

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Thursday, 28 July 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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Special Court: indictee wives plead guilty

By Betty Milton

Two wives and a friend of the AFRC indictees on Tuesday changed their pleas to guilty before Justice Pierre Boutet. Three of the women Margaret Fomba Brima, wife of Alex Tamba Brima, Neneh Binta Jalloh wife of Santigie Borbor Kanu, Ester Kamara, friend of Alex Tamba Brima and Anifa Kamara wife of Ibrahim Bazy Kamara had been standing trial for contempt of court. According to the statement of offence the, the four women interfered with

the prosecution witness TF1-023 who was testifying in the court and was to continue with her evidence on the 9th of March 2005. The witness was categorised as a witness of fact and therefore should enjoy protective measure some of which indicate that the names, address and the whereabouts and other identifications revealing the witness should be sealed. Other documents, which would identify the witness, should be expunged from the court and the defence shall refrain from sharing or

disclosing to the public the identification of the witness. The statement further stated that on the 6th of March Brima Samura an investigator attached to the defence team spoke to the four women and asked them to meet him outside the public gallery, which they did. The investigator according to the statement disclosed the identity of the witness. On the 9th of March as the witness was being taken away in the tinted vehicle of the Special Court.

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Special Court: indictee wives plead guilty

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the ladies spoke in Krio to the witness saying that they knew her name and also where she lives. Further they said they were going to attack her. When asked about her plea Margaret Fomba Brima pleaded guilty. The Judge questioned her whether there was no force used on her as she had earlier

pleaded not guilty and moreover if she understands the consequences as they were not going to call any witness. She explained that she was not forced and that she did it for herself. The same question was posed to Neneh Binta Jalloh and Esther Kamara, as they too pleaded guilty. Anifa was posed with the same

question but she maintained the plea of not guilty to the charge. The lawyers for Margaret Fomba Brima, Neneh Binta Jalloh and, Esther Kamara applied for a separate trial for their clients which was granted by the Judge which will commence on the 21st September at 2:30 Pm while the trial for Anifa would resume on the same date but at 9:30 am.

Awoko
28 July 2005

Killing of his two sons...

Witness nearly goes mad

Revealing his ordeal at the trial chamber of the special Court, Prosecution witness TF1-179 has disclosed to the court that two of his sons were killed by the juntas making him to nearly go mad. In his evidence, the witness said in 1998, he had rumour

that the rebels had entered Batkanu where they were residing and this forced them to go into the bush. He narrated that he was in the bush along with his grandparents, Father, wife, sister and brother-in-law. However because of food scarcity, he asked his brother-in-law to take

some of the children to Makeni since a civilian had been killed and another shot when they went into town in search of foodstuff. Later he went on, the rest of the family members including his Father and two sons, decided to leave the bush for Makeni, carrying with them a goat, cow, bicycle and some money. Continuing

his evidence, the witness maintained that the moment they had crossed a stream they were halted by some armed men and asked him to drop his father on the ground since the old man was being carried on his back. "They then asked us for money but I told them that we did not have any. All of the belongings that we had were taken away from us. One of the armed men pleaded for our release as they had taken all our possession but one of them insisted and said that he was going to amputate all of us. He started with my uncle whose hand was chopped off also my

brother-in-law and mine too. My grandmother was killed. They also told me that they were not going to kill my sons but they will take them away which they did. We were then asked to go and tell Tejan Kabbah and also to inform the ECOMOG soldiers that they were going to attack Makeni." the 59-year-old man said that he was able to go through a village where he met no one as they had all fled the town. They arrived in Mabunduga to seek the service of a dispenser

but he was not around. He finally arrived at Makeni where some women who took him in and he was hospitalized at Loreto clinic. "During my stay in the hospital, some people who had escaped from the junta told me that my two sons had been killed. This made me go almost mad as I was thinking, what would happen to me since my right hand had been amputated and me being poor and needing someone to take care of me? It was only through the grace of God that I went through all this," he stated.

Awoko
28 July 2005

Special Court refuses Hinga Norman

The Acting Registrar of the Special Court has reportedly replied Chief Samuel Hinga

Norman refusing some of his request stated in a letter written on the 15 July 2005. Chief Norman had written to the Registrar,

asking him to distribute some letters to the National Chairman and National Secretary General of the SLPP. The letter also

contained a request to meet the International Press and also meet with the National Chairman and the National Secretary General of the

SLPP. According to the Public Affairs Office the Registrar replied Chief Norman on the 25 July, agreeing to distribute the letters to the individuals he named. The Acting Registrar then went on to refuse all the other requests saying that there were no provisions in the rules of detention for that. It is not clear whether Chief Norman will now make his declaration through a proxy who might read his speech for him at the declaration ceremony. As at press time, there was no news from the Hinga Norman camp on whether the event has been called off or is still going ahead.

Awoko
28 July 2005

Tussle Over Norman

Chief Sam Hinga Norman presently detained by the UN-backed Special Court, has in a letter to the National Chairman of the SLPP, Dr. Sama Banya made clear

his intention to vie for the party leadership for the 2007 Presidential Elections.

Chief Norman is supposed to declare his intention on Sunday July

31st at the Party Secretariat at 27 Rawdon Street.

But the Party Headquarter declaration is said to have been stalled by the Special Court being

that he is an indiotee and for security purposes.

Meanwhile, that issue have sparked off a scri
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Hinga Norman

Tussle Over Norman!

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among the SLPP supporters. Those who are believed to be Norman's loyalists are arguing that he is a patriot and a true nationalist and that he should be allowed to declare from anywhere in Sierra Leone, since he was detained in the course of fighting for his people.

Other supporters however hold the view that in spite of being a Sierra Leonean and a party member he should not be allowed out of his detention cell to declare his intention, in that

justice must be seen done in all aspects.

There are other supporters however, who have expressed their sympathy to Chief Hinga Norman, but also want him to do the declaration from where he is at the Special Court compound for what they described as "security reasons."

Meanwhile, supporters are keeping their fingers crossed for Sunday, as to where Chief Norman will make his pronouncement.

New Vision
28 July 2005

Hinga Norman Backs Out Of SLPP Race

Sam Hinga Norman has backed out of the SLPP Leadership race now that it is apparently clear that he is not going to be granted permission to leave the precinct of the Special Court.

An official of the Court told this press yesterday that there are certain facilities a detainee can enjoy while in custody which cannot be extended beyond

the walls of the Court. Apart from the security risk involved, a detainee is not allowed to address a public gathering. "Whatever Mr. Norman wants to do, he is at liberty to do so in custody provided permission is granted," the official said.

He went on to say Mr. Norman can make his declaration in writing and have it circulated but the application for him to do so outside the detention centre is completely ruled out. Norman is not going to be satisfied with this latest development as he had wanted to use his public declaration to make capital out of his detention which from the beginning he considered to be illegal.



Independent
Observer
28 July 2005

For corruption UNAMSIL takes Hinga Norman's case to U.N.

The Senior Legal Adviser at Unamsil in Freetown, Nnenna Uchegbu has, on behalf of the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, responded to Chief

Sam Hinga Norman's request to look into the administration of the Special Court for Sierra Leone regarding allegations of bias, injustice and other vices currently

perpetrated at the Court with a view to achieving a fair trial for those indicted by the court.

According a letter sent to Chief Norman, dated 22 July 2005 and copied to the Registrar, Prosecutor and Public Defender at the Special Court, the official acknowledges receipt of his letter to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG) in Freetown dated June 3rd 2005 in respect of the ongoing trials of CDF officials.

The official also notes that the SRSG has noted the concerns of

Chief Norman in his letter, adding that it has been duly transmitted to the UN headquarters in New York for appropriate action.

Standard Times
28 July 2005



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 27 July 2005

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International Clips on West Africa**Sierra Leone war crimes suspect Norman declares candidacy for president in 2007**

FREETOWN, 27 July (AFP) - Hinga Norman, a former Sierra Leone deputy defense minister indicted for war crimes, on Wednesday announced his plans to run for president in 2007 elections.

But the UN-backed war crimes court in the west African state says there is no chance that Norman will be released to officially declare his candidacy at Sunday's caucus of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP).

Immunity law for UN in Sierra Leone fails again in parliament

FREETOWN, 27 July (AFP) - Sierra Leone's parliament has for the fifth time rejected a bill that would grant immunity from prosecution to UN peacekeepers helping to rebuild the west African country after a decade of civil war.

The bill, which has been submitted to the legislature five times over the five years of the UN mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), was rejected on Tuesday for procedural reasons, in a ruling by Speaker Edmund Cowan.

Ivorian raiders 'are foreigners'

Most of the men who attacked towns in Ivory Coast over the weekend are from neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso, an Ivory Coast military prosecutor says. The men did not say who had sent them to attack the main city, Abidjan and Agboville 70km north, said Ange Kessi.

President Laurent Gbagbo has accused both neighbours of backing rebels who control northern Ivory Coast.

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