

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, October 07, 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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Christian

MONITOR

The Spirit Of Truth Lives

*Corruption is corrosive.
It eats away and
undermines all other
achievements of
government.
Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn*

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INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Le 500

For Sierra Leone the other great threat for the future is corruption. Corruption, either grand (the looting of state coffers by those in public trust, the illegal trading in diamonds) or petty (the charge demanded by a low-ranking official for a service that should be free), remains endemic in Sierra Leone. It has become a way of life for many. Society has come to accept, even expect, corruption. As always the poor suffer most, and the po

rest of the poor most of all. They are denied access to education, healthcare and medicine because they cannot afford to make the extra payments demanded by corrupt officials. They are denied justice when the legal system is twisted by bribery. And they suffer when corruption diverts scarce resources away from development or deters essential domestic and international investment.

Clare Short MP

*" I have come across PhD holders who are really stupid...and the basis of their stupidity is anchored on their inability to accept that they could be wrong"
Heard on the BBC One TV output from the lips of a guest who is an author*

RUF Fighters Trained by Special Court Witness

Special Court prosecution witness Liberian General John Tarnue under cross-examination by defence counsel in the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) joint trial said yesterday that he trained fighters that invaded Sierra Leone. General Tarnue said that 96 Sierra Leoneans were among a group of fighters he trained at camp Canada in Liberia but he never knew initially that these 96 Sierra Leoneans were Revolutionary United Front (RUF) fighters poised to

invade Sierra Leone. He said that the 96 Sierra Leonean fighters graduated from camp Canada on the 24th February 1991. He further told the court that it was only on the 27th February 1991, when Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh visited the camp that he knew the 96 Sierra Leoneans he had trained were to be sent to fight in Sierra Leone. Tarnue said that during that meeting at camp Canada, Charles Taylor introduced Foday Sankoh to him as his friend whom he had

training with in combat and guerrilla operations in Libya.

Talking about Charles Taylor, General Tarnue said that Charles Taylor was a dictator who is responsible for the destabilisation of countries in West Africa. He admitted that he was promoted to the rank of General during the reign of Charles Taylor but he was not actually a friend of Taylor.

The matter was adjourned to today for further cross-examination of the witness.

By Alpha Bannie Jalloh

ANALYSIS

Hinga Norman's Indictment, How Justifiable?

Various shades of opinions have been expressed by the people of Sierra Leone, over the indictment and subsequent detention of the former CDF Coordinator, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, by the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Some people believe that Norman's indictment and continual incarceration by the Special Court is unjustified because of the role of the CDF in defending DEMOCRACY in Sierra Leone, while for many, it marks the beginning of an end to impunity.

Well, in today's edition of Analysis, our legal affairs correspondent, Alpha Bannie Jalloh, takes a closer look at Norman's indictment, his personality, the crimes he was alleged to have committed, the Special Court itself and how justifiable his indictment was.

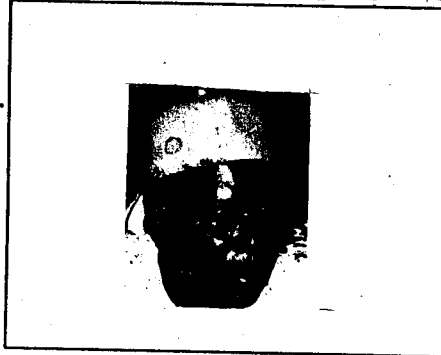
Chief Norman, is one among three others currently facing a seventeen count charge before the Special Court for Sierra Leone, for allegedly bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes and other serious breaches of International Humanitarian Laws, after the signing of the Abidjan Peace Accord in November 30, 1996. Until his arrest and subsequent detention, Chief Norman served as Deputy Defence Minister, in the SLPP government and Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (C.D.F.) and Internal Affairs Minister.

Indictment
Chief Norman as he was popularly known, was

indicted in March last year by the Special Court Prosecutor, David M. Crane, on an eight count charge ranging from war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as other serious violations of international humanitarian laws.

His indictment came at a time when he served as Internal Affairs Minister in the SLPP government, an issue that provoked a wide range of speculations over to the legality of the indictment itself on the one hand, and on the other, over the legality of the Special Court as an international war crimes tribunal. However, in the context of legal prefix, it is the law, not man that is supreme. This concept appears to cast defeat the position of the thought that saw the former Kamajor boss's indictment as a bully, and some how justifies the action of Mr Crane, irrespective of Norman's position at the time of his arrest.

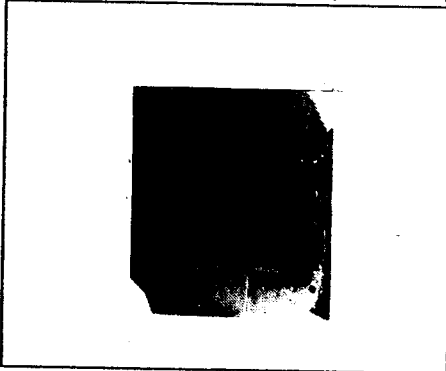
Independent
Though born out of an agreement between the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone, and set up in the scene of the alleged crimes, the Special Court in its jurisdiction as an international war crimes tribunal, enjoys absolute autonomy and therefore completely free from any external or internal manipulations. Nevertheless, a significant proportion of Sierra Leoneans still hold the view that the court was supposed to have been set up to try only the RUF. But over and again, David Crane has asserted that he has strong evidence to prove that all the par-



Pres. Kabbah

ties to the conflict, that is, the RUF, CDF and the AFRC did commit crimes against the defenceless civilians. If this is true, then there is no reason why Mr Crane should fail to bring to justice, all those he believes, did in one way or the other caused

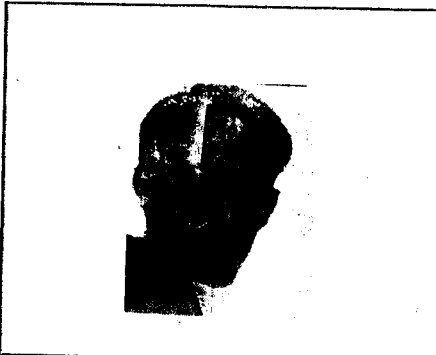
that the idea of setting up a Civil Defence Force to protect the people from the mayhem perpetrated against them by the RUF was quite in place. But he went further to state that those fine objectives of the CDF was hijacked by



Chief Hinga Norman

unnecessary deaths and sufferings to Sierra Leoneans, **Individual**
Again, times without number, Mr Crane has made it abundantly clear

Norman and his men, and transformed to a criminal organisation/code that radically departed from the purpose for which it was formed, which under



David Crane

the eyes of international law, was a criminal act. Long before it was set up, Norman was aware of the principles upon which the Special Court was to be established. That it had the mandate to try all those who through their acts or omissions in the course of the conflict, did result to deaths and sufferings for defenceless civilians. So the question now on the lips of many right thinking Sierra Leoneans is, why did the Chief not raise concern over that clause ensnaring clause while it was being debated in parliament except now

Court
The Special Court is working within the parameters of international legal standards. So far, the court has demonstrated a high degree of impartiality in the conduct of its proceedings. Impartial dispensation of justice is an indispensable step to restoring social stability in any post conflict situation. It forms a major pillar in promoting development, sustenance of peace and security and of course nation building and respect for the rule of law. The court is not therefore witch-hunting, anyone as some people are trying to make it appear. On the contrary it is out to address impunity which is an indispensable ingredient for the respect for justice. Norman is not the only one facing trial before the Special Court, and therefore the concern expressed over his welfare must also go for all others because, 'what is good for the goose must also be good for the gander.

Trials

Now that Norman has decided to represent himself with the assistance of an auxiliary counsel, he should concentrate on the trial process and work with his stand-by counsels to prepare and advance a strong defence rather than preoccupying himself in challenging the legality of the Special Court. The charges levied against him are very serious and if found guilty, could carry heavy penalty. So building a strong defence is for now, the best bet for Mr Norman, as only that can prove to the world that he was not guilty of the crimes for which he was indicted.

Legality

As much as the Special Court is going all out to uphold and maintain international principles in the conduct of its proceedings, it has strived to respect existing local laws. Evidence abound in its transparent setting which clearly shows that the court is impartial. As a court with international recognition, it stands to restore the rule of law globally by bringing to an end, an era of impunity by punish perpetrators not only in Sierra Leone but also around the world once found guilty. Sierra Leone is a signatory to the IHL.

Lagacy

At, the end of the day, a legacy of justice will be left behind. The conviction that would be born out of all this, that justice has been dispensed unbiasedly and transparently, would be a good start in the development of postwar Sierra Lseone.

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Taylor ran guns, armed rebels for Sierra Leone war, aide tells court

by Rod MacJohnson

FREETOWN, Oct 6 (AFP) - When Liberian former president Charles Taylor armed Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front and supported their rebel war, he had powerful regional connections, a star prosecution witness told a UN-backed war crimes tribunal.

In two days of testimony that was to continue Wednesday, Brigadier John Tarnue, a key military aide of the warlord-president, told the court of a series of meetings beginning in 1991 that laid the groundwork for Taylor's engagement in the war in **Liberia's** western neighbor.

"Taylor called a meeting in Gbarnga (northern **Liberia**) in February 1991 at which Foday Sankoh and Augustin Gbao were present," said Tarnue, the first witness to eschew privacy concerns and appear in open court instead of behind a screen set up to hide witnesses from the public gallery.

"Taylor said that the time had come to help his friend Sankoh."

Tarnue is the 13th witness called by prosecutors who have brought an 18-count indictment against three leaders of the RUF who bear the "greatest responsibility" for the decade of brutal civil war in the west African state.

Indictments were also brought against RUF founder Sankoh and his top lieutenant Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie but the two have since died and the charges withdrawn.

By 1995, according to Tarnue, Taylor had established a corridor from Burkina Faso through Ivory Coast into his own war-wracked country, along which an untold number of weapons were funneled to the rebels.

"Taylor and his protocol officer Musa Sesay arranged with the governor of (the western Ivory Coast town of) Danane to ensure that the trucks carrying the arms were not checked at the border," said Tarnue.

"The agreement to transport the arms into Ivory Coast was done under an agreement between former Ivorian leader Felix Houphouet Boigny and (Blaise) Compaore of Burkina Faso," he said.

"The trucks and arms went to Taylor's residence, and it was from there that arms were issued. During the period there were a lot of RUF commanders around, including Morris Kallon, Issa Sesay and Augustin Gbao to receive arms," Tarnue added, naming the three RUF officials under indictment.

"They were coming with a lot of looted goods but Taylor was concerned about this and asked them not to say they were coming from Sierra Leone but instead from Kuwait if other people inquired about them."

Tarnue said that he saw Sankoh handing Taylor a bottle of what later turned out to be diamonds, among the hundreds of millions of dollars in raw stones smuggled out of Sierra Leone to fund the war that ended in 2001 after the deaths of some 50,000 people.

Tarnue told the three-judge trial chamber that he had been assigned to train captured civilians to fight in Taylor's overthrow of slain president Samuel Doe. He was then asked to assist in the training of Sierra Leone's rebels. All told, he said, he prepared some 300 men to invade Sierra Leone.

Taylor, in an increasingly isolated exile in Nigeria after stepping down from the Liberian presidency in August last year to end that country's second civil war since 1989, has also been indicted by the war crimes court.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has refused to hand Taylor to anyone but **Liberia** despite mounting international pressure and an Interpol warrant for his arrest.

With a narrow mandate and tight budget, the Sierra Leone war court is a hybrid of national and international justice that aims to be a model for war crimes tribunals, including one to be convened to try deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Liberians Want Taylor To Face Special Court

By Joseph Taray

The Chief, Press and Public Affairs of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Allison Cooper, has said that an overwhelming number of Liberians want

their former President now Special Court indictee, Charles Ghankay Taylor, to face justice at the Special Court.

Cooper who was being inter-

viewed yesterday by this press at her Jomo Kenyatta Road, New England Office, said during her recent visit to Liberia she spoke to many people about Taylor's indictment and most of the people

she spoke with told her they want Charles Taylor to answer to charges brought against him by the special court of Sierra Leone.

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Liberians Want Taylor To Face Special Court

From front page

When asked about statements made by Nigeria leader Olusegun Obasanjo that he would not hand over the former leader to the Special Court but rather to a democratic government of Liberia, Cooper main-

leader has right to his opinion but that Taylor must face the Special Court in the interest of peace and stability in the sub-region and that the court complements the efforts made by Nigeria to grant Taylor asylum.

She added that an agreement with the Interpol makes pro-

rested in any country he goes. Also asked was whether the Court has any hands in the freezing of Taylor's assets, Cooper said according to the original arrest warrant issued 7 March 2003 against Taylor, the Court requested states to identify and locate assets owned by Taylor to be frozen.

Report: 'Twilight zone of despair' in Sierra Leone

Wednesday, October 6, 2004 Posted: 1710 GMT (0110 HKT)

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (Reuters) -- The poverty, corruption and lack of basic humans rights that caused thousands of youths to join a decade of civil war in Sierra Leone are still hampering efforts to rebuild the country, an independent report said on Wednesday.

The war in the former British colony, declared over in 2002 after the intervention of a 17,500-strong U.N. peacekeeping force, killed 50,000 people and shocked the world with images of drugged up young gunmen and their mutilated victims.

"Many of the dire conditions that gave rise to the conflict in 1991 remain in 2004," Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission said in a summary of its final report into the abuses committed during the hostilities.

"As in the late 1980s, many young adults continue to occupy urban ghettos where they languish in a twilight zone of unemployment and despair," it said.

The West African country was ranked at the bottom on the United Nations 2004 Human Development Index. Shanty towns where people often live in mud huts or corrugated iron shacks are spread over the hills of its sprawling capital, Freetown.

Diplomats say that while security across the country, which is rich in gem-quality diamonds, has improved considerably, corruption is a major obstacle to encouraging foreign investment, fueling unemployment among a frustrated youth.

"Establishing security was the easy bit. Now it's very much a question of reviving a failed economy, making it self-sufficient in basic resources," one senior diplomat in Freetown told Reuters earlier this year.

U.N. departure

The departure of the United Nations mission in the country -- gradually being cut to 3,000 staff by the end of next year -- is also likely to take a heavy toll on a city where almost every other car seems to be a U.N. jeep.

"They create a lot of local jobs. Their departure is certainly going to exacerbate the problem," the diplomat said.

Years of bad governance, endemic corruption and institutional collapse created the conditions that triggered one of Africa's most brutal conflicts, the truth commission said after two years of investigation.

Official diamond exports have reached more than \$100 million so far in 2004, up from just \$10 million four years earlier, and analysts say avoiding the rampant corruption seen in the sector before the war will be key to ensuring stability.

Sierra Leone also has deposits of bauxite, the ore used to make aluminum, and one of the world's biggest deposits of rutile, a titanium ore used as a paint pigment.

Set up as part of an international peace accord, the body is charged with documenting human rights abuses based on testimony from victims, politicians and religious leaders and making recommendations on how to avoid a return to violence.

Its final report, presented to the government on Tuesday, called on politicians to fight corruption, abolish the death penalty, give free health care to the war wounded and free education to child victims of abuse.