

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:

Wednesday, December 01, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Northerners Brought War To Salone



Hinga Norman

...Kamajor Boss Says

Special Court 34th prosecution witness against the three CDF indictees TP2-067 Monday told the Court in his testimony that the former Director of War of the Kamajor Movement who is the second indictee of the CDF Momina Fofana told them that Foday Sankoh, his Temne people and the North-

erners in particular brought war to this country. The witness said this pro-

ouncement by the second accused Momina Fofana came about when he invited them

to his office at No. 88 Mahei Boima Road, Bo, where he questioned him and his

younger brother. Afterwards Fofana who was in a very angry mood told them that

he would have no business to do with Temne people as
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Northerners Brought War To Salone

From front page

it was they including Foday Sankoh and Northerners who brought war to Sierra Leone. Witness said after he had vented his anger on them he (Fofana) left them and went into his office and later some Kamajors came and arrested them. Witness told how he and his brother were locked up in a cell where they met two other persons who had been manhandle by the Kamajors. Witness revealed that his younger brother was taken out by the Kamajors. He heard his brother crying outside. Since that day he has not seen his brother. He went on to explain that he was still in the cell when they (the Kamajors) took out the other two persons from the cell and surrounded them with cutlasses and sticks while they

sang. Witness said he peeped through a hole and saw the two persons been hacked to death by the Kamajors. One Aruna Massaquoi was also hacked to death under a mango tree. TP 2-067 said he spent twenty five (25) days in the cell. During this time he said one of his brother who came and enquired from the Kamajors why he was detained was also detained for three (3) days by the same Kamajors who later released the brother who went and complained to ECOMOG forces who later came and released him. The witness also went to say that he saw the head of a woman who had been

hacked to death by the same Kamajors who had arrested the woman and taken her to their office. Witness also told the Court that a similar incidence like that also happened after they had been informed that all Temnes were going to be killed. The witness said about seventeen families, all Northerners, who had gathered in one group to find a hiding place on their way passed through a checkpoint manned by Kamajors. Four of them who could not speak Mende were separated from the group and hacked to death. The witness concluded that they went and hid in the bush for sometime before later ECOMOG forces came and said they should go back to the city of Bo.

The Exclusive
Wednesday
December 01, 2004

Norman, others appear in court with smiling faces

By Abu Whyte Fofanah

Chief Hinga Noraman, Monina Fofanah and Allieu Konowa former heads of the

progovernment Civil Defence Force appeared at the Special Court Monday after they refused attending court proceedings for

sometime. The three indictees described the court as a "political court" and not having the legality to try them.

Hinga Norman wrote a complaint letter stating that he would like the court to give documentary evidence of its le-

gality and to stop providing security for prosecution witnesses since some witness had testified openly to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

But on Monday November 29, Chief Hinga Norman with a

smiling face appeared and waved to his family who were sitting inside the Special Court.

The court is now engaged in a battle of legal opinions being read by Judge Pierre Boulet and the presiding Judge B. Itoe.

The contents of the opinion is to bring the attention of the court to the fact that joint trials for the Civil Defence Force indictees is contradicting some parts of the rules. The court is now thinking it fit for an individual to be tried separately. The court prosecution should file another indictment documents



Hinga Norman, through the legal procedures. The presiding Judge said chief Hinga Norman pleaded not guilty for the eight-count charge. Majority decision in the court is concerning opinion. "Double jeopardy" I found that it is unspeculating and unconvincing negatively the duty of the court to expand the law as it is" Judge Itoe stated.

The Independent

Wednesday December 01, 2004



UNMIL

UNMIL/PIO/PR/151

Press release, 30 November 2004

Enhancing rule of law, Liberian police deployed to regions and counties

(*Monrovia, Liberia*) - More than 230 police officers, including 95 Commanders, from the Liberian National Police (LNP) were today deployed to all the 15 Counties of Liberia, signifying rapid improvement in the rule of law in the country. During a ceremony marking the occasion, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Coordinator of United Nations Operations in Liberia, Jacques Paul Klein, told the police, "You are a vital link in the re-establishment of police primacy throughout Liberia – and the creation of a safe and secure environment."

Mr. Klein urged the officers going back into the outlying areas to embrace the LNP's recent policy on community policing. "Work in partnership with your communities, solve your problems together, improve not only the security environment within your communities, but do your utmost to improve everyone's quality of life," he said.

In his keynote address Charles Gyude Bryant, Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) said, "One of the reasons for the crisis in our country has been the lack of respect of the people for who we are required to protect them." He recalled instances in the past, when the police have been the "source" of the problem. "I hope that you will respect the civil liberties of the people of Liberia and protect their rights, and not suppress their rights and in turn become the primary oppressors of the Liberian people."

Urging the NTGL and prospective donors to support the initiative, UNMIL Civilian Police Commissioner Mark Kroeker said it was necessary to "provide basic financial resources and logistical support to facilitate the establishment of a solid base for policing in each county." Acting Director of the Liberia National Police Col. Joseph Kerkula expressed concern over the lack of infrastructure that was hampering the efficiency and effectiveness of the police to enforce the rule of law.

The first phase of deployments will be completed by 19 December 2004, and will be supplemented with probationary police officers currently undergoing field training. The deployment is yet another first step in the restoration of police primacy and rule of law in all areas of Liberia and would help implement a true command and control system. The day was also an occasion for the release of 50 police motorcycles donated by the Chinese government.

UNMIL Public Information Office
Press Clips 30 Nov 2004

Over 100,000 Liberians have turned in weapons to UN

UN News Service, 29 Nov 2004 - Over 100,000 Liberians have turned in guns, ammunition, rocket propelled grenades and other weapons to the United Nations peacekeeping force in their country, the head of the mission said today.

"We're now at 96,333 people disarmed, and we have another six or seven thousand in the pipeline," Jacques Paul Klein, head of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), told the UN News Service.

The Mission has already destroyed more than six million rounds of ammunition -- a figure Mr. Klein described as "incredible by any measure."

The success of the disarmament push was revealed late last month when disturbances rocked Monrovia and surrounding areas, Mr. Klein said, pointing out that only a handful of the nearly 250 people injured at the time were wounded by firearms. "If [arms] had been here at the time, they would have come out," he observed.

Mr. Klein added that while he is not "naïve enough to think we've got them all," he is confident that during the disturbances there would have been "a lot more shooting" were it not for the comprehensive disarmament effort, which involves not only collecting arms but also retraining and reintegrating former combatants.

The UNMIL chief also welcomed the return of normalcy and the Government's recent decision to lift the country-wide curfew that had been imposed during the disturbances. If the curfew had stayed in effect for too long, it would have proved counterproductive, he noted.

Meanwhile, children separated from their families during the country's conflict have been reuniting with loved ones in large numbers.

Of the 7,179 boys and 2,308 girls who have gone through the disarmament process -- which involves housing them in separate camps and providing services tailored to their specific needs -- 98 per cent have gone back to live with either their parents or other family members.

"At first I was very worried that we would have to rely on orphanages and foster homes," Mr. Klein said. But through persistent efforts to return the children to their homes, the results have been "amazing," he added.

Liberia's children are also being helped by UN-led efforts to provide immunization against common diseases. Half a million Liberian children have been immunized against measles, 230,000 have been vaccinated against yellow fever, and over 830,000 were immunized against polio, said Mr. Klein, who coordinates the work of all UN operations in Liberia.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided Liberia with 10,000 school supply kits, while 13,000 Liberian teachers have been trained in emergency education orientation during two- to three-week courses, the envoy added.

Source: UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Date: 30 Nov 2004

Liberia: Ivoirians gradually going home, returns from Ghana

This is a summary of what was said by UNHCR spokesperson Jennifer Pagonis to whom quoted text may be attributed at the press briefing, on 30 November 2004, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Ivorian refugees sheltering in neighbouring Liberia are gradually making their way back to Côte d'Ivoire as they feel the situation is calmer. Registration of new arrivals stopped last week. More than 10,000 Ivorian arrivals had been registered in Nimba County, in north-eastern Liberia, since the start of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire on November 6. However, at the moment we do not have figures for those returning home as the refugees were dispersed over a wide area and frequently staying with local families.

Meanwhile, UNHCR and WFP [the World Food Programme] agreed this week to start food distribution to refugees in Butuo and 21 other locations along the border. The lack of basic infrastructure is the biggest challenge facing UNHCR and its partner agencies, with helicopters needed to airlift relief items because of the poor state of the roads. UNHCR is working with local Liberian authorities and NGOs to rebuild roads, bridges and clinics.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire is currently calm and UNHCR international staff have returned after being evacuated earlier this month.

Included in the influx of refugees to Liberia were about 1,000 Liberian refugees. There are some 70,000 Liberian refugees in Côte d'Ivoire, part of the 350,000 Liberians who fled their country's 14-year civil strife and took shelter in other African nations. In October this year, UNHCR began a massive operation for the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees. As part of this ongoing programme, two flights are leaving Accra, Ghana today bringing home 222 Liberians, joining another 219 which returned on flights yesterday. There will be four more airlifts from Ghana in the coming weeks. In the past two months, more than 2,500 Liberians have repatriated with UNHCR assistance.

11/30/2004 11:07:20

Ivorian refugees in Liberia gradually returning to homeland

GENEVA, Nov 30, 2004 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Ivorian refugees sheltering in neighboring **Liberia** are gradually returning to Cote d'Ivoire as they feel the situation is now calmer, United Nations officials said here Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told reporters that UNHCR staff have also returned to the country after being evacuated earlier this month.

Since the start of the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire on Nov. 6, more than 10,000 Ivorian refugees had fled across the border to Nimba County, northeastern **Liberia**, UNHCR says.

The lack of basic infrastructure is the biggest challenge facing UNHCR and its partner agencies assisting refugees along the border, said the spokeswoman.

A rebel insurgency in 2002 split Cote d'Ivoire in two, the south remaining under government control and the north and parts of the west in rebel hands.

On Nov. 6, government planes attacked rebel bases and struck French peacekeepers' positions. France retaliated by destroying the country's tiny air force and an exodus of foreigners amid anti-French sentiment ensued.

French troops killed Ivorians in unrest-spokesman

30 Nov 2004 17:59:40 GMT

PARIS, Nov 30 (Reuters) - French troops killed about 20 Ivorians during unrest in the west African country between November 6 and 9, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

The exact number of wounded was impossible to determine, a spokesman said. About 80 French soldiers were injured in the anti-French unrest and had to be repatriated.

The spokesman said the Ivorians, citizens and soldiers, were killed near Abidjan airport on November 6, during the movement of French troops from the north to Abidjan in the following two days and at the Hotel Ivoire there on November 9. The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) charged the death toll was far higher, citing its sources as saying about 60 Ivorians had been killed in Abidjan alone.

Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said on Monday that French troops had fired on crowds of angry youths during the mob violence and looting in Ivory Coast.

The violence erupted after government forces killed nine French soldiers and an American aid worker in a bombing raid on the rebel-held north, prompting the former colonial power to destroy most of Ivory Coast's small air force in retaliation.

30 Nov 2004 12:10:17 GMT

S.Africa's Mbeki to make new Ivory Coast peace push

By Andrew Quinn

PRETORIA, Nov 30 (Reuters) - South African President Thabo Mbeki launches a new peace push for troubled Ivory Coast this week, travelling to the West African country to meet government leaders and rebels.

Mbeki is mediating in the Ivory Coast crisis on behalf of the African Union, which is trying to prevent a return to civil war in the world's top cocoa grower.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad said Mbeki would probably leave for Abidjan on Thursday and spend three days in the country, meeting President Laurent

Gbagbo before heading to Bouake, the stronghold of rebel forces who control the northern half of the country.

Mbeki has this month already made one trip to the Ivory Coast to meet Gbagbo and has hosted rebel leader Guillaume Soro and other Ivorian political leaders in Pretoria.

"As initial steps it's been going quite well. We have a sense of what everybody is thinking," Pahad told reporters in Pretoria on Tuesday.

"We want a quick, speedy end to the crisis. We believe that it is in the interest of the Ivory Coast to go to elections as planned next year."

Pahad confirmed Mbeki held two meetings with Gbagbo's wife Simone in Pretoria over the weekend, but said this was done in his capacity as head of South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) and not as president.

PARTY TO PARTY MEETING

Simone Gbagbo, an influential politician in her own right, heads the parliamentary group of her husband's ruling party and was part of a delegation to South Africa, Pahad said.

"It was a party-to-party meeting," Pahad said.

Mbeki's trip follows a mission by his Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota last week which sought to lay the groundwork for Mbeki's new intervention.

A failed 2002 coup against Gbagbo turned into a civil war that threatens wider instability in volatile West Africa.

French peacekeepers holding a buffer zone were drawn into the conflict this month after an army bombing raid killed nine French soldiers. The French reacted by crippling the Ivorian air force's fleet, triggering days of anti-French riots in Abidjan.

Up to 10,000 foreigners, mostly French, have fled and the United Nations has since imposed an arms embargo on Ivory Coast.

Along with meeting Soro -- whose group has said it saw no point in talks as long as Gbagbo was in power -- Mbeki has also held discussions with former Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara, regarded as one of Gbagbo's main political opponents.

Controlling Diamonds

The following editorial appeared in Monday's Washington Post:

At the start of 2003, an impressive effort to govern globalization got under way: The international diamond trade, which had fueled civil wars and international crime, became subject to a regulatory system backed by the United Nations and known as the Kimberley Process. An unlikely alliance of governments, the diamond industry and constructive nongovernmental organizations united behind two simple ideas: Freshly mined diamonds should be sealed in registered containers that certify their country of origin, and diamond importers should not accept unregistered gems that might profit insurgents or criminals. Diamonds from conflict areas have sustained guerrillas in **Liberia**, Congo, Angola and Sierra Leone; they are thought to form part of terrorist financial networks.

Almost two years on, the Kimberley Process has proved its usefulness. The system of registering diamonds is being implemented so that importing countries can have some confidence that the gems known as symbols of love are not financing bloodshed. A voluntary peer-review process has been set up to ensure that the rigor of each country's effort to certify only legitimate diamonds can be tested. Countries are publishing statistics on the diamond trade, making it easier to spot smugglers. When the Congo Republic was found to be exporting large hoards of diamonds despite having few diamond mines, its role in issuing false certificates of registration to illicit merchants became obvious. As a result, 43 countries representing 98 percent of the world's diamond trade announced an embargo on diamonds from the Congo Republic.

Despite this progress, the Kimberley Process is fragile. It got off to a good start partly because South Africa and Canada served as strong chairmen in the first years; next year the chairmanship passes to Russia, a less obviously committed regulator. Russian President Vladimir Putin has yet to sign a law that would declassify Russia's diamond trade statistics, a delay that leaves the effort to track international diamond flows with a large hole in it. Russia professes its support for tough peer reviews, but it will have to make good by pressing reluctant countries to submit to them. Japan, China, Thailand, Namibia and the United States have so far declined to set dates for reviewers to visit.

At the annual meeting of the Kimberley Process last month, the Russians agreed to publish their statistics before assuming the chairmanship. The United States should play its part in holding the Russians to that commitment, and it should be open to recognizing the flaws in its own diamond statistics too; at last month's meeting, a technical dispute centered on the claim that U.S. data are collected in a fashion incompatible with data compiled by other countries, making it hard to compose a global picture of diamond flows. The United States should also continue to support African countries seeking to tighten loopholes in their registration systems. It's hard to create efficient, corruption-free procedures in poor countries. But the Kimberley Process can be only as good as the officials who administer it.

11/29/2004 21:53:03

Africa, Police Thyselves: Conflicts in the Ivory Coast and Sudan are raising the question of whether local forces can keep the peace

Tom Masland

NEWSWEEK INTERNATIONAL Date: November 29, 2004 - A mob raged through Abidjan's richest neighborhood, hunting whites. French tanks rolled out of a base near the airport to confront the militants. French warplanes had destroyed the tiny Ivorian Air Force earlier this month after the government broke a ceasefire by bombing rebel positions and a French base. That sparked rioting and set the scene for a classic African bloodbath. A brigade of U.N. troops from tiny Togo took the lead in evacuating expatriates. The French-speaking African force performed admirably not a single expat died in the upsurge of violence. "The Togolese, and only the Togolese, know how to talk to these hotheads," says Col. Dumont St. Priest, operations chief for the 6,400-member U.N. force. "They can go to places the French can't. In Ivory Coast, the Africans will be more and more the U.N.'s operational face." The Ivory Coast is not the only place where Westerners are turning to Africans to help defuse a crisis. As problems multiply across the world's poorest continent, both leaders of Western nations and architects of the two-year-old African Union say Africans must take the primary role in restoring the peace easing a burden that now rests almost solely on the United Nations. The first big test case for a new AU force will be Darfur. There, a

Pan-African peacekeeping force managed by the AU, not the U.N. is deploying in an effort to shut down a proxy war that's killed tens of thousands of people. "We remain loyal to our [colonial] past, but we live in a new epoch, that of Africanization," French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier told Le Figaro last week. "France's role in Africa is to be the partner of development and peace, but surely not the policeman." Lowering France's profile in the Ivory Coast won't be easy. A force of 4,000 French troops backs up the 6,400-member U.N. mission that separates the rebel-held north from the government-held south. But the AU has helped; last week it threw its support behind an arms embargo against erratic Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo, which the U.N. Security Council afterward unanimously approved. In the long term, such political cover may help ease France's exit from its former colony. The move also made good on a key AU promise: to police errant African nations. It's no mystery why outsiders favor a new peacekeeping paradigm. Right now, there are six U.N. missions in Africa comprising nearly 50,000 troops from 86 nations, 61 of them from outside the continent. More than 30,000 of the soldiers are deployed in West Africa, where the contiguous countries of Sierra Leone, **Liberia** and the Ivory Coast make up what amounts to a new U.N. protectorate. Arguing for more U.N. missions has become a very tough sell for Secretary-General Kofi Annan countries outside Africa simply don't have the soldiers. Yet the G8 nations have promised to pay billions of dollars to train tens of thousands of regional peacekeepers to calm various flash points. "The reality is that it is much easier to commit African troops to an African conflict than it is to get foreign countries to commit troops," says Aminu Wali of Nigeria, who represented AU Chairman Olusegun Obasanjo at a U.N. Security Council session in Kenya last week. The Security Council approved a new resolution calling for a final peace deal between the Sudanese government and southern Sudanese rebels by Christmas a somewhat meaningless gesture a spokesman for Oxfam calls "disappointing token diplomacy." While the AU wants to shoulder more of the peacekeeping and diplomatic burdens in Africa, plenty of people question its capacity to handle the jobs. A member of the U.S. delegation in Nairobi said the AU's force in Darfur is small, disorganized and struggling to quell the violence. Only about 700 troops out of a promised 3,300 are on the ground. The small detachment hasn't prevented continuing clashes between rebels and pro-government militias. In the hottest war zone, south Darfur, Nigerian Lt. Col. Henry Mejabi, the sector commander, says Darfur rebels sometimes chase off members of his team by firing shots over their heads. Two AU military observers recently watched helplessly as police bulldozed an unauthorized refugee camp and beat its residents. "We talk to the belligerents and prevail on them to observe the ceasefire," says Mejabi. "We want to be more proactive. That is the essence of the AU mission." Disappointing as its early work may be, the new Darfur mission likely will prove more effective than previous African efforts at self-policing. In West Africa, Nigerian troops deployed to Sierra Leone and **Liberia** in the 1990s under regional mandates proved almost as brutal and corrupt as the local warlords they supplanted. Western armies since then have invested heavily in training African peacekeepers. Given enough support, say experts, they can leverage their unique rapport with the combatants to stave off chaos as the Togolese did during Abidjan's recent crisis. That's progress. With outsiders increasingly unwilling to take on the heavy lifting in Africa, it may be unrealistic to ask for more
