

**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:**

Monday, February 21, 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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WITNESS REVEALS SECRETS OF 'BLACK DECEMBER'

# HOW OPERATION TO OVERTHROW AFRC WAS PLANNED

*By Mohamed Mansaray*

*A Prosecution witness at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, TF2 -222 has revealed that he participated in the planning of "Operation Black December", launched by Kamajors nationwide to remove the AFRC/RUF forces from power sometime in 1997.*

The witness also told the court, that he took part in strategising the operation for the attack on Tongo by Kamajors during that period. Led in evidence by a Prosecution lawyer, Joseph Kamara,



**CDF's Norman**

at Court Room No.1, New England in Freetown over the weekend, the witness told the court that he served as Secretary to the Kamajor war council for three weeks during that period.



**AFRC's Johnny Paul**

Giving his testimony in English from the witness Protection box, he informed the court that he went to Talia (Base Zero), Yawbeko Chedom, Bonthe district in

**SEE BACK PAGE**

Sierra Leone Times

Monday February 21, 2005

1997.

Describing himself as a teacher, poet, dramatist and a writer, the witness testified that whilst at Talia, he initiated a proposal, along with Hon. PC Charles Caulker for the holding of a committee meeting. The proposal, according to the witness, was presented to the war council.

The witness named the following as members of the war council: William Quee (Chairman), Alhaji Daramy Rogers (Vice Chairman), the witness himself (Secretary), Samuel Hinga Norman (Consultant Secretary), M. S. Dumbuya (member) and Hon. PC Charles Caulker (member).

The 53-year-old witness informed the court that member of the war council (of which the witness was a member), was completely marginalised and excluded from meetings, at which, instructions were given to commanders of war.

He further testified that he arrived at Talia from Liberia on board a helicopter, and in the company of Mr. Norman's (first CDF accused) wife, Joseph Fefegula, Alie Conteh, P.A.V Zoker and others. "We were received on arrival by Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa," he said, adding that he was introduced to Mr. Kondewa as the 'High Priest' who later initiated him into the Kamajor society.

He told the court that the rebels used civilians as human shields during the Tongo battle but would not say how many civilians perished.

The witness further testified that the first accused, Samuel Hinga Norman mobilised support for Kamajors from Liberia. "Mr. Norman was very instrumental in the formation of the Kamajor war council at Talia," he told the court.

The witness went on to tell the court that he was hunted by junta forces during that period over an article he wrote, titled: "Sierra Leone in a dilemma", in which the witness claimed that he criticised and revealed a lot of things about the government.

He informed the court that he escaped to Liberia and it was whilst he was there that he observed that Mr. Norman was mobilising Kamajor fighters at the Ricks Institute in Liberia. The accused are charged with individual criminal responsibility for offences committed by Kamajor fighters during the war in Sierra Leone.

The trials continue.

Sierra Leone Times

Monday February 21, 2005

# International Justice **TRIBUNE**

Independent newsletter on international criminal justice

## [ Special Court for Sierra Leone : Prosecution ] **UN Court drops charges against military junta for attack on UN peacekeepers**

*Members of the former military junta in Sierra Leone will not be prosecuted for attacks on UN peacekeepers carried out during 2000.*

In a ruling handed down on 15th February, judges at the Special Court for War Crimes in Sierra Leone agreed to let the prosecution delete four charges dealing with the attacks from the original 18 charges against three AFRC (Armed Forces Revolutionary Council) defendants, whose trial is due to open on 7 March.

In its initial motion of February 7 to withdraw the four charges, the prosecution argued that when the individual indictments were originally approved, "the evidence in the possession of the prosecution" seemed to be adequate enough to prove their case against the AFRC defendants "beyond reasonable doubt, in relation to the entire time period" stated in the indictments.

Now "new evidence obtained by the prosecution [...] has led the prosecution to the view that the joint criminal enterprise cannot be proved beyond reasonable doubt after January 2000," the period relevant to the charges in question.

These counts deal with "attacks on UNAMSIL personnel" - UN staff working in Sierra Leone - between the period "15 April 2000 and about 15 September 2000." They include "intentionally directing attacks against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission", unlawful killings, murder, abductions and hostage-taking. The attacks on UN peacekeepers are now solely imputed to three defendants from the former rebel movement United Revolutionary Front (RUF).

**Kelvin Lewis**  
**Freetown. 21 February 2005**

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# NEW MOVES TO GET TAYLOR!

THE COALITION of Civil Society and Human Rights, in collaboration with the outreach section of the Special Court, said it has dished out petition documents across the country to sign in favour of the immediate extradition of Special Court indictee, Charles Taylor to Sierra Leone.

According to the chairman of the Coalition of Human Rights and Civil Society, Charles Mambu, the signatures that will be collected at the end of the exercise will be distributed to the international community, including the Nigerian High Commission in Freetown. This, he noted, is to facilitate the process



TAYLOR: indictee

of bringing the former Liberian president to book and to show the anxiety of Sierra Leoneans to see Taylor tried for his active role in aiding the decade old carnage in the country.

Taylor is presently living in a luxurious palace in Calaba State,

Continued Back Page

## CHARLES TAYLOR!

From Front Page

Nigeria, after being granted protection by that country's authorities.

In another engagement, Mambu said his organisation and the Special Court outreach section have just concluded an intensive sensitization tour on the mandate of the court at Makeni, Kallahun and Pujehun. During the tour, Mambu said they met with traditional rulers, farmers and civil society organisations, who he said expressed lots of concerns about the mandate of the Special Court.

The civil society boss said, among many of the concerns raised included the question as to whether the court can actually deliver justice when the actual actors are yet to be arrested.

He said the people are calling for the arrest of "all those that bear the great, greater and greatest responsibility as well."

Mambu said there were several questions raised as to why 'liberators' like Sam Hinga Norman and Issa Sesay who agreed to disarm the Ruf, should be arrested by the court. In the south-east, he said there were several concerns about the arrest of Norman. Some of these concerns and questions, he said, they attempted to address, while the more technical ones were left for the Special Court.

for the People

Monday February 21,  
2005

# AUSTRALIA CONCERNED ABOUT HALLORAN

The Australian High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, John Richardson who is resident in Ghana, was in Freetown again recently to monitor the court matter of Australian born former Special Court Investigator, Peter Halloran as the Australian government is becoming more and more impatient and concerned about the welfare of their citizen, a foreign office source intimated the New Citizen over the weekend.

The Australian government has expressed concern about the arrest and charging to court of the Special Court Investigator not only because Peter Halloran is an Australian citizen but also because Australian authorities are convinced that their man could not have degenerated to the point of having sex with a minor for which he now stands trial.

The case of Peter Halloran is being heard in the High Court in Freetown and Aus-

tralian authorities are anxious to see the matter concluded as John Richardson's visit to Freetown was also a diplomatic move to send the message home that a situation should not be created that would rupture relations between Australia and the government of Sierra Leone.

Peter Halloran stands trial for allegedly having a sexual affair with a minor and the allegation further states that it was another Australian, a lady who

*Cont. Back page*

## *From page 1* AUSTRALIA CONCERNED

allegedly blew the whistle on Peter Halloran.

In Sierra Leone, it is an offence for an adult to have sexual relationship with a minor although in a predominantly traditional society it is sometimes very hazy to draw the line between an adult and an adolescent.

If the Australian government feels bitter about Peter Halloran's trial, it can only mean that some doubts are being entertained by the

Australian authorities as to whether or not their man did commit the offence.

A foreign office official intimated the New Citizen that the Australian government's position is that the Crime Investigator, Peter Halloran is not guilty of the offence for which he has been charged to court.

On the other hand, the Sierra Leone Police and the judiciary hold the view that Peter Halloran has a case to answer.

Foreign office sources would not elaborate but merely stated that the Australian government wants the trial of Peter Halloran to be fast tracked as they are convinced that with a fair judiciary, Peter Halloran will be set free.

It is not known what position the Australian government would take if Peter Halloran is sent to jail to languish at Pademba Road prisons.

*The New Citizen*

*Monday February 21, 2005*

# Herald Sun

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[Print this page](#)

## Verdict put off again

Keith Moor  
19feb05

THE verdict in the Supt Peter Halloran indecent assault case in West Africa has again been delayed.

Sierra Leone High Court Judge Samuel Ademusu adjourned it last Monday without giving a reason.

On Thursday he claimed power cuts had prevented him being able to see to write his judgment, so he adjourned it for a day.

The judge called in sick yesterday and has now adjourned his decision until Monday.

Victoria Police Association secretary Sen-Sgt Paul Mullett last night said the constant delays in Supt Halloran's trial were a scandal.

"It has been dragging on for more than five months with various excuses for the adjournments," he said.

"Justice delayed is justice denied.

"They really are playing mind games with Supt Halloran and that is just so unfair."

Supt Halloran, who took 12 months' leave from Victoria Police to work as commander of war crimes investigations with the Special Court in Sierra Leone, has denied the indecent assault charge.

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Help stop the crisis in

## Six Rwandans Sue French Troops for Complicity in Genocide

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

February 18, 2005

Posted to the web February 18, 2005

Paris

Six Rwandan nationals have sued the French army for "complicity in genocide" at the Army Tribunal in Paris.

The suit against "X" was filed by two French lawyers, William Bourdon and Antoine Comte accuses French troops of having participated, in one way or another, in the mass murder of Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994.

The troops were in Rwanda as part of the French Opération Turquoise mounted by France under the auspices of the UN.

The accusations range from non-assistance of people in danger, through murder and "dropping" prisoners from a French helicopter over Nyungwe forest, to an active or passive involvement in the killing of Tutsis.

Sources within the military tribunal refused to comment Thursday on the chances of the suit being received, but if a trial is ordered, it will be the first time that the French judiciary is faced with the task of prosecuting uniformed members of the French government for participating in the Rwandan genocide.

"We are particularly investigating whether the plaintiffs filed the suit under their free will because all of them are currently being detained in Rwandan prisons" said a French judicial source that preferred anonymity.

The lawsuits were filed a week after the simultaneous publication of three incriminating books on the role allegedly played by France before and during the genocide in Rwanda.

The three publications take different angles the work undertaken by " commission d'enquête citoyenne" (citizens' commission of inquiry), which in march 2004, on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, had examined and concluded that there was sufficient evidence to indict France for "complicity" in the genocide.

The report of this self-styled "citizens' commission" is published by éditions Karthala under the title "l'horreur qui nous prend au visage. l'Etat français et le génocide au Rwanda" (The horror that we face. The French government and the genocide in Rwanda), was written by Laure Coret and François-Xavier Verschave

L'Harmattan also published a "black dossier" on the same subject titled " Rwanda 1994-2004: des mots à l'oeuvre compiled by "Survie", an association headed by Verschave.



Géraud de Geouffre de la Pradelle, a lawyer and professor of law at Paris-Nanterre university who headed the "citizens' commission", also made public a memorandum of France's implication in Rwanda titled "L'imprescriptible. L'implication française dans le génocide Tutsi portée devant les tribunaux" published by éditions Les Arènes.

The heading of the book is particularly explicit on France's -supposedly established- responsibility in the ethnic massacres in Rwanda. "The hour of truth has come for those who made France an accomplice in the genocide in Rwanda", reads the text. "It is the end of impunity for the handful politicians, senior military officers and senior civil servants who dragged France into the "crime of all crimes".

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It's not just a place on the map.

## Congo-Rwanda: UN Official in Plea to Brazzaville Over Genocide Suspects

### UN Integrated Regional Information Networks

NEWS

February 18, 2005

Posted to the web February 18, 2005

Brazzaville

The prosecutor of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Hassan Jallow, asked the Congolese government on Thursday to strengthen its cooperation with the UN court to facilitate the arrest and prosecution of key suspects of the Rwandan genocide of 1994.

"We need the international cooperation because the tribunal has no police to arrest people," he said during his visit to the Republic of Congo (ROC). "It's the national authorities who arrest them for the transfer to Arusha [Tanzania], based on our petitions."

Jallow also lauded the ROC government for its long-time collaboration in prosecuting suspects who were involved in the genocide and who fled to Congo.

"The Congolese government has helped us and facilitated our work," he said. "Since several years, the Congolese authorities arrested persons who were implicated in the Rwandan genocide. These people were transferred to Arusha where they wait for their trials."

In 1995, the UN Security Council set up the tribunal, based in Tanzania, to try suspected participants in the genocide. The killings resulted in the deaths of up to 937,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus, according to official estimates.

Jallow said the tribunal was looking for suspects of crimes that were committed inside and outside Rwanda. Many of those responsible for the genocide fled to other African countries and to the West.

ROC is among the nations that experienced a major influx of Rwandan refugees. Most of them are dispersed in the southern regions of the country. Some of them stay in an official camp at Kintélé, 25 km north of Brazzaville, where Rwandan Hutus, Tutsis and Twas are living together.

The tribunal is on the lookout for civilians and military personnel, as well as politicians who allegedly organised the ethnic cleansing between April and July 1994 in Rwanda.

"We have already processed 25 people," Jallow said. "Another 18 are detained at Arusha and will be prosecuted. The tribunal is looking for another 14 high-ranking persons. They need to be found before the mandate of the tribunal ends." That will be in 2008.

Should the tribunal fail complete its work, Jallow said: "The national authorities must be ready to judge persons who cannot be tried by the tribunal before 2008. We have decided to transfer the dossiers to the national authorities."

Jallow said the tribunal had the support of the current Rwandan authorities.

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

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