

**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, 15 September 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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Ext 7217

## **Cocorioko website**

### **HINGA NORMAN TO FORM HIS OWN POLITICAL PARTY**

**Wednesday September 14, 2005**

Former Minister of Internal Affairs and War Crimes indictee , Chief Sam Hinga Norman , is set to form his own political party to contest the 2007 Presidential and General Elections in Sierra Leone , according to a public release by his campaign chief Rev . Alfred SamForay yesterday.

READ THE PUBLIC RELEASE BELOW :

#### **FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 14 September, 2005

*"Chief Hinga Norman has not left the SLPP. The SLPP has left Chief Hinga Norman and the Sierra Leone people."*

#### **Introduction**

For the past several weeks, there has been widespread speculation regarding the establishment of a new political party - a so-called Third Force - as an alternative to the existing ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and the opposition All People's Congress (APC). These speculations intensified following the National Delegates' Conference on September 2 by the two leading national parties.

Following the two conventions at which both parties elected their respective party leaders and standard bearers for the 2007 General Elections, the people of Sierra Leone were not only unimpressed by the caliber of the two party leaders but were demonstrably underwhelmed by the possibility that either one of these men will lead the nation at the conclusion of the term of office by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. Pressure within and outside the country mounted for the establishment of an alternative to the two proposed party leaders.

#### **Announcement**

After diligent consultations with citizens and well wishers from all four Regions of the country and abroad, the Steering Committee to Elect Chief Samuel Hinga Norman has decided to form a new political party to contest the national elections set for May 2007

The party, among other things:

- Will not be a part of any existing political party in Sierra Leone;
- Will not be based on regional, ethnic or religious affiliation;
- Will be broad based to truly represent all the four Regions of the country;
- Will challenge and engage Sierra Leoneans at home and abroad in an aggressive program to rehabilitate the nation and reconcile the legitimate discontents of our people;

- Will merge the humanitarian philosophies of the founders of our republic with the vigor of today's youth towards national development and prosperity for our selves and our posterity.

### **Chief Norman is Not Leaving the SLPP**

Some might wonder - and rightly so - why after sacrificing his youth for the principles upon which the SLPP was founded, Chief Hinga Norman at this late stage in his life would choose to leave his beloved Sierra Leone People's Party. The answer is simple.

**Mr. Norman is not leaving the SLPP. He has never left the party; he has never left the people; he has never let the country down. The SLPP has left Chief Hinga Norman. Indeed, the Sierra Leone People's Party has left the Sierra Leone people.**

The SLPP has left the principles of democracy, transparency and justice for the common citizen upon which the party was founded. The SLPP left Mr. Norman and the people of Sierra Leone by:

- Putting Mr. Norman as Deputy Minister of Defence and National Coordinator of the government created Sierra Leone Civil Defence Forces (SL-CDF) at the forefront of a war he did not initiate;
- Compromising our judicial sovereignty through the establishment of a dubious international tribunal negotiated by leaders of the party, which in a practical sense is superior to our Supreme Court;
- Delivering his head on a silver platter to the so-called special court for Sierra Leone;
- Failing to support him and his family during the past thirty months while he and his colleagues languished in prison for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- Financing political machinations which excluded Mr. Norman and the majority of party members from participating in the national political process.
- Allowing a Party Executive Council whose mandate had expired to call a snap convention whereby delegates paid for by the party voted for a handpicked successor to President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah;
- Violating relevant sections of the Party Constitution; the All Political Parties Act and the Sierra Leone National Constitution.

By so doing, the SLPP is no longer the party of the people, for the people and by the people of Sierra Leone. It has become an oligarchy of a few hand-picked men and women bent on holding on to power for themselves and by themselves without regards to the fundamental welfare of the ordinary citizen of our beloved country.

### **Conclusion**

For these and other reasons, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, a true son of the soil, a Justice of the Peace, a former Regent Chief and traditional leader of the people, cannot and will not, in good conscience, subscribe to any effort that he and any well meaning citizen of our country considers illegal, unconstitutional and contrary to the entrenched values of our people. As a result, Mr. Norman, after challenging the election of Party Leader at the National Delegates' Conference before the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone and failing to

stop what he considered an illegal and unconstitutional process, refused to participate in the convention and forbade his supporters to canvass the delegates on his behalf.

While efforts will continue to redress the issue through the legal process, Mr. Norman and a cross section of our citizenry have elected to undertake the establishment of a new political party that will reflect the true aspirations of our people.

With kind regards to all our fellow citizens at home and abroad; with malice towards none and charity towards all,

Rev. Alfred Munda SamForay,

For and on Behalf of:

Hon. Samuel Hinga Norman, JP  
& the Committee to Elect Chief Hinga Norman.



**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 14 Sept 2005**

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

**International Clips on West Africa**

**Nigeria: Demonstrate Commitment to Justice**

Source: Human Rights Watch

(New York, 14 September 2005) - Nigeria should help bring justice to the countless victims of crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International said today in an open letter urging Nigeria's president to surrender former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo is currently in New York for the opening of the U.N. General Assembly and is scheduled to hold a press conference at the United Nations on Friday.

*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 or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at [armahj@un.org](mailto:armahj@un.org).*

## Special Court workers advised:

# Avoid SLOK Airline

*Story: Rachel Horner and  
Sahr Musa Yamba*

Deputy Chief of Press and Public Affairs for the United Nations (UN) backed Special Court, Peter Anderson in an email to Concord Times Wednesday confirmed that their staffs have been advised to avoid traveling with SLOK Airline because it scored .23 out of 10 in a UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS) assessment.

Anderson affirmed on the 25 August "staff members of the Special Court were advised that the UN had recently banned all personnel from travel on SLOK Airlines after the airline scored .23 out of 10 in a UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS) assessment.

"As you know, SCSL personnel are not UN employees, ... we are not subject to the UN ban. We

were advised, however, that the UN had found the airline to be unsafe."

The Deputy Chief of Press and Public Affairs suggested that since the Special Court does not make independent determinations in these matters, Concord Times should contact Unamsil or DSS.

In a telephone interview with Unamsil's spokesperson, Daniel Adekera he maintained they are still

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## Avoid SLOK Airline

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acting on the advice of not using SLOK Airline. Responding to whether they held meetings recently with the airline, Adekera said, "as far as I am concerned, this is not to my knowledge."

Concord Times earlier gathered from some workers at the Special Court that a message from the DSS was posted on their lotuses advising all workers not to fly SLOK Airline

as "it was rated low."

However, a release from the office of SLOK Airline Tuesday states that the UN ban was "by a false information posted on a website called 'flightsafe.' The release adds, "Our investigation led us to talk to Mr. John Trevett, the Managing Director of 'flightsafe,' a UK based consultancy. Mr. Trevett admitted that he has never been to Banjul to investigate the operations of SLOK

Air International neither visited the Gambia Civil Aviation Authority nor flown on the airline. He admitted that he therefore had no basis for the derogatory information he posted on his website about the Airline..."

It could be recalled that the DSS in New York recently advised UN personnel not to travel aboard SLOK Airline.