department is seeking another line of action, though he

Contd. page 2

State Plans

From front page

did not explain to the court which line of action.

Defence lawyer for Peter Halloran, Jenkins Johnston expressed hope that when the State Counsels returned they would get into the case because, according to him, he was prepared on Tuesday to cross examine PW1 Mandy Lee Cordwell. "This is not a matter that I will want to leave with another person," the defence lawyer told the court.

The matter comes up again on September 1.

The Exclusion

Thursday August 26th 2004

FairfaxDigital

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Detective tells of fears about schoolgirl and policeman

By Fergus Shiel, Andrea Petrie

August 26, 2004



Victorian police officer Peter Halloran heads for the courthouse in Freetown where he will face sex charges.
Picture:AP

A highly experienced Tasmanian police officer is a key witness in the trial of a senior Victorian police superintendent accused of sex crimes involving a schoolgirl in Sierra Leone.

Mandy Cordwell has told a court in the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown, that Superintendent Peter Halloran shared his bedroom with his alleged victim after hiring her as a nanny.

Ms Cordwell, 37, had reached the rank of detective sergeant in Tasmania's police force before she resigned earlier this year and moved to the troubled West African nation to work as a war crimes investigator.

Halloran, who is on unpaid leave from the Victoria Police, was her chief in the war crimes unit of the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone, and she and her husband shared a house with him in Freetown's diplomatic quarter.

The 56-year-old career police officer, who once headed Victoria's homicide squad, has not yet been required to enter a plea in the Freetown court, but his lawyer says he will "absolutely plead not guilty" to unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years of age.

Ms Cordwell, an 18-year police veteran, first reported her concerns about Halloran's relationship with the girl to the Special Court in June, but he was twice cleared of any wrongdoing.

Before her resignation from the Tasmanian police, Ms Cordwell spent more than three years on a peace-keeping mission in East Timor.

She told the Freetown Magistrates Court that Halloran had invited his alleged victim, who was their gardener's sister, to stay at the house they shared.

Cordwell said Halloran had told her that his girlfriend and her three-year-old boy would soon be arriving in Sierra Leone, and the young girl would help with the boy.

She said that she later went into Halloran's room to check for a problem with the waterpipes and saw the girl seated by his bed.

Ms Cordwell said she saw Halloran go into the room many times that night and the lights go off, but she never saw the girl leave. The next morning she saw the girl making Halloran's bed.

Ms Cordwell said when Halloran had asked her if she had a problem with the girl being in the house, she

cautioned him that they had to be mindful of their security and privacy.

Her testimony is continuing before Magistrate Bankole Shyllon, who could still decide to send the case to the High Court.

Ms Cordwell's mother, Wendy, told *The Age* yesterday that her daughter had worked in Tasmania's drug and homicide squads, and had covered major cases, including the Port Arthur massacre.

"She a very professional person who loves her work and is very committed to it, and worked very hard to earn the rank of detective sergeant before she left the force," she said.

Another relative described her as "as honest as the day she was born".

Halloran, was freed on bail from Freetown's maximum security Pademba Road Prison on Tuesday along with his alleged victim's two brothers, Abdul and Sheka Fofana, who are also accused of procuring.

A spokesman for the British high commission, which is providing him with consular services, said he had been treated well in prison and was "OK", although concerned that he had not yet been cleared.

His lawyer, J. B. Jenkins-Johnston, says that Halloran faces two years in prison if found guilty, but other reports have said he could be sentenced to up to 15 years in jail.

Halloran is in Sierra Leone on a UN contract as a prosecution investigator for the war court, which is judging those who bear the "greatest responsibility" for the decade of civil war that ravaged Sierra Leone until 2001.

The special court suspended Halloran in June as soon as it became aware of the allegations against him, but an internal inquiry found insufficient evidence to support the accusation.

War in the former British colony - ranked bottom of the UN Human Development Index in 2004 - shocked the world with images of drugged-up young gunmen and their mutilated victims.

The conflict was declared over in 2002 after about 50,000 people had been killed, and a UN peacekeeping force numbering 17,500 people had disarmed 47,000 fighters.

Halloran, who is recovering from pneumonia, had been in custody since August 18.

- with agencies

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Officer gets bail in sex charge case

By Mark Buttler
August 26, 2004

A SENIOR Victorian police officer was yesterday granted bail as his trial on sexual assault charges began in Africa.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, a former head of the homicide squad, pleaded not guilty to counts of unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years.

Supt Halloran, who is on paid leave from the Victoria Police, had been working as a United Nations war crimes investigator in the strife-torn west African nation of Sierra Leone.

He has been in custody since August 18, when he was arrested and imprisoned in a spartan, maximum-security jail in Freetown, the nation's capital.

A Freetown court yesterday heard claims from another Australian war crimes investigator, Manley Cordwell, that Supt Halloran had told her a 13-year-old local schoolgirl at their house had been hired to work as a nanny.

Ms Cordwell told the court that she saw Supt Halloran go into the girl's room many times one night, but she did not say if she had witnessed any crime.

Supt Halloran, who faces a maximum jail term of 15 years, was released on bail of \$5200.

- with AAP

Herald Sun

This report appears on NEWS.com.au.

Source: [News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) [i](#)

Terms: **fighter for justice faces sex claims- allegation against australian revealed** ([Edit Search](#))

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The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia) August 26, 2004 Thursday

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The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

August 26, 2004 Thursday

SECTION: WORLD; Pg. 34

LENGTH: 486 words

HEADLINE: **Fighter for justice faces sex claims - Allegations against Australian revealed**

SOURCE: MATP

BYLINE: CHRISTO JOHNSON

BODY:

AN **Australian** senior investigator at Sierra Leone's UN-backed war crimes tribunal yesterday denied sexually abusing a teenage girl.

Peter Halloran, a Victorian police superintendent on secondment to the war crimes tribunal, is accused of "unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years".

He **faces** up to 15 years in prison if found guilty.

Freetown magistrate Bankole Shyllon granted bail to Halloran and two Sierra Leoneans charged in connection with the alleged crime.

However, he confiscated their passports and told them to report to police every day.

Halloran, 56, had been in custody since August 18. Bail was set at \$5200.

The case against Halloran is an embarrassment for the West African country's war crimes tribunal, set up to bring to **justice** those bearing the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed during its 10-year civil war.

Hidden behind wire-topped concrete walls in the centre of the sprawling capital, and defended by UN troops, the special court is the first such tribunal to be held where the war crimes were committed. It is trumpeted as a model for other countries.

Manley Cordwell, a fellow **Australian** war crimes investigator who shared a house with Halloran, told the court the alleged victim had visited their home in the capital.

"I asked Halloran who the girl walking into our house was," she said. Halloran replied that he had employed the girl as a nanny, Ms Cordwell said.

"She was seated on the bed eating rice and cassava sauce and I asked her how long she had been there and she said for some days," Ms Cordwell said. "After I went down the hall, I saw the lights go off in his room." She saw Halloran go into the room many times that night and never saw the girl leave the bedroom, she said.

The following morning, she said she saw the girl making Halloran's bed.

Ms Cordwell did not say if she had witnessed any actual crime. Her testimony is expected to continue.

Defence lawyer Blyden Jenkins-Johnston said bail would probably be paid today to speed Halloran's release from maximum security jail.

"His employers [the war crimes court] have undertaken in writing that he will come to court whenever it is required," Mr Jenkins-Johnston said after the hearing, which was adjourned until tomorrow.

Halloran is in Sierra Leone on a UN contract as a prosecution investigator for the war court, which is judging those who bear the "greatest responsibility" for the decade of civil war that ravaged Sierra Leone until 2001.

The special court suspended Halloran in June as soon as it became aware of the **allegations** against him, but an internal inquiry found insufficient evidence to support the accusation.

War in the former British colony -- ranked bottom of the UN Human Development Index in 2004 -- shocked the world with images of drugged-up young gunmen and their mutilated victims.

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2004

Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > [News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **fighter for justice faces sex claims- allegation against australian revealed** ([Edit Search](#))

Mandatory Terms: **date from 08/20/2004**

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Associated Press Worldstream August 24, 2004 Tuesday

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August 24, 2004 Tuesday

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DISTRIBUTION: Europe; Britian; Scandinavia; Middle East; Africa; India; Asia; England

LENGTH: 432 words

HEADLINE: Sierra Leone court hears first witness in case of **Australian** charged in **sex** crimes with minor

BYLINE: CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY; Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: FREETOWN, Sierra Leone

BODY:

Sierra Leone opened its case Tuesday against an **Australian** police official charged with **sex** crimes against a minor, with prosecutors calling their first witness: a woman offering testimony against her boss, compatriot and roommate.

Also during Tuesday's proceedings, defendant Peter Halloran, 56, was granted bail.

In the court's first testimony, Manley Cordwell - an **Australian** investigator who works for Halloran at Sierra Leone's U.N.-backed war-crimes tribunal - told the court of seeing the girl in Halloran's bedroom in the house Cordwell and Halloran shared.

Cordwell said that, on the evening of June 2, a Wednesday, she saw the victim, a housemaid, in Halloran's private quarters: "I opened his bedroom door, entered and saw (the alleged victim) seated beside the bed eating rice and cassava leaves sauce."

"I said to the girl, 'how long have you been here?' And she replied 'since Monday.' I left the room and shut the door behind me," Cordwell told the court.

Cordwell saw Halloran go into the room many times that night and never saw the girl leave the bedroom, she said. The following morning, she said she saw the girl making Halloran's bed.

Cordwell didn't say Tuesday if she had witnessed any actual crime; her testimony is expected to continue.

Court proceedings were adjourned after Halloran was granted bail for the equivalent of US\$3,500 ([euro]2,880) in cash and two bonds posted by Sierra Leoneans. The court ordered Halloran to check in with police each day.

Two Sierra Leone men - including one of the alleged victim's relatives - are also charged with helping find the girl for Halloran in the west African nation's capital, Freetown.

Halloran **faces** four charges related to the procurement and sexual assault of a girl under age of 14, with a possible jail sentence of 15 years imprisonment.

Halloran's Australia-based lawyer earlier called the **allegations** baseless and said the girl's **allegations** in another case had been proven false.

Halloran, who like Cordwell has been working in Sierra Leone since January, has voluntarily handed his passport to local police, his lawyer said.

The war-crimes court had its own investigation into the **allegations**, but found "insufficient evidence" to support the **allegations**. The tribunal has suspended Halloran from his work.

The U.N. tribunal is trying both rebels and government-allied **fighters** for abuses committed after late 1996 in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 insurgency. Thousands of civilians were killed, raped, kidnapped and hacked to pieces in the fight over Sierra Leone's rich diamond fields.

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Terms: **fighter for justice faces sex claims- allegation against australian revealed** ([Edit Search](#))

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Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia) August 25, 2004 Wednesday

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Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

August 25, 2004 Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 12

LENGTH: 370 words

HEADLINE: **Officer bailed** in **sex** case

BYLINE: Rod Mac-Johnson

BODY:

THE former head of Victoria's homicide squad facing child **sex** charges in Africa was last night free on bail.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, a special police investigator for the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone, was granted bail of \$5765 when he appeared at Freetown Magistrates' Court.

The 30-year Victoria Police veteran faces charges related to indecently assaulting a 13-year-old girl. He has previously denied the charge.

Hundreds filled the court and its corridor for the proceedings.

Supt Halloran appeared listless as his lawyer, Blyden Jenkins-Johnston, asked magistrate Bankole Shyllon to allow bail, which was not opposed by the prosecution.

The prosecution scrapped three charges and filed four new one against Supt Halloran.

Two brothers of the girl alleged to have been indecently assaulted were also charged.

The new charges include procuring an under-age girl to have unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and conspiracy.

The incidents were alleged to have occurred between May and June this year.

First to give evidence was an assistant criminal investigator with the Special Court and fellow Australian Manley Cordwell. She told the court Supt Halloran was her boss and the pair rented a house with two other court officials.

She recalled returning home on June 2 when she was told by a member of the ground staff to ensure that all the water pumps in the building were turned off.

"I entered the house and went to the bedroom of the first accused to check the water pumps in the bathroom," she said.

"I saw a young girl sitting on Peter's (Halloran) bed eating rice.

"I asked the girl how long she had been staying in the apartment and she replied for some days.

"Later that day, I returned home in the evening and noticed that the bedroom of Halloran was in darkness."


Ms Cordwell is to continue her testimony tomorrow.

Charged with Supt Halloran were the girl's brothers, Sheka and Abdul Fofana.

Supt Halloran took up his post in Sierra Leone in January after taking unpaid leave from the Victoria Police force.

The Special Court deals with war atrocities committed during the west African country's civil war from November, 1996.

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2004

Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > **News, Most Recent 90 Days (English, Full Text)** 

Terms: **officer bailed in sex case** ([Edit Search](#))

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'Scratcher' and the battle for Guinea

ALLAN LAING

August 26 2004

Background

A TALE that could have come straight from the pages of a blockbuster by Wilbur Smith or Robert Ludlum began at 7.30am on March 7 this year. A US-registered Boeing 737 cargo plane touched down at Harare airport in Zimbabwe after a short flight from neighbouring South Africa. On board were 67 men, most of them carrying South African passports.

The aircraft sat on the tarmac watched closely from the main terminal by 51-year-old Simon Mann, a former British Army special forces officer. The plane belonged to him, the men on board were his, and he was there to ensure their safety and supervise the loading of cargo.

Suddenly, an armed police unit appeared. It impounded the plane and arrested Mr Mann, the passengers, and the crew. Then they inspected the unmarked crates being loaded on board. When they broke them open, they discovered a large quantity of arms, including mortars, Kalashnikovs and 30,000 rounds of ammunition.

The Zimbabwe authorities claimed the aircraft was en route to Equatorial Guinea and that those on board were mercenaries, hellbent on launching a coup in the oil-rich but poverty-stricken state.

Mr Mann and his men protested their innocence. Yes, they were mercenaries, but they were heading for the Congo to start work as security guards. The police didn't believe them.

The following day, in a move said to be related to the Zimbabwe arrests, a further 15 suspected mercenaries were detained in Equatorial Guinea itself. This, it was alleged, was the advance guard. It was led by Nick du Toit, a South African former soldier of fortune with strong links to Mr Mann's company, a mercenary recruitment agency called Executive Outcomes.

It soon became clear that those in custody in both countries had been the targets of a well-organised security operation involving police and intelligence agencies in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Angola.

Between them, it was claimed, they had foiled a plot to topple and assassinate Equatorial Guinea's tyrannical leader, Teodoro Obiang, who himself had seized power in a bloody coup.

The alleged mercenaries are now on trial, some for their lives. The case against those in Equatorial Guinea is being heard in the capital, Malabo.

The trial of those detained in Zimbabwe is taking place in Harare. There have been allegations of torture and mistreatment. One of those held in Black Beach Prison, Malabo, will not be standing trial. He died in captivity. Malaria, said the authorities. Torture, claim local reports.

At the centre of the alleged plot is money; hundreds of millions of pounds a year from a repressive, isolated nation which, almost overnight, has become Africa's third largest oil developer.

President Obiang has accused the mercenaries of working for major international interests – oil conglomerates – while Zimbabwe claims that US, British, and Spanish intelligence agencies were involved.

The key figure in the affair is Simon Mann, an Old Etonian and a scion of the Watney brewing empire.

He served in the Scots Guards before being selected for the SAS. With the rank of captain, he saw action in Central America, Cyprus, and Northern Ireland. He left the army in 1985 but, six years later, was called back on the reserve list during the first Gulf War.

After the army, Mr Mann moved into the security business. In 1993, he set up Executive Outcomes and made a fortune protecting oil installations in Angola.

In 1995, when the firm became too high profile for him, he set up a sister company, Sandline International, together with another ex-Scots Guards officer, Lt-Col Tim Spicer. They shipped arms to Sierra Leone, breaking the UN embargo. He bought an estate in England and promptly rented it out. He moved his family to Cape Town. Enter Sir Mark Thatcher, near neighbour and soon-to-be close friend.

But Sir Mark does not appear to be Mr Mann's only Tory-connected contact. Shortly after his arrest in March, he wrote a letter to his wife and legal team.

It read: "Our situation is not good and it is very URGENT.....What will get us out is

MAJOR CLOUT. We need heavy influence of the sort that....Smelly, Scratcher....David Hart, and it needs to be used heavily and now. Once we get into a real trial scenario we are f****d."

South African contacts of Mr Mann say that "Scratcher" is Sir Mark Thatcher and "Smelly" is said to be Eli Calil, a London-based, Lebanese-born millionaire oil trader. David Hart, like Mr Mann an Old Etonian, was an adviser to Margaret Thatcher during the miners' strike. All have joined Sir Mark in strenuously denying any involvement.