

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:

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Mariama S. Yilla
Ext 7217 / 7216

Standard Times. Tuesday July 19th, 2005.

Hinga Norman writes United Nations

BY WASSIMAH
The Special Court indigete, Chief Justice Hinga Norman, has since June 3rd 2005 written a letter of complaint against the Court's

Administration, Bench and Bar, accusing them of corruption, injustice, bias and impunity. The letter was addressed to the Special Representative

of the UN Secretary General in Sierra Leone and copied to the President, Tejan Kabbah and several other personalities in and out of the country.

In the letter, Chief Hinga Norman stated how he has been mistreated by the Court's officials since his arrest over two years ago. Chief Norman also said he has been suffering from serious inhuman treatment at the hands of the Administration, and continues to suffer from "very severe denial of justice," adding that the situation of ill-treatment by the Administration, Bench and Bar is now unbearable and untenable. He noted in the letter his

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Hinga Norman... unhappy

Hinga Norman writes United Nations

FROM THE
 fears of the eventual outcome of the proceedings, which appears to him as being choreographed to satisfy the financial supporters of the Court, adding that for the sake of democracy, he "stood up in virtual self-sacrifice and challenged the guns of my compatriots, the coupists soldiers and my

brothers and sisters, the RUF rebels. Now in the face of injustice and the Special Court judicial impunity in Sierra Leone, I am prepared to stand up until death against the type of bias, partiality and that are presently being practiced at the Trials, Appeals Chambers and Detention Complex of the so called Special Court."

He appealed through the people of Sierra Leone and the international community to intervene now, without delay, to avert pending problems of the court is allowed to conclude by confirming his fears of bias, partial and unjust trial to end in conviction. Following is the letter in full -

Norman's Letter

3rd June 2005
 Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General
 Umarmat Headquarters
 Maiteny Yake Road
 Aberdeen, Freetown

Dear Sir,

VERY URGENT PLEA RE CDF TRIALS
 I write to thank Your Excellency for the delegation of two persons you sent to see me and my other unfortunate suffering colleague detainees who are still being held in appalling, inhuman conditions, and DENIED JUSTICE WITH IMPUNITY TO DATE.

I make bold to inform you that the whole Special Court operation across the ADMINISTRATION, BENCH and BAR is full of

- a) BIAS
- b) INJUSTICE
- c) IMPUNITY
- d) CORRUPTION

I am appealing through your good offices to the people of Sierra Leone and the international community to intervene now, without delay, to avert pending problems of the SCSC is allowed to conclude by confirming my fear of BIAS, PARTIAL AND UNJUST Trial to end in conviction.

To begin with, on the 10th of March 2003, I was rudely arrested, handcuffed and dragged in the most humiliating manner from my ministerial office of the ministry of internal affairs in Freetown to a SLAVES DUNGEON in Beotlie; a treatment given to me by my own government in the persons of my own brothers (President Tejan Kabbah and vice President Solomon Berewa), a kind of treatment which the BRITISH, FRENCH AND AMERICAN (U.S.) never meted out ... at the Nuremberg trials in the name of crimes against humanity when the Allied Forces defeated the Nazi (if only in the name of JUSTICE to those who suffered brutalities (RAPE, MURDER, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTIES, etc.) by soldiers.

Did I need to be treated with such indignity as a mere suspect or accused who is imbued with the presumption of innocence throughout any trial?

A few weeks after my arrest, I was requested by my first counsel to issue a written Statement of Restraint to the Civil Defence Forces, my huge supporters and sympathizers across Sierra Leone and the world, to patiently and peacefully WAIT and give JUSTICE a chance.

I wrote that restraining statement in complete good faith and sincerity, which was then broadcast on the radio and published in various newspapers, and thank God! Peace and restraint have indeed prevailed right up until now.

However, since the 10th of March to the date, I have suffered serious inhuman treatment at the hands of the Court's administration and I am still suffering from VERY SEVERE DENIAL OF JUSTICE.

The situation of ill-treatment by the ADMINISTRATION, BENCH and BAR is now unbearable and intolerable.

As for the Bench and Bar at the SCSC, it is now clear that they are both hell-bent on processing us to inevitable guilt and conviction against all the odds.

Even as a layman I can now see that legal meetings are adapted to inoperative and defect even the most formidable submissions to my Court, until I am delivered over and over on these matter of guilt.

I am particularly worried about this since the SCSC has only a two-tier judicial system and no third Chamber for advisory and final appeal.

I am therefore appealing to you, your human conscience and morality, to send as a matter of

urgency, an international and national team of neutralists including Judges, Lawyers, Reporters, Human Rightists, etc (NOT INCLUDING ANY UN WORKERS), to meet me and other detainees and the Defence counsel separately to investigate these allegations and submit its findings and recommendations as to whether -

- a) To continue with the present SCSC judicial set up; or
- b) To forward my appeals to the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone; or
- c) To set up a Committee of neutral Judges of the international community not including the UN Judges; or
- d) To transfer my case to the ICC where I expect nothing but Justice.

For the sake of Democracy in Sierra Leone, I stood up in virtual self-sacrifice and challenged the guns of my compatriots- the coupist soldiers and my brother and sisters, the RUF rebels.

Now, in the face of INJUSTICE and SEVERE impunity in Sierra Leone, I am prepared to stand up until death against the type of BIAS, PARTIALITY, and impulsive INJUSTICE that are presently being practiced at the Trial and Appeals Chambers and Detention Complex of the so-called SCSC.

It is with the greatest respect and humility that I inform your Excellency that 31 days effective the 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 NON VIOLENCE STRIKE until I die.

Believe me Your Excellency

Your humble Defendant (First Accused),
 Chief Samuel Hinga Norman-JP

- CC:
- 1. HE President, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah
 - 2. Hon Vice President, Solomon I. Berewa
 - 3. Chairman -AF
 - 4. Chairman -DF
 - 5. Chairman -UCOWAS
 - 6. Secretary-General-The Common Wealth
 - 7. Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone
 - 8. Trial and Appeals Chambers Judge-SCSC
 - 9. The Attorney General and Minister of Justice (GOSI)
 - 10. President and Members of the Bar Association of Sierra Leone
 - 11. Hon. Speaker and all Members of Parliament of Sierra Leone
 - 12. Registrar-SCSC
 - 13. Principal Defender-SCSC
 - 14. Prosecutor-SCSC
 - 15. All Defence Counsel (CDF), (RUF) and (AFRC)
 - 16. All Diplomatic and Consular Corps in Freetown for their various Governments.
 - 17. All Unions (Workers) (Teachers) (Students) etc.)
 - 18. CDF (L.N. COMBATANTS)
 - 19. St. Action National and International Bodies
 - 20. Norman Defence Team (Dom. and Abroad)
 - 21. All Detainees- SCSC
 - 22. CDF Investigators
 - 23. File

Ahead of SLPP convention... Norman Gives Special Court Ultimatum

By Frank S. Ghade
As the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) national convention draws near, sources close to the Special Court indicate that the detained former National Co-ordinator of the pro-government Civil Defence Force (CDF) and former Minister of Internal Affairs, Chief East Hinga Norman, have revealed that he is likely to declare for the

leadership of the SLPP August 21, 2005.

Sources further revealed that Chief Sam Hinga Norman has already addressed his letter of intent to the Leader of the party and President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, as well as the National Chairman, Dr. Samuel S. Bangura, through the office of the Registrar.

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Ahead of SLPP convention...

of the Special Court, Fore Vice. According to sources, Chief Norman has given the Registrar up to Wednesday July 20, 2005, to get him in line with the objectives of the new high ranking SLPP officials management team.

Reports are that Chief would like to do the declaration himself but that if his wishes are not as it was provided, he would do it with no alternative but to entrust one of his lawyers to do it for him. It is believed that the Registrar will be given the authority to do this.

"What is the situation whether Chief Norman is willing to do it, or if he is not willing, the proceedings against him are pending and by the

mode source at the Special Court, was pending announcement. However, if Chief Norman does go ahead and declare his intention as planned, it will be done under further conditions within the party and in some cases, the country as a whole", said another Special Court source.

According to reports gathered by this reporter, Chief Norman has a lot of sympathy within the party and especially the rank and file, most of who are of the firm view that his arrest and subsequent incarceration was political in nature and should be ended as soon as possible.

Chief Norman himself has said time and again that the proceedings against him are political and by the

of opportunity for Norman had more confidence in the objective nature of the trials, arguing that the judges would be independent and the impartiality of the court is not in doubt. However, Chief Norman had no time to say anything as he was over a new world sign in the CDF detainees and could be held incommunicado for the time being.

will still all SLPP functions till further notice.

It was just amidst the reaction of the campers in relation to the content of this letter, when the chief declared to drop an another bombshell, remarking that he would be launching SLPP campaign.

Already, there are indications that a group known as 'Coalition' particularly in Bo and Lunsar, were very keen on supporting Norman, in

support of the former CDF but side according to their estimation, is simply being punished for doing the right thing in the interest of the country.

Meanwhile, authorities within the party continue to express doubts as to whether the intention of Chief Norman, will be later actually seen so when he is behind lock and key. Others say that Chief's intention should not be overlooked as it has

the potential of causing the party split.

In a telephone interview with the Deputy Chief of the Public Affairs Section of the Special Court, Peter Anderson, he disclosed himself from the inside saying the Chief's the slightest intention to leave that.

Also in a telephone interview with the National Chairman of the SLPP Dr. S.S. Bangura, he said he was not sure if it was Chief's right and that there's wrong wrong with that.

The Pool. Tuesday July 19, 2005.

Special Court to change hands

By Ibrahim J. Sesay

As many Sierra Leoneans are gravely concerned about the security of the Special Court for Sierra Leone once UNAMSIL would have left, the Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone. Maj General Sajjaj Akrom has disclosed that the Special Court will be secured by troops of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), after UNAMSIL leaves later this year. "As far as the security of the Special Court is concerned, on our departure, it would be officially handed over to UNMIL by the UN security council" He went on to say that the prime control of the Special Court compound would be the responsibility of UNMIL. "If

the Special Court want to do their job they need security and I believe that the security would be provided by the United Nations" he said.

In terms of logistics the Force Commander said "as far as logistics are concerned, that will be taken care of by the UN office in Sierra Leone." However, the actual number of security personnel to take over from UNAMSIL is not yet known, "but the Security Council is working on it and will soon make an announcement", the Force Commander said. In a confident mood, the Force Commander further said "mischief makers who want to take advantage of the situation will do so at their own risk."

CAI urges visiting UN envoy to call for Taylor's surrender

During her visit to West Africa this week, the United Nations top human rights official, Louise Arbour, should press for ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor's surrender to the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Campaign Against Impunity (CAI) said July 13th, 2005.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, is currently on a 10-day visit to La Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Liberia to assess efforts to build effective systems of human rights protection in countries emerging from armed conflicts. Arbour is a former chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

The Campaign Against Impunity is a coalition made up of some 300 African and international civil society groups which was formed to urge Nigeria to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"Bringing war criminals to justice is one of the best strategies for ensuring human rights protection today and in the future", said Solomon Labin, the executive secretary of the Sierra Leonean Coalition for Justice and Accountability, one of the groups which form part of the Campaign.

Charles Taylor, former president of Liberia, has been accused of 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity against the people of Sierra Leone. These crimes include killings, mutilations, rape and other forms of sexual violence, sexual slavery, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, abduction, and the use of forced labour in Sierra Leonean armed groups.

tion groups, which Taylor actively supported. In 2003, while the Liberian capital Monrovia was under siege by rebels, Taylor was granted asylum in Nigeria, where he currently resides.

Arbour recently said there was a link between the pursuit of justice and the restoration of peace and order. "The Sierra Leoneans and Liberians who are part of this coalition could not agree more", said Ezekie Payibo, director of the Center for Democratic Empowerment in Liberia, another group, which is part of the campaign. Nigeria's refusal to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court stands squarely in the path to stability and the rule of law.

The Campaign has stressed that Nigeria's failure to surrender Taylor to the Special Court undermines not only attempts to confront impunity in West Africa, but also efforts by the international community to consolidate stability in the region. There are consistent reports of Taylor's interference in Liberian politics, despite the terms of the agreement granting him asylum, which prohibits any such meddling.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated in his June 7 report on Liberia that Charles Taylor is reportedly in regular contact with his former business, military and political associates in Liberia and is suspected of sponsoring a variety of presidential candidates with a view to ensuring that the next Liberian Government will include his sympathizers. Only days ago, Liberia's Transitional Minister of Justice demanded that Charles Taylor's exile deal be reviewed, stating that Charles

Taylor's exile poses a threat to Liberia and the region due to the excessive meddling that continues to go on.

In advance of the African Union summit last week, the Campaign Against Impunity—which includes Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Open Society Justice Initiative—held press conferences in 15 African cities to call for Charles Taylor's surrender to ensure justice and stability. In conjunction with the press conferences, the Campaign issued a declaration urging the African Union to take action on this issue.

The Campaign asserted that by calling for Taylor to be turned over to the Special Court, Arbour would be standing up on behalf of justice for the victims of war crimes committed in Sierra Leone. On March 14, Arbour told the UN Commission on Human Rights that justice affirms society's solidarity with the victim, rather than the offender.

"While promoting human rights in West Africa, Arbour must use her voice to call for Taylor to be brought to justice", said Hatched Dicker, director of the African Rights Watch International Justice Program.

The Campaign Against Impunity urged Arbour to explicitly call for Nigeria to promptly surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court to face trial. This trial must be in accordance with international law and standards guaranteeing the right to a fair trial, including the presumption of innocence. Without Taylor's surrender, justice for the horrific crimes committed during the Sierra Leone civil conflict cannot be realized and building effective systems for human rights cannot be achieved.

For di People. Tuesday July 19th 2005.

Sierra Leone: UN Rights Chief should call for Taylor's surrender

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Mrs Arbour recently said there is a link between the pursuit of justice and the restoration of peace and order. The Sierra Leoneans and Liberians who are part of this coalition couldn't agree more, said Ezekiel Pajiba, director of the Center for Democratic Empowerment in Liberia, and other group which is part of the Campaign. Nigeria's refusal to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court stands squarely in our path to stability and the rule of law.

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The Democrat. Tuesday July 19th, 2005.

Human Rights Commissioner Wants Taylor Here Now

Louis Arbour, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has called for the immediate transfer of Charles Taylor from Nigeria to stand trial before the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Human Rights Commissioner who was in Sierra Leone on a four-day working visit as part of her mission to West Africa, told Special Court officials Friday that it was time for justice to follow its course, thus reiterating her support to the Court's efforts in securing the arrest and transfer of the former Liberian president.

With the Court holding a pledging conference in September this year in an attempt to obtain contributions from member states to secure funding for the Court's operation beyond 31 December 2005, Ms. Arbour assured that she will give her fullest backing to such an initiative to ensure that the Court carries out its mandate to the letter.

During the hour-long meeting, the Human Rights Commissioner was briefed by senior officials of the Court on the progress of the trials and other salient issues.

SPECIAL COURT:

Prosecution wraps up CDF case

"Your Lordships, the Prosecution will at this stage closed its case."

With these words, Pros-

ecution Attorney Muhamud Bangura announced on Thursday last week the end

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The Indictees

Prosecution wraps up CDF case

FROM PAGE 1

of the Prosecution's case in the first of three ongoing trials at the Special Court.

The trial of Sam Hinga Norman, Momina Fofana and Alieu Kondewa, the CDF Accused, began on 3 June 2004.

During five trial sessions that spanned just over a year, 75 prosecution witnesses - three of them expert witnesses - gave testimony in the case.

Lawyers will now prepare to present the case for the Defence in proceedings that are expected to last into next year.

The three accused each face an 8-count indictment alleging war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of in-

ternational humanitarian law.

Specific charges include unlawful killings, looting and burning, terrorizing the civilian population, and the use of child soldiers.

Meanwhile, two other cases are continuing at the Special Court.

In the case of the RUF Accused (Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao), 39 witnesses have given evidence.

That trial began on 5 July 2004.

In the case of the AFRC accused (Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu), which began in March this year, 41 witnesses have testified so far.

Awareness Times. Tuesday July 19th, 2005.

At Special Court... Prosecution wraps up CDF case

By Ada Robert Mwan

Special Court prosecution Attorney, Mohamed Bangura, on Thursday, 14th July 2005, announced the end of the prosecution's case in the trial of three former top members of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), namely Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Nourina Fofana and Allan Kordawa.

According to a Special Court release issued on Friday, 15th July, 75 prosecution witnesses gave testimonies in the case form of direct, expert witnesses, during the five trial sessions which spanned over a year.

Defence Lawyers on the other hand, are now bringing up themselves to argue and present their case in defence of the three accused persons. The proceedings are however

the release stated. The accused persons are each charged with eight counts relating to war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of International Humanitarian Law.

Specific charges include unlawful killings, looting and burning, interfering the civilian population and the use of child soldiers, the release added.



Chief Prosecution, Dismissed by Mwan