

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, June 22, 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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Salone Times. Weds June 22nd, 2005.

Special Court Denies Discriminating Against Sierra Leonean Lawyers

By Pileas Jusu

The Press and Public Affairs Assistant of the Special Court, Peter Andersen has refuted claims of discrimination against black lawyers by defense lawyer Ajibola Manley-Spaine as published yesterday in our lead story. In the story, the lawyer claimed that Sierra Leonean lawyers working for the court are discriminated against in terms of payment. He said that payments due them are usually delayed unlike that of their foreign or white counterparts.

When SALONE TIMES reached Mr. Andersen yesterday to give the court's side of the story, he said he

could not directly respond to what Manley-Spaine said but explained that all members of the defense council are not direct employees of the Special court and as a result all arrangements concerning their payment is handled by the Lead Counsel through the Principal Defender. He explained that what might have led to the delay in the payment of bills for the defense lawyers whom he referred to as "independent contractors" working on behalf of the indicted was the absence of the principal defender whose job entails receiving bills and processing them for payment. Andersen said there is now a new Principal Defender, Mr. Nmehelle, a Nigerian

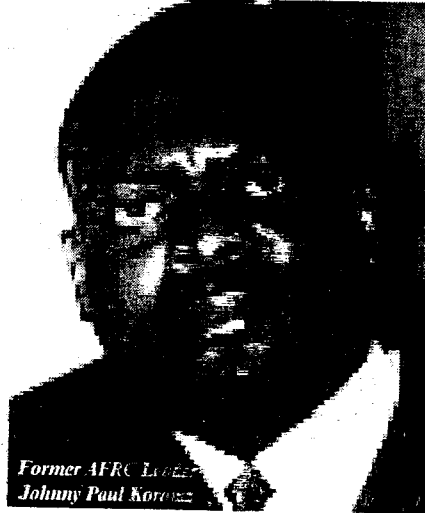
Awoko. Weds June 22nd, 2005.

'Johnny Paul ordered burning of houses in Kono' witness

By *Betty Milton*
During cross-examination by lawyer Pa Momoh Fofanah defence lawyer for the third accused - Ibrahim Bazzi Kamara. Prosecution witness TF1-334 told the court that Johnny Paul Koroma gave orders that

Kono should be a defensive base for the juntas. In his evidence, TF1-334 maintained that before left Koidu Ngeiya for Gandorhun he gave command that all the troops be engaged in massive burning of the remaining houses. And

that the area should be a civilian free zone. The witness stated that they later went to Masingbi Road where they met Bazzi, Junior Lion and other soldiers burning houses and Bazzi told them that the ECOMOG jet has started raiding the



Former AFRC Leader
Johnny Paul Koroma

area and that is the reason they are burning the houses. The witness further explained that when they went to Kono the relationship between the AFRC and RUF was cordial but later when Morris Kallon went to Kono he ordered a parade where he shot one member of the Sierra Leone Army because he was late and the other 'Bos throat' as he was nick named because he survived the gun shot. "Since that time the relationship was no longer cordial. Morris Kallon also told us that the SLA's should not have anything to do with communications as they are
Contd. Page 2

Johnny Paul ordered burning of houses in Kono

From Front Page
not reorganised." When asked about the mining activities of the AFRC at that time, as they were engaged in mining without the knowledge of the RUF and that houses of the AFRC men were constantly attacked by the RUF, the witness said "At

that time, Bazzi had a squad called wild dogs headed by Junior Lion who constantly went about harassing AFRC members." The witness also stated that as he was with Operation Commander A, he usually went on mission with him throughout the jungle. Before a mission is undertaken, the troop will

first inform Bazzi, as he was the Senior Commander when Johnny Paul Koroma left for Gandorhun. He was asked whether Bazzi was a member of the RUF, the witness said all he knew was that Bazzi was a member of the Sierra Leone Army but can't tell whether he pledged his support to the RUF.

"UNTIL I DIE..."

Sam Hinga Norman Gives 31 Days Hunger Strike Notice!

Referring to himself as 'Your Humble Defendant (First Accused)' and signs Samuel Hinga Norman - JP, the Special Court indictee has given a 31-days hunger strike notice "until I die" demanding that certain conditions are met.

"It is with greatest respect and humanity that I inform your Excellency that thirty one (31) days effective that date of this letter without satisfactory response I shall consider my restraining letter referred above withdrawn and I shall embark on a peaceful protest of hunger strike until I die."

The letter dated 3rd June 2005, is addressed to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, UNAMSIL Headquarters, and reference "Very Urgent Please - CDF Trials" is also copied to President Kabbah, Solomon Berewa and to high profile personalities and institutions at home and around the world.

Norman says "I make bold to inform you that the whole Special Court operation across Administration, Bench and Bar is full of bias, injustice, impunity and corruption." And appealing to the people of Sierra Leone and the international community, to intervene now, without delay, to avert pending problems if the SC-SL is allowed to conclude by continuing his fears of bias, partial and unjust trial to end in conviction. He narrate: now, he was on

10th March 2003 rudely arrested, handcuffed and dragging in the most humiliating manner from his ministerial offices in Freetown to a slaves dungeon in Bonthe. "a treatment given to me by my own

government in the persons of my own brothers (President Tejan Kabbah and Vice President Solomon Berewa)"

Norman went further to present a long list of complaint and went on "I am appealing to you, your human conscience and morality to send as a matter of urgency, an international and national team of neutralists in-

cluding Judges, Lawyers, Reporters, Human Right Activists etc. (not including any UN workers) to meet me and other detainees and the Defense Counsel separately to investigate these allega-

tions and submit its findings." Norman also suggested that his case be transferred to the International Criminal Court "where I expect nothing but justice."

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 21 June 2005**

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

International Clips on Liberia

06/21/2005 10:50:04

Security Council keeps embargo on Liberian diamonds

UNITED NATIONS, June 21 (AFP) - The UN Security Council on Tuesday extended for six months an international embargo against Liberian diamonds and criticized the country's transitional government for not freezing the assets of former presidential strongman Charles Taylor.

The council unanimously passed resolution 1607, which links illegal diamond mining to unrest in the long-troubled African country, and urges UN forces and the Liberian government to seize control of diamond-producing areas.

Govt probes war-mongering charges against Taylor

From Emmanuel Onwubiko, Abuja

***The Guardian**, Lagos. Tuesday, June 21, 2005*

AFTER intense pressure from the international community, the Federal Government has begun a probe of war-mongering allegations against former Liberian President, Charles Ghankay Taylor who is currently on exile in Nigeria.

The Nigerian government has also, however, restated its resolve not to release the former ruler to the International Criminal Court for Sierra Leone.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board and would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Ms. Kadiatu Konteh at kontehk@un.org.



Alerting Humanitarians to Emergencies

UN Council renews export ban on Liberian diamonds

21 Jun 2005 14:59:09 GMT

Source: Reuters

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS, June 21 (Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously on Tuesday to extend a ban on Liberia's diamond exports for six months because the government was unable to prevent illegal gem sales from fueling wars among its West African neighbors.

In a British-drafted resolution, the council also urged Liberia's transitional government to consider "external" independent advice to manage its diamond and timber resources and thereby "increase investor confidence."

The council banned Liberian diamond exports after finding that former Liberian President Charles Taylor was fomenting civil war in the region, especially in Sierra Leone, through an illicit trade in guns for gems and other natural resources.

An arms and timber embargo remains in force until Dec. 21 along with travel and assets freeze against Taylor, now in exile in Nigeria, and his family and associates.

The resolution expressed concern at the government's "limited progress" in "establishing transparent financial management systems that will help ensure that government revenues are not used to fuel conflicts."

It also notes with "serious concern" the increase in Liberia of unlicensed mining and illegal diamond exports, the absence of government control over diamond-producing areas, and "the lack of transparency" in the authorities' recent decision to grant extensive exclusive mining rights to a single firm.

Liberia's interim government, installed to run the country until democratic elections due in October, has repeatedly urged the council to end the ban to boost the ailing economy. The United Nations has 15,000 peacekeepers in the country.

But a panel of U.N. experts reported in March that Liberian authorities had secretly signed a deal with the West Africa Mining Corp., or WAMCO, a new company 90 percent-backed by the London International Bank Ltd., a private investment firm.

The deal would give WAMCO a de facto monopoly over much of Liberia's diamond-producing regions and preclude other dealers from competing for diamond purchases, the experts said.

It was arranged through Liberia's ambassador to Nigeria, Martin George, even though the Security Council had imposed an asset freeze and travel ban on George because of his ties to Taylor.

TAYLOR MEDDLES

On Taylor, the resolution expressed "deep concern" at reports that he and his associates "continue to engage in activities that undermine peace and stability in Liberia and the region."

But the council did not ask for Taylor to be extradited to a special war crimes court in Sierra Leone, which has indicted him. His exile agreement prevents him from being handed over to the court, providing he refrains from meddling in Liberian affairs.

However, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the council recently that Taylor was reported to be in regular contact with former business, military and political associates.

Annan's report said Taylor was "suspected of sponsoring a variety of presidential candidates, with a view to ensuring that the next Liberian government will include his sympathizers."

Nigeria has refused to expel him until violations of his exile terms are proven.

In Sierra Leone, Taylor is accused of arming brutal rebels, who seized control of diamond-producing areas in the 1990s. They become notorious for murder, rape and hacking off the limbs of men, women and children.


AlertNet news is provided by **REUTERS** 

Newsdesk NGO Latest

- › UN Council extends ban on Liberian diamond exports (*17 minutes ago*)
Source: Reuters
- › UN Council renews export ban on Liberian diamonds (*1 hour ago*)
Source: Reuters
- › BOTSWANA: Court to decide on inspecting reserve for diamond exploration (*1 hour ago*)
Source: IRIN
- › First Darfur defendants say they innocent (*2 hours ago*)
Source: Reuters
- › PAKISTAN: Interview with Mukhtar Bibi, gang-rape victim denied right to travel (*21 hours ago*)
Source: IRIN

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Burundi: Security Council asks Annan to begin talks on truth commission, special court

20 June 2005 – With a peace deal starting to take hold in Burundi, the United Nations Security Council today asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan to begin negotiations with the Government and consultations with all Burundian parties on how to implement his recommendations for a truth commission and a special court to prosecute war crimes and human rights violations after decades of ethnic fighting.

The Council unanimously adopted the measure following last week's open briefing during which Ralph Zacklin, Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, presented the report of a Secretariat mission to Burundi. That Mission recommended the establishment of a two-part reconciliation mechanism to clarify the historical truth regarding the conflict in that country, investigate the crimes committed, and bring those responsible to justice.

Forwarding the mission's report to the Council in March, the Secretary-General said in an accompanying letter that, with a substantial international component, the truth commission would have enhanced impartiality and credibility, while the mechanism of the "court within a court" was chosen with a view towards strengthening Burundi's judicial resources "and leaving behind a legacy of international standards of justice and trained judges, prosecutors, defence counsel and experienced court managers."

It notes that ethnic conflict since the country's 1962 independence have led to the empanelling of four previous investigative commissions, but all have been limited to the 1993 assassination of Burundi's first elected Hutu President, Melchior Ndadaye, and the massacres that followed.

"While cursory references were made in some reports...to the 1972 genocide of Hutus, a legal determination that the crime of genocide had been committed in Burundi was made only in respect of the 1993 massacres of Tutsis," it says. "All four commissions recognized that an inquiry into the historic truth without a measure of accountability would not suffice to eradicate impunity."

According to the mission, the experience gained in establishing parallel judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms in Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste would be helpful in determining the relationship between the Truth Commission and the proposed judicial accountability mechanism. The expeditious establishment of a truth commission would ensure that, by the time a Special Chamber was established, the results of the Commission's investigations could be shared with the prosecutor of the Special Chamber.

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WHO'S WHO OF NEWS

NATIONAL NEWS



Halloran appeal delayed
18:00 AEST Tue Jun 21 2005

By Darren Lunny
National Nine News reporter in Sierra Leone

The Melbourne policeman found guilty of a child sex offence in West Africa has had his appeal hearing against the conviction delayed by at least eight days.

Peter Halloran, the former head of Victoria's homicide squad, was found guilty in February of sexually assaulting a teenage girl at Australia House in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone.

Halloran's appeal was due to be heard this week however his lawyer, Melbourne barrister Darren Bracken, today told *Nine Network News* that the date of the appeal would not be announced until June 29.

"It is very, very frustrating," Halloran said.

The announcement of the delay came as the last member of Halloran's high-powered Australian legal team, Lex Lazary, QC, arrived in Freetown.

Mr Lazary's visit was shortlived. The former ambulance royal commissioner was tonight making plans to return to Australia to await confirmation of the new appeal date.

For Halloran, who is out on bail after spending seven weeks in a notorious Freetown prison, the wait is agonising.

"I'm certainly looking forward to the appeal and, hopefully, it reaching a just and proper conclusion," he said.

Halloran, who was working in Sierra Leone as a UN special court investigator when he was accused of the assault, was also glad to have Australian legal help on hand.

"I think it's very important in this sort of environment in particular. It would be very, very difficult without it. I don't think justice would prevail at the end of the day," he said.

"But more importantly, I think [my legal team] are here to tell the world what's happening if the worst does happen."

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Police to fund Halloran court costs

By Andrea Petrie

June 22, 2005

Victoria's police union has agreed to use its \$14 million fighting fund to help meet the legal expenses of a senior member appealing against a child-sex conviction in Sierra Leone.

After a formal request by Superintendent Peter Halloran in a phone conference last Friday, the Police Association agreed to contribute \$100,000 towards his legal costs as he awaits a High Court appeal.

Halloran, who took 12 months' leave without pay from Victoria Police last year, went to the African nation to work as a war crimes investigator at the United Nations-backed Special Court. He was charged with child-sex offences in August after a local girl, Kadie Kabia, told police he had repeatedly indecently assaulted her.

The girl later retracted her claims, saying that Halloran's flatmate and fellow war crimes investigator, Mandy Cordwell, had coerced her into making the allegations.

He was cleared in two independent investigations - one by the war crimes taskforce, the other by a human rights group - before his trial.

But after a trial that union representatives called farcical after the judge failed to turn up some days or arrived late to court, Halloran was convicted on February 21 of sexual assault. He was acquitted of three more serious charges.

He was sentenced to 18 months' jail, then granted bail pending the appeal. The former head of Victoria's homicide squad has maintained his innocence.

Police Association assistant secretary Bruce McKenzie said yesterday that union officials considered Halloran's request met the appropriate criteria and it agreed to allocate \$100,000.

Melbourne barrister Lex Lasry, QC, arrived in Sierra Leone this week to bolster Halloran's legal team for the appeal, which has been rescheduled for next Wednesday.

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