

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 09, 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

By Theophilus S. Gbenda

A combined team of Operational Support Division (OSD) and Criminal Investigations Department (CID) personnel on Saturday August 6, 2005 at about 5am, reportedly raided the No. 90f Bass Street

residence of one Mr. Abu B. Turay, and swicked him to the CID headquarters on allegations relating to a coup plot. Mr. Turay, according to sources, was released on Monday, August 8, 2005 without being charged to court for any offences.

Explaining his ordeal to Awareness Times, Turay, who happen to be an Investigator for the Hinga Norman Defence Team, said he was fast asleep that morning, when a group of armed police personnel entered his premises at Brookfields, and placed him

under arrest. He said, his house was thoroughly searched by the police, even before a search warrant was showed to him. "I had to be forced to sign the warrant which clearly states that, nothing of police interest was discovered in
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Special Court Investigator

From front page

my house" Turay said.

He went further to explain that he was later taken to the CID headquarters, where he spent nearly the whole day without being told what crime he had committed.

According to him, it was only when the Lead Counsel for Hinga Norman, Dr. Bu-Buakie Jabbie went to the CID to enquire about his arrest, that a particular police man whose name he could not remember, remarked, "He is here in connection with an attempted coup plot".

Abu also told Awareness Times that he even heard another officer remarking that the instruction to arrest him came from above.

According to him, his ordeal started Wednesday August

4, 2005 when he attempted to escort two journalists in the persons of Mr. David Tam Bayoh of C-MET and Josiah Paris of FM 98.1, who were scheduled to have an interview with Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

According to him, the Acting Chief of the Public Affairs Section of the Special Court, Peter Andersen, prevented the two journalists from entering the detention centre, and as a result of that, a serious argument ensued between him and the former.

He explained that the incident between him and Andersen took barely two days before he suddenly became the victim of police arrest.

According to him, his arrest was political and aimed mainly

at stifling the intended declaratio of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who he said, is vying for the leadership of the SLPP.

He considered his arrest as a witch hunt pioneered by ceratin individuals within the SLPP who see Chief Norman's intended declaration as a threat to their chances of winning during the 19-20 August, 2005 National Delegates Convention in Makeni.

He also expressed fears for his life stating that the fact that armed men could enter his house at odd hours and hold his family to ransome, is indicative of the fact that he is far from being safe.

He however insisted that no amount of intimidation or threats will sway him from his loyalty to Chief Norman

Norman's lawyer arrested

BY SANTIIE KAMARA
SADIU KAMARA

Competent sources within Chief Hinga Norman's political camp have confirmed to this press that Abu B Turay, a member of Chief Norman's legal team of lawyers and investigators at the Special Court for Sierra

Leone was arrested by the police last Saturday, 6th August 2005 at his Brookfields residence.

The sources further alleged that Abu B Turay was picked up by the police on allegations of "holding secret meetings with the supporters, friends

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Hinga Norman - a hero in chains

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and sympathizes of Sam Hinga Norman" within the country.

However, according to the sources, the purpose of the meeting for which he was arrested was infact for the preparation of Chief Norman's proposed declaration, which eventually took place on Sunday, 7th August 2005 at the party's headquarter in Freetown.

A foster son of Chief Norman, noted that the arrested legal investigator plays a significance role in the legal team of the indicted former Civil Defence Force leader

Political observers opine that the arrest of the legal officer is

only meant to smear the image of Chief Norman and damage his chances at the leadership of the party.

Mr. Abu B Turay was arrested in the morning hours of last Saturday and is reportedly being held at the CID headquarters in Freetown without any statement or charge.

Chief Norman's declaration letter was read out by Mr Duwai Mohamed and witnessed by SLPP parliamentarians, ex-combatants of the CDF and supporters of the course of the Chief who remains incarcerated at the detention facility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in New England Ville

In the letter, Chief Norman de-

clared his intention to run for the leadership of the SLPP as well as that of the presidency of the country for the 2007 elections under the party.

He also reminded the people of his sacrifices for the country in the past and promised to do more if he is given the opportunity to head the party

He also admonished the delegates to the convention to be mindful of money-peddling aspirants who intend to use money to buy their votes and bulldoze their way to power and to choose a leader who could sacrifice his life, property and family for them

He said although he was not there to declare in person, he was nevertheless with them in spirit at all times



Special Court inductee for war crimes Chief Sam Hinga Norman declared his intention to lead the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) on Sunday 7th August 2005 at the Party Headquarters at 29 Rawdon Street in Freetown.

In an interview with the BBC's Lansana Fofana, the wife of the aspirant, Mrs. Norman said that she was happy to have witnessed the occasion taking into consideration the role her husband played during the 10 year war that was bravely challenged by him.

Several people who were interviewed by Lansana Fofana over the Network Africa programme expressed their admiration for the Civil Defence Force Head, Hinga Norman. "He preferred to stay and fight alongside the military to quell the insurgence of the



Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and most importantly the nine months junta rule of Johnny Paul's unpopular AFRC government.

It could be recalled that the overthrow of the SLPP government on Sunday the 25th May 1997 by the military backed by rebels of late

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Hinga Norman Declares!!

Corporal Foday Sankoh was never accepted by the civil populace and loyal soldiers backed by ECOWAS who took arms to put down the coup that saw many people leaving the country.

Local hunters from different regions organised themselves to fight for their constitutional right in order to sustain democratic rule which was preached by the international community.

Hinga Norman's popularity during the war was as a result of his bold steps to protect his fellow Sierra Leoneans as well as foreign nationals while others

were busy flying out of the country for safe havens. Groups such as the Kamajors, Gbetis, Tamaborohs and Donsos who formed under umbrella organisation called the Civil Defence Forces (CDF)

As a retired Captain, Hinga Norman launched the most powerful Operation Black December which paralysed the junta government in the provinces while the ECOMOG forces were based at Lungi and Kossoh Town to discourage soldiers from staging a coup de tat at the expense of the economic development of African countries.

Hwoko. Tuesday August 09, 2005.

Hinga Norman warns delegates

Former Civil Defence Forces (CDF) National Coordinator and Special Court indictee-Chief Sam Hinga Norman has pleaded with delegates to the forthcoming delegate conference of the SLPP "not to allow money to control their consciences." In his declaration speech Sunday 7th August at the Party office at Rawdon Street, which was read on his behalf by a member of his

Campaign Team-Mr. Duwai Mohamed Samu he urged them "rather to make their free unfettered choices and decisions." Chief Norman's declaration of intent adds his name to a list of seven others who have disclosed their ambition to become the SLPP Presidential candidate for the 2007 Presidential and Parliamentary elections. Although Chief Norman was not released by the Special Court for the occasion, the SLPP Party office was full

to capacity and the former CDF Boss expressed disappointment for not being able to be at the occasion but stated, "I am with you in spirit." The statement went on, "today, my dear people, I wish to declare (and I now so declare) to the entire country and the wider world my humble intention to offer myself to be considered by you to be chosen as the Presidential nominee or

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Hinga Norman warns delegates

From Front Page
candidate for our great and beloved Party, the SLPP for the national Presidential elections in 2007. With your support, all the way, I will be able to take this Party to greater heights. I will indeed be able to give our people a better life and our country a brighter future. There is a lot, both in us as a people and in the resources of the country which, given a proper vision of leadership and better management surely make this country a greater success and all our people a much happier lot than has yet been our luck over the past several decades since our independence. I am seeking your consent, cooperation and support to give me the chance to lead the way to that success and prosperity." Chief Norman continued further to outline his personal history- his tenure in the Army unto the setting up of the CDF during the war. Contesting the legality of the Special Court. Hinga Norman stated, "...I firmly believe that 'hinga-normism' is

going to prevail and that once again I will soon march proudly free out of Prison into the welcoming arms of my people, my party and my country." The CDF Special Court indictee expressed dissatisfaction over the "manner and timing of choosing... a leader within the SLPP" which he

maintained "is not without difficulty." On his vision if chosen as Leader of the SLPP and consequently Presidential candidate, Chief Hinga Norman said that he would widen the decentralisation process re-established by the SLPP; provide proper training for the Army and the Police amongst a host of his priorities.

Pool, Tuesday August 09, 2005.

The Special Court indictee, former National Coordinator of the Civil Defense Force and Minister of Internal Affairs and National Security, Chief Sam Hinga Norman last Sunday, August 7 formally declared his intentions to contest for the SLPP leadership in the next party convention in Makeni on August 19-20. Mr. Duwai Mohamed Samu who read Chief Hinga Norman's prepared declaration speech on his behalf stated that "it is unfortunate that by conspiracy of circumstances, I am

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Hinga Norman

elements of the National Army seized power under refuge in March 1998". Norman stated in his statement that "the democratically elected legislative process by which the Special Court came into existence was truly on the way to riding a veritable contempt to our national constitution and devastating the country, I decided to resist and therefore an affront and stand up to them. to our national sovereignty. I also personally believe that I was brought before the court purely for political reasons, that is to say, in order to put me aside and out of the way because when the RUF democratically elected in our National Political process".

Hinga Norman declares by proxy

By Theophilus S. Gbenda
Special Court detainee, former Minister of Internal Affairs and National Coordinator of the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) Chief Sam Hinga Norman, over the weekend, vested his interest in vying for the leadership of

the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) and presidential candidate for the 2007 general elections. Declaring by proxy at the party office last Sunday, Chief Sam Hinga Norman expressed regrets that he
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Hinga Norman declares

From front page
could not appear in person to declare his intention due to what he called 'conspiracy' of circumstances which according to him, is preventing him from doing so.

In the declaration statement read on his behalf by a former Kamajor Commander, Duwai Mohamed Samu, Chief Norman, stated that he was vying for the leadership position because he believes he has the leadership qualities needed to take the SLPP party to higher heights and for the betterment of the entire citizenry.

Chief Norman maintained that, "there are a lot of good things in us as a people and in our resources as a nation, which, if given proper attention with good leadership vision and management, Sierra Leone will surely become a better place for all. The people will be much happier than they ever have been for the past several decades, since independence".

In view of the above, Chief Norman craved the indulgence of all well meaning Sierra Leoneans, with particular reference to the SLPP delegates to support his candidature and in so doing, give him the opportunity of leading the

way to the success and prosperity of the country.

On his general life and preparation for leadership, Chief Norman stated that he is 65, and was born in Mongere village, in the Valunya chiefdom, Bo district in the southern province of Sierra Leone.

At age 14, Chief Norman said he was enlisted in the Colonial army, in 1954 and later volunteered to serve in the Royal West African Frontier force (RWAFF).

Eight years later, Chief Norman said, he again volunteered to serve in the first Sierra Leonean contingent of United Nations troops to the then Congo Kinshasa, now D.R. Congo.

According to him, he had always taken positive actions in defending the country and in the service of the Sierra Leonean populace.

At the tender age of 27, Chief Norman said he ventured into his first nationalistic endeavour, in the defense of the country's constitution albeit as a soldier.

During the 1967 general elections, whilst serving as ADC to the Governor-General at State House, Chief Norman pointed out that he stood against the Governor General's attempt to stifle the

constitution by way of arresting him.

Although his decision later landed him in custody, Chief Norman however stressed that his action sent out a clear message to the Colonial masters that they cannot continue to treat the country's constitution with disregard.

Chief Norman further disclosed that his current detention by the Special Court for alleged war crimes is simply as a result of his selfless defence of the land.

According to him, he has contributed in his own little way to save the country from a protracted blood letting of the people "I stood strong and always ready to save this country from the scourges of injustice, poverty and backwardness", he said.

The declaration ceremony was graced by representatives from the four regions, including former CDF commanders and SLP stalwarts.

The ceremony was also graced by RUF representatives and wives of the detained AFRC members. The general consensus at the ceremony was that Chief Norman is a hero and that he can make a good president.

Cocorioko website

http://www.cocorioko.com/newsbeat_2

NORMAN TELLS SLPP DELEGATES NOT TO ALLOW MONEY TO CONTROL THEIR CONSCIENCES

Tuesday August 9, 2005

By Wilfred Kabs-Kanu

Chief Hinga Norman last Sunday admonished SLPP delegates who will be attending the forthcoming party leadership convention in Makeni not to allow money to control their consciences.

The Chief made the statement in absentia on Sunday in his declaration speech for the SLPP leadership and the Sierra Leone Presidency read on his behalf to a jampacked, attentive audience at the SLPP Headquarters in Freetown by former CDF Commander Duwai Mohamed Samu.

Norman said : My dear people, let me end this declaration by once more asking for your full support. You are aware that I do not as now have my freedom of movement in order to visit you everywhere and talk to you personally as I would so much love to do. And these days the power of money and the effontery of those who weild substantial resources of it are overwhelming. I plead with you, and especiallt the delegatesat the SLPP Party Conference, not to allow money to control their consciences, but rather, to make their free unfettered choices and decisions. "

Mr.Norman told them them : "The future of our beloved country is in your hands .Use your votes to choose the right person to all the executive and other positions in our party and most of all, to that of the Presidential nominee or candidate when the time comes " .

Chief Norman stated that the SLPP had started an experiment which he would like to apply on a much larger scale--Decentralization .The Chief intimated that under his leadership food self-sufficiency will be made more export-oriented.He also promised to make available quality education , academic, vocational, and technical alike to all genders of young people.

He also promised that the army, police and fire force services will be provided with proper training and adequate appropriate equipment for their effective operations in their respective areas of responsibility.

According to our Freetown reporter, Tamba Borbor, during the Sunday declaration ceremony of Chief Norman, his supporters were heard chanting songs, damning and challenging the existence of the Special Court , while a local musician called- Jebbeh two rendered a solemn song about the incarceration of the former CDF National Coordinator.

Concord Times

Supporting Berewa is Disastrous Says Charles Margai

-SNIP-

What is your honest opinion about the special court?

My honest opinion about the special court, if I had my way I would not set up the special court. We have gone through a very bitter war. There is no doubt about it. But I do not believe in prosecuting these small fries. I call them small fries because the big guns are not before the court. It is most unfortunate.

Would call Chief Hinga Norman a small fry?

Of course when you think of people like Charles Taylor, Blase Campore and Foday Sankoh, Norman is a small fry after all he was nothing but a Deputy Defence Minister.

So you think somebody else should be there?

None of them should be there. To my honest opinion.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 8 Aug 2005**

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

International Clips on Liberia**Exiled Liberian leader plans statement on peace, poll**

LAGOS, 8 Aug (Reuters) - Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is considering making a statement to voice support for the peace process that gave him asylum in Nigeria and for elections that could eventually lead to his return, his spokesman said on Monday. The statement would be made only with the approval of his host, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, Paasewe added.

International Clips on West Africa**South Africa gives boost to Ivory Coast leader**

ABIDJAN, 7 Aug (AFP) - South African President Thabo Mbeki, who has been mediating the crisis in the divided west African state of Ivory Coast on Sunday ruled that decrees issued by President Laurent Gbagbo, which have been bitterly contested by the rebels, were acceptable under a peace agreement.

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.

Liberian Observer (Monrovia)

August 8, 2005

Posted to the web August 8, 2005

JPC Director Calls On Those Contesting Elections to Resign from NTGL

James West

(J. Augustine Toe, National Director of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission)

-SNIP-

On former President Charles Taylor and the culture of impunity, the JPC Boss said despite the national and international campaign by human rights organizations to draw the attention to the need to have Mr. Taylor appear before the Special Court of Sierra Leone, Mr. Taylor remains in Nigeria.

He said it is rather disappointing that Nigerian President Obasanjo has indicated that he would respect the wishes of a properly elected government in Liberia for a transfer of Mr. Taylor to Sierra Leone.

Atty. Toe said in the view of the JPC, "it would put a huge amount of pressure on a newly elected government to make the call. No one knows what the result of these elections would be. In the mind of the JPC, this could produce an additional incentive for Mr. Taylor if the results of the elections would by sympathy be to his continuous impunity.

The JPC wonders why justice cannot be allowed to take its course now. It urges African and world leaders to say no to the culture of impunity.

Liberian Observer

August 7, 2005 Sunday

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's War Talk Apology: Too Little Too Late?

Bendu Koryon dissects the recent apology by Liberian presidential candidate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf over her alleged controversial comments that if Charles Taylor burned Monrovia down, they would build it back up, during the Liberian Civil War.

I read with interest, Madame Johnson-Sirleaf's "sincere" apology to the Liberian people. I continue to ponder upon the sincerity of the apology. Should we Liberians show profound gratitude for an apology, which I deem at best lackadaisical? If sincere in her apology, should that apology not have been said in Liberia, to the people who most suffered during our civil conflict? Why did she have to come to the United States in order to find the courage to address an issue on which she had denied culpability so many times? Could she not look into the faces of the still suffering masses and utter these words? Does Madame think that the vote of the masses is so unimportant that they do not warrant an apology on their own soil? I sincerely hope that Madame understands that the lack of education is not the same as ignorance. The Liberian people are not stupid!!! They deserve an apology from Madame on their own soil. In her act of purging, Madame Johnson-Sirleaf also admitted aiding Mr. Charles Taylor in the early stages of the war. I found this statement to be the most profound statement made by Madame Johnson-Sirleaf.

In her admittance of aid to Mr. Taylor, indicted war criminal, Madame Johnson-Sirleaf has implicated herself as a co-conspirator. Let's look at hypothetical Liberia in March 2006. Madame Johnson-Sirleaf is president (please know that this is just a make believe scenario). President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria is now ready to turn Charles Taylor over to the new democratically elected government in Liberia to face trial. Now I ask you, will Madame carry out the mandate to prosecute Mr. Taylor, having previously admitted being his co-conspirator? I think not!!! I now bring you back to present day May 2005. I would like to take an in depth look at the definition of war crimes and war criminals.

Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention defines war crimes as: Willful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, including willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement of a protected person, compelling a protected person to serve in the forces of a hostile power .

The statutes of The Hague tribunal (the international court of justice) say the court has the right to try suspects alleged to have violated the laws or customs of war. Examples of such violations are given as:

A§ Wanton destruction of cities, towns or villages, or devastation not justified by military necessity

A§ Attack, or bombardment, by whatever means, of undefended towns, villages, dwellings, or buildings

A§ Seizure of, destruction or willful damage done to institutions dedicated to religion, charity and education, the arts and sciences, historic monuments and works of art and science

A§ Plunder of public or private property.

The tribunal defines crime against humanity as crimes committed in armed conflict but directed against a civilian population. Examples of these are given as:

A§ Murder

A§ Extermination

A§ Enslavement

A§ Deportation

A§ Imprisonment

A§ Torture

A§ Rape

A§ Persecutions on political, racial and religious grounds

War Crimes are basically divided into two broad categories. The first are called crimes against peace. Crimes against peace include the planning, preparation, or initiation of a war of aggression. The second category is called crimes against humanity; this would include crimes against civilians and soldiers.

Please check off on this list anything you think may have happened in Liberia in the past two decades. Was there anything left off the list? I did not think so! If Mr. Taylor were to be charged with any of these crimes and brought to trial, it would seem to me that the trial should involve all of his co-conspirators also. The special court in Sierra Leone was given the power to prosecute persons who have committed and 'bear the greatest responsibility' for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. If Mr. Taylor is to be brought to justice under this court, then the "other" persons must include all of those misguided members of the then Association for Constitutional Democracy, Madame Johnson-Sirleaf included.

Speaking Out

As a Liberian, I cannot close my eyes, cover my ears or remain silent. I must speak for the tens of thousands of Liberians who lost their lives in our civil conflict, a conflict for which Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf bears responsibility.

This is important because at the heart of the concept of war crimes, is the idea that an individual can be held responsible for the actions of a country or a nation's soldiers. Madame Johnson-Sirleaf has admitted that she was one of the persons who put money into the hands of Mr. Taylor to buy guns that (in her own words) indiscriminately killed thousands of innocent Liberians. If this is true, then how can an admitted co-conspirator of war crimes embolden herself to run for the highest office in the land? Is she above the law? Does she think that the Liberian people are too ignorant to understand the intricacies of international law? I say again that the Liberian people are not stupid; we know all those who are responsible for the destruction of our beloved country. We will bring all these people to justice, presidential aspirants notwithstanding. We will prove to the world that justice is not just a word, that it is real.

As a Liberian, I cannot close my eyes, cover my ears or remain silent. I must speak for the tens of thousands of Liberians who lost their lives in our civil conflict, a conflict for which Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf bears responsibility.

I must ask the question: Has Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf committed war crimes in regards to aiding Mr. Taylor with money to buy guns which were used to conduct a war on our people? The answer is a resounding YES!!! We must bring Mr. Taylor, Ms. Johnson-Sirleaf and all of their cronies to justice. We must reveal their criminal conduct to all of Africa and the world. We must repudiate this criminal conduct and let the world know that Liberia and Africa will no longer accept it. To do this, we must enforce findings of the International Criminal Court by bringing war criminals to justice, wherever they are and whomever they are, presidential aspirants notwithstanding. Ms. Johnson-Sirleaf has expressed regret at the indiscriminate killings of Liberians and other foreign nationals by Mr. Taylor's forces and has expressed the hope that Liberians can begin an era of national healing and genuine reconciliation. I say that this era will not soon be upon us until Madame Johnson-Sirleaf takes full responsibility for her part in the "indiscriminate killings" as she calls it.

Madame has spoken of her clear agenda to see Liberia renewed. She has said that our country can start again and together we can do it. I say to Madame Johnson-Sirleaf that we can indeed start again, but, not with her. We do not need a war criminal at the helm of a new Liberia. Our agenda (the Liberian people) is clear: prosecute all war criminals and conspirators, regardless of who they are. We'd like to see Liberia start again with those responsible for the slaughter of our people brought to justice. Would this not include the presidential aspirant Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf?

The writer who is a Member of the Concerned Group of Liberian Commentators Worldwide (CGLCW), lives partly in Liberia and the UK.