

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:

Friday, 29 July 2005

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

'Four rebels gang-raped me' – witness tells Court

By Betty Milton

Prosecution witness TFI-267 has told the Special Court how four rebels gang raped her in Rosos. The witness who was testifying in Temne through an interpreter said that she heard rumours that the rebels had

attacked the village, which made them flee the village, and went into the bush. However there was food shortage in the bush and her brother went to the town in search of foodstuff but did not return. It was later that they were told he was dead, so

they decided to return to the village to prepare a funeral ceremony for him. She maintained that the rebels warned them that no one should attempt to move closer to the corpse and that they would be killed if they

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Four rebels gang-raped me

From Front Page

get closer to it. She went on to say that they returned to a farmhouse but she was later captured with her uncle and they were given severe beating. This was when she was taken from her uncle and gang raped by four of the rebels till they were satisfied. During cross-examination by Defence lawyer

Kojo Graham, the witness was asked whether she was promised anything by the Prosecution for her evidence. The witness said she was not promised anything and she had not received anything from the prosecution in cash as compensation. She explained that she was

only given a small amount after she had explained that her children in the village had nothing to eat. This she said was what prompted them to give her small amount but it was not for her evidence. She was also asked how much was given to her but she could not remember the actual amount

Awoko
29 July 2005

Cocorioko website

http://www.cocorioko.com/big_news

Special Court revelations: Pregnant woman slit open to determine child's sex

Thursday July 28, 2005

TAMBA BORBOR reports from Freetown

In the ongoing trial of the three AFRC indictees, Alex Tamba Brima, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu, prosecution witness Tf1-158 has disclosed that a pregnant woman was slit open to determine the gender of her unborn child.

The witness said that some gunmen attacked him in his village in Bonoya and about 50 of them were put in one house, which the rebels wanted to set on fire. The witness said he watched as one of the AFRC members commonly called Adama used an axe to chop his father until he died. After that, he said he saw two boys arguing about the gender of a pregnant woman's unborn child.

One said the foetus was a male while the other said it was a female and at this point the pregnant woman was slit open to find out. This act eventually led to her death. The witness said they were forced to carry load for the rebels to Karina.

Two children he said were also captured but were later killed as they were trying to escape. The troops the witness maintained went to Rosos where they were trained on how to use gun and how to crawl. " During this training, I was ten years old and we had among us children that were between the ages of 7 and 9 years.

The Commanders Gullit, ?55' and ?05' were always present at the centre." The witness an 18- year- old Form 1 pupil said that they were ordered by Staff Alhaji to attack Kabala after the training and they were supplied with guns for the mission. The operation was not successful because of the ECOMOG troops.

Earlier, there was an objection raised by the Defence team that the witness (Tf1-158) should not give evidence on the grounds that the former (TF1-157) were close relatives and were even staying together in the same apartment. This according to Mr. Knoops a member of the defence team means that they might have even communicated which might cause them to commit perjury.

The prosecution on the other hand said that the defence had not laid enough foundation for the objection as living in the same apartment does mean that they communicate about the trial arguing that the defence team is just speculating. Giving the ruling, Justice Sebutunda read that they have carefully considered the objection and that sufficient evidence had not been made by the defence for the witness not to testify. The witness the judge said should be allowed to testify and advise them that if there is any concern it should be raised under cross-examination.



Jailed minister wants to run for president

Freetown - Hinga Norman, a former Sierra Leone deputy defence minister indicted for war crimes, on Thursday announced his plans to run for president in 2007 elections.

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

Though he faces eight counts of war crimes for his leadership role in the pro-government Civil Defence Forces militia, Norman is considered a hero by many for having liberated Sierra Leone from the clutches of rebels, whose 10-year campaign for power is considered among the most brutal wars in modern history.

Norman said he believed he had the qualities to "ably lead the party".

"I also have the national stature and vision to provide the sort of leadership that has eluded our party in the recent past," he added.

Prosecutors in the trial of Norman and two other high-ranking CDF officials rested their case on July 14 after calling 75 witnesses to testify to the atrocities committed by the militia, including the recruitment of child soldiers, forced marriage and extra-judicial killings.

The defence will begin presenting arguments in September after the court recess. - Sapa-AFP.

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The Star

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"Special Court Is Trying The Wrong Person..."

By Musa Sesay

Honorable John Ngewo
Moriba of the Sierra Leone
People's Party, yesterday
intimated his colleague
members of Parliament how
he was embarrassed at the
UN backed Special Court.
The honourable said he was
at the court to visit the
former Deputy Minister of

- Hon Moriba

Defence, Sam Hinga
Norman, who is currently
being tried for war crimes
and crimes against humanity
at the Special Court, but
was searched by security
guards to a point
Contd. page 2

"Special Court Is Trying The Wrong Person..."

From front page

of nearly being stripped naked.

He said he made matters worst when he introduced himself as
a member of parliament. "Not even a single pen or paper, was
allowed in except my bear clothes," he said.

Hon Moriba maintained that the Special Court is still trying
the wrong person because according to him, Chief Norman is
merely a sacrificial lamb atoning for wrongs done by people
who are walking as free men today in the country.

"When or where are we going to have another hero like
Norman in this country" he queried.

When he raised the issue at the sittings in parliament, he was
advised by the Acting Speaker not to proceed since it is a
controversial matter.

Exclusive
29 July 2005

SLPP in trouble : Hinga Norman goes to Supreme Court for injunction

Special Court Indictee, Sam Hinga Norman through his lawyer Bribuakie Jabbe has filed a writ of summons at the Supreme Court for a permanent injunction against the schedule SLPP Convention to

- * 1st Defendant, Dr. Sama Banya
- * 2nd Defendant, Dr. Prince Harding
- * 3rd Defendant, SLPP

be held in Makeni on the 19 and 20th August. For details of the legal documents see pages 6 & 7.



Chief Sam Hinga Norman, reads...

Standard Times
29 July 2005



Militia leader eyes S Leone poll

A Sierra Leone war crimes suspect has said he wants to contest presidential elections due next year on behalf of the ruling party.

Sam Hinga Norman is the former head of the militias formed to fight rebels and is under detention by a UN-backed war crimes tribunal.

He is accused of ordering atrocities during Sierra Leone's long civil war.

A court spokesman told the BBC that Mr Norman would not be allowed out of custody to campaign.

Many in Sierra Leone see Mr Norman as a hero for organising the Civil Defence forces, or Kamajors, to stand up to the brutal Revolutionary United Front rebels.

He was defence minister during the war.

Child soldiers

Mr Norman has written to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to ask to be allowed to campaign but this has been denied.

"He faces very serious counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity," court spokesman Peter Andersen told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

One of the charges is the forcible conscription of child soldiers - the first time the crime has been prosecuted under international law.

"When you're in detention, you lose some of your rights," Mr Andersen said.

Ruling Sierra Leone People's Party Secretary-General Prince Harding said Mr Norman had the same rights as any other party member to seek election as party leader.

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah is due to step down after serving two terms.

Earlier this year former military ruler Valentine Strasser said he had formed a party to contest the poll.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4724731.stm>

Published: 2005/07/28 12:53:49 GMT

Cocorioko website

<http://www.cocorioko.com/newsline>

SPECIAL COURT : HINGA NORMAN CANNOT LEAVE DETENTION FACILITY TO DECLARE CANDIDACY OR CAMPAIGN FOR OFFICE

Thursday July 28, 2005

Chief Hinga Norman has been told by the Special Court that the Rules of Detention of the court do not make provision for an indictee to leave the cell . This was revealed to COCORIOKO yesterday by the Deputy Chief of Press and Public Affairs , Mr. Peter C.Andersen , in an exclusive interview.

The court also told the former Minister of Internal Affairs that the Rules of Detention do not specifically address the issue of an indictee contesting for political office while on trial.

Andersen stated : "Basically, yes, he did inform us that he intended to contest to become the SLPP leader and presidential nominee, and no, he cannot leave the detention facility to campaign. The Rules of Detention make no provision for a person to leave the Detention Facility."

COCORIOKO asked Mr. Andersen what security measures were in place to combat any unforeseen events arising from the ongoing situation involving Chief Norman and the court over the former's political ambitions. In response , Mr. Andersen said : "The Special Court continually monitors security and takes into account information from all agencies. Additional measures will be taken if they are deemed necessary."

OUR REPORTER TAMBA BORBOR WILL BRING YOU FULL DETAILS ABOUT SUNDAY'S EVENTS AT THE SLPP HEADQUARTERS.

Cocorioko website

http://www.cocorioko.com/special__court

Hinga Norman asks Special Court to let him leave cell to declare his presidential candidacy

Thursday July 28, 29005

Tamba Borbor reports from Freetown

Chief Samuel Hinga Norman has in a letter dated Friday 15th July written to the National Chairman and the National Secretary General of the ruling SLPP informing them of his intention to contest the leadership of the ruling SLPP.

In the letter, Chief Norman informed the executives and membership of the party of his "intention to offer myself to the free democratic choice of the party to be considered for election as Presidential Nominee and Leader of the SLPP."

Presently the first accused in the joint Civil Defence Forces (CDF) trial at the UN backed Special Court, Chief Norman declined to state his reasons for wanting to contest the leadership position saying they "will however be amply stated and elaborated at the proper times and places before the appropriate bodies and sessions or meetings ." He also respectfully requested "use of the top-floor hall at the Party Headquarters in Freetown as venue for making my Declaration of Intent and Launching of Campaign on Sunday, 31st July 2005 at 2p.m.

On the same day, Chief Norman also wrote the Registrar of the Special Court Mr. Robin Vincent drawing his attention to press reports about "the intention of the Party to elect a Presidential nominee and leader of the SLPP" and also the holding of the "National Party Conference for this year 18 - 20 August 2005" He disclosed that he was "deeply concerned about both sets of events," stating his "intention to participate in them as fully as possible." Chief Norman argued, "In view of the presumption of innocence, you will agree that my fundamental rights in this regard are not prejudiced by my present circumstances." He respectfully asked the Registrar to "make arrangements for me to meet with the SLPP National Chairman and Secretary General and also with the national and international media present in Freetown at separate times and venues of your own preference, but within the period of 18 - 26 July 2005."

It is not too clear under what circumstances the Registrar will allow Chief Norman to leave the detention cells of the Special Court. So far the Public information section of the court has yet to make any official comment, while Norman's lawyer - Bu-Buakei Jabbie could not be reached for his comments.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 28 July 2005**

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

International Clips on Liberia**Liberia leader sees no proof Taylor meddling at home**

MONROVIA, July 28 (Reuters) - Liberia's interim leader Gyude Bryant said on Thursday he had seen no evidence to substantiate charges former President Charles Taylor was trying to destabilise the country from exile in Nigeria.

International Clips on West Africa

UN News Service
27 July 2005

Expert panel calls on Security Council to clarify sanctions regime in Côte d'Ivoire

The United Nations expert panel recommending ways of improving the arms embargo on Côte d'Ivoire has called on the Security Council to more tightly define the ban on weapons flows in the divided country after encountering "widespread confusion" among neighbouring West African countries, civil society groups and UN officials themselves.

Cote d'Ivoire: UN Finds No Evidence of Combat in Reported Town Attacks

27 July, 2005 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -The commander of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cote d'Ivoire has found no evidence of significant combat operations between Ivorian security forces and alleged assailants in two towns that reportedly came under attack on Saturday, potentially jeopardizing nascent peace prospects in the strife-torn West African country.

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.

Fed: Downer intervenes in sex offender case

28 July 2005

Australian Associated Press General News

English

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HALLORAN By Kate Lahey

MELBOURNE, July 28 AAP - Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has intervened in the case involving an Australian policeman jailed for a child sex offence in Sierra Leone.

Peter Halloran, a former investigator at the UN-backed war crimes court in the West African state, was sentenced in February to 18 months' jail on charges he assaulted a 14-year-old Freetown schoolgirl hired to work in his home.

He is out on bail, appealing the conviction, but will have to wait another two months for a verdict because the judiciary is taking its spring break.

Halloran's appeal was heard on July 8. Then on July 20, instead of delivering a verdict, the judge failed to appear in court.

Yesterday, Mr Downer called Sierra Leone President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to express Australia's concern at the delay.

"He phoned to discuss the delay and to register the government's interest in seeing the verdict expedited, regardless of the outcome," a spokeswoman for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade told AAP tonight.

President Kabbah welcomed Mr Downer's call but said he had limited authority over judicial arrangements, the spokeswoman said.

Mr Downer stressed to the president that Australia was not asking him to interfere in the judicial process.

"Our concern is that the judicial process is fair and proceeds fairly without further delay," Mr Downer reportedly said.

The Sierra Leone judiciary is not due back from holidays until mid to late September, the spokeswoman said.

Halloran, a 56-year-old Victoria Police officer, had earlier been acquitted on charges of unlawful carnal knowledge, procuring a girl under age 14 and conspiracy.

Convicted on the assault charge, he has consistently maintained his innocence.

Halloran has been out on bail since March 10, pending appeal.

He will continue to be provided with consular help from Australia's nearest High Commission, in Ghana, and from the British High Commission in the Sierra Leone capital Freetown, both of which have expressed Australia's frustration to local authorities, the DFAT spokeswoman said.

Australia had ordered an investigation into Halloran's conviction, which is widely seen as a political decision, following his exoneration by an inquiry committee at the war crimes court.

Mr Downer, who is in Vientiane, phoned President Kabbah from the Lao capital.

Inmywords

With David A. Johnson Jr.
Call 783-376-487

Should the Special Court become a farce...

"...Those who bear the greatest responsibility"

That short phrase is the underlying mandate of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Better put, one can say the Special Court's primary job here is to see that the 'Big Fishes' of the decade long war face the full penalty of the law.

The setting up of such a superior court in Sierra Leone, was therefore imperative, for the simple fact that it will help to put a stop to impunity and serve as a checkmate to violence. I personally see such an institution as more than necessary.

Historians are going to write about what happened before, during and after the war. Posterity shall read the history books and they will quickly turn the pages to read what happened to perpetrators of what has already been dubbed "a senseless war". If they discover that no punitive measures were taken against the perpetrators of the heinous crimes they have learned about as being perpetuated against their fathers and mothers, they will perhaps become resentful. There is also the likelihood that these children may tend to commit atrocities and expect to go scot-free.

But there is more to that follow-the-analysis' of the whole scenario. Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Alieu Kodowai from the CDF, Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie, Issa Sesay, Moris Kallon, and Augustine Gbao of the RUF, Johnny Paul Koroma, Alex Tamba Brima (Gullit) Ibrahim Bazy Kamara and Santigie Kanu (555) from the AFRC, are alleged to bear the greatest responsibility for the actions of their respective groups. Least I forget, Ex-President Charles Taylor, is the only external actor so far indicted.

But! By my personal analysis, the first five of indictees were either not tried, will probably not be tried or may never be tried. Out of the thirteen indictees listed above, the first five,

many people will consider to be - "those who bear the greatest responsibility" have ambiguities about them. Critically looking at the first five from top to bottom, one may be tempted to think that the whole Special-Court drama will end up becoming a mere farce.

Foday Sankoh, the RUF Warlord is no more, he died a natural death without being tried, Sam Bockarie of the RUF is also a dead man, Rtd. Major Johnny Paul Koroma, head of the former AFRC is a fugitive and up till now, no one knows his whereabouts (perhaps hibernating some where in Europe or the Middle East); Charles Taylor, the only indicted external actor, has sworn to 'his mother's breast' that he will not step his feet in Sierra Leone, let alone go to New England where the Special Court is situated.

The only indictee among the first five presently within the million dollar walls of the Special Court is Sam Hinga Norman.

I will perhaps spend some time on Hinga Norman. The two key things I believe the Special Court looks for in indicting a person are: Individual Criminal Responsibility and the Command Structure. Hinga Norman, I believe, was indicted under the command structure responsibility. He was the Deputy Defence Minister and Coordinator of the CDF that comprises the 'Kamajors', 'Tamaboros', 'Kapas', 'Donsos', and 'Gbethis'. As a commander of five civil militia groups, he was responsible for what ever a 'Vamboi' of a kamajor or a Santigie of a Gbethi does.

The fact is that Chief Norman, as he was popularly called, hadn't total command and control over the different militia fighters. And although they were all fighting in the interest of the nation, they all certainly committed human rights violations one way or the other during their campaigns, which blame is now heaped on 'poor' Hinga Norman. **This is pathetic.**

Awareness Times
29 July 2005
(continued next page)

But Norman too is widely believed to have done unspeakable things during the war. To many, he had already bitten more than he can chew. While some Sierra Leoneans (particularly his followers and tribesmen) see his indictment as unconstitutional, unjustifiable and a witch-hunt, they consider him more of a hero than a villain facing international crime charges. Others think otherwise - as far as they are concerned, he deserves to be punished. Hinga Norman has been a surprise to many Sierra Leoneans in recent times, and he is always making headlines in the newspapers. Some time back, he and the other CDF indictees, wrote a letter to their sympathisers, more or less ordering them not to take part in any SLPP functions till further notice. This particular letter did not cut ice with authorities at the Special Court. The next thing we heard in response, was that he has been slammed a temporary ban. As if that was not enough, reports have it that Chief Norman now has an intention to contest for the SLPP leadership. Whether this is plausible or not, we leave that to legal minds to judge. Perhaps all one can do is to write about the outcome of their judgment vis-à-vis the legality of his intention, but for now, it is yet a wait and see thing.

But should that be possible through whatever legal mechanism, the people will be left with the question - Who really did the Special Court come to try? especially when all the key players (now household names) are seemingly escaping from the trial process.

The fact is that almost every Sierra Leonean very well knows these first five names. The remaining eight names are somewhat not too popular or of much significance to many.

The question that comes to mind is, "should the Million Dollar Special Court become a farce, what next?" The people are however waiting.
