

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, September 23, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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THE EXCLUSIVE

Vol. 2 No. 2140

Thursday September 23, 2004

Le500

I Sewed For Issa Sesay & Maskita

- Witness Testifies



Issa Sesay

By Joseph Turay

The thirteenth prosecution witness - TF2-151 - who hails from Matru Jong in Moyamba District has testified at the Special Court for Sierra Leone that he used to sew for Issa Sesay and Sam 'Maskita' Bockarie when they were in the jungle.

he was in Kenema in 1998 when the AFRC/RUF junta was in control, but later fled to township following civilian harassment and intimidation by the rebels.

The witness said he again returned to Kenema when he heard that the Kamajor militiamen have taken over the township and that some ci-

vilians had returned from where they had sought ref-

uge. TF2-151 explained that when

he was invited by a Kamajor to their head office at

Kaisamba Terrace junction,

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I Sewed For Issa Sesay & Maskita

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he witnessed a scene where Kamajors brutally murdered a man who was branded as junta and set his body ablaze.

The witness also testi-

fied that he too was thoroughly beaten by some Kamajors, who had threatened him to confess that he was a junta, but was later released. He explained that he was again beaten and stripped naked at

the Kamajor head office after a shop owner claimed that he (the witness) was part of the junta group that looted his shop clean. The matter comes up today.

"Prosecution Witnesses Might Not Measure Up"

Defence Counsel

Senior State Prosecutor Oladipo Robin-Mason is expected today Thursday 23rd September to start leading evidence in the four counts of sex crime alleged against United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone senior war crimes investigator and senior Australian Policeman 56-year-old Peter Halloran. When Peter Halloran made his second appearance in

the Freetown High Court No.1 presided over by Justice Samuel Ademosu last Tuesday September 21, Robin-Mason said "we intend to commence trial within the next 48-hours. In opposing defence counsel Nicholas Bronne-Marke's application for bail on behalf of Peter Halloran, Robin-Mason told the Judge "the status quo since we last appeared before your Lordship has not changed. The

reasons proffered in support of exposing the application are the same as we alleged on 10th September that prosecution witnesses and prospective witnesses have been interfered with to the extent that their testimonies at the end might not be what the prosecution expects them to be." "I submit further that only when this matter is commenced and we are in a position to lead witnesses in evidence can the present status quo be affected when the ba-

sis for our objection would have been swept away." In response defence counsel Nicholas Browne-Marke said "what the prosecution is saying is that there is the possibility that their witnesses might not measure up when they come to testify." Browne-Marke added "the accused has been in detention for over a month. Under the criminal procedure Act of Sierra Leone he is entitled to bail unless the court sees good reason as to the con-

trary. "It is my respectful submission that no good reason has been shown in this court why he should be denied bail. "He has surrendered his passport to the police which is still in custody of it. Authorities of the Australian Government including the Australian High Commission in Accra, Ghana are prepared to vouch that he would not jump bail and would appear for his trial. "He has no intention of interfering with the prosecution witness and my instruc-

tions are that he has never interfered with any prosecution witness. "I submit that in the best of justice and all concerned that he is not punished before the proceedings made by this court." Justice Samuel Ademosu ruled that he would consider the defence counsel's application for bail when the court starts to hear the evidence of the prosecution witness today. Peter Halloran and two Sierra Leoneans, charged with him for procuring a girl under 14 years for carnal knowledge and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, are being tried by "Judge alone" and not by judge and a 12-man Jury. Halloran is also charged for having carnal knowledge with a 13-year-old girl.

Kondema & Fofanah Ditch Norman

The second accused in the joint trial of the Civil Defence Force (CDF) of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Moinina Fofanah who on Monday 20th, teamed up with first accused S.H Norman to abandon the trial unless protective measures for prosecution witnesses are removed. On Tuesday 21st had a change of heart and showed up in court for the confirmation of the trial, together with the third accused Allieu Kondema. Allieu Kondema on Monday 20th, told the court that he welcomed the fact that they were being investigated so that the facts can come out. "I know I have not done any wrong" he said. He added that he believes in his team of defence lawyers and even if he did not appear in court due to illness the trial can go on in his absence, as long as his



Chief Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondema

defence team is present. Norman on Monday, while cross-examining the 11th prosecution witness a Sergeant in the Sierra Leone Police Force told the court that he will withdraw from the trial unless protective measures for prosecuting witnesses are removed and their faces shown to members of the public. The Police Sergeant had testified how the Kamajors in

Kenema on 13th February 1998, killed six Policemen, one soldier for allegedly betraying the Kamajors and not supporting the Kabbah government. At the time of the on going trial, Moinina Fofanah and Kondema appeared to go along Norman's line of action. But as Charles Margai, Counsel for Kondema said, "it looks as if my client who is an illiterate is being led like a sheep

to be slaughtered."

Charge of attitude came after counsel for both Kondema and Fofanah held consultations with them, following the ruling of the Trial Chamber against Norman's motion. Norman has been defending himself assisted by a stand by counsel.

Special Commentary

Halloran's Case A Sham?

One of the defendants, held for conspiracy in the matter between the State vs. Peter Halloran, protested his innocence yesterday in court at his continued detention.

Abdul Fofanah complained that he is locked up at Pademba Road Prisons now for over a month without bail and without presentation of the facts and details of the case before the presiding judge.

The defendant who is a relative of the prime witness of the prosecution, the allegedly 13-year-old girl in the center of the drama, is reported to be locked up at the young offenders' institution at Kingtom. Without prejudice to the matter in the court of law, and with no intention of pre-empting the proceedings or outcome of the case, we would like to ask a couple of what we think are pertinent questions.

Firstly, why is the principal witness who it is alleged was sexually assaulted being locked up in a young offender's institution? If like the prosecution is arguing that they are scared that the witness will be tampered with if left on her own or with her parents, then why not keep her in a safe house instead of a jail?

Secondly, why are the defendants being locked up for such a long

Halloran's Case A Sham?

From front page

period, over a month now, without the prosecution even presenting its case? What if the prosecution failed to prove its case beyond all reasonable doubt, on in a worse case scenario abandon the case altogether, what happens in terms of compensation to the defendants? In these times when Sierra Leone is thought to be pursuing democratic ideals, our justice system should be seen to be fair and open, and people are supposed to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. This is why we believe Peter Halloran and others should not have been locked up for this long even with the supposed 'gravity' of the offence. They may turn out to be innocent of the crime they are accused of, and then what? Our justice system is once more made to look unfair, tyrannical and corrupt. And let us not forget that the international community is watching with hawk eyes the proceedings in this matter, and they will judge our seriousness in the pursuance of democratic ideals in the manner in which this matter is dealt with.

Christian Adomson
Thursday September
23 2004

HUNGA NORMAN & TWO OTHERS NOT IN COURT!

Court Revokes Norman's Right to Self-Defence!

Court Revokes Norman's Right to Self-Defence!

...the witness said that he joined the force in 1985 and does not want his idea to be discarded. Prior to the killing of his colleagues, the witness said AFFRICK was in total control of the area. During this time, the witness said the SERGEANT engaged in looting of properties although there was no incident of killing. He

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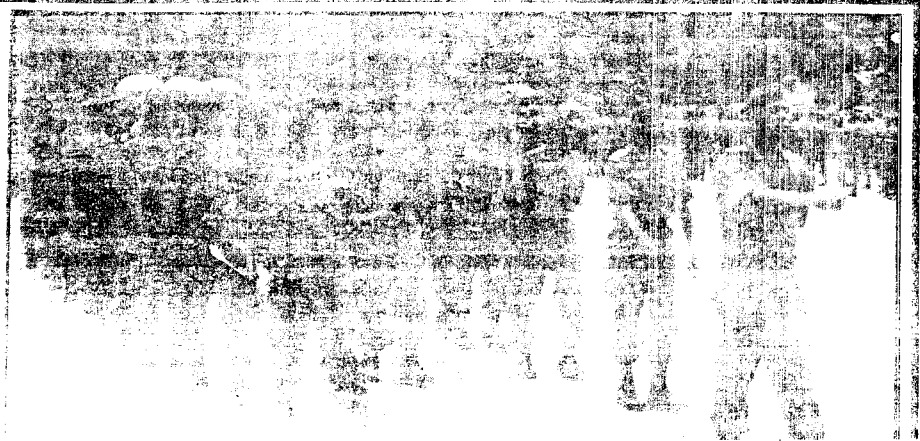
NORMAN: also former deputy defence minister

said they finally pulled out of the township on Sunday 15 January 1998 when the Kamajors entered the town on the same day from Sanneh Street and Suquee Street numbering about one hundred well-armed.

A man the witness described as his brother told him that the Kamajors had promised to kill any police officer on sight.

The witness who was laundering, said on hearing the information, he gathered all his uniforms and dumped them into the toilet in order not to be identified as a police officer.

The witness ran to his house and hid under the bed when he eventually heard gunshots which lasted for 15 minutes.



Tsi di People

Thursday September 23 2004

after he was tied by Kamajors...

"I could not use my hands for 7 months" - Witness

By Odilia French
At the Special Court, the 13th
Prosecution Witness

yesterday narrated how Kamajors tied his hands in Kenema, after which he could not use them for seven months. According to him, sometime in 1998, he was taken to the CDF headquarters in Kenema where he was accused of being a junta, to which he denied. He said that the Kamajors also asked him

whether he was the tailor for Mosquito and Col. Issa to which he agreed but denied when accused of driving one Kamoh Brima (a Kamajor Chief) away from the township. He explained that the Kamajors then gave him the beating of his life but was

released when one man identified him. The witness further narrated that in December of the same year, he was at his shop (as he is a Tailor) when the Kamajors came and took him to their headquarters
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"I could not use my hands for 7 months" - Witness

From Front Page

for the second time. On their way he went on, they stopped at Hanga Road where one man came out of his spare parts shop and said that he was a junta. The man according to the witness accused him of having been involved in looting, which he denied. He was then taken

to their office and "I was undressed, beaten severely, tortured and threatened to be killed if I do not speak the truth. I was then placed in a cell for the whole of the night and in the morning after beating me, my hands were tied behind my back with an FM rope which ate into my flesh," he explained.

The witness said that upon his release, he could not use his hands for seven months and that his wife had to take care of him. He also told the Court that while at the CDF headquarters, one man whom the Kamajors branded as junta was killed with a machete and was then set ablaze using petrol and tyre.

AWDED NEWSPAPER

Thursday September 23 2004

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September 22, 2004

LENGTH: 184 words

HEADLINE: NIGERIA READY TO HANDOVER TAYLOR

BYLINE: Chernoh Alpha M. Bah

BODY:

Special Court Chief Prosecutor, David Crane, has expressed optimism that Nigeria would soon transfer former Liberian president, Charles Taylor to the **Special Court** for trial, a [press release](http://allafrica.com/stories/200409220613.html) from the Court states.

"As evidence mounts that Taylor is an obstacle to lasting peace in **Liberia**, I am optimistic that Nigeria will continue to support the Liberian peace process by transferring him to the **Special Court**," David Crane said, adding, "there can be no true peace in the sub region if Taylor is not brought to the Court for trial." Crane commended the Nigerian government for its support to the **Special Court** and commitment to peace in the sub region.

He says Nigeria sits on the **Special Court's** Management Committee at UN headquarters in New York and is the largest African donor to the Court since its establishment.

Taylor faces a 17-count indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the conflict in Sierra Leone.

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Halloran never interfered with witness

says Defence lawyer

Browne-Marke, Defence Counsel in the matter the State vs Peter Halloran and two others, said in court Tuesday during the call over of cases for the criminal session of the High Court that the

1st accused never interfered with any prosecution witness

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Halloran never interfered with witness

From page 1

Browne-Marke made this statement when applying for bail for the accused.

He said that the accused had been remanded for over a month. He quoted Section 79 (3) of the Criminal Procedures Act to justify the entitlement of the accused to bail.

"Why should the 1st accused be denied bail", he questioned? He said the accused is employed by the Special Court as a senior investigator in the office of

the prosecutor of the Special Court.

"Authorities of the Australian Government have vowed that he would not jump bail," he said and added that his passport is with the police.

He also said the 1st accused has been punished before being found guilty.

Responding, Prosecuting Counsel, Robin Mason said the prosecution witness had been interfered with. He says the testimony of the witness would not be what

the prosecution intended it to be.

"I wish to cast no aspersion on the 1st accused or his personality," he stated adding, "his working at the Special Court should not affect the minds of the court one-way or the other."

Mason also said in the absence of the motion filed, the prosecution still opposed the issue of bail.

Justice Ademosu overruled and the accused persons were remanded till Thursday September 23.

Canberra Times

Thursday September 23 2004

THE INDEPENDENT

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Taylor's threat to West Africa

....Special Court

Prosecutor David M. Crane of the Special Court says former Liberian Charles Taylor is a threat to peace in West Africa. Crane says he shares the views of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone Special Representative of the Secretary General Jacques Paul Klein expressed to

the Security Council last week. Klein had reported that "Charles Taylor's shadow still looms over Liberia". "We have specific information that
Contd page 4

THE INDEPENDENT

Charles Taylor from front page

Charles Taylor continues to interfere in Liberian affairs and we share Mr. Klein's concerns." Mr. Crane says, adding: "There can be no true peace in the region until Charles Taylor is brought to the Special Court for Sierra Leone for a fair and open trial," Mr. Crane has expressed optimism that Nigeria would eventually transfer Taylor for trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Crane also says, "Ni-

geria has shown consistent interest in supporting the Liberian peace process, beginning with the Nigerian government's leadership in removing Charles Taylor from Liberia in August 2003. As evidence mounts that Taylor is an obstacle to lasting peace in Liberia, I am optimistic that Nigeria will continue to support the Liberian peace process by transferring Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Si-

Thursday September 23, 2004

erra Leone."

The Prosecutor believes that Nigeria has a strong record of support for the Special Court. Nigeria sits on the Special Court's Management Committee at UN headquarters in New York; Nigeria is the largest African donor to the Special Court; and from its beginning, the Court has been guarded by the UNAMSIL.

Charles Taylor faces a 17-count indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the conflict in Sierra Leone. The charges include terrorizing the civilian population, unlawful killings, sexual violence, physical violence, forced conscription of child soldiers, abductions, forced labour, looting and burning, and attacks on UN peacekeeping personnel.