

**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, November 25, 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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# RODNEY TIMES

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## Norman Vs Kabbah, Berewah et al At The Special Court

# Banter For Banter

By Desmond S. Conteh

According to a recent publication in some local tabloids, war crime indictee at the Special Court, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, is believed to have lined up some eminent figures including President Tejan Kabbah, VP Berewah, ex-VP Dr. Demby, ex-British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold and a host of others to serve as witnesses on his behalf, at the on-going trials. Everybody is aware of the circumstances that led to the circum- Chief Sam Hinga



Norman

Norman's ordeal with the Special Court for war crimes indictee.



Pres. Kabbah

It is an indisputable fact that President Tejan Kabbah was



VP Berewa

then Minister of Defence, from whom Norman received or-



Demby

ders though enlightened critics  
Contd. page 2

## Banter For Banter

From front page

may argue that those orders never warranted the wanton destruction of lives and property that characterised the war in Sierra Leone.

Those orders were meant to restore constitutionality without inflicting any harm to defenseless civilians. Startling revelations at the Special Court from witnesses about the degree of atrocities and heinous crimes committed by the CDF speak volumes.

But perhaps in his quest for power and other related hidden agenda, Chief Sam Norman over-acted on stage, and as the Special Court Chief Prosecutor David Crane stated in his opening address, in the premiers session, hijacked those noble ideals behind the establishment of the CDF and transformed them to a criminal organisation. Then things fell apart and anarchy reigned supreme in Sierra Leone.

Chief Sam Hinga Norman and his pro-

tagonists may argue that he/they were serving the nation and the government, and that the role of the CDF was indispensable at the time to the restoration of the rule of law and therefore not fairly treated by the government for abandoning him at the trials in the Special Court.

The million dollar question is, does the chief has documents to substantiate his claim? If so, why can't him tender those documents as evidence to the ef-

fect if he thinks they could be of any help to him.

In the absence of sufficient evidence to implicate the said witnesses, then the element of ulterior motive of banter for banter, vengeance etc. against the said witnesses cannot be ruled out because, as a wounded lion Chief Sam Hinga Norman is desperate for vengeance.

We are watching as the drama unfolds at the special court.

**GUEST WRITER***By Mohamed B. Shaw*

The war which most West Africans especially Liberians hailed to be a messianic means of transforming the political and social lives of Liberians into an aspired one indefinitely turned out to be the worst nightmare of the region. The war degenerated the sub-region into political instability. With frequent coup d'etats in Sierra Leone, that aspired war afflicted a great deal of suffering and trauma on the populace, a relic to be remembered by generations yet unborn.

Mr. Charles Gbangay Taylor, now sojourning comfortably in Nigeria, was perceived as the messiah who was sent to redress the system in Liberia thereby unseating the then President Samuel Doe from the Executive Mansion. Late Doe who ruled his country by the sword and was dethroned by the sword was awash with renowned tyranny and dictatorship, which were ultimately responsible for his demise in a rather horrific manner.

But contrary to what was generally presumed by Charles Taylor in agreement with the

wise saying the ends justifies the means; his intent on waging a war became apparently clear. That instead of redeeming his oppressed Liberian people from the clutches of the despotic leadership of Doe, he had selfish and cruel motives he was bound to achieve. Therefore, since the war erupted in the late 1980s to Taylor's down fall in August 2003, it never gained any popularity considering the multitude of heinous crimes committed by his NPFL in Liberia and RUF allies in Sierra Leone.

The Sierra Leonean war, an offshoot of Taylor's crusade, led to the most egregious violations of human rights to be recorded in human history. Atrocities perpetrated by Foday Sankoh and his RUF cronies ranged from genocide, mutilation, extra judicial killings, rape, abduction, destruction of homes and properties to demoralization, which rampantly occurred from 1990 through 2000 gaining momentum in January 1999. Charles Taylor, terror of the West, was about to plunge neighboring Guinea also into mayhem with the aim of creating a monastic

**Justice at all cost**

empire when he saw his latter days in the helm of terrorism and consequently forced to take to his heels by the LURD rebels. The fugitive who broke and escaped from the American prisons far back in the 80's is now enjoying asylum in the Federal Republic of Nigeria where he

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was offered sanctuary in dispensation the rationale behind the establishment of the Sierra Leone Special Court.

Charles Taylor (who is now enjoying asylum in the Federal Republic of Nigeria) must be tried other wise the basis on which the Special Court is es-

tablished is questionable. From all testimonies given and documentaries done on the war in Sierra Leone, Charles Taylor is the principal bearer of all the crimes as he is the one who architected it in the first place. In recent my visits to an amputee camp in Aberdeen, in the Western End of Freetown, I was left with no remarks other than defining those who perpetrated those crimes on those amputees as monsters who must face justice.

Aruna Kamara who has both his arms hacked off painfully grumbles that he can afford to forgive the rebel who amputated him but shall never forgive those who started the war.

"That rebel was acted under command and drug's influence", Aruna added. He insisted that justice must prevail in his case and therefore counts very much on the credibility of the Special Court to ensue that. So also Isatu Barrie a Liberian who I caught up with wandering in the streets of Monrovia during my recent tour to Liberia and Guinea.

"How can I easily forget the

scene when I saw both my parents slain and my only brother Ibrahim Sorie Barrie abducted? I am told that he was conscripted and became a fearless LURD commander. He might have been killed as nothing has heard from him over a year ago. Now I am left alone, no parents, and no home. Where shall I go?" Isatu cried.

Similar stories were told by victims in one way or the other. One Guinea widow Fatoumata Summah is still weeping the death of her husband who died in Sierra Leone on ECOMOG assignment.

Fatamata has five orphans with hardly any means for her welfare. "Had it not been that senseless war, my husband wouldn't have left me with this huge responsibility with absolutely no assistance." Fatamata said in wailing tones.

One cannot help it, listening to the cries of victims of this decade long war except with justice. Every one therefore hope and pray that justice is forced to prevail in an entire independence.

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

*Mohamed B. Shaw is a journalist working for the Critique News International Magazine*

# THE EXCLUSIVE

Vol. 2 No. 2181

Thursday November 25, 2004

# David Crane Intensifies Taylor's Campaign

**By Abu Bakarr Munu**

Chief Prosecutor for the United Nations' backed Special Court for Sierra Leone,

David Crane, is making frantic effort in a bid to ensure that erstwhile President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, is

being extradited to Sierra Leone to face justice for war crimes and crime against humanity.

The Special Court prosecutor is presently on a tour of four countries in the West African subregion to hold

talks with their heads of state to see the need for Charles Taylor's extradition.

This disclosure was made by the Special Assistant to the  
*Contd. page 2*

## David Crane Intensifies Taylor's Campaign

*From front page*

Chief Prosecutor, Eric Witte on Radio UNAMSIL FM 103 during the Tea Break programme.

Eric Witte expressing optimism that the Chief Prosecutor's mission to the four West African states will be fruitful.

He said that Nigeria, where Charles Taylor has sought asylum, is part of the agreement for

the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, adding that the former Liberia president is important to the people of Sierra Leone considering the role he played in supporting the RUF rebels during the ten-year civil war.

The Special Assistant

also said Nigeria is concerned about the security situation in the subregion and that Charles Taylor remains to be a threat to security in the Mano River Union (MRU) countries.

He said the Chief Prosecutor is having the cooperation of the West African leaders on the ongoing talks.

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## Inside Special Court Last Week

*Special Court for Sierra Leone Court Summary Week Ending 19 November 2004 Trial Proceedings In the case of the CDF Accused: Norman, Fofana, Kondewa During the week, the following witnesses were led in evidence by the Prosecution and subsequently cross-examined by the Defence 1. Witness TF2-008 gave evidence on 16th and 17th November. Part of his testimony was in closed session, with voice distortion used during open session.*

The witness was taken ill at 11:45 on the 17th and couldn't continue. 2. On 17th and 18th November. Witness TF2-068 testified in closed session. 3. On 19th November. Witness TF2-017 gave evidence in closed session. Press Releases During the week, no press releases were issued by the Office of Press and Public Affairs Court Documents During the week, the following documents were filed before the Court and circulated by Court Management In the case of the AFRC Accused: Brima, Kamara, Kanu 16 November, Document No. SCSL-04-16-114 – Principal Defender's decision to assign counsel to accused Brima (with corrected 1st page and cover letter re. correction). In the case of the CDF Accused: Norman, Fofana, Kondewa 19 November, Document No. SCSL-04-14-276 – Consequential order on the withdrawal of Ms. Quincy Whitaker as court appointed counsel for the First Accused. 19 November. Document No. SCSL-04-14-275 –

Prosecution response to Fofana notice of appeal and submissions against the decision on application for bail pursuant to Rule 65. 18 November, Document No. SCSL-04-14-274 – Ruling on motion for modification of protective measures for witnesses. 16 November, Document No. SCSL-04-14-272 – Prosecution response to request of the First Accused for leave to cross-examine expert witness out of time. 16 November, Document No. SCSL-04-14-273 – Prosecution response to motion requesting reasons for decision ordering Witness TF2-201 to testify in closed session. In the case of the RUF Accused: Sesay, Kallon, Gbao 16 November, Document No. SCSL-04-15-281 – Prosecution response to Sesay's response to "motion seeking disclosure of the relationship between the United States of America's government and/or intelligence and security services and the investigation department of the Office of the Prosecutor." 16 November, Document No. SCSL-04-15-280 – Gbao – Prosecution reply to response to application for protective measures for additional witnesses pursuant to the Trial Chamber "Decision on Prosecution's intention to extend protective measures for additional witnesses." Schedule of Courtroom Proceedings The trial of the CDF accused (Norman, Fofana, Kondewa) resumed on 2 November 2004 and continues through December 7. Trial sessions begin daily at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

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## Prosecutors' Colloquium to Begin Thursday in Arusha

**Hirondelle News Agency** (Lausanne)

NEWS

November 24, 2004

Posted to the web November 24, 2004

Arusha

Prosecutors of four international tribunals are due to meet in Arusha Thursday at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). The theme of the three-day meeting will be "Challenges of international criminal justice".

Referred to as "historic" by the spokesman of the ICTR, Roland Amoussouga, the meeting will coincide with the 10th anniversary of the creation of the ICTR.

It also takes place a few weeks before the date set by the UN Security Council - the end of 2004 - to cease all investigations. However, investigations currently underway will continue after that date. In the last ten years, the tribunal has passed 17 judgements against 23 accused. Twenty five people are on trial, while 18 are awaiting trial. The ICTR press centre is unable to give the total cost of the running of the tribunal since its inception. With an annual budget of 90 million dollars, the tribunal employs more than 900 people.

According to the programme of events, the Prosecutor of the ICTR, Hassan Bubacar Jallow from Gambia will be joined by his colleagues from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Carla Del Ponte (Switzerland); the International Criminal Court (ICC), Luis Moreno Ocampo of Argentina; and the prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, David Crane from the USA.

Top of the agenda will be problems faced in carrying out investigations, the exit strategies and execution of sentences for the two ad-hoc tribunals of ICTR and ICTY, as well as the possible transfer of ICTR cases to national jurisdictions.

The president of the ICTR, Judge Erik MÅse (Norway), will be among those who will address the meeting with a paper on the independence of the judges at the tribunal. The former president, Navanethem Pillay (South Africa) who is currently a judge in the Court of Appeal of the ICC will present a paper on how sexual violence has been dealt with at international tribunals.

Binaifer Nowrojee from Kenya will discuss the challenges of investigating crimes of rape and sexual violence. A lecturer at Harvard Law School, Nowrojee is also a member of Human Rights Watch specialising in women issues and sexual violence.

Rwanda's deputy Prosecutor General, Martin Ngoga, will also attend. The theme of his presentation will be "Rwanda: ten years after the genocide".

Relations between Rwanda and the tribunal have come under regular strain. While addressing the United Nations Security Council last week, Ngoga said that the non-pursuit of some suspects was "a mockery of justice".

## **LIBERIA: Disarmament finally ends nearly a month behind schedule**

[ This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

MONROVIA, 24 Nov 2004 (IRIN) - The United Nations has finally wound up its disarmament programme in Liberia, almost a month after the original deadline for former combatants to hand in their weapons, UN and government officials said on Wednesday.

The disarmament programme was supposed to have finished at the end of October, but was extended at the last minute in two remote areas of northwestern and southeastern Liberia.

General Daniel Opande, the commander of the UN peacekeeping force in Liberia, said about 5,000 fighters had been disarmed in Lofa county in the far northwest of the country, by the time the exercise ended there on Monday.

Moses Jarbo, the executive director of the National Commission on Disarmament, Demobilisation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration told IRIN that the process had also been completed in remote southeastern districts near the Ivorian border.

"We can confirm that the exercise there has come an end," he said. "Even in Grand Kru where we had some problems getting to before the deadline."

Jean Marie Guehenno, the head of UN peacekeeping operations in New York, said during a visit to Liberia earlier this week that over 100,000 former combatants in Liberia's 14-year civil war had reported for disarmament - more than twice as many as the UN originally anticipated.

The completion of disarmament in Lofa County was vital to allow the return of tens of thousands of Liberia refugees, currently sheltering just across the border in Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Lofa, which had been a stronghold of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel movement for the past five years, is a rich agricultural and diamond mining area which was regarded as Liberia's food basket prior to civil war erupting in 1989.

Although the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, kicked off its repatriation programme for some 300,000 refugees at the beginning of October, officials have repeatedly said they will not send people back to areas that are unsafe and awash with weapons.

To date, only seven out of 15 counties in Liberia have been declared safe for the return of the refugees who fled abroad and about 300,000 more people who were internally displaced within the country.

The seven-month disarmament programme was due to have ended on 31 October, but as the deadline passed, the UN's special envoy to Liberia, Jacques Klein said the operation would continue in certain areas of the densely forested West African country.

He said impassable dirt roads had prevented peacekeepers reaching many LURD units in isolated areas of Lofa county.

But Opande said on Wednesday: "We put in a very extensive exercise to go to where the combatants were in Lofa, to disarm them... Two days ago we completed disarmament."

The Kenyan general said some 800,000 rounds of ammunition had been handed in in Lofa county, as well as a large number of mortar bombs and rockets.

Jarbo did not say how many fighters of the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), the country's other rebel group, had been disarmed in the southeast.

The area is close to the border with Cote d'Ivoire, and with another cycle of violence erupting there this month, aid workers worry that arms left over from Liberia's civil war may be taken across the border.

A final detailed tally for the number of people disarmed and a full inventory of weapons handed in since the civil war ended in August 2003 was not immediately available from UN or government officials.

11/24/2004 14:25:18



From MaltaMedia.com

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Judge Carmel Agius chosen to serve UN war crimes tribunal**

By MaltaMedia News

Nov 23, 2004, 15:15

Maltese judge Carmel A Agius was chosen to serve in the United Nations war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. According to the UN News Centre, Dr Agius together with Jamaican Judge Patrick Lipton Robinson and Liu Daqun of China will start a four-year term in November 2005 and will expire in 2009.

The UN News Centre reported that among the 13 judges on the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) winning re-election were the court's President, Theodor Meron of the United States, and its Vice-President, Fausto Pocar of Italy.

The UN Security Council established the Tribunal, which Judge Carmel Agius will serve in, in early 1993 to prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991. It was the first world court established by the UN for the prosecution of war crimes.

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Terms: **child soldiers and africa** ([Edit Search](#))

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*The Monitor (Uganda) - AAGM November 25, 2004*

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**November 25, 2004**

**LENGTH:** 1559 words

**HEADLINE:** USING CHILDREN IN CONFLICTS IS A THIRD WORLD DISEASE

**BYLINE:** Samuel Olara

**BODY:**

An international children rights body The United Kingdom-based Coalition to Stop the Use of **Child Soldiers** on the 15th November 2004 released its report "**CHILD SOLDIERS** GLOBAL REPORT 2004", citing Uganda as one of those countries undermining progress in ending the use of children as **soldiers**.

The Ugandan government is reported to be recruiting children into the regular armed forces and into local defence units deployed inside Uganda, as was the case in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and currently Southern Sudan.

The report goes on to say that until May 2003 when the UPDF supported armed political groups in eastern DRC, it extensively recruited **child soldiers**.

The report said that children are fighting in almost every major conflict of the world, in both government and opposition forces. They are being injured, subjected to horrific abuse and killed. The report also points out that the armed rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which has killed and tortured people in northern Uganda since 1986, dramatically increased its abduction of children since the launch of "operation Iron Fist" Out of an estimated 20,000 children who have been abducted by the LRA, nearly 10,000 were taken since mid-2002. The report also says children coming out of LRA captivity were in most cases forcefully recruited into government armed forces or forced to take part in operations against the LRA.

The use of **child soldiers** in conflicts can be underpinned to the reason that children are physically vulnerable and easily intimidated, they typically make obedient **soldiers**. They can be a lot more brutal than an adult, for the simple reason that there understanding of what is wrong and right is limited to what they are being told by the adult.

Many are abducted or recruited by force or through intimidation and often compelled to follow orders under threat of death. Others join armed groups out of desperation. As homes and families break down during conflict, leaving children no access to school and driven way from their homes, with no family income, many children perceive armed groups as their best chance for survival. Others seek revenge for family members who have been killed.

The Coalition report accused governments at the European Union, G-8 and UN Security Council of a failure of leadership. It called for the immediate enforcement of a ban on the use of **child soldiers**. With a plethora of international legal orders and domestic laws outlawing the use of children in armed conflicts, it is hard to understand why the act has remained widespread; perhaps the recognition and implementation of these laws by the states concerned is what is lacking. Many of the African leaders,

who came to power through military means in one way or another, used children as a means to attain state power.

Without the initial recognition of such laws; it is hard for such a leader to even think of implantation.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the **Child** is the only regional treaty in the world which addresses the issue of **child soldiers**. It was adopted by the Organization of African States (OAU, now the African Union) and came into force in November 1999. It defines a **child** as anyone below 18 years of age without exception. It also states that: "States Parties to the present Charter shall take all necessary measures to ensure that no **child** shall take a direct part in hostilities and refrain in particular, from recruiting any **child**" (Article 22.2).

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court 1998 establishes a permanent court "the International Criminal Court", to try persons charged with committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. In its definition of war crimes the statute includes "conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into national armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities" (Article 8(2)(b)(xxvi)); and in the case of an internal armed conflict, "conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into armed forces or groups or using them to participate actively in hostilities" (Article 8(2)(e)(vii)).

When drafting the treaty, delegates agreed that the terms "using" and "participate" would prohibit not only children's direct participation in combat, but also their active participation in military activities linked to combat such as scouting, spying, sabotage, and the use of children as decoys, couriers, or at military checkpoints. Also prohibited is the use of children in "direct" support functions such as carrying supplies to the front line. The statute also defines sexual slavery as a crime against humanity (Article 7(1)(g)).

The 1995 Ugandan Constitution Article 17 (2), requires every citizen "to defend Uganda and to render national service when necessary", and every able-bodied citizen "to undergo military training for the defence of this Constitution and the protection of the territorial integrity of Uganda whenever called upon to do so". Under the same Article 17 (1)(c), it is also the duty of every Ugandan citizen "to protect children and vulnerable persons against any form of abuse, harassment or ill-treatment". The constitutional provision Article 34 (4) also states that children under the age of 16 years "are entitled to be protected from social or economic exploitation and shall not be employed in or required to perform work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with their education or to be harmful to their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development".

Even for an army whose composition was over 50% **child soldier** (Kadogos); the National Resistance Army Statute 3/92 and Conditions of Service Regulations of 1993, states that, recruits must be aged between 18 and 30. However, the Uganda Defence Forces Bill brought before the Parliamentary Defence Committee in early 2004 did not specify a minimum age for recruitment.

Ugandans were told that one of the aims of the military's "Operation Iron Fist" was to rescue abducted children, but also to dislodge the enemy from their hideouts in Sudan. There is no denying that a number of children have been "rescued" by the UPDF, some escaped from captivity in their own capacity; many still remain in captivity and are being forced to fight by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

The governments' increased resorting to military action to end the conflict; has meant that many children died in battle and to this day remain buried in the terrains of Uganda, Congo and Southern Sudan. A growing number of LRA **child soldiers** and other children born in and accompanying LRA groups, some as young as five, were killed in encounters with the UPDF.

In his coverage of the war in Northern Uganda early this year, the BBC African correspondent Callum Macrae, portrayed a very cruel, chilling and disturbing aspect of the conflict in "A day of War; Uganda's Fallen **Child** Rebels", (BBC, 8 April 2004). The coverage which is still available on the BBC website displays a photo of a dead rebel **soldier** from the Lords Resistance Army (LRA), a five year old boy riddled with bullets from helicopter gunship, with his head sunk deep into the mud, bare chested, in shorts, most likely born in captivity, his world had come to an end.

In **Africa**, The use of **child soldiers** has also been prevalent in Sierra Leone and Liberia, where both government troops and rebel groups such as the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) have massively recruited children into their armies. The United Nations Children's Fund says both sides in the conflict in Liberia have given weapons to children and that up to 60 percent of the armed fighters are under 18 years old.

In Sudan, thousands of boys have been forcibly recruited into military units on both sides of Sudan's civil war. The Coalition to Stop the Use of **Child Soldiers** cites Sudan as having one of the worst **child soldier** problems in the world. Other prominent places include southern Lebanon, where boys as young as twelve years of age have been subjected to forced conscription by the South Lebanon Army (SLA), an Israeli auxiliary militia. When men and boys refuse to serve or flee the region to avoid conscription, or desert the SLA forces, their entire families are expelled from the occupied zone.

Although the UN Security Council has condemned **child** soldiering and monitors those using children in war, some members have blocked real progress by opposing concrete penalties for violators. In its recommendations, The Coalition to Stop the Use of **Child Soldiers** said that the Security Council should take immediate and decisive action to get children out of conflicts by applying targeted sanctions and referring **child** recruiters to the International Criminal Court for prosecution.


Despite the numerous documentations over the years, efforts to stop the use of **child soldiers** have not yet bore any fruits. The recruitment of **child soldiers** continues around the world, those responsible for their recruitment escape justice, and many governments continue to resist efforts to establish and enforce the prohibitions necessary to end the use of children as **soldiers**.

The writer is a Human rights advocate resident in the UK.

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# "Funding for UNAMSIL is Secure" - *Guehenno*

The United Nations Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guehenno has assured Sierra Leoneans that there is no problem about funding for the last phase of the UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone. Speaking to journalists at the end of a two day working visit to the country, Mr Guehenno said "Funding for UNAMSIL is secure, the scheduling, the timetable for UNAMSIL deployment will be decided on political grounds, not on funding issues." Jean-Marie Guehenno is visiting the



Kawago and Jean-Marie Guehenno

country some 8 months before the peacekeeping mission is mandated to close down. Presently the former largest UN peacekeeping mission in the world with 17,500 military personnel has been scaled down to 5,334 in preparation for the final pull out by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005. Observing the process, the senior UN peacekeeping official said "the handover of security responsibilities in Sierra

Leone has been going very smoothly between the peacekeeping force and the Sierra Leone armed forces and Sierra Leone police." He maintained that "there will be no area of security, no task of security that will not be the responsibility of the people of Sierra Leone." adding that "We believe that as we continue the effort to strengthen both the military and the police, that by the time the


*Contd. Page 2*

## Funding for UNAMSIL is Secure

*From Front Page*  
peacekeeping mission departs there will be an adequate security presence in the country." Noting that the "foundations for security that have been built need to be developed and consolidated," the senior UN official went on to highlight the areas of the Justice system and the correction system which he said should be looked at on a parallel basis. He disclosed that they

were looking at the draw down of UNAMSIL in a "regional perspective" stating that by the way things are going, he does "not really question" their plans to leave Sierra Leone on schedule. However he said they are "practical" and they will be looking at the situation in the neighbouring countries in the whole of West Africa and they will make recommendations to the Security Council. Jean-Marie

Guehenno says he believes that "with the downsizing and eventual closure of UNAMSIL, that will allow troop contributors to offer troops for all the other places that are in desperate need for support for the United Nations." He disclosed that "there are more than sixty thousand troops deployed around the world in some 17 peacekeeping missions, adding that "the demands are enormous, and so we have to attend to those situations where the danger is the highest"

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Terms: **women in conflict** ([Edit Search](#))

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*Women's Health Weekly December 2, 2004*

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**Women's** Health Weekly

**December 2, 2004**

**SECTION:** EXPANDED REPORTING; Pg. 155

**LENGTH:** 612 words

**HEADLINE:** SEXUAL VIOLENCE;

World leaders asked to act against violence, degrading treatment of **women**

**BODY:**

The executive director of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, has urged world leaders and the United Nations Security Council to condemn and act against systematic rape and all forms of degrading treatment of **women** during **conflicts** and to help rehabilitate victims physically and mentally.

Obaid made the appeal at a recent Council debate on the fourth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) on **women**, peace, and security.

"Increased political will is needed to ensure that **women** and girls receive real protection from sexual violence and abuse in their homes and communities, as well as in refugee and displaced persons' camps," said Obaid.

She added that police, security, peacekeeping, and humanitarian personnel must be trained to recognize and deal with gender-based violence.

"We must provide effective training programs for health personnel on how to care for victims of sexual violence, and we must ensure that local organizations and **women's** groups are actively involved each step of the way," she said. "We do not need a few good **women** here and there; we need gender parity so **women** in positions of power can stop abuses of power."

"It is urgent," she emphasized, "that survivors of sexual violence receive quality legal, psychosocial, and reproductive health services to address the horrifying violence they have endured. We must take action to implement programs aimed at the public and community leaders on the importance of not stigmatizing victims of sexual violence and take action to empower **women** and girls and enable them to seek help and adequate support."

Urgent actions are necessary, Obaid continued, because violence against **women** in **conflicts** is generally ignored or marginalized even though its consequences for millions of victims are far from marginal, cutting to the core of their very existence. Effective response to sexual violence is vital, not just to the lives of its immediate victims, but also to the future of their nations and to international peace and security, she stressed.

"The fact that we are discussing this issue in the Security Council today reflects the recognition that greater progress must be made" in combating violence against **women**, said Obaid. "This has been made painfully clear to us in UNFPA as we strive to promote reproductive health and rights in **conflict**-affected populations. It is truly sad, and terribly angering, to see the tremendous needs. But it is even more shocking to witness the response so far, which remains inadequate."


The transmission of HIV/AIDS is one of most devastating consequences of sexual violence, Obaid told the Council. The pandemic, she stressed, threatens "stability and prospects for security - damaging social systems that become overwhelmed, undermining public confidence in the future."

She warned, "If we do not address the issue of gender-based violence in an effective manner, our failures in the critical areas of security and humanitarian protection will only increase in the years to come."

Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) urges Member States to ensure increased representation of **women** at all decision-making levels in national, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms for preventing, managing, and resolving **conflicts**. It also calls on parties of armed **conflict** to take special measures to protect **women** and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed **conflict**.

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