

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, April 18, 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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The Exclusive. Monday April 18th, 2005.

At Special Court

*** AFRC Lawyer Objects Prosecution's Evidence**

*** Judges Overrule**

See story page 2.

AFRC Lawyer Objects

By Joseph Turay

Defence Counsel Kevin A. Metzger, representing the AFRC 1st accused Alex Tamaba Brima alias Gullit, has vehemently opposed the evidence given by prosecution's witness TF1 256 last Friday at the Special Court room no 2. Making his objection, the learned British born Sierra Leonean, lawyer told the chamber that the entire evidence given by the witness has nothing to indicate about the three ac-

cused persons of the AFRC Brima, and persuaded the Irish Judge Teresa Doherty, to exclude that particular evidence against the three AFRC indictees.

Metzger quoted rule 98 f and 95 of the rules of procedure of the court and argued that such evidence given by the prosecution witness TF1 256 is against the said articles. "I submit that

the prosecution should not use that broad-based approach so as not to waste the court's time." The counsel said, adding that, there was no mention of the AFRC in the witness' testimony. Responding, the prosecution lawyer Lesley Taylor argued that the witnesses' testimony has relevance in terms of explaining the acts and omissions of the AFRC as both AFRC and RUF operated a joint criminal enterprise in their capacity and responsibility as these two groups merged together.

The EXCLUSIVE. Monday April 18th, 2005.

71 Murdered Inside Mosque

By Joseph Turay

Special Court prosecution witness code named, TF1 021, last Friday testified

before the second trial chamber of the Special Court.

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71 Murdered Inside Mosque

From front page

In his testimony, the witness told the court that 71 persons were murdered inside a Mosque at Kissy, East of Freetown, during the January 6, 1999 rebel invasion by unidentified gun men. He was tendering evidence against the three AFRC indictees, first accused Alex Tamba Brima aka Gullit, second accused Ibrahim Kamara aka Bazzy and third accused, Santigie Borbor Kanu aka 55. TF1 021 said he was born in 1936 and was a resident in Kissy. On that fateful Friday, he said he was among a num-

ber of worshippers at the Rogbala Mosque when they saw a group of men armed to the teeth with assorted rifles and machetes.

The armed men TF1 021 said, jumped into the compound and enquired from where they were and threatened to kill the lot of them who had converged in and out of the compound to offer prayer.

"There were about 15 of them. They accused us of supporting the government of Kabbah," the witness said, adding that they

pleaded with them and that the congregation even subscribed money, gave it to them, but they insisted that they were going to kill them. The armed men he went on, opened rapid firing into the congregation killing 71. He said their assailants later apologized to them and blamed President Kabbah for their action because of his refusal to talk to them.

Among those killed TF1 201 revealed included one Pa Alfred Bangura, Mammy Saudatu, Mamie Bangura Ya Memuna Kaloko and his eldest son.

Awoko. Monday April 18th, 2005.

“RUF killed 71 people in a mosque”- witness

By Odilia French

A 69-year-old witness, TF1-021 has revealed at the Special Court how rebels killed a total of 71 people at the Masjid Thauhaed Mosque at Whenzle Street in Kissy. He said that the incident took place sometime in January 1999 when they were assembled to observe the usual Friday Jumaat prayers. He said the mosque was packed full with people inside and

outside who had come to pray and some who came from Wellington and other surrounding areas to seek refuge. The witness further told the court that around 12.30 pm some men burst into the compound armed with guns and machetes. “They were disguised with plastic over their faces and something like chalk all over their bodies. “They said that they are going to kill all

of us and that they are not leaving any soul of Adam,” the witness

explained. He went on “I begged them and offered to give them money and

collected about Le 80,000 from the people in the mosque and gave it to

them. They saluted me and stressed that they are still

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“RUF killed 71 people in a mosque”- witness

From Front Page

going to kill us.” The rebels he said “opened fire on the people, spraying bullets all over the place and a lot of them were killed.” The witness said that after that

incident, they took the money that was in his pocket and when he fell on the ground, “they were jumping on my stomach.” The rebels he stated asked them for forgiveness. He

said that they told them that it was not their fault but that of President Kabbah as he had refused their peace proposals saying they were

‘peoples’ army’. According to him, when he counted the corpses they were 71 and the following Monday he and some

other people buried the decomposed bodies at the Parsonage Street Cemetery. He also revealed to the court that

his eldest son was also killed at the back of their house, which was near the mosque, adding “he was shot in the jaw and the bullet came out of his head.”

RUF Blamed For F'town Mosque Killings

*By Mohamed Mansaray
Special Court Prosecution
witness, TF1-021 dis-
closed over the weekend
that it was rebels of the
Revolutionary United
Front (RUF) who massa-
cred 71 civilians at the
Masjid Thauhaed
Rogbalan Mosque,
Whenzle Street in
Freetown in January
1999.*

The witness was giving
evidence during cross-ex-
amination by lead counsel

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RUF Named In Killings

defending Alex Tamba Brima, Kevin A. Metzger at the Second Trial Chamber presided over by Teresa Doherty at New England in Freetown.

The witness first testified in the RUF trial on July 15, 2004 at the First Trial Chamber with Benjamin Itoe as Presiding Judge, though he did not say which faction was responsible for the massacre.

Under cross-examination by Mr. Metzger, the witness testified that the massacre occurred between 12:30 and 1 pm on Friday during the Juma Prayers.

He told the court that the rebels numbered between 15 and 20 and gained access into the mosque by jumping over the fence. The witness told the court that the attackers rubbed chalk, blue and charcoal on their faces to conceal their identities.

Born in the east end of Freetown in 1936, the witness testified that some rebels were armed with weapons while others carried axes and matchetes.

Giving his testimony in Krio through an interpreter from the witness Protection box, he informed the court that some people were killed in the mosque, some at the back of the mosque while others were gunned down at a neighbouring school compound. He testified under cross-examination that other people from neighbouring Wellington, Portee, Calaba Town and Looking Town had also gone to the mosque to seek refuge.

The witness mentioned Pa Alfred Bangura, Mammy Bangura, Yaa Memuna Kalokoh, Md. Sawdatu from Kailahun and Mr. Parmar among others as some of the people who died in the attack and added that his son was also killed in the attack.

"They were rebels of the RUF because when they were addressing us they told us that they were RUF and that they were people army," he testified under cross-examination.

The witness quoted the rebels as pleading with the civilians after the massacre to forgive them. According to them (rebels), they had come to Freetown to ask for peace but that President Kabbah was not ready to accept their offer.

The witness was giving evidence about the activities of the AFRC/RUF rebels following the invasion of Freetown in 1999.

He was led in evidence earlier by a Prosecution Counsel, Boi-Tia Stevens.

The trials continue.

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia
(UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
17 April 2005**

International Clips on West Africa

Sunday, 17 April, 2005, 15:04 GMT 16:04 UK

Disarmament deal in Ivory Coast

Army and rebel commanders in Ivory Coast have agreed a provisional timetable for disarmament.

Full details are to be confirmed next month, but both sides will pull back heavy weapons from frontline areas from 21 April as a sign of goodwill.

The agreement came during talks in the rebel stronghold of Bouake.

The peace process was boosted on Friday when the rebels rejoined the country's power-sharing government for the first time in six months.

Getting the former rebels back into the government and agreeing a withdrawal schedule were key requirements of the Pretoria Accord signed earlier this month in the South African capital, Pretoria.

Under that deal, President Laurent Gbagbo's troops and rebel New Forces agreed to stop fighting, disarm militias and hold presidential elections in October.

But the key issue of the crisis remains unresolved, says the BBC's James Copnall in Abidjan.

South African President Thabo Mbeki has suggested that all major opposition leaders should be eligible to run for president in October's elections.

Mr Gbagbo has not yet announced whether he will accept Mr Mbeki's recommendation.

'War is finished'

According to the new statement signed by army chief Col Philippe Mangou and rebel forces chief of staff Col Soumaila Bakayoko, the disarmament should take place between 14 May and 31 July.

Further details are to be worked out at a meeting on 19 April and a conference beginning on 2 May.

"The war is finished," Col Mangou was quoted as saying after the meeting by the Associated Press news agency.

Rebel commander Wattao told Reuters news agency: "We had to talk for a long time to get something out of this. We are trusting each other more and more." Army spokesman Lt Col Jules Yao Yao said: "We are very satisfied."

Several previous deadlines for disarmament have been missed, our correspondent says.

The current crisis was triggered in November, when rebels pulled out of the cabinet after government forces attacked rebel-held towns, breaking a ceasefire.

Ivory Coast has been divided in two since late 2002, when the rebels from the mainly Muslim north launched an insurgency against the government dominated by Christian southerners. The rebels established control in northern Ivory Coast.

Some 10,000 French troops and UN peacekeepers currently patrol a no-weapons buffer zone which separates the rebels from the rest of the country.

A power-sharing government was set up in January 2003, but failed to end the mutual distrust between the two sides.