

**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:**

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
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## Prosecutor Accuses Former Liberia Leader

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY  
 Associated Press Writer  
 September 27, 2004

Email this story.

The top prosecutor for Sierra Leone's war crimes court on Monday accused former Liberian President Charles Taylor of recruiting fighters in the country he once led and working to destabilize other West African nations. A spokesman for Taylor denied the allegations.

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Prosecutor David Crane told The Associated Press in an interview that Taylor, in exile in Nigeria after being forced to step down and leave Liberia in August 2003, is hiring his former militia fighters to cause mayhem in Liberia's neighbors, Ivory Coast and Guinea.

"Charles Taylor is not only a war criminal but is meddling in other countries' affairs, using Nimba County (in Liberia) as a recruiting base of some of the ex-combatants in his militia," said Crane, who has issued a 17-count indictment against Taylor for his alleged role in funding and directing rebels in Sierra Leone's decade-long conflict.

"In the interest of peace, Taylor has to be handed over and we see some of the stakeholders in the peace process realizing that he continues to be an obstacle to peace in the sub-region," said Crane. He said the U.N.-backed Sierra Leone war crimes court is seeking custody of Taylor for trial.

It is widely believed that Ivory Coast and Guinea helped insurgents drive Taylor from power.

Nigeria agreed to take in Taylor as rebels shelled the Liberian capital, Monrovia, on the condition he refrain from meddling in the affairs of Liberia or other countries.

Crane, a veteran U.S. Defense Department lawyer, did not say how he obtained information about Taylor's alleged recruitment activities or how Taylor might have contacted his former militia allies.

Taylor is not allowed to speak to reporters under an agreement with Nigeria, but a spokesman for the former president denied Crane's charges.

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"All these accusations have always been there before, that Taylor is the eye of the storm in West Africa ... It's not true," said Vaani Paasawe, a top Taylor aide. "David (Crane) is just trying to create a case for arraigining Taylor in Sierra Leone," he said from Nigeria.

A spokesman for Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo was unavailable for comment.

The Sierra Leone court is handling cases stemming from a 1991-2002 battle for control of Sierra Leone and its diamond fields, a conflict that saw rebels hacking off the limbs, lips and ears of civilian victims.

Taylor is accused of directing Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front rebels and trafficking in guns and diamonds while in office.

Nigeria, which helped broker the peace deal that ended Liberia's civil war and sent the first troops to calm the country, has said it will only surrender Taylor to a Liberian court. However, Crane suggested the Nigerians could be open to discussions with the Sierra Leone tribunal.

"We are encouraged by Nigeria's openness to talk and to consider all possibilities," said Crane. "As a regional leader, Nigeria wants to ensure peace in the subregion and that has to be respected."

Taylor launched Liberia into crisis with his 1989-1996 insurrection before winning elections in 1997. Rebels, including many fighters from the earlier civil war, rose up against Taylor in 1999.

Tens of thousands of U.N. peacekeepers are providing security in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ivory Coast - three countries whose conflicts have long been intertwined - and West Africa is enjoying its first semblance of peace since Taylor's insurrection spread instability through the region.

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Associated Press Writer Dulue Mbachu in Lagos, Nigeria contributed to this report.

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## **FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) The top prosecutor for Sierra Leone's...**

By Clarence Roy-Macaulay, Associated Press, 9/27/2004 15:41

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) The top prosecutor for Sierra Leone's war crimes court on Monday accused former Liberian President Charles Taylor of recruiting fighters in the country he once led and working to destabilize other West African nations. A spokesman for Taylor denied the allegations.

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Associated Press Writer Dulue Mbachu in Lagos, Nigeria contributed to this report.

# THE EXCLUSIVE

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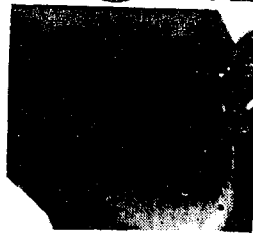
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*Why Koribondo Residents Are Prosecuting 1<sup>st</sup> CDF Accused*

# Hinga Norman

# Writes From



# Prison

A letter purported to have been written by the CDF 1st Accused, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, from the Special Court prisons and leaked to this press by one of his relatives, has revealed some of the reasons why the residents of Koribondo are labelling his fight to restore constitutional and democratic rule, and the reinstatement of the presidency in Sierra Leone as "Norman's hostile strategies against their interest; especially the efforts by the Kamajors in capturing Koribondo and causing the eviction of the Soldiers from the town...."

*We have published the letter on page 2 unedited.*

*Hinga Norman*

Shameless

**Chief Samuel Hinga Norman**  
**Justice Of The Peace Sierra Leone**

**Controversies Of Jaiama-Bongor Chiefdom**  
**Some Of The Reasons Behind The Evidences By Some Of The Witnesses**

The controversies in Jaiama-Bongor started when Jaiama then a small Chiefdom with only four sections, was amalgamated with also another small Chiefdom of four sections, called Bongor, for both to become a single Amalgamated Chiefdom of Eight Sections to be called JAIAMA-BONGOR CHIEFDOM for Local Administrative convenience and to always conduct open Paramount Chieftaincy Election in which EVERY legitimate Candidate will have the right to contest in a non-ROTATIONAL Election.

This arrangement sparked off an immediate open disagreement between the two parties (JAIAMA and BONGOR):

- a) Jaiama, being less populated and economically weak, felt disadvantaged and cheated; that without Rotational right, Jaiama could never have their own person crowned as Paramount Chief in the Amalgamation's arrangement. This the protested will have to be changed to allow Rotational elections to enable each of the parties to crown a Paramount Chief in turn.
- b) Bongor, on the other hand, was more populated, economically stronger, had more advantages and at the time when Jaiama was protesting, Bongor had an individual called B.A. Foday Kai (commonly called B.A.), who had a lot of political influence in the Ruling Party at that time, (A.P.C. - The ALL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS). The Chieftaincy Election which followed immediately thereafter, was openly contested by all Candidates without recognizing Rotational Rights. Obviously, the Candidate of BONGOR whose name was B.A. Foday Kai, won.

This was the situation existing long before the Rebel War started, it remained unresolved and continued until after the war. This was one of the main reasons why Government decided to station the Military Garrison with a strong base at the Strategic Road Junction town of KORIBONDO in 1991, concluding that the rebels could easily infiltrate disgruntled people and area.

The Military quickly established a strong Base at the Strategic Road Junction controlling:

- a) Roads from the Guinean borders in the North to the Liberian borders in the South of Sierra Leone.
- b) Roads from the West and South to the Guinean borders of the East and Liberian borders of the East and South of Sierra Leone.

The residents of Koribondo in the Jaiama part of Jaiama-Bongor Chiefdom, quickly took advantages of their social relationship with the resident Soldiers through intermarriages. This relationship yielded many economic benefits developing into strong political influence, long before the 1997 military Coup. After the coup, some people in Jaiama, especially Koribondo who were aggrieved because of the existing disadvantaged Amalgamation arrangement, thought they could use their social and other influence with the Soldiers of the AFRC in power to win their favour to change the existing Amalgamation arrangement from Direct Election to a Rotational Election. This continued to be an issue over which the people of Jaiama and particularly those of Koribondo were and still remained deeply divided, being the very reason for their counter destruction of lives and properties in their towns and villages during the war, with hatred running high among them to the present.

When Chief Hinga Norman was appointed Regent Chief and took up residence at Telu in the Bongor part of the Amalgamated Chiefdom, instead of Koribondo, this was perceived as a move by Hinga Norman showing his dislike of the people of Jaiama, particularly the people of Koribondo; this opinion, though wrong, has now openly surfaced in the present Trial by some people of Jaiama especially the people of Koribondo.

The relentless efforts and PATRIOTIC SERVICES rendered by the CDF (Kamajors) to capture Koribondo and other strategic towns around the country (a DUTY requested to them by President Tejan Kabbah, assigned to them by The PARLIAMENT of Sierra Leone and selflessly and honestly performed) to facilitate the Deployment of ECOMOG and other UN Forces in order to RE-ESTABLISH CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC RULE, AND REINSTATE THE PRESIDENCY in Sierra Leone, is now being labeled by some Residents of Koribondo as Hinga Norman's hostile strategies against their interest, especially the efforts by the Kamajors in capturing Koribondo and causing the eviction of the Soldiers from the town, consequently maintaining all benefits and spoils of war the people were used to receiving from the Soldiers resident in and around the Koribondo Base.

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## **U.S. Angry Over Attempts to Disrupt Peace**

**The Analyst (Monrovia)**

NEWS

September 27, 2004

Posted to the web September 27, 2004

The United States of America is said to be angry and concerned over an "incident of recent violence" in Monrovia as well as efforts by some parties to the Accra Peace Agreement to disrupt and retrogress progress achieved thus far in the ongoing peace process in Liberia.

In a statement recently delivered by Charge'd'Affaires, Duane Sams at US Embassy near Monrovia, he said recent developments have drawn the attention of the international community about Liberia's political will to make the transition to a democratic society.

Besides that, the US diplomat, it also threatens, "Continued international funding and new private sector international and domestic investment and betrays millions of Liberians who have fought hard and sacrificed much to bring peace and good governance to Liberia."

The Liberian peace process has been plagued by upheavals and uncertainties relative to the disenchantment within the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) over leadership.

A new splinter group is claiming leadership of LURD while all-time Chairman Sekou Damate insists that he is still at the helm of power. However, the situation almost reached chaotic proportion when loyalists of the splinter group of LURD allegedly besieged the Freeport of Monrovia to stop the man named by Chairman Conneh to head the National Port Authority as Managing Director from taking assignment. The action prompted UNMIL soldiers to move in as quickly as possible to put things under control.

Despite, the situation remains fragile, as both parties seem determined to have their will done at the detriment of the peace.

The progress made by the international community in the process of achieving genuine peace formed the basis of the US Diplomat statement. According to him, many international stakeholders and institutions are assessing the progress made in Liberia.



"Tremendous progress has been made in the disarmament and humanitarian areas. But much remains to be done.

Much of the Liberia's unfinished business, especially the badly-need capital-intensive infrastructure projects, will require millions of dollars of new foreign private capitals," he said.

Contrary to little progress made so far, Mr. Sams believes millions of dollars are required to fund the Rehabilitation and Reintegration (RR) component of the DDRR program.

He said, "Long term peace and stability will remain elusive until a credible, sustainable 'RR' program takes hold. This will require enormous effort. It includes not only foreign funding, but hard work, perseverance and most importantly, peaceful cooperation and teamwork of all Liberians." Reports of corruption in government have permeated every fabric of the society. But commenting on the reports, the US Charge'd'Affaires noted lack of transparency in government and government-run entities seriously undercuts international efforts to attract needed "private and public" capital.