

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
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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, October 13, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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WHY 96 RUF COMMANDOS TRAINED IN LIBERIA

Mohamed Mansaray

Special Court Prosecution witness, General John Tarnue has revealed that it was he who trained ninety-six RUF commandos at camp Kanola in Liberia in the early 90s on the orders of the then NPFL leader Charles Taylor.

The witness told the Court that the commandos initially operated with the NPFL rebels in Liberia and were part of the force that attacked Sierra Leone in 1991. General Tarnue made these disclosures during his cross-examination by Wayne Jordash, defence counsel for the first RUF accused Issa Sesay at Court Room No. 1, New England in Freetown over the weekend. *SEE BACK PAGE*



Sankoh, Taylor's man

Liberian General At Special Court

Describing himself as the former Commanding General of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), the witness informed the court that he surrendered to Mr. Taylor's forces in Kakata sometime in 1993 at the peak of the war in Liberia and he was made a training commandant in the NPFL.

Appearing a little aggressive during his cross-examination, General Tarnue testified that the 96 commandos were forcefully conscripted in towns and villages that were conquered by the NPFL forces at the start of the war in Liberia.

"The 96 Sierra Leoneans were involuntarily conscripted", he emphasised. "Foday Sankoh visited me at camp Kanola where I was training his boys to invade Sierra Leone and he commended me for a job well done", the witness further revealed.

General Tarnue described Charles Taylor as President Gadaffi's secret agent in West Africa and further revealed that the two dictators had plans to conquer and create instability in the West African sub-region. The witness went on to describe President Gadaffi of Libya and Blaise Campore of Burkina Faso as Mr. Taylor's financiers during the war years. He also mentioned the names of Liberian Defence Minister Daniel Chea and Mr. Taylor's Death Squad Commander Benjamin Yeaten as other NPFL commanders who fuelled the conflict in Sierra Leone and supplied weapons to RUF rebels to engage ECOMOG forces when they were ousted from power in Freetown in 1998.

The witness further testified that RUF special forces were trained in Libya and that he (the witness) participated in the supply of weapons by helicopter to the RUF rebels in Sierra Leone during the war.

General Tarnue told the court that Mr. Taylor had what he described as long-range-radio facility at his Gbanga Headquarters, which he used to communicate with NPFL and RUF commanders in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

"I was the military staff officer to Mr. Taylor" the witness told the court and mentioned Camp Nama, Jackson Nama and the Booker Washington Institute as other bases where rebels were also trained in Liberia. "We also had in our midst mercenaries from The Gambia and Burkina Faso," the witness told the court.

Asked by Mr. Jordash whether he was aware about the UN travel ban imposed on senior officials of the Taylor administration including the witness himself in 2001 for human rights abuses during the war in Liberia, the General replied that not everyone whose names appeared on the UN travel ban committed atrocities in that country.

Asked why his name appeared on the list, the witness told the court that it was because he was the Commanding General of the AFL.

The witness was led in evidence by a prosecution lawyer Christopher Santora and he testified in English.

Sierra Times

Wednesday 13th Oct

2004

Special Court stops RUF Chairman

Samuel Gbassay Kanu, Revolutionary United Front Party (RUF) Western Area Chairman said he was shocked recently when officials of the Special Court prevented him from paying a visit to RUF indictee, Issa Sesay.

Kanu asserted that he was at the Court together with the wife of Issa Sesay to visit the war crimes indictee.

"The wife of Issa was allowed in while I was told to come in two weeks time," Kanu noted and explained that he made the attempt to visit their Interim Leader just to keep in touch with him.

According to him, when he reported after the two weeks, the officials of the Court reportedly told the RUF chairman that the government advised them not to allow Kanu to visit Sesay.

"I did not feel pleased because I was prevented to see him" Kanu said and continued. "I called Issa

and explained to him all that happened."

Special Court Spokesman Allison Cooper said Monday Kanu was not denied access to see Sesay, but he was going through the security process that every body undergoes.

Cooper admitted that security checks usually take a week, but however refused to explain whether it was government that had advised the Court not to allow Kanu to visit Sesay.

"Are you looking for a story or are you speaking for Kanu," she asked.

Standard Times

Wednesday 13th Oct 2004

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

Terms: **cop on child-sex charges left nca 'under cloud'** ([Edit Search](#))

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The Australian October 13, 2004 Wednesday All-round Country Edition

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The Australian

October 13, 2004 Wednesday All-round Country Edition

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 374 words

HEADLINE: Cop on **child-sex** charges left **NCA** 'under **cloud**'

SOURCE: MATP

BYLINE: Padraic Murphy

BODY:

A DECORATED senior Victorian police officer fighting **child-sex** charges in Sierra Leone left the National Crime Authority "under a **cloud**" in the early 1990s.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, on trial after fellow Australian war crimes investigator Mandy Cordwell allegedly found a girl, 13, in his bedroom, joined the **NCA** in 1987 and worked on undercover operations targeting Australian criminals in The Philippines.

A spokeswoman for the Australian Crime Commission -- which succeeded the **NCA** last year -- could not say exactly when Mr Halloran left because records were no longer kept, but confirmed he had departed "under a **cloud**" in the early 1990s.

Mr Halloran, who went on to head Victoria's homicide squad and, more recently, the force's sensitive security operations, was allowed to work for the UN Special Court in Sierra Leone despite ongoing ethical standards department investigations into claims he maintained long-term, inappropriate relationships with criminals.

A Victoria Police spokesman refused to comment on the circumstances in which Mr Halloran left the **NCA**. "There are matters that are currently before the courts," the spokesman said. "For us to comment on Superintendent Halloran's character would be inappropriate at this stage."

Mr Halloran was charged in July by Sierra Leone police despite inconsistent statements being taken from the alleged victim, who has since been declared a hostile witness by the prosecution.

The 56-year-old has consistently denied any wrongdoing and an internal UN special court investigation found the allegations were unsupported.

Last month, the girl, who had been hired by Mr Halloran to be a nanny to his girlfriend's child, told Freetown's High Court she had not been sexually abused.

She said she had concocted her original story after being offered gifts and an overseas holiday by Ms Cordwell, a former Tasmanian police officer.

Ms Cordwell had been contacted by a Victoria corruption investigator and advised to increase her security.

Mr Halloran is on bail but has surrendered his passport to Sierra Leone authorities.

Two former colleagues of Mr Halloran -- Tim Carrodus and Wayne Baston -- arrived in the country last month. It is not clear why they are there.

LOAD-DATE: October 12, 2004

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

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Mandatory Terms: **date from 10/07/2004**

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West African Diamond Smuggling Traced to Terror Financing

Leah Krakinowski

New York

12 Oct 2004, 19:31 UTC



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Diamond smuggling in West Africa has become a steady, almost untraceable source of funding for U.S.-listed terror groups like al-Qaida and Hezbollah, according to information discovered by journalist Douglas Farah. These hidden transactions are among the most difficult for law enforcement officials to cut off.

Terrorist operatives buy millions of dollars worth of black-market diamonds, gold, and other commodities from warlords in Liberia and Sierra Leone to finance their empires, according to Douglas Farah, an American journalist who uncovered al-Qaida's involvement in diamond smuggling in West Africa.

Mr. Farah told reporters during a briefing in New York that al-Qaida, the terrorist network behind the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, trafficked diamonds with the go-ahead of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. Mr. Farah says it is an ideal way to move vast sums of cash around the world without being detected.

"The al-Qaida representatives came in at the end of 2000 and paid Taylor \$100,000 and asked for permission to not only buy diamonds but to control the production for a set period of time," he said.

Mr. Farah's new book, *Blood From Stones: The Secret Financial Network of Terror*, exposes the estimated \$20 million link between al-Qaida and West Africa. Mr. Farah's discovery was based on documents and interviews with American, European and other intelligence officials, as well as his own reporting in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Dubai, Pakistan, and Europe.

The former *Washington Post* newspaper reporter says shadowy regions around the world enable terrorist networks to fund their activities through phony companies and illicit enterprises that operate outside the legitimate global financial system.

"There are vast sections of the world in this continent, in Sub-Saharan Africa, in Southeast Asia that are essentially stateless regions or where you have states similar to Liberia that are functioning criminal enterprises and are not states at all," he said. "These are vital resources for terrorist organizations. They need the identification and passports they can get there. They need places where international criminals and others who deal with them can register their aircraft, import weapons without question, buy end-user certificates which are vital to the flow of weapons around the world."

Mr. Farah says that new strategies and a better understanding of how terror groups operate are necessary to cut off the flow of money for terrorist activities.

"Finances are like water running down hill," he said. "They will look for the course of least resistance. If you put up a dam some place, they will run around that dam and keep going. I think all you can do is raise the cost ultimately and make it much more difficult. You cannot eliminate it. Ultimately, if you have international enforcement, you can raise the price a little bit."

Mr. Farah, now a consultant and freelance writer on terror finance, says efforts by the United States and United Nations to publicly name individuals involved with terror financing in their home countries is very effective.



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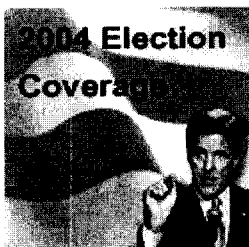
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West African Diamond Smuggling Traced to Terror Financing

by Leah Krakinowski

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Oct 12, 2004 (AXcess News) New York - Diamond smuggling in West Africa has become a steady, almost untraceable source of funding for U.S.-listed terror groups like al-Qaida and Hezbollah, according to information discovered by journalist Douglas Farah. These hidden transactions are among the most difficult for law enforcement officials to cut off.

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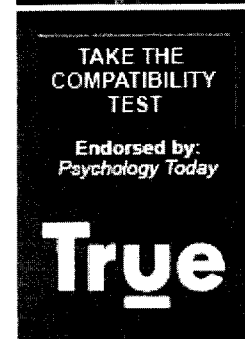
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Source: *Voice of America*

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Johnny Paul, Taylor's Deal Exposed

The Independent (Freetown)

NEWS

October 12, 2004

Posted to the web October 12, 2004

By Abu Whyte Fofana
Freetown

The trial of those who the Special Court for war crimes in the West African state of Sierra Leone describe as "those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and violation of international humanitarian law", is going on with startling revelations made by witnesses.

A former rebel commandant in the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, NPFL, John Tanu who is one of the prosecution witness of the Special Court for war crimes has revealed that Charles Taylor, while being president of neighboring Liberia, received diamonds from the Revolutionary United Front rebel movement that fought successive governments in Sierra Leone for 11 years.

According to Commandant Tanu, who was promoted to Brigadier General of the Liberia Army, he was the Training Commandant on the heels of Taylor's reign. "I remember in 1997 when AFRC toppled the SLPP government, Charles Taylor requested the former Defense Minister, Daniel Chea, to talk to Johnny Paul Koroma in Freetown. The statement giving by the prosecution witness revealed that there was a ploy pursued by Taylor to crown the late Foday Sankoh the president of Sierra Leone through a bogus election", Tanu stressed.

The witness stated that Defense Minister visited Johnny Paul Koroma in Freetown and delivered the message sent by exiled former president Charles Taylor. Testifying before the Special Court, General Tanu said Johnny Paul Koroma agreed to the ploy masterminded by his mentor, Charles Taylor. The witness further said that, there was a mutual agreement between Daniel Teah and Johnny Paul Koroma, urging Charles Taylor to provide a long range communication set linking the two heads of state.

General Tanu said Charles Taylor promised to give political support to the AFRC and that made Taylor to recognize the AFRC regime, recalling when he escorted arms and

ammunition to Spring Field-Air Field for the arms to be transported to Golahun for pending foreign intervention. "The helicopter was piloted by Ukranians", he said.

The witness said that he used to see Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, Sam Bockarie and other RUF members in Monrovia. The prosecution witness stated that Tallah Auden was the financier and Ibrahim Bah was the Coordinator between RUF, AFRC and Charles Taylor. "We use to meet at Charles Taylor's residence called White flower at Sinkor in Liberia. I saw diamonds: some diamonds were not in good value so the junior boys used to sell for their cigarette and other logistical support", Tanu stated.

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Mano River Union Communique' Meeting Ends

The Independent (Freetown)

NEWS

October 12, 2004

Posted to the web October 12, 2004

By Abu S. Tarawalie
Freetown

After a meeting last Monday, The Mano River Union Peace Forum Management Committee, members of six organizations in Sierra Leone and two international organizations, are now striving to implement their resolutions.

They have deliberated on peace building in the sub-region.

The meeting held at the Hill Valley Guest House west of the capital Freetown, was organised by the Mano River Union (MRU) Peace Forum secretariat in Freetown.

The chairman of the meeting, Dr. Bafoday Suma, of the ACB (African Capacity-Building) Development Project, congratulated the Mano River Union (MRU) secretariat for its 31st anniversary. He stressed that support and collaboration should continue to exist between the MRU Peace Forum and the ABC Development programme.

In his welcome address, Mr. Lansanol Morris, Director of Economic Affairs, MRU Secretariat, dilated on new perspectives. He said the MRU has survived the crucial crises in the region and coped with its own situation.

He recalled that in 1973 the original founding members (Sierra Leone and Liberia) realized the need to co-exist, which led to the formation of the union. The union now comprises Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. He added that they later realized also that there was a need to broaden the scope of the union. "And that ushered in a ministerial committee set up by both member countries for economic development, agriculture etc that composed a joint committee", he said.

He recalled that the MRU established a customs union for a common external tariff, which member states agreed on. He added that the external tariff was a complimentary effort. He recalled that through the support of donors, a bridge was constructed to serve

Sierra Leone and Liberia which boosted cross-border trade. He noted that the main aim of MRU was to assist civil society groups in capacity building through the African Capacity-Building Foundation. He appealed for a better relationship with civil society groups at all levels. He promised that MRU would continue working to establish a cordial relationship with the grass roots people, "especially the school drop outs and also integrate the illiterates into the peace process". "Civil society groups should not allow problems to start in their countries. They should be proactive and contribute to peace and security and find out the root causes of conflicts", he stressed

He observed that there was need to restructure the MRU secretariat. The Director of the MRU Peace Forum, Dr. Oumar Ndongo, led the team for the writing of the communiqué.

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International conference prods Serbia to face war crimes issues

- KATARINA KRATOVAC, Associated Press Writer
Friday, October 1, 2004

(10-01) 01:50 PDT BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro (AP) --

Chief U.N. war crimes prosecutor Carla Del Ponte, international law experts and human rights activists gathered in Belgrade on Friday to review Serbia's shortcomings in dealing with war crimes committed during the 1990s Balkan conflicts.

The conference on international justice and war crimes was the first of its kind in Serbia, where extremism is still rampant and where many consider the U.N. tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, to be biased against Serbs.

The conference comes amid intense Western pressure on Belgrade to capture fugitive Bosnian Serb wartime military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic and about 14 other war crimes suspects believed to be hiding in Serbia.

Many in Serbia still believe -- as they did under former President Slobodan Milosevic, now on trial in The Hague for his role in fomenting the Balkan bloodletting -- that Serbs were the victims, not the perpetrators of war crimes.

"Without facing war crimes committed in our name, we shall forever remain trapped in the shadow of Milosevic's bloody heritage," said Natasa Kandic, whose Belgrade-based Humanitarian Law Center, an independent group assisting victims of persecution, organized the conference with support from the Council of Europe.

The two-day gathering will cover topics ranging from international and domestic war crimes trials to reconciliation among the former Yugoslav republics.

Bosnia's 1992-95 war claimed about 250,000 lives, while 1.8 million were driven from their homes in fighting that pitted the country's Muslims, Croats and Serbs against each other. The 1998-99 war in Kosovo killed some 10,000 people, mostly ethnic Albanians.

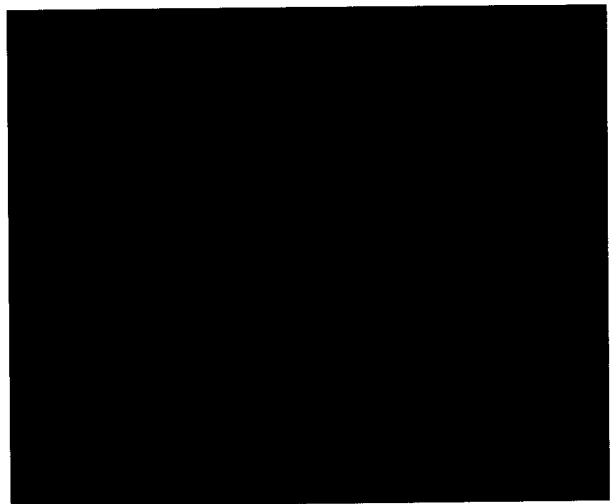
The conference hopes to provide "guidelines for a nationwide strategy to help Serbia deal with the past," Kandic told The Associated Press.

"We owe it to the victims to raise our voice against forgetting or hushing up of war crimes," she said.

On Thursday, U.S. Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman met with Serbian officials and urged them to arrest and extradite war crimes suspects, saying Serbia faces further international isolation if the demands are not met.

Failure to hand them over to The Hague could cost the republic millions of dollars in U.S. aid, which is dependent on cooperation with the court.

Del Ponte was to meet with Serbian officials on Monday to press for tangible moves to bring suspects to



justice.

Topping the list of those sought by the U.N. court are Mladic and Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic, indicted for the 1995 massacre of up to 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica -- Europe's worst slaughter of civilians since World War II.

Karadzic is believed to be hiding in Bosnia while Del Ponte claims Mladic is somewhere in Serbia.

Richard Dicker, of New York-based Human Rights Watch, said Serbia's cooperation with the U.N. tribunal over the past year has been "dismal."

"Serbia cannot expect to be integrated into the community of nations by stonewalling its responsibilities," Dicker said in Belgrade. "It befalls the country's leaders to speed up this process."

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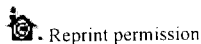
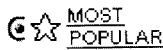
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Medill J-school Hosting War-Crimes Project

Published: October 12, 2004 12:00 PM EDT

CHICAGO In a partnership with lawyers and academics, Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism is now the headquarters for the six-year-old Crimes of War Project.

The project is intended to educate journalists covering war and war crimes about international law and the rules of conduct during wartime. The project will be run from the Medill News Service, Northwestern's Washington, D.C., graduate-school program for journalists. Military Reporters and Editors (MRE), an association of 250 journalists covering the military, national security, and terrorism, is also located at Medill's Washington location.

This year, Medill's Washington program is again offering a graduate course in covering terrorism and conflicts, which is taught by Newsday Foreign Editor Roy Gutman and Ellen Shearer, assistant dean of Medill and co-director of the Medill News Service.

Medill Dean Loren Ghiglione said the Washington journalism program is an appropriate host for the war crimes study group. "As an increasingly global school devoted to serious reporting on serious topics, the Medill School welcomes the opportunity to have its faculty and students rub shoulders with the leaders of the Crimes of War Project," he said in a statement.

(E&P Staff)



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