

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:

Wednesday, August 04, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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WITNESS' TESTIMONY STANDS AS

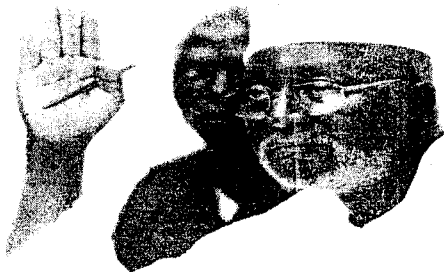
NORMAN'S REQUEST REJECTED

By Mohamed Mansaray
The Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has overruled an application made by Dr. Bu-Bukei Jabbie, standing counsel for the first CDF accused Samuel Hinga Norman to set aside the testimony of Prosecution witness TF2-198 (name withheld).

The witness who testified on June 15 at Court Room No. 1, New England in Freetown told the court among other things that Kamajors took him and his younger brother to 'Y' Junction at CKC in Bo in 1988 where they were subjected to all kinds of inhuman treatment.

The witness told the court that Kamajors later murdered his brother and melted plastic on him (the witness) after being tied with 'FM' rope.

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Norman in court

*Sierra Times
Wednesday August 4, 2004*

Dr. Jabbie argued that what allegedly happened to the witness at CKC that led to the melting of plastic on him remained doubtful and needed clarifications. He further argued that there was no mention of that aspect of the evidence in both the interview notes and statement of the witness supplied to the defence by the Prosecution. Counsel argued that the interview notes of the witness were written in the "third person" "A statement is only a statement when it is written in the first person," he told the court. Dr. Jabbie submitted that the evidence given by TF2-198 was highly prejudicial to the defence, inadmissible and should be expunged from the records and accused the Prosecution of breaching Rule 66 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Special Court.

But the Trial Attorney and a members of the Prosecution team, Charles Caruso argued that the Prosecution fully complied with Rule 66 of the Court's Statutes by obtaining statements from witnesses and disclosing them to the defence.

Ruling on the arguments on July 16, the Trial Chamber comprising Justice Pierre Boutet, Justice Bankole Thompson and the Presiding Judge, Benjamin Etoe observed: "that the fact that burns to the witness' shoulders were not in the brief interview notes does not amount to a breach by the Prosecution of its Rule 66 disclosure obligations"

The Chamber further ruled: "The fact that a witness' statement is not gramatically or from the point of view of syntax, is not in the 'first person' but in the 'third person' does not deprive the materials in question of the core quality of a statement."

The Chamber further ruled that any statement or declaration made by a witness in relation to an event he/she witnessed and recorded in any form by an official in the course of an investigation falls within the meaning of a "witness statement" under Rule 66 (A)(i) of the Rules.

It was further ruled that the fact that a statement does not contain a signature or is not witnessed does not detract it from its substantive validity.

But the Chamber allows in part, the request of the defence to cross-examine witnesses on prior inconsistent statements.

Issa Sesay Denies Having Heart Problem

By Ralph Ese' Donu Sawyerr

Special Court RUF indictee Issa Sesay has strongly denied suffering from heart problem and that he collapsed while on trial at the Special Court last week as reported by some print and electronic media houses.

Speaking exclusively to SALONE TIMES over the telephone this week, Sesay said: "Don't mind them all, it's all big lies. Infact in the first place I had never wanted to attend the court

proceedings that morning because I was not feeling well- I was suffering from headache and feeling feverish".

According to Sesay, he was forced to buck-up him-

self and attend because he did not want the judges to have any negative feelings about him. He added: "During the trial I just got tired as I was still feeling weak and

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Issa Sesay 'Blow Mind'

feverish: So I decided to return to my cell."

The Special Court indictee said that all evidence given against him so far have in no direct way linked to him atrocities. "Those RUF combatants who allegedly committed those atrocities were not directly under my control and command," Sesay said.

"First and foremost," he went on, "it was Foday Sankoh who was in charge firmly, then Sam Bockarie took over and it was lately that I became head.

"Immediately I took over, the United Nations through General Emmanuel Opande entered into constructive discussion with me to prevail upon all RUF rank and file to give up arms and stop fighting".

According to Sesay who sounded sick he did all in his powers to ensure peace adding that indeed arms were laid down and the war came to an end.

"I am embarassed though because of my indictment but I'm in high spirits," he told SALONE TIMES.

Salone Times

Wednesday August 4, 2004

UNITED NATIONS



Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs SIERRA LEONE

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT JULY 2004

RUF Trials

Special Court trials of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) continued with the testimony of prosecution witnesses. Some of the witness were scared to testify and would only give names and places in written form. They described extreme brutality and mutilation by the RUF and demonstrated atrocities carried out by them during the war. Meanwhile the Special Court Registrar, Robin Vincent has announced his resignation. Since then he has been prevailed upon and there is likelihood that he might reconsider his decision.

Liberia refuses to push for the hand over of Mr. Charles Taylor

Liberia's parliament has rejected a petition from a coalition of human rights groups to pressure the Nigerian government to turn over former president Charles Taylor for trial in Sierra Leone's Special Court. The parliament rejected the petition, saying that Mr. Taylor's exile was an arrangement negotiated with ECOWAS to restore peace to Liberia. Earlier in April, Mr. Bryant had already declared that Mr. Taylor's presence in Nigeria was part of Liberia's peace process and no request would be made to move him.

Nigerians to prosecute Mr. Taylor

In related developments, an Abuja Court in Nigeria has given permission to Nigerians whose hands were chopped off by the RUF, to serve court papers to Mr Taylor, through the press. Meanwhile, Special Court Registrar Robin Vincent has said that although a cell was waiting for Mr. Taylor, the Court will only prosecute him if he is brought into Sierra Leone through a proper legal channel.

boston.com

THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

Liberia's Taylor gave aid to Qaeda, UN probe finds

The Boston Globe**By Bryan Bender, Globe Staff | August 4, 2004**

WASHINGTON -- The senior Al Qaeda operative captured in Pakistan last week met with former Liberian president Charles Taylor in the years before and after Sept. 11, 2001, and received refuge from the former US ally while planning further terrorist operations, according to US intelligence officials and United Nations investigators.

The officials and investigators also painted a picture of Liberia under Taylor as a haven for Al Qaeda, and raised new questions about why the United States waited so long to support Taylor's ouster and continues to refrain from using its influence to bring him before a UN war crimes tribunal.

The Defense Department approved a special forces raid to capture Al Qaeda leaders under Taylor's protection in 2001, but called it off and never reactivated the plan, the US officials said in recent interviews, on condition of anonymity. Meanwhile, senior leaders of Al Qaeda continued to receive Taylor's protection.

On July 25, Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani was arrested in eastern Pakistan along with more than a dozen other Qaeda operatives and is being held in connection with the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in Africa. But for at least three years beginning in the late 1990s, he lived in an army camp and hotels run by Taylor's government in Liberia. In addition, Taylor's forces harbored other suspected Al Qaeda leaders, including MIT-educated biologist Aafia Siddiqui, US officials and UN investigators said.

Al Qaeda allegedly paid Taylor for protection and then joined him in the African diamond trade, raising millions of dollars for terrorist activities, according to UN war crimes documents.

Taylor, who was deposed last year, is living in exile in Nigeria under a deal brokered by the United States. The US government has been under increasing pressure to help persuade Nigeria to turn Taylor over to the UN tribunal in Sierra Leone, which has indicted him for atrocities in various West African nations. But the United States, which officials have said used Taylor as a CIA informant and backed his Revolutionary United Front in the mid-1990s, has so far refused.

"It is clear that Al Qaeda had been in West Africa since September 1998 and maintained a continuous presence in the area through 2002," according to a new confidential report by the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone. The report was written by UN investigators preparing the case against Taylor.

State Department officials were not available for comment yesterday about the report or alleged links between Al Qaeda and Taylor, who took power in a 1997 civil war. The Bush administration froze Taylor's assets July 23. President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria has called it a matter of national "honor" not to go back on its exile agreement with Taylor.

Neither the United States nor Nigeria has commented on Liberia's alleged Al Qaeda links under Taylor. Nevertheless, the UN investigation found that Ghailani, who was sent to Liberia in 1999 to help coordinate Al Qaeda investments in the diamond trade, met with Taylor, along with Al Qaeda leaders Fazl Abdullah Mohammed, Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, and Sheikh Ahmed Salim Swedan. All three are wanted in the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and remain on the FBI's list of 22 most wanted terrorists.

Mohammed and Swedan, like Ghailani, are of African descent. Pakistani authorities yesterday told the Associated Press that two "high-level" Al Qaeda operatives were captured in Punjab. The officials did not provide details on their identities, but said the two were of African origin.

Ghailani and Mohammed arrived in Liberia in March 1999 from the Ivory Coast, according to the UN report. They traveled to Monrovia as guests of Taylor and met with him at his Congo Town residence. Both stayed at the Hotel Boulevard in Monrovia.

Both men remained in Liberia for several years, staying at a military camp near the Sierra Leone border and in government-run hotels in Monrovia, according to the US officials and the UN investigation. The same connections are detailed in a Belgian police report on two men who now face trial in Belgium for smuggling diamonds from

Sierra Leone. They allegedly had business ties to the Al Qaeda diamond buyers, including Mohammed.

The UN report outlined a series of alleged links between Al Qaeda leaders and Taylor's regime:

Mohammed served as a driver in 2000 and 2001 for General Sam Bockarie, a senior Taylor commander.

Mohammed Atef, then Al Qaeda's military commander, met in early 2000 with General Issa Sesay, another Taylor commander. Atef is believed to have been killed in the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

Siddiqui, the MIT-trained microbiologist who is also on the FBI's most-wanted list, arrived in Monrovia in June 2001 as a guest of one of Taylor's top lieutenants. She was there for a week, investigators said, to meet with Al Qaeda operatives -- including Ghailani -- to get a status report for her superiors in Pakistan on the terrorist group's gem trade.

The FBI posted Siddiqui's photo, along with Ghailani's and Mohammed's, in May as part of a list of individuals who may be planning attacks.

According to the UN investigation, a copy of which was obtained by the Globe, "the corrupt regime of President Charles Taylor of Liberia facilitated access for Al Qaeda operatives into Sierra Leone and Liberia in exchange for diamonds and weapons."

"Charles Taylor was in the back pocket of Al Qaeda," said a US intelligence official who corroborated the UN's main findings.

The official said the Liberian strongman was personally paid at least \$1 million by Al Qaeda for his assistance: "He was helping them launder money through the diamond mines."

Current and former US officials believe there were missed opportunities in the late 1990s and in the months after the 2001 attacks to unravel what was a key Al Qaeda hub. Mohammed, for example, is believed to have later masterminded an attack on a seaside hotel in Mombasa, Kenya, in December 2002 that killed three Israelis and 10 Kenyans and a failed attempt to shoot down an Israeli jetliner taking off from Mombasa the same day.

"For some reason our intelligence people have been very anxious to disprove this as happening, something that can't be disproven," said Joseph Melrose, who was US ambassador to Sierra Leone until September 2001.

As recently as June 2003, the FBI reported to the US General Accounting Office that there was no Al Qaeda presence in West Africa, despite what intelligence and military officials say was a plan to capture Ghailani and Mohammed in the weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks using a US special forces team stationed in nearby Guinea. That mission was called off, although it is unclear why.

After meeting with war crimes investigators in February of this year, the FBI concluded that Al Qaeda did have extensive ties with Taylor and his armed forces, the UN investigators said.

Some specialists suggest the United States did not take seriously the reports of Al Qaeda's links to Taylor -- and has not pressed for his trial in Sierra Leone because of his longstanding ties with the intelligence community.

"I've heard that he was on the US payroll," Melrose said. "It's very possible some of these other characters [in the Taylor regime] have been, too."

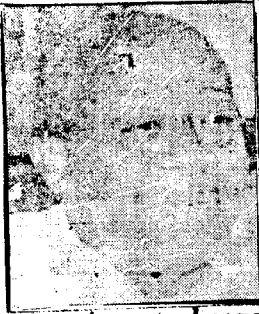
According to Douglas Farah, a senior fellow at the National Strategy Information Center in Washington and author of "Blood from Stones," an account of the terrorist trade in precious stones in West Africa, Taylor bragged that "he worked for the CIA for years."

"Why hasn't the United States pressed for his handover to Sierra Leone?" he asked. "The United States is funding most of it and the high-powered prosecutors are led by people" from the Defense Department. "To get [Nigeria] to get Taylor turned over we're not going to do anything."

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CHARLES MARGAI BACKS PEEP!

calls for tough reforms in the legal profession in Sierra Leone



Margai: wants change

The newly-elected president of the Bar Association, Mr Charles Margai has endorsed this newspaper's critical view of the legal system in Sierra Leone and has called for broad reforms.

obstacle

Mr Margai, in an interview with *Radio Democracy*, FM 98.1, yesterday morning said one of the main obstacles to the smooth delivery of justice in Sierra Leone was what he called

'recycling of judges'.

"It will be very difficult for a retired judge, who exists at the whims and caprices on government, to deliver fair hearing when he/she is on a one-year contract" the Bar Association leader told FM 98.1.

Mr Margai also promised to involve members of the wider public in the process of reforming the legal system.

stakeholders

"They, too are stakeholders" he told the radio station. Our review of the keynote speaker's address to the 23rd

Bar Association conference (*How Honourable Is The Legal Profession in Sierra Leone? Peep! issue 250*) attracted critical comments from several top members of the Bench last week.

Peep?

Wednesday August 4, 2004

TRC REPORT IN TWO WEEKS

- BISHOP HUMPER

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Chairman cum Resident Bishop of the United Methodist Church, Sierra Leone Annual Conference, Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Christian Humper on Sunday 1st August 2004 informed the congregation at King Memorial United Methodist Church, Regent Road Freetown, that he had just returned from Ghana where he spent two and a half weeks finalizing arrangements for the publication of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

He stated that after the report would have been officially pre-

resented to government, "it will serve as the road map for the spiritual, economic, cultural development and prosperity of the country".

Perusing on corruption he asserted, "corruption which is as old as Methuselah was born in Europe, bred in America and thriving in Africa" and that the best the Sierra Leonean can do is to minimize the menace of corruption in the country.

Bishop J.C. Humper acknowledged, "I am the chief sinner as all human beings are fallible" and admonished religious organizations to rise up to the challenges



BISHOP HUMPER

of agitating and defending the rights of the less privileged and downtrodden in society if they are to succeed in their sacred duties to sincerely serve humanity.

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TRC REPORT

He disclosed that as President of the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone, President of the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone and as a familiar face at the Lungi International Airport, on his recent home return, he was greeted with a newspaper report by one of the security operatives at the airport headlined, "Pastor Turns To Snake" with his photograph at the center.

He explained that only those nineteen churches who conform to

the doctrines of the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone are members of the Council and that a good number of mushrooming "Charismatic Churches" such as the unregistered church mentioned in the "Pastor Turns To Snake" article and the renowned Jesus is Lord Ministry of the reputable Mama Dora Dumbuya are not members of the Council.

He lambasted journalists for not

doing enough research in a bid to accurately educate, inform and entertain members of the public as he neither had anything personal to do with the charismatic church mentioned in the article nor that of any of the organizations he represents.

He stressed that since the said church and others do not subscribe to the norms and doctrines of the various religious organizations he represents, they have no control whatsoever over such churches proliferating all over the country.

The New Citizen
Wednesday August 4, 2004

UN Peace Keepers Warned "Stay Away From Sexual Harassment"



By Agnes Pratt
Brigadier General A.N. Bamalli, Northern Commander of Nigerian Battalion, Nibatt 18 has warned UN peace keepers to "stay away from sexual harassment and rough driving."

Addressing officers, men and women of Nibatt 18 in Port Loko this past Saturday, Bamalli informed troops "it is against UN regulations for peacekeeping" and went on to say that Secretary General Kofi Annan has warned against the act of bringing female visitors into peace keeper's camp. "Anyone caught will be dismissed from the United Nations peace keeping force and will be charged to court," the Brigadier General said, pointing out that there is a zero

tolerance for sexual abuse. "Therefore they

should behave themselves and abide by the rules and regulations." The UN commander also warned against careless driving on the road.

Responding to Bamalli, Nibatt 18 Commanding Officer in Port Loko Major Yusuf said he usually has a weekly lecture on HIV/AIDS with the peacekeepers in Port

Loko, claiming that his troops are in a good relationship with the locals. "We have even built a market center for the community people which will be

commissioned very soon," Yusuf said. The Major also explained that they provide humanitarian assistant like free medical treatment to the community people.

The commander also visited Rogbere camp were Major Savaso briefed him about their activities and Kosho camp were officer in charge Major Wara Idris also briefed him.

The News
Wednesday August 4, 2004