

**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:**

Friday, September 23, 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

## I saw some Kamajors slit open a boy – witness told court

By Betty Milton

**P**rosecution witness TFI-153 in the ongoing trial of the three AFRC indictees yesterday testified that he saw some members of the Kamajor militia slit open a boy and remove his heart. The witness who was testifying in krio through an interpreter recalled that after he had heard information from the radio he decided to return to Koidu where he had some properties. As he was heading towards the market area the witness said,

he saw some Kamajors and then saw a boy. Later he said he heard the Kamajors saying that they want to test the courage of the boy. "I saw them surround the boy and in the twinkling of an eye I saw them remove the heart of the boy and run away. There and then I went and took my bag and went out of the town." The witness said he was born in Matru Jong but grew up at the Wilberforce Barracks together with Saj Musa and Alex Tamba Brima aka

Gullit and so he knew them well. TFI-153 maintained that he left Freetown for London to pursue a cause in Engineering in 1985 and when he returned it was the NPRC that were in power in 1993. Later in May 1997 the early hours of the day, they heard shooting and heard on the radio that the SLPP Government has been overthrown by the AFRC. The witness stated "Gullit came to the Barracks and informed us that they were the ones that organised the coup and that they have sent

for Saj Musa to join the force and after he returns, they will arrange to attach me some somewhere." He continued "it was not too long when Saj came and he was taken round the city in order for the forces to gain popularity from the people. I went to visit Saj the next

day and he and Gullit decided that I should be sent to Kono to be the mines monitoring officer." The witness said his responsibility as mines monitoring officer was to oversee the people who are mining, so that they mine according to their terms of reference and not go

beyond. Also to report those who have big diamonds so that they do not smuggle them. Those mining included members of the RUF, AFRC and some civilians. After the ECOMOG had overpowered the juntas, the witness noted he fled for Kabala.

Imagine a state defaults on UN Charter and it authorizes its members to take punitive military action against the defaulting state. Would those carrying out the UN instruction be punished for war misconduct in the process of executing the UN order?

Would the UN indict the Americans (NATO) leaders for bombing the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade during the Kosovo campaign? Still, would the UN bring American leaders to justice for initiating a light-tech and devastating war in Iraq without the authority of the UN? Furthermore, how would the UN punish the Russians for carpet-bombing Grozny, the capital of Chechnya? Or shall we implicitly understand that the capability of certain states simply makes them sacred cows even though they may be found wanting for breach of international law?

The writer may be lost in thought but can comprehend the true basis of UN actions.

It is interesting to note that even wars should be fought within the framework of international law, but let me hasten to ask whether, great America, basking in the false glow of self-conferred world hegemony, had time to differentiate between innocent civilians and Iraqi army when it unleashed its high-tech war?

How far do you approve, in retrospect, the American atomic bombing of civilian in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that liquidated approximately 140,000 people, even though the Russians were putting the finishing touches to War II in 1945? Can the World visualize after 20 years, the atrocious treatment meted out to prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison or Guantanamo Bay by the Americans?

Let us also recall the American cruise misuse bombing of Sudan on the pretext that chemical weapons were being manufactured there.

Could it be that the Americans were right since might is right?

Against the background of the foregoing, this writer is pleading with the UN to acquit and discharge our Hero and Pa, Chief Sam Hinga Norman or risk indicting the whole SLPP outfit or more substantially the entire peace-loving Sierra Leone.

The reason for this is that at the time when Sierra Leone was diametrically over-

# Something To Think About

BY  
VLADIMIR  
EFIMOVICH  
RASTAKOVSKI

## Will the UN indict NATO leaders?

### ... Why Norman and others?

whelmed by the murderous forces of the RUF, who among all of us had the guts to confront them?

The Tamaboro tried to resist the RUF onslaught and were smashed into oblivion in the process. The situation was getting hopeless. It appeared as if the whole country was going RUF, bearing in mind the adage that, "if you can't beat them join them."

of who would 'bell the cat' or in order words who would 'take the iron out of the fire.'

With everybody praying day-in-day-out to get as old as Methuselah nobody had the guts to contemplate a confrontation with the RUF. The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in the person of Pa. Kabbah could not just go to the bush to initiate a campaign against the RUF.

people. However, he could not have done this all by himself.

Therefore, the Kamajor group came into existence: a group that succeeded, in its own way, in protecting the interests of all peace-loving Sierra Leoneans and the SLPP Government.

One would not say all that the Kamajors did were in place, but war in itself is the most organized evil of the human race,

the usurpation of power and elimination of prominent citizens that could otherwise stand in the way of the RUF to cease power.

What reasons do you imagine for the brutal liquidation of personalities like professor Daniya, the Agriculturist and wife, Rev. Father McAlister of Panguma, or Alhaji Koroma, the produce merchant of Jojoima, in the Kailahun District.

May the Lord help and guide us in judging events and situations, but one definitely need to draw a bold line between an aggressor and a defender.

The United Nations cannot take up arms in defense of Sierra Leone in the event of an aggression against the state. It will only act after it has pitied us for being killed en masse, which by then would have been too late.

It is unfortunate that even our leaders could not avoid categorizing Pa. Norman as Foday Sankoh, but swallowed hook-line and sinker the whims and caprices of the giant capitalist godfathers.

What place do we have for our heroes, the dustbin?

The criterion for indictment of individuals is "...Those that bear the greatest responsibility for the war..."

Does Pa Norman and others exactly fit into that category? Were they the initiators of the war? Did they ever take up arms to kill people for their personal aggrandizement? Were they in the bush at the same time procuring arms in pursuit of the defense of this country? Or was the only statesman to sacrifice his life for the survival for the state. Did Chief Norman and others go to the bush on their personal volition, or were they only carrying out a noble instruction from the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces?

The UN and our present authorities will inadvertently or rather willfully end up intimidating them so that in the event of an aggression against this state nobody will be bold enough to stand against it, fearing the repercussion, thereby leaving us at the mercy of aggressors.

*"It is unfortunate that even our leaders could not avoid categorizing Pa. Norman as Foday Sankoh, but swallowed hook-line and sinker the whims and caprices of the giant capitalist godfathers. What place do we have for our heroes, the dustbin?"*

Our President, Pa. Kabbah, with maximum respect, had fled the country after the 1997 AFRC coup, for his life. To whom could the entire country have turned to for security and protection.

It was impossible for everybody to have fled the country. It would have been suicidal cowardice to leave mother Salone at the mercy of the rampaging RUF.

At this juncture, the legitimate government in exile felt ashamed and started devising ways of stopping the RUF.

Some people can still harbour the strongest conviction that out of shame and sympathy for its countrymen, the Government in exile started looking out for a kind of a savior. Pa. Kabbah could not save us diplomatically at that nick of time.

It gradually became a matter

At this point, with high probability, the deputy Commander-in-Chief, Pa. Norman, felt not only ashamed but humiliated: how could a Commander-in-Chief and his deputy of a sovereign state give ground to a rebel outfit that could not even properly organize its fighters?

So in a personal estimation, Chief Norman, a born and thorough-bred Southerner and the Regent Chief of Jiama Bongor Chiefdom, felt it disturbing to countenance or imagine the wanton and indiscriminate slaughter of his brother, sister and children, decided to go into the bush and commence a full-scale resistance against the RUF.

Whichever way one viewed the situation at that time, Pa. Norman had the moral obligation to defend himself and his

and whosoever initiates it should have very, very good reasons for it. The reasons proffered by the RUF for starting the war in everybody's view, are misguided, opportunistic and down right destructive. These same socio-political reasons for which the RUF ostensibly started the war could have been ironed-out using other less destructive means.

Initially, the RUF sighted the APC's misrule, single party politics and corrupt judicial systems as the most outstanding reasons for its war. But even when the NPRC dislodged the APC regime the RUF could not see the essence of a compromise but continued its murderous campaign.

What then, as a rational being, do you think the war was started for? Nothing less than

*"Our President, Pa. Kabbah, with maximum respect, had fled the country after the 1997 AFRC coup, for his life. To whom could the entire country have turned to for security and protection"*

22 September 2005

**PRESS CONFERENCE BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

At a Headquarters press conference this morning, Philippe Djangone-Bi, Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, urged the international community to do everything possible to end the suffering of his country by "pressuring the rebels to lay down their arms".

He said the international community must also ensure that the rule of law prevailed and that the provisions of the country's constitution applied. That would be the best way to maintain lasting peace and security in the country and in the subregion. The proposal to refer the crisis back to a summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had come as a complete surprise to the Ivorian Government and President Laurent Gbagbo had, in a letter on 19 September, rejected the convening of the ECOWAS Summit, which would "take us back to the starting point". Several ECOWAS member countries had a direct conflict of interest regarding the Ivorian conflict and therefore lacked impartiality.

[The Security Council, in a presidential statement on 21 September, reiterated its support for efforts by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the African Union and ECOWAS towards promoting peace and national reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire. The Council also expressed support for the continuing facilitation efforts towards that end by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa.]

Mr. Djangone-Bi said that, thanks to President Mbeki's examination of the issues involved in the conflict, the substance of the situation had been clearly defined and clarified. Starting with the Pretoria Agreement of 6 April 2005 and the subsequent 29 June Declaration of Pretoria, it had been easy to identify which of the parties to the conflict was not in compliance with the agreements that they had signed to date. President Mbeki's report to the Security Council of 31 August stated clearly that all the mechanisms were in place for the organization of the presidential election on 30 October or shortly thereafter. Its temporary postponement had been caused by the refusal of the rebellion to disarm in accordance with the agreements. "Without their disarmament and the reunification of the country, no credible election is possible."

Responding to questions, he said that President Mbeki's mediation efforts were not over and that he had achieved more than had been done in the past. The rebels were refusing to disarm, while President Gbagbo had made his share of sacrifices for the sake of peace. It was now up to the Security Council to assume its responsibilities and exert pressure where it was needed in order for the peace process to move forward. It was a source of concern for the Ivorian Government and people that nothing was forthcoming from the Council.

He told a questioner that the ECOWAS decision to take up the Ivorian issue again had been made in a "very strange manner". No proper preparations had been made for the meeting that had taken place on the fringes of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on 14 September, and only two Heads of State from the 15-member grouping had been present.

"We respect ECOWAS. We are still a member of ECOWAS", he said, noting that many nationals from member countries of the subregional organization were living in Côte d'Ivoire. However, the grouping had not been very impartial in

(more)

its handling of the Ivorian crisis and the Government was concerned that it was taking up the question again when it had previously failed to resolve the conflict.

Both sides to the conflict were needed to make peace, he pointed out, adding that President Gbagbo had followed the mediation decisions. It was now the turn of the rebels to lay down their weapons in order for the rule of law to prevail.

\* \* \* \* \*

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 22 Sept 2005**

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

**International Clips on West Africa****West African bloc to host summit of Ivory Coast crisis**

**ABUJA, 22 Sept (AFP)** - West African leaders will meet in the Nigerian capital Abuja at the end of the month to discuss ways out of the crisis in Ivory Coast, a spokesman for the ECOWAS regional bloc said Thursday.

**UN council inches closer to Ivory Coast sanctions**

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Sept (Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council is sending one of its members to Ivory Coast to see first-hand whether the time has come to impose sanctions on rebel and government leaders blocking the peace process.

**UN Mission in Sierra Leone Helps Start New Political Talks**

21 Sep 2005 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) has brought together, for the first time, what are now the three leading political parties in the West African country emerging from more than a decade of civil strife, as the mission winds down its peacekeeping and peacebuilding work.

The ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) was joined by the All Peoples Party (APP) and the Peoples Liberation Party (PLP).

**Nigerian Movie Star Implores Liberians To End Violence**

- As one of the international artists attending a peace concert in Monrovia yesterday, Nigerian movie star Ramsy Nouah implored Liberians to use the October elections to bid farewell to violence and give children the opportunity to prepare for the future.

*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).*