

**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, 16 September 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

Awoko. Friday Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

## Special Court: Witness tells why 'operation pay yourself'

By Betty Milton

In his evidence at the AFRC Special Court Trial Prosecution witness T-167 yesterday told the court that 'operation pay yourself' was done as a result of the non-payment of salaries of the members of the Sierra Leone Army (SLA). The

witness, who identified himself as George Johnson Jnr aka Junior Lion, said that he joined the Army at the age of 23 and was attached to Tom Nyuma who was the Under Secretary of State for Kenema during the NPRC regime. He was

later sent to Pademba road Prison and in May 1997 when the prison was broke into by some soldiers all the prisoners were released and were asked to report at the Cockerill Barracks, which they did. Junior Lion went on to say that

at Cockerill he was assigned to Johnny Paul Koroma (J.P) as his security for two weeks and was later sent to Ibrahim Bazy Kamara who

was the Principal Liaison Officer 3 (PLO) to be his Chief Security Officer. "When we were at Cockerill J.P sent a signal message to

Sam Bockarie aka Mosquito who was the commander of the RUF to join the junta forces so that they can form

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## operation pay yourself

*From Front Page*

one Army and the next day Dennis Mingo came to Freetown to confirm." The witness continued, "in August there was a students strike and J.P ordered that they be sent back quietly. Rambo then started distributing machetes to both the AFRC and RUF troops to do the mission. We later went to the Connaught Hospital where we saw

many corpses. In February, the Nigerian ECOMOG troops attacked and overpowered us so this made us to flee from Freetown. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, J.P and other Honourables left for Masiaka and on the 13<sup>th</sup> we also left for Masiaka." Junior Lion also disclosed that they went to Makeni. At Mabesene Eye Clinic, there was massive looting as they

declared it to be 'operations pay your self.' The soldiers he said were not being paid during the junta period and as a result, every item they looted belonged to them. From Makeni Junior Lion said, the troops then headed for Kono but some Kamajors in Bumpeh first attacked them, but were overpowered by the junta troops. The trial continues.

Flwoko. Friday Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

## Special Court dedicate building in memory of Bob Parnell

The Special Court of Sierra Leone on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September dedicated a building in memory of Robert Bob Parnell the first Chief of Security who passed away on the 22nd of October 2004 at the Choitram Hospital in Freetown. At a ceremony held at the Special Court building.

the Registrar, Robin Vincent in his statement, said that the family of late Bob Parnell wanted the ceremony to be a family affair. He stated that he felt a great deal better today than a year ago when he stood in the same position on that fatal day.

The Registrar maintained that Bob Parnell was responsible for establishing and maintaining all security systems of the Special Court. "He had long association and strong dedication to Sierra

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## Special Court dedicate building

*From Front Page*  
Leone and its people, which is also shared by his wife Rosemary who is a senior logistics officer with the UN World Food Programme," he noted. Mr. Vincent said that Bob Parnell was the first recruitment he made when he first came to Sierra Leone and so he thanked his lucky star as Bob was indeed a family man. The staff at the Special Court also described Bob Parnell

as a strong, faithful, protective and committed colleague who was incredibly dedicated to his wife and children Bob Jr and Kelly. In her tribute Kelly said that her father had a great passion for the people of this country. Her father she said always insisted that she grow up to be a contributing member of society as he was a perfect example being a marine who retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. She

also disclosed that her father was a Military Attaché who spent a lot of time in West Africa and in Rwanda and his greatest passion was working for the Special Court, as he was so proud for what he did here. In cutting the tape of the building, wife of the late Robert Parnell said that she was happy for the dedication as the whole family felt proud of the honour they have received from the family of the Special Court and the people of Sierra Leone.

# If elected... APC promises to free Hinga Norman

*BY AMADI ABADI*

The newly elected APC National Secretary General, Mr. Victor B. Foh has been quoted as promising people in Bo that if his party wins the 2007 presidential election, "our first task would be to free Hinga Norman".

Mr. Foh reportedly told the people that the APC is not such an ungrateful party that would turn around and plot against its own hero. An APC source in Bo intimated this press that it is high time the people of the south and the east forget about their religious loyalty to the SLPP. "Under the SLPP it was the prominent people from the south and the east that were harassed, disgraced and neglected", he observed.

"The government has not achieved good security because

*CONTINUED PAGE 2*



*Hinga Norman*

## APC promises to free Hinga Norman

*FROM PAGE 1*

Harry Will who was enthusiastic about it was entrapped and now he is a sufferer," he continued. "See how deplorable the road to Bo is, particularly from Masiaka, and now imagine where Hinga Norman is today," he stressed.

"Politically enough, our own very leader, Berewa, has been presiding over

all the predicament in the south and the east." APC could have been a bad party in the past, but may be a good party in future, just as the SLPP had been a good party before but has now become a bad party," he analysed.

Another APC stalwart said the people of this country should start thinking like in western democracies, where governance change hands between parties not by their

historical pasts, but by what programmes they present to the electorate.

"If all democrats vote their party at all elections, the Republicans would never have come to power. But in the US, a man can be democrat and vote a Republican to become president, putting his nation above his party," he added.

"Therefore SLPP members should

consider voting for somebody who loves the country and won't turn back to a certain party members when he gets power."

The members of Hinga's newly formed Movement For Democratic Change have also made the freedom of Hinga Norman an agenda on their political programmes. Many people however believe that Norman's name is only being used to get votes.

# HINGA NORMAN FORMS HIS OWN PARTY CHARLES MARGAI PLANNING HIS OWN

# SLPP 'Dombolo'

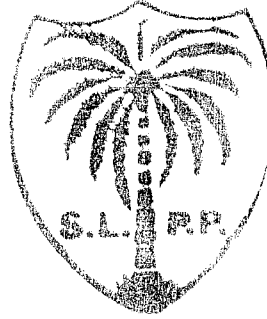
*By Sayoh Kamara*

A press release from the 'Committee To Elect Chief Hinga Norman' has indicated clearly that Chief Norman has established a new political party that is different in shape, form and objective from the two major political parties, the SLPP and the APC. Meanwhile, members of the Charles Margai for President camp have also indicated that they are just putting

finishing touches to the formation of their own new party as demanded by their supporters around the country.

The Hinga Norman release dated 14<sup>th</sup> September and signed by Reverend Alfred Munda Sam Boray indicated that Chief Norman is not leaving the SLPP and that it is the SLPP that has left Chief Norman.

"Mr. Norman is not leaving the SLPP. He has never left the party;



*Wahala for poor Tokpoi*

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 release stated. It went on to state that the SLPP has abandoned the principles of democracy, transparency and justice for the common citizen upon which the party was founded.

Giving reasons for the decision of Mr. Norman and his campaign team to form a new political party, which they maintain came as a result of "diligent consultations with citizens and well wishers from all four regions of the country and abroad, the released mentioned among other things; that the SLPP party allowed a party executive council whose mandate had expired to call a

**Contd Page 2**

# SLPP 'Dombolo'

*From Front Page*

camp convention where by handpicked delegates voted for a handpicked successor to president Kabbah and that the party violated relevant sections of the party constitution, the All Political Parties Act and the Sierra Leone national constitution. According to the Norman Campaign team, by so doing, "the SLPP is no longer the party of the people for the people and by the people of Sierra Leone." They further charged that the SLPP 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 for the fundamental welfare of the ordinary citizen of our beloved country."

According to the Assistant Public Relations Officer of the Charles Margai Campaign Team, Maliam Jannah, the people are inviting Mr. Margai to form a party because they see him

as someone who is "clean, disciplined and a true patriot who loves the country and its people deep inside his heart."

He told Awareness Times that they reached the decision for the formation of a new party after a nation wide consultation with their supporters and well wishers.

He pointed out that during their consultations, the people came out clearly to tell them that they feel disappointed in the SLPP and as such are opting for an alternative political party in which to entrust their confidence and destiny.

The National Young Generation of Margai's Camp has already designed an emblem for this new party said to be named Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). It has a tie of new brooms with a palm head in the middle with the motto, 'positive change

However, the general body is yet to agree upon this symbol and motto.

According to political observers, the emergence of these two new political parties splintering from the SLPP, is an indication that "all is not well within the SLPP" and as such the observers maintain that history is about to repeat itself once again in the political life of the SLPP.

"SLPP is in big Dombolo." A Margai supporter told Awareness Times last evening whilst from the Internet, a Hinga Norman supporter sent in an email to say that the SLPP has a 'Wahala' on their hands.

Yesterday, reports reaching the Awareness Times newshouse indicate that the new SLPP Chairman, Alhaji U.N.S. Jah, started frantic efforts to stop the 'dombolo' from spreading further and creating even more 'wahala' for the members of the Sierra Leone People's Party.

*Awareness Times.  
Friday Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008.*

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Public Statement

AI Index: AFR 51/008/2005 (Public)

News Service No: 248

15 September 2005

### **Sierra Leone: International community must continue to fund the Special Court**

Amnesty International urges states to attend the 30 September donor meeting in New York and pledge sufficient funds to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. This funding is essential to ensure that the Special Court operates effectively throughout 2006. Amnesty International continues to believe that the Special Court must receive support and cooperation from the international community in order to carry out its functions professionally and impartially.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was jointly established by the UN and the Sierra Leonean government and is an international criminal court with primacy over Sierra Leonean courts and concurrent jurisdiction. Its judges and officials include Sierra Leoneans and it is located in the country where crimes under its jurisdiction were committed, making it different from other international criminal courts such as the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia. The Special Court has an important role in achieving justice for the thousands of victims of crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international law in Sierra Leone.

Justice has been brought closer to the Sierra Leoneans through activities organized by the Special Court outreach section. The Special Court Interactive Forum and the Public Service Committee have monitored victims' and the public's access to justice. The National Victim's Commemoration Conference, held in early March 2005, was an important initiative as it gave Sierra Leoneans the opportunity to air their expectations and aspirations for justice for all killings, mutilations, rape and other forms of sexual violence, sexual slavery and conscription of children suffered during a decade of internal armed conflict. In the next period funding will be needed to ensure that the National Victim's Commemoration action plan is carried out.

It is not only Sierra Leoneans who have benefited from the work of the Special Court, Amnesty International believes that international justice has benefited as well. The Special Court has made important contributions to international criminal jurisprudence on matters such as the legal effects of the amnesty provision at the Lomé Accord, the irrelevance of the capacity as a Head of State, the jurisdiction of special courts under international law and principles of *nullum crime sine lege* and non retroactivity. In addition, the Special Court is the first international criminal court to attempt to prosecute individuals for the use of child soldiers. As gender has been the cornerstone of the prosecution policy it has pushed the boundaries of international law by adding counts of

forced marriage as a crime against humanity to some indictments. This is the first time that the crime of sexual slavery is expressly being prosecuted under international law. Therefore the Special Court's analysis and findings may prove important for any future prosecutions of sexual slavery and prove valuable in terms of better defining the scope and meaning of sexual slavery. This could be a significant step forward in the recognition of crimes of sexual violence as crimes against humanity.

With the planned completion date approaching, countless challenges remain to ensure that the Special Court continues to operate to high standards. The greatest challenge that has faced the Special Court has been the on-going financial crisis experienced by the reliance on voluntary contributions. The effect that this new model has severely limited the court's ability to rely on funding on a regular basis. Financial stability is critically important as the Special Court completes its trial and appeal phase.

In the remaining period it will be imperative that the Special Court continues to be vigilant about ensuring sufficient treatment and protection of victims and witnesses. It will be critical as the draw down of the UNAMSIL troops will be completed by December 2005 leaving the security of the country up to the newly formed Sierra Leonean army and internal security to the Sierra Leonean police. The Special Court must be funded to continue to apply the highest standards of treatment of victims and witnesses.

The Special Court has indicted eleven people who have been accused of bearing the "greatest responsibility" for crimes under international law. However Amnesty International remains concerned that two indictees, former AFRC leader Johnny Paul Koroma and former Liberian President Charles Taylor, have yet to be arrested and handed over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone for trial. The organization fears that if these men are not prosecuted it will threaten the effectiveness of the Special Court.

Lastly the success and the overall effectiveness of the Special Court in its role in addressing impunity through prosecuting those who bear the greatest responsibility is an important example to be supported in Africa. In January 2006 Liberia's transitional phase will come to an end and a new government will be installed. Already the civil society and the international community are turning to the Special Court as the example of what they feel they deserve as a mechanism to prosecute those responsible for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity carried out during Liberia's almost two decades of war. The Special Court for Sierra Leone must be effective to appropriately serve as an example as an appropriate mechanism to address impunity in Liberia.

Amnesty International calls upon all governments, together with the international community to ensure that the 25 million still needed for the Special Court to operate is provided.



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## Surrender Taylor, Rights Groups Task Obasanjo

By Stanley Nkwazema, 09.15.2005

Two human rights groups, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have called on the Federal Government to demonstrate commitment to justice by surrendering former Liberian President, Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Human Rights Abuse in Sierra Leone.

In a letter to President Olusegun Obasanjo who is currently in New York for the opening of the United Nations General Assembly and is scheduled to hold a press conference at the United Nations today, the groups said Taylor, who has been in exile in Nigeria since August 2003, has been indicated by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's civil war and should therefore be surrendered for trial.

In the letter dated Friday, September 9, 2005, the two bodies explained that, "More than two years ago, former President Charles Taylor left Liberia after being forced from power in August 2003. We understand that Nigeria initially granted Charles Taylor refuge after extensive consultation with regional and international leaders. However, Charles Taylor has been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on seventeen counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We urge you now to assist in his prompt surrender to the Special Court."

The groups said that the "Special Court for Sierra Leone is best placed to bring justice to the countless African victims of the crimes for which Charles Taylor is accused."

The groups expressed fear that since the Special Court will only operate for a limited time "this valuable window of opportunity to bring the former warlord to book is rapidly closing."

In the letter jointly signed by Richard Dicker, Director International Justice Program Human Rights Watch and Kolawole Olaniyan, Director Africa Programme, Amnesty International and made available to THISDAY, the group feared that Nigeria, given its "aspiration to become a permanent Security Council member, is well placed to show leadership in supporting justice for serious crimes committed around the world."

Nigeria, the letter stated, "should demonstrate its commitment to ending immunity by promptly surrendering Charles Taylor to the Special Court."

The letter further observed that the Security Council has clearly rejected immunity for serious crimes like those committed in Sierra Leone and expressed a strong commitment to promoting justice and the rule of law.

"In this regard, Nigeria has taken noteworthy steps towards promoting international justice, by acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and by urging other states to in supporting the Special Court by serving as a member of its Management Committee," it stated.

The UN panel of experts on Liberia noted that the presence of Taylor who is in exile in Calabar, Cross River State, "is in itself a destabilising factor. The situation of de facto immunity arising from this situation of exile can only undermine respect for international law and thereby lessen its deterrent

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effect."

The civil war in Sierra Leone was characterised by murders, rapes and other crimes of sexual violence, mutilation and the widespread use of child soldiers. Tens of thousands of individuals were killed, up to one quarter of the population was displaced and thousands more endured limb amputations, sexual violence, forced labour and abduction.

The Special Court has a mandate to prosecute those bearing the greatest responsibility for these crimes.

Like the rights groups the US Congress had demanded that Taylor be extradicted to face war crimes trial.

Obasanjo had however repeatedly said that he would only release Taylor to a democratic government in Liberia.

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**SIERRA LEONE PRESS REVIEW**  
UNAMSIL

**Thursday 15 September 2005**

*Sierra News* states that the Consultative Group (CG) meeting supposed to have been held in Paris in June between the Government of Sierra Leone and donors that was postponed indefinitely, would this November be held in the UK. This was disclosed by the Representative of the British Department of International Development (DFID), Richard Hogg during the Sierra Leone Development Partnership (DEPAC) meeting in Freetown recently. Among the things to be discussed during the meeting is the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

According to *Awoko* and the *Standard Times*, amputees and war wounded have urged the government to provide, each of them US \$ 3000 every month to enable them take care of themselves. The amputees arrived at this decision following series of consultations organized by the Forum of Conscience (FOC), a local human rights organization. They said government was still to fulfill its promise to compensate them after participating in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

*Awoko* and *Sierra News* report that Parliament yesterday approved the nominated Minister of Finance, John Benjamin, and Minister of Energy and Power, Lloyd During. They were last week Monday nominated by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. John Benjamin replaces Joseph B. Dauda, while Lloyd During replaces Emmanuel O. Grant.

Paramount Chief Rashide Kamanda-Bongay and Section Chiefs of Kakua Chiefdom, Bo District in the south have ordered the Production Manager of a private radio station, KISS 104 to leave the town or risk trouble, *Concord Times* states. Kelvin Newstead was ordered to leave the town following a programme he aired on the station last week referring to the just concluded Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and All Peoples' Congress (APC) conventions as "coronations."

*Concord Times* and *The New Tempo* report that supporters in the US and Canada for one of the defeated Presidential aspirants for leadership of the SLPP, Charles Margai, have urged him to either form his own political party and stay there forever or to stay in the SLPP.

Meanwhile, *The New Vision* reports that Charles Margai has formed his own party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) after consultations with his supporters in Kenema, in the east, Bo, in the south, and Makeni, in the north over the weekend.