

**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, August 02, 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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**OPINION**

BY AUGUSTINE BIECHER

# What to do about Hinga Norman?

The incarcerated former leader of the civil defence forces, Chief Sam Hinga Norman who was also the deputy defence minister in the present Sierra Leone Peoples Party led government at the time of his arrest, has, in the past couple of days, not only indicated his desire to contest the leadership of the party (SLPP) and subsequently the presidency, but also thrown the spanner into the works by making an application in the Supreme Court for a permanent injunction towards the conduct of the forth-coming national delegate convention, scheduled for the 19th -20th August, 2005.

Whether he would be allowed to declare his intention for the party leadership or would be allowed by the court administration to leave the premises of the detention facility to promote that vision is not clear, but the former chief of the Kamajors, who fought on the side of the loyal government forces and ECOMOG troops to bring the rebels to the peace table, is definitely determined to get his way through.

There are indications that the court administration is not prepared to take any risk with the security and the very being of the court by allowing chief Norman to leave the detention premises without having been declared 'not guilty' or 'sick' by the judges or doctors who treat him.

A local tabloid reported that the Registrar of the Court believes he could only do that from within the detention facility. Despite that, the chief says that he will leave, he could assume whatever possible, and that the initial date for an official declaration, Sunday, July 31st, has now been postponed to August 7th. He has also indicated that he will not be attending the convention.

In the meantime, he has announced his resignation of the party leadership, but to what effect? It is a delicate matter, and one that cannot be taken lightly until certain conditions are met.

He may or may not be granted the injunction of his

desire to join the leadership race will not be taken seriously by those in power and are free to do as they like. But whatever decision is taken and whoever is going to make it, he must realize that we are talking here about HUMAN RIGHTS, which is primary to all other things.

Those in power today would want to keep Chief Norman exactly where he is, and are doing everything in their power to make sure that he stays where he is. They have forgotten that only a few years back, when the All People Congress was at its highest peak, they too believed they could manipulate the law and the affairs of state in their greedy

and selfish interest.

The reality is here for all to see. Those who stood out for the masses at that time, ended up gaining power not through the barrel of the gun, but through the ballot box in a free and fair manner.

It is unfortunate that the same group (SLPP) that benefited from the demise of the APC could end up just like the very devil the people had fought against all their lives.

Twenty years of APC abuse of human rights and misuse of powers, plus ten years of rebel destruction are equal to thirty years of continuous suffering for the ordinary people, whose lives could have been made better if only those leaders had done what they

were legally mandated to do.

It is now ten years since the SLPP regained the reigns of power, and half of that time has been spent on massive rehabilitation and recovery of the socio-economic and political infrastructure in the country.

In terms of suffering, it all adds to the suffering of the people, while those who are the ruler continue to become richer.

This is a vicious cycle that we have seen before that needs not be the case, for there are no groups of people who are born to be rulers in our time.

Everyone must fight for himself and God for us all.



Chief Hinga Norman... deserves justice

Respect for the law for the land is paramount and until those in authority take that into consideration when they go about making their decisions, then all the better for us.

But if they also believe like the APC in 1992 that they are "on top of things" so they can trample on the rights of other less fortunate Sierra Leoneans, then the consequences of an unfortunate outcome becomes very high.

That is why the issue of Hinga Norman must be taken seriously by those in power, for he may be incarcerated but he is definitely not a convict, as he is not yet convicted, and therefore must be accorded all his rights as other Sierra Leoneans.

If he could not be allowed to get out of the detention facility because of the charges against him and the security of the court, that does not mean he does not have the right to be a member of a political party.

He is still a member of the SLPP and is eligible to vote for or be voted for in any party election. He also has a right to apply for an injunction in the Supreme Court or any other court for a halt to any activity that the party may want to institute or organize.

It is true that a lot of his enemies had already condemned him to death, but we are not there yet, and in the meantime, we must all ensure that we try our best to uphold our country's constitution and the rule of law, for it may be any other person tomorrow.

Chief Norman is not a Saint, but he certainly has a right to everything that Sierra Leoneans are entitled to, and considering the role he played in securing the integrity of the nation, lives and properties during the war, he could easily be said to be an honorable citizen.

But for the dirty things that characterize politics in Africa and especially this country, he should be saying all these things from the security of a safe family home in his village somewhere in the Bo district.

The issues raised in the application for the injunction are very important however to be taken lightly. Something has to be done.

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# Nigeria sending Charles Taylor to Liberia after October elections

By Joe De Capua (VOA-Washington)

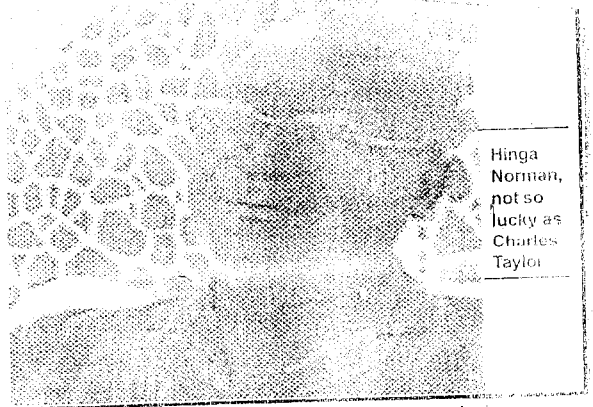
Nigeria's Foreign Minister says Nigeria will not turn over exiled Liberian President Charles Taylor to a third country, but would consider sending him back to Liberia. Speaking in New York Wednesday, Oluyemi Aderiji said his country had no intention of turning over Mr. Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone. He's been indicted by the court for crimes against humanity relating to Sierra Leone's Civil War.

Allison Cooper is a spokes-

person for the UN backed Sierra Leone Special Court. From Freetown, she spoke to English to Africa Joe De Capua about the Nigerian Position on Charles Taylor, who is currently living in exile in Calabar, Nigeria. She says, "This is not a new position for the government of Nigeria. They have said this before...The reaction to that at the Special Court is we really believe that it's time for justice to take its course, rather than having different politicians regardless of where they are,

whether they're Nigerian or Liberian, stating what the course of action should be for a lawfully indicted international war criminal." Ms. Cooper believes there is growing international pressure on Nigeria to turnover Mr. Taylor. She says, "Certainly, I believe that events of this year show that Nigeria is coming under increasing international pressure to hand Charles Taylor over. There was a unanimous resolution passed by the European Parliament earlier this year that was followed by resolution through the US Congress in May. There's been very, very serious and very,

very loud calls towards Nigeria to consider handing him over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone." She says if, indeed, Charles Taylor is handed over the Liberian, it won't be before the democratic elections later this year.



Hinga Norman, not so lucky as Charles Taylor

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 July 2005**

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

**International Clips on West Africa**

01/08/2005 13:44:17

**Ivory Coast rebels say they won't immediately disarm as deadline passes**

By PAULINE BAX

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) \_ Northern-based rebels refused Monday to immediately lay down their weapons, saying Ivory Coast government-allied militia are still armed as the latest in a series of disarmament deadlines passed.

Rebel Spokesman Antoine Beugre said rebels would not disarm because laws introduced by Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo last month were improper and government-allied fighters remain armed.

Under a peace deal brokered by South African President Thabo Mbeki, rebel fighters were to begin gathering Sunday at cantonment sites before laying down their guns at a later date.

**Local Media – Newspapers****Nigeria Rebuffs Regional Leaders over Taylor's Asylum Status**

*(New Democrat)*

- Quoting Radio France International, *New Democrat* reports that Nigeria has snubbed Mano River Union leaders over a recent request to review the asylum granted to former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

*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](mailto:kontehk@un.org).*



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