

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, February 02, 2005

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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...after having sex with her

"A rebel shoved a stick into my vagina" witness reveals

By Odilia French

At the Special Court, a witness TF1 195 has revealed how a rebel shoved a stick into her vagina after two of them had sex with her. She said that the rebels took six of them to the roadside and told them to undress and they started having sex with her.

"When the second finished, he took a stick and shoved it into my vagina and started turning it," she explained. According to her it was another rebel who took the stick out of her and told them to go. "I was bleeding and I lost consciousness as I went to look for my husband," she said. The witness said that

she was then brought to Freetown by ECOMOG and was in the Connaught Hospital for five years undergoing treatment. The

witness also told the court how three rebels had sex with her in the middle of the forest while she was on her

menstrual period. "My husband divorced me because I have been battered by the rebels," she explained further.

Whilst in the bush with the rebels, she said that they carried loads for them including sacks of rice, palm

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after having sex with her

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oil and many other items. "I walk on foot for about two

and the half miles carrying a sack of rice to Sawoa," she added. She narrated further that

a total of five men had their right hands chopped off by a small boy using a cutlass.

Awoko

In Wednesday, February 2, 2005

British Lawyer Vows To Free Issa Sesay

By Joseph Turay
Wayne Jordash, British born defence lawyer for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) Special Court first accused Issa

Hassan Sesay, told the court yesterday that he was confident that his client would once more walk through the streets of Freetown as a free

man, when judgement would be finally delivered by the court in respect of all the charges he is presently facing. Asked why he felt so confi-

dent about Issa's eventual acquittal, Jordash said he thinks the evidence so far tendered by witnesses against his client as he puts it, "have a lot of holes"

which he believes would enable him to put up a solid defence on behalf of his client that would convince Sierra Leoneans and the in-

ternational community that Issa never committed the

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British Lawyer Vows To Free Issa Sesay

From front page

crimes for which he is presently standing trial and that on the contrary, he (Issa Sesay) protected the lives of innocent civilians in this country. Questioned further as to whether he was the one that advised his client to resume attendance of court proceedings yesterday, following the incident between him (Sesay) and the judges few weeks ago that led to his vow never to attend the proceedings any longer, the learned coun-

sel denied. He told the court that Issa only informed him about his decision to continue attending the court proceedings when he (Jordash) visited Mr Sesay at his detention centre last week; adding that Issa was not in any way trying to challenge to court but that he (Sesay) only felt frustrated because he felt unjustly treated as people like Gibril Massaquoi who actually played active role

in the conflict, are left to walk as free men.

The lawyer further said that his client does not feel comfortable staying in his detention centre without attending the proceedings and therefore decided to join him in the defence team. "I am glad to see him back" Jordash said, adding, "his presence would help greatly to prove his innocence of the charges levied against him."

The Exclusive

Wednesday February 2, 2005

Concord Times

Wednesday February 2, 2005

Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon reappear at Special Court

By Abdul Karim Koroma

RUF indictees, Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon Monday made a surprising appearance at the Special Court after they were thrown out on January 11 by judge Benjamin Itoe following political statements they made that ap-

peared unfavorable to the court.

Sesay's defense counsel, Wayne Jordash says he didn't cajole Sesay to come back to court.

"He informed me last week of his intention to join the defense team to help with his defence," Jordash said Tuesday, adding that

Sesay is equally disturbed over the fact that erstwhile RUF Spokesman, Gibril Massaquoi hasn't been charged as a war criminal.

"I believe that Sesay will walk on the streets of Freetown as a free man because I would put up a solid

defense for him," Jordash said.

Special Court Spokesman, Peter Anderson says he didn't know why the two indictees decided to return to court but confirms that discussions were ongoing between the indictees and their counsels.



Issa Sesay - wonders why Gibril Massaquoi is not charged

New Vision (Uganda) - AAGM January 31, 2005

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New Vision (Uganda) - AAGM

January 31, 2005

HEADLINE: JUSTICE SSEBUTINDE SWEARS IN FOR SIERRA LEONE UN JOB

BYLINE: Alfred Wasike

JUSTICE Julia Ssebutinde has been sworn-in as a member of the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The court is set to try 11 war crime suspects including former Liberian President Charles Taylor for genocidal crimes against humanity.

Ssebutinde, who quit the judiciary last year for the three-year UN appointment, took her oath with two other judges last week in the Freetown-based court.

Judges Teresa Doherty from Northern Ireland and Richard Lussick from Samoa were also sworn in last week.

The Sierra Leone vice-president, Solomon Berewa, and the deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, who represented the United Nations, Victor da Silva Angelo, attended the ceremony.

Sageley Archives

Our security is still a cause for concern

It's now three years since President Kabbah officially declared the end of our decade old conflict. The attendant socio-political and economic effects of that gorgeous event on the security situation of this country are still of immense concern to citizens who eventually bore the ravages of that era.

Through the efforts of Unamsil and other development partners, the Sierra Leone Police following series of training and restructuring programmes are at the forefront today in addressing post-war security challenges in the country.

They've commanded the capacity to grapple with the daunting task of confronting internal security problems for a people who still bear, in their minds, those haunting days of the spillage that wrecked every institutional edifice in this country.

Though the country now appears to be enjoying relative laxity and peace, it is becoming extremely evident that people's fears are yet to be allayed and their confidence on the capability of the country's security apparatus to handle eventualities is equally seemingly shaky. And this situation is seriously becoming evident following the steady ongoing drawdown of United Nations peacekeepers from the country.

A spate of threatening atmosphere appears looming in most parts of the country thereby subsequently heightening the seriousness of people's concerns over the security situation of the country after Unamsil would have finally left. This cannot be overemphasized!

It was clearly manifested four months ago following the rampant dreaded scenery of horrific spectacles of mysterious

killings that engulfed the city before and during the festive season. That grotesque security penchant became so vicious and absolutely detrimental to the psyche of a people who have suffered the most horrifying crimes in modern history. Sadly, those ugly murderous incidents went largely unchecked until they became a combined source of concern to the public thereby warranting the apprehensiveness of human rights and civil society groups, who started question the effectiveness of the country's police force in providing safety and security for the masses.

Currently, the spate armed robbery incidences are again on the increase. And they are taking toll on the peace and development process, which in itself represents a potential loophole for economic growth and peace in the country. These are all bare truths that exist in abundance for making it requisite for government to face the huge task of developing and ensuring a watertight security mechanism for the country and its people.

All Peoples Congress (APC) Member of Parliament, Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma himself had on several occasion blamed government for failing a simplest test that of providing security and protection for its own people. This statement may've resulted from his obsession over recent security lapses, which manifested and are still manifesting themselves in the current increase in crime and criminal activities in the country.

Few weeks ago, a total of over 45 remand prisoners escaped miraculously in a broad-day light from the country's maximum prison yard due ineffectiveness and porous nature of our security system vis-à-vis poor information network, dissatisfaction amongst security personnel, neglect of duty and a generation of other factors combined.

Can anyone imagine how dangerous is that incident to this country's hard won peace? The late Foday Sankoh left that same prison yard and became a rebellious tyrant who led the destruction of this country during the past dec-

ade. This from all indication has the propensity of destroying the shaky stable atmosphere that exists in the country because it utterly exposes the inef-

The incredible spate of controversial ritual murder instances and disappearances coupled with alleged collaboration between armed robbers and security forces are utterly indicting the rationality behind people's apprehensions over the situation.

ficacy of the security apparatus to handle eventualities. And similar incidents are daily occurrences almost in all parts of the country. Is this not a manifest ineptitude on the part of government to handle matters appropriately?

But while these apprehensions continue to grow from one strata of strength to another, it is surely becoming evident that measures that would secure an atmosphere reflective of peace and

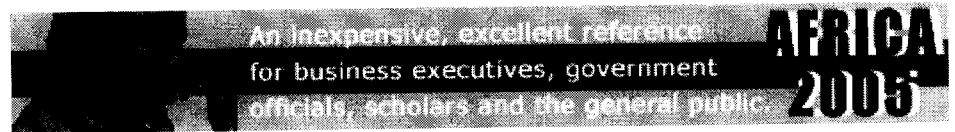
stability are still absent and suggestive of sheer political callousness on the part of the ruling class.

Basic human security couldn't be limited to military security alone but should form a major component for any progressive national venture.

But judging from current situations, it is undeniable that relative conduciveness is yet to be achieved in the country.

The incredible spate of controversial ritual murder instances and disappearances coupled with alleged collaboration between armed robbers and security forces are utterly indicting the rationality behind people's apprehensions over the situation.

Perhaps, an invisible protective blanket seems to be guaranteeing the inter-ruptible arm banditry in the country. For instance, there've been instances of police attires and pistols found in the possession of some alleged criminals. These revelations take us nowhere because they are easily manipulated much to good name of the authorities concerned. So our security is still a cause for concern.



Rwanda - Justicerwanda/Genocide

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

February 1, 2005

Posted to the web February 1, 2005

Arusha

WOMEN AND GENOCIDE: TESTIMONIES OF SURVIVORS CARRIED IN A BOOK PUBLISHED BY AFRICAN RIGHTS IN 1995

Former Rwandan Minister for Family and Women Affairs Pauline Nyiramasuhuko began presenting her defence case at the International Criminal tribunal for Rwanda this week.

Nyiramasuhuko is the first women to be indicted by an international court for genocide and rape. Although she is the only woman who has so far been brought before the ICTR, many other women participated in the 1994 Rwandan genocide in various ways.

"Not so innocent: When women become killers", is a book published by African Rights in 1995 detailing the role played by several women in the genocide that left about one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus dead.

The book mainly details accounts from survivors from different parts of Rwanda. It groups women who allegedly participated in the genocide according to the roles they allegedly played and also on their status in the society.

First are the women who played a large part in the massacres and killings, who are then categorised into those who led the killings, those who were coerced into killing, and women among the crowds of attackers.

Others are women accused of killing their husbands and children, women who turned on their neighbours, girls complicit in the murder of fellow pupils, those who sang in praise of the genocide and those who looted the dead.

It also talks about two women cabinet ministers in the Interim Government at the time of the genocide - Nyiramasuhuko and Agnes Ntamabyariro. Ntamabyariro who was then minister of justice is still in custody awaiting trial in Kigali.

The book carries detailed testimonies of survivors mostly from Butare province (South) who reportedly saw Nyiramasuhuko carrying out systematic acts of abduction and murder of Tutsis in Butare town. Nyiramasuhuko has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Others implicated are women who were councillors and 'responsables' (leaders at cell level). These civic leaders are described in the book as "women who distinguished themselves by their extraordinary cruelty." The book also dwells on three women journalists claimed to have used their positions to preach hatred and eventually encourage the genocide.

Catholic nuns are also not left out, as some of them are said to have co-operated with the killers. But others chose to assist the desperate refugees in various ways like hiding them, treating the wounded, providing food and fetching water for them. Several survivors interviewed give accounts of inhumane treatment they received from nuns at some convents where they sought refuge.

A number of women academics, teachers, school directors and inspectors participated actively in the genocide according to testimonies of survivors carried in the book.

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