

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, December 02, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914

New Show

News December 2, 2004

Special Court revelations...

Witness accuses Kamajors of tribalism

BY THEOPHILUS GBENDA

Testifying under special witness protective measures, prosecution witness TF2-067 aged 17 years,

has accused the pro-government militia, the Kamajors, of using tribalism as a weapon of war during the ten years rebel war.

The witness recalled how during the heat of the war following the ousting of the junta forces, Kamajors gained occupation of the Southern provincial headquarter town of Bo.

According to the witness, he was in Bo at that time and that he and his father were victims of the

tribal attacks on northerners especially the Temnes, by the Kamajors.

The witness said that Kamajors visited their residence on two separate occasions purportedly in search of arms and ammunition, and other military hardware.

The witness said that the Kamajors also targeted his father and they arrested him in the

CONTINUED PAGE 7



David Crane

New Storm

Thursday December 2, 2004

From page 1
stead of his father who was not at home.

He added that he and his father

were subsequently taken to a Kamajor base, where his father's life was spared because he spoke the Mende language.

According to the witness, the Kamajors went on looting spree of northerners.

The witness also recalled how he saw an unknown man being burnt alive by the Kamajors.

Witness TF2-067's testimony was preceded by TF2-057, who in his testimony also highlighted the atrocities the Kamajors directed on civilians along tribal grounds.

According to the witness, these attacks on northerners were justified by the then Director of War Moinina Fofanah, who on several occasions maintained that the war was brought on the people by northerners, the witness said.

According to him, the Kamajors even told the Mendes to place buckets full of water in the frontage of their houses, so as to be easily identified.

Because of that situation the witness noted, northerners had to flee Bo.

Most of them he went on were trapped in roadblocks manned by Kamajors and summarily executed.

The witness even recalled how Kamajors decapitated his wife and her head displayed at their headquarters.

ECOMOG's attention, the witness said, was drawn on the reprisals, but that nothing could be done to stop the attacks.

CDF Priest Pleaded Guilty of War Crimes

The presiding judge of the Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone Hon. Justice Benjamin Itoe revealed in court yesterday that when Kamajor high priest, Mr. Allieu Kondewa made his initial appearances before him in June 2003 in Bonthe, he pleaded guilty to all charges. Kondewa was indicted alongside CDF's former Director of War – Monina Fofanah on the 26th of June 2003 on eight (8) -count charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. When asked during court recess to clarify the issue, court appointed counsel Mr. Charles Margai, who is lead counsel for Mr. Kondewa, agreed, "it



David Crane: Special Court Prosecutor

was what we heard, but it is a mistake that will be corrected". Mr. Margai said if Kondewa had pleaded guilty, "we will not be here for his trial," but stressed that it is a mistake the presiding judge made that will be corrected. Indeed if Kondewa had entered a guilty plea, the prosecutor Mr. David Crane would have long submitted all relevant information that may assist the Trial Chamber in determining an appropriate sentence for him. As amended on 29 May 2004,

Rule 100(B) of the rules of procedures and evidence maintains that, "where the accused have entered a guilty plea, the Trial Chamber shall hear submissions of the parties at a sentencing hearing". The sentence may be pronounced in a judgement in public and in the presence of the convicted person, subject to rule 102 (B). All three CDF indictees were in court during the deliberations after refusing to appear in the third phase of their trials that commenced on November 1. Documents of all the three trial judges on majority decision and dissenting opinion will be made available to all relevant sections and web later today.

Thursday December 2, 2004

Kamajors killed Temnes, Limbas, Lokos in Bo

... Witness reveals

By Abu Whyte Fofana
Special Court prosecution witness TF-2-067 has revealed that pro-government fighters known as Kamajors killed Temnes, Limbas, and Lokos in Bo during the war.

The witness claimed he was born at Kholifa Chiefdom Tonkolili District, north of the country. The witness claimed that he resided in Bo where he earned his living. TF-2-067 recalled when a woman at one time in Bo was running in front of him, the Kamajors commanded the woman to "off load" (hand over) her possessions but the woman refused. He alleged that

the woman was invited to the 19 so-called Kamajor Battalion at Mahei Boima Road in Bo. The witness stated that he accompanied the woman. He said upon their arrival, the Kamajors

asked the woman to stay. The witness said he later decided to inform the husband of the lady.

"Both of us ar-

rived at Mahei Boima Road 19 Batallion where the Kamajors occupied. We saw the woman's head rapped on her head tie. The husband shouted and burst in tears", he said add-



David Crane

ing: "This is my woman's head and her head tie", he said the husband said. TF-2-067 said he and the husband later reported the matter to Ecomog. TF-2-067

Contd. page 2

The Independent

Thursday December 2, 2004

Kamajors killed Temnes, Limbas, Lokos in Bo

From page 1

said Ecomog officers were dispatched to the scene and all the Kamajors in the so-called Battalion were arrested and taken to Ecomog Brigade but later released. "Those Kamajors were seen going around the town as if nothing happened. It was N'ganjia that was the battalion commander", he said.

The witness said after some time, a neighbour informed him that, the Kamajors were planning a massacre of purely Temnes, Limbas and Lokos. TF-2-067 said he was told about the massacre on a Monday and he decided to leave Bo with his family on Tuesday morning. "But there was a fierce battle between Kamajors and the rebels for three hours. The rebels attacked the Kamajors. I however later left with my family in the evening", he recalled.

The witness said Monina Fofanah had previously assured them in Bo that even though the rebel leader was a Temne, the Kamajors had no grudge for the Temnes. But the special court Judge Bankola Thomson said there was no evidence of the alleged killing of the Temnes and the other tribes. The witness continues his testimony.

Concord Times

Thursday December 2, 2004

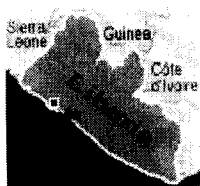
Other 63 Westside Boys charged to court

By Cheron Alpha M. Bah
Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Fredrick Carew Monday disclosed that some 63 RUF and Westside Boys detained at Pademba Road have recently been charged to court. Carew says the decision is part of government's determination to develop the country's criminal justice system. "We've charged 63 RUF and Westside Boys and they are currently awaiting trial," he said, adding, "government through the assistance of DFID and Commonwealth is very much

determined to improve our justice system." He said some prisoners who were not charged and had no case to answer were released immediately he assumed office. Carew explained that government is concerned over people's complaints regarding the current status of the criminal justice system. "That is why a task force was setup by government two year ago to look into problems facing the criminal justice system, and we've have now developed a five

year justice sector development programme commencing in 2005 to address some of these issues," he stated. He says current delays in judicial proceedings results from the unavailability of witnesses and staffing problems at the Law Officers Department. "Salaries are not attractive. Some of our junior state counsels receive around Le400, 000 whilst principal state counsels are paid Le700, 000," he revealed and added that quality services can only be provided if people are paid well.

UN-trained police deploy across war-ravaged Liberia



1 December 2004 – Armed with little more than training and United Nations support, a first batch of more than 230 Liberian police officers have deployed across their country as part of its effort to restore stability, but more funding is needed to sustain this critical work.

The newly graduated cadets will be working in conflict-torn areas out of police stations that previously been either overgrown with weeds or overtaken by "renegades, exploiters, rogues, hooligans or factional fighters that used the stations to extort money or carry out their war-like activities," Mr. Kroeker, Civilian Police Commissioner of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), told the UN News Service.

Dubbing these officers "internally displaced police," he said a key component of their mandate is to conduct community policing, which involves working with the local population and leaders to foster democratic law enforcement.

Mr. Kroeker welcomed donations from the United States and China which have supported the effort so far, but much more funding - not just unfulfilled pledges - is needed to consolidate gains and achieve progress.

"We really need [donations] to help give them the fundamental logistics - pens and pencils, paper and log books," he said, stressing that a new station requires only the most basic supplies in order to function, but even those are in short supply.

"They don't even have proper uniforms," he added. The police officers wear T-shirts and ID cards to identify themselves. Mr. Kroeker said the situation was "pitiful," and noted that the recruits have "no weapons and no equipment, just their willingness to go out there and do their job."

UN police officers have used their own money to pay for supplies and clothing, while local communities have pitched in to help the nascent force. Neighbours, Mr. Kroeker said, are "anxious to have the police come back."

"If you want schools to open, businesses to thrive, and institutions to start working, you have to have a secure and peaceful environment and that comes from establishing the rule of law," he said.

The system, he added, "begins with the police."

Ivorian refugees in Liberia gradually returning to homeland

www.chinaview.cn 2004-11-30 00:05:29

GENEVA, Nov. 30 (Xinhuanet) -- 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. Enditem