

**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:**

Thursday, October 13, 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 / 7216

# Special Court Confirms Johnny Paul Alive

Fugitive former military junta leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, who is wanted in Freetown for alleged Treason and War Crimes, may be alive, Special Court Prosecutor Desmond De Silva intimated yesterday.

The Prosecutor said that Johnny Paul was reported to be alive last year and as a result the Special Court is searching for him. This revelation by De Silva now casts doubts on reports two years ago that Johnny Paul was assassinated by former Liberian warlord and Ex-President Charles Taylor.

However, De Silva said that to an extent this was only speculation as there was only intelligence of a kind, which he confessed he could not call hard intelligence. Koroma, he intimated, was last reported to have been in Guinea. One thing that was certain though, according to the Prosecutor, was that the Special Court was hard on the heels of Koroma and former Liberian leader Charles Taylor ( Who is being provided refuge by Nigeria's President, Olusegun Obasanjo. ).

The Special Court Prosecutor disclosed that the court was negotiating behind the scenes for Nigeria to see her way clear and hand over Taylor who is also wanted for alleged war crimes against the people of Sierra Leone. Mr. Silva warned that even if the Special Court wrapped up its operations in 18 months, as scheduled,



the two men would still face prosecution later, if found. A war crimes charge does not have a statute of limitation, former Prosecutor, David Crane, once said. The court, De Silva went on, had to use diplomacy because the Chapter of the UN Charter under which the Special Court's operations were authorized, could not be enforced militarily.

# The Kamajor Emerged Well Before Chief Hinga Norman Became Deputy Defense Minister

The Kamajors were neither supported by government nor by Chief Hinga Norman. He has some role to play in the genesis of the Kamajor Society but the group was purely supported by the local people. Old gun owners registered their old guns. In places like, Kenema and Bo the local took upon themselves to give Le 1,000.00 per house hold to support the Kamajor and the Vigilantes that were manning the internal checkpoints in the larger towns. The Kamajor Group was never meant to be a defense for the government. Every community managed its group.

The Kamajors were not meant to be a government force. In every few exceptional cases when the Army asked the Kamajors to clear some ambushes. For instance, when the rebels took the Dambala Bridge and made it a death trap for the link between the northern and southern provinces, Joseph Koroma, a Kamajor from the Krim Region was asked to muscle the Army to clear the rebels. Joseph Koroma did just that and returned to his village (Pelewahun in Kwaebalebi Krim Chiefdom). So, please do not fool every one that Chief Hinga Norman created the rift between the Army and the Kamajors. Until May 1997, Chief Hinga Norman had no strong association or leadership role to play in the Kamajor Society.

But when Johnny Paul took over government from President Kabba and all the Army Arsenals in Tekoh, Bo, Mile Siaka and other places like Koribondo, Pujehun and even the national ammunition depot were all taken over by AFRC and the rebels, it was a very clear confrontation. As the Deputy Defense Minister his legitimate President was overthrown, his Army had betrayed him and the country, he had no options to explore. The first was to rely on the ECOMUG soldiers. As robust as ECOMUG was, its only handicap was the terrain was strange to its soldiers. Chief Hinga Norman while in exile thought that he could draw the Kamajors into a group that would complement the lack in the ECOMUG soldiers. The first engagement was to clear the town and cities. But because the Kamajors were a native group of fighters without formal military training and because ECOMUG was an international military arrangement, the Kamajors were not co-opted into the Army because they were fighting to take power away from the Army. An indeed, they might be forgotten to liberate every inch of space the rebels and AFRC claimed to rest their power on, with all the tons of ammunition that they had. Obviously Chief Hinga Norman had to care for the people. They had to eat. They needed guns. They received those in minute numbers because they had to use their old single barrel guns, for reasons peculiar to their belief. Therefore, anyone with his right mind making a statement like "Hinga Norman diverted resources from the Army to the Kamajors." would be considered, unpatrotic

## The Civil Defense Force

This group emerged after 1997 when the entire country refused to legitimize the AFRC and its merger with RUF. This was not just after Chief Hinga Norman took position in the SLPP government. As stated earlier, Sierra Leoneans were fed up with the frequency of military "take-overs" in Sierra Leone, especially when a legitimate president was overthrown. So, not only the Kamajors but the entire country resisted the AFRC and RUF Alliance. It cost a lot of people their lives, their jobs and businesses were put on hold, schools suspended and people demonstrated in their tens of thousands for several months. Indeed the fight was not only a fight between local militia men but the entire country and the illegitimate government and its supporters. The people of Sierra Leone although not all of them took guns to fight our disloyal Army under the canopy and tutelage of Johnny Paul Koroma, but their resistance was more powerful than the bullets that killed several thousands of our people for the freedom of our country from illegitimate military boys.

Before 1997, only the local hunters around their villages were involved in the Kamajors, but when Johnny Paul Koroma, who was not experienced and lack reasonable education and unjustified to led Sierra Leone, but because he had more of his native APC allies around the military mantle, destabilized the legitimacy of the 1996 general elections when the APC failed to make a comeback to salvage its political hopes and those of its patrons. It was at this point even the intelligent of

Sierra Leone came in the open to give national legitimacy to the Civil Defense Force. It was this Defense Force, coupled with the national resistance and ECOMUG that brought President Kabba back into Sierra Leone. At the hub of it all was Chief Hinga Norman. I give my kudos to this Sierra Leonean. During the AFRC and RUF Alliance standoff, Chief Hinga Norman was with president Kabba in Guinea, but sneaking from there to the warfronts in Sierra Leone, giving interviews and coordinating military events between the CDF and ECOMUG and looking for resources from exile.

Well, it happened painfully, the AFRC made good on the disloyalty that was entrenched and yet subterranean in the Army. It was never Chief Hinga Norman's desire to usurp the power of the Sierra Army, but it proved in both tangible and intangible ways not to be trusted whole-heartedly. With all the disloyalties, there were still, the Mondeh's the Sam Yaja, abdui Mbawa's the Carew's and others who were not only born soldiers but they loved their country and defended its stability. So, Chief Hinga Norman had to work with them. But the situation after Johnny Paul Koroma usurp power warranted any security minded political leader, to introspect the Army and allow the chips to fall where they needed to fall. Some people were disbanded and some retired and some were even sentenced to death. Would you blame Chief Hinga Norman for that?

Never was CDF a private Army. It was meant to re-establish the power to the people by defeating AFRC and hence bringing President Kabba back to Sierra Leone as the elected and hence legitimate president of our new democracy.

## Chief Hinga Norman Never Ordered Soldiers Out of Certain Towns

My friend Chief Hinga Norman had nothing to do with towns in which the Army lost their stake. The local people were very much aware of what role some soldiers played before, during and after the AFRC and RUF Alliance was defeat. The local people did not just trust such soldiers. The soldiers themselves were afraid to come back to certain towns where they used their guns to brutalized the people. The soldiers who surrendered their support to Johnny Paul Koroma, felt unsafe to return to certain towns and lived in their past glory. So, when the AFRC was defeat their hope of engineering a type of leadership come-back by the APC to Sierra Leone was dashed off. They could not fit into the Sierra Leone Army or the ordinary civilian molds, so they excused themselves of certain town and villages or the capital. That was how the WESTSIDE BOYS emerged. It was not Chief Hinga Norman that sent them to Okra-Hill to dwell in that jungle, but their own consciences and actions against the people of Sierra Leone.

Let us just think for a moment, the soldiers took all the

military hard wares from the bases they occupied before the AFRC take over and used those hard wares to fight the legitimate return of President Kabba, do you think those same soldiers would return to those towns and cities and be welcomed? The few loyal soldiers were known to the local people. Some of them hid from their own colleagues because they were not with them in the insurrection. For those loyal soldiers, they were secured in the Army and with the people. Some of them were even promoted.

We also have to understand that in those towns and cities majority of the soldiers had abandoned their post and went to Freetown to enjoy the illegal booties of the Johnny Paul Koroma's seeming freedom fight. Can you blame Chief Hinga Norman, if those bases could be downsized and let the loyal people's Army man them? You see, I am not sure if I should use all this time to pound Mr. Kailondo for the kind of unreasonable claims he made against Chief Hinga Norman. But I think he might be talking to a large audi

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battlefront**



# The Kamajor Emerged Well Before Chief Hinga Norman Became Deputy Defense Minister

*From Page 8*

ence who needs education on this matter. You have to excuse me for taking this route.

## Guard of Honor From the CDF

Was President Kabba directed by Chief Hinga Norman, his deputy to honor the CDF? It is a question that I cannot answer for President Kabba, but I know this that the CDF was an important factor in the return of President Kabba to complete his first term of his presidency. They fought the soldiers and RUF rebels. They sacrificed their lives and everything they had in order to save our country. Was it wrong to honor them, by mere line-up? Was it wrong for President Kabba to recognize their presence? Yes, one may say only the Army needs recognition but at a time like that, president was right to recognize their loyalty even in very simple gestures.

But what happened after that, the soldiers as disloyal as many were, were rewarded by President Kabba. Some got flats to reside in western countries on President Kabba's own personal negotiations. Some were reabsorbed into the Army. Many were promoted and some retired honorably. The CDF members returned to their villages, some had to be trained for new careers and some sent to prison with Chief Hinga Norman.

## Hinga Norman Versus Tamaboro Massacre-What A Lie!

"Take the Tamaboros for instance, they suffered a severe blow in 1994 when Fode Sankoh ordered RUF to attack and kill all the tamaboros in Kabala for their assistance to the army in liberating Kono. The local tamaboro commander was brutally massacred. Norman visited his local kamajors every week in the southern province and seldomly visited the local military units or other local Defense units in the country," Kailondo wrote.

I could not breathe well when I read the statement above. I asked myself, as to whether, Mr. Kailondo really knows what he wrote or he thinks that he can lie and go free with it. You can do so when it is a personal matter, but when it borders on someone's reputation and matters that are balanced on our national unity and heritage, we must give it very serious thoughts and hence validate what we say or write.

Mr. Kailondo Sir, Chief Hinga Norman had nothing to do with Tamaboro Massacre in 1994. Chief Hinga Norman was not in charge of any military post or based. He was Regent Chief. He had nothing to do with what happened at the battlefield. I had already explained the reason why the Tamaboros were massacred. Another area of falsehood was that by 1994 or even 1996 the rebels had not made any grip on Kabala. Kabala visibly fell to RUF after the Junta called RUF to illegitimately rule with them and fought alongside with them. The RUF immediately accepted the call and hence spread its tentacles in all regions, towns, villages and mountains where the Army bases were located. After the resistance against Johnny Paul Koroma ousted him out of power, the RUF reconstituted its forces and continued to brutalize people in places like Kabala. It was not any of Chief Hinga Norman's design to see the Tamaboro's massacre.

## Chief Hinga Norman Never Cut Down The Army Budget

My friends, I know that Chief Hinga Norman is now on trial for things that happened during the war. However, this does not make him a war criminal until all legal avenues are pursued. While we are all eagerly waiting to know the outcomes of the trial, let us not falsely indict him if we do not know about certain issues and have certain facts right.

For decades the Sierra Leone Army was the only Army in the world that would not account for its annual budget. It meant the Army appropriations were far beyond scrutiny. In June of each year the military budget was prepared and presented to the parliament by the Minister of Finance and it was approved and spent. The following year money was allocated. This was quite beside the military aid Sierra Leone was getting from its international friends. America for example was supplying Sierra Leone, with communication equipment and some other classified war related hard wares. On top of all these, rice quotas were given to every

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soldier.

The deputy minister had a little budget to run his office, but the general budget of the Army in particular was in the hands of the accounting department of and the military high commands. How could he interfere into the running of the Army? What we knew was that, there was a question from the International partners as to whether the Army could start to account for the money allocated to it every year? If Chief Hinga Norman was an architect of this question and this was the root of the disgruntlement of the soldiers, Mr. Kailondo is talking about, then Chief Hinga Norman owe no apology. But some times Mr. Kailondo, somehow someone needs to spot the evils of our country and stand up to them. However, this was not the reason for the so-called rift in the army. What we now know is that, the Army was never devoid of resources to fight the war, but it lack men and women who were loyal to the SLPP government and the mission of defending our country from invaders. We now know that, there were tribal sentiments and politics injected into the war. We now know that personal enrich-

ment was injected in to the war. We now know that, economic, political, tribal, personal, family, community issues fueled the war.

If we really know what we have gone through and the staggering ill-effect of it we can speedily come to the realization that we do not need a reminder of the bitter past, which Mr. Kailondo has forced me to name as it were. We should be gearing towards reconciliation. Instead of lifting each other up and aspiring for greater unity and solidarity, the White's man court and our naivety have rejuvenated a caricature of hatred for each other and the old game of smearing the reputation of good people for political gains has started. Chief Hinga Norman may be defenseless now, but the whole game was played before the eyes of and in the knowledge of the Great Master. He knows it all and He will intervene on His own terms. His, will be the truth and the final, because He has no political party and does not ask for favors and not afraid of anyone. His love and justice can coverage together. Nothing escapes Him.

*Credit Cocorioko Website*

Awareness Times. Thursday October 13, 2005.

# *Peter Halloran Set Free over sex scandal*

Australian police officer Superintendent Peter Halloran was yesterday cleared by the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal of sexually assaulting a teenage girl while working

at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Halloran had been facing 18 months in jail after he was convicted in February.

The two-one decision in his favour by the three-judge

appeal court came yesterday.

The decision was supposed to have been delivered in early September, but undisclosed judicial reasons had delayed the judgement.

Judicial sources revealed to Awareness Times that the defence lawyers for Halloran submitted a 200-page document arguing why the conviction should be overturned whilst the prosecution only tabled a very short response.

An Australian Queen's

*Contd: page 3*

## *Peter Halloran Set Free*

*From front page*

Counsel Lex Lasry, who was on the Halloran appeal team although he was not given permission to address the Sierra Leone court, told journalists that the conviction could not stand up to even basic scrutiny at law. "There was simply no evidence," he said. "His original conviction was a clear travesty of justice and flew in the face of the principles of law." Reports also indicate that hours before he heard the decision, Mr Halloran had also told journalists that he believed he would be vindicated on appeal. "There is every

indication that I was given fair hearing. I know that if the case is decided on the facts, my name will be cleared," he reportedly stated. Attempts by Awareness Times to contact members of the Prosecution team for their comments on the verdict proved futile yesterday. Mr Halloran said he was frustrated by the constant delays in the appeal court handing down its decision. Speaking on the line to Australia, he stated that "People who have never been here [Sierra Leone] could not possibly understand the process."

Mr Halloran was charged in August last year and jailed for nearly a month - spending most of his time in the prison hospital - before he was freed on bail. He was convicted by a judge sitting alone, even though the alleged victim gave several different versions of events in written statements and then later gave sworn testimony at the trial that there had been no assault. The victim claimed that she was pressured into making the complaint by Halloran's Australian policewoman subordinate named Mandy Cordwell.

Evening Scoop. Thursday October 13, 2005.



*This is he who bears the greatest responsibility for our present economic atrocities. Do you know who he is? Do you think he should face the Special Court?*



**ABC Online**

**Court clears Halloran of sex charges. 13/10/2005. ABC News Online**

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200510/s1480982.htm>]

**Last Update:** Thursday, October 13, 2005. 0:09am (AEST)

## **Court clears Halloran of sex charges**

A former Australian police officer has won an appeal against sex charges in the West African nation of Sierra Leone.

Peter Halloran's appeal was supported by two out of three judges in Sierra Leone's Court of Appeal.

Mr Halloran was charged in 2004 and has been waiting for the appeal to be completed since he was convicted of indecent assault in February.

The former head of the Victorian homicide squad was on secondment to the United Nations Special Court in Sierra Leone when he was accused of sexual activity with a 13-year-old domestic worker.

However, the victim and her family accused police of intimidating them into making the allegations.

Mr Halloran should now be free to return to Australia.

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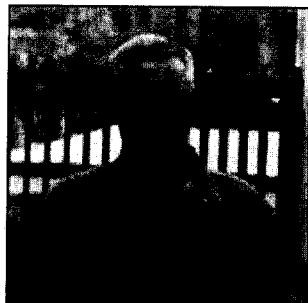


**ABC Online**

## **Acquitted Australian free to leave Sierra Leone. 13/10/2005. ABC News Online**

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200510/s1480995.htm>]

**Last Update:** Thursday, October 13, 2005. 6:00am (AEST)



Acquitted: Mr Halloran is free to return to Australia. [File photo] (ABC TV)

# **Acquitted Australian free to leave Sierra Leone**

By Africa correspondent Zoe Daniel

A former Australian police officer has been freed by a court in Sierra Leone after being convicted of indecent assault earlier this year.

The former head of the Victorian Homicide Squad, Peter Halloran, has been acquitted by the full bench of the Court of Appeal with a two-to-one majority.

He is now free to leave Sierra Leone.

Mr Halloran was charged last year and convicted of indecent assault in February.

He was working as a war crimes investigator for the United Nations' special court when he was accused of sexual activity with a 13-year-old domestic worker.

The major charges were dropped when she said she was intimidated by police into making the claims.

The appeal court found that the original judge was wrong to admit evidence from the girl after she changed her story.

The secretary of the Police Association, Paul Mullet, says he hopes Mr Halloran can resume his Victorian police career.

"There were a lot of members who supported Superintendent Halloran - he's been a very good, loyal, long-serving, hard-working police officer," he said.

"Certainly from a Police Association perspective we'd welcome him back into the Victoria Police force with open arms."

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# Herald Sun

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## African sex charge ordeal over

Keith Moor  
13oct05

VICTORIAN police officer Peter Halloran was celebrating last night after his sex conviction in West Africa was overturned.

He is free to leave war-torn Sierra Leone and head home to Melbourne.

"I am enormously relieved this nightmare is over," Supt Halloran told the *Herald Sun* immediately after the appeal court cleared him. "The system here is such that it is very difficult to establish your innocence.

"I am now looking forward to getting back to Melbourne to my family and friends who supported me through this ordeal."

Supt Halloran, 57, is on leave without pay from Victoria Police after accepting a job as commander of war crimes investigations with the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone.

He said he was not yet sure when he would return to his job with Victoria Police, but intended doing so.

Supt Halloran was convicted in February of indecently assaulting teenage West African girl Kadia Kabia and jailed for 18 months.

He was charged in August last year after former Tasmanian police officer Mandy Cordwell claimed Kadia told her about the alleged abuse.

Ms Cordwell, 38, worked with Supt Halloran at the Special Court and shared a house with him and two other Special Court investigators in the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown.

Kadia's brother was their houseboy and she was interviewed by Supt Halloran about a possible job as a nanny for a friend's child.

Supt Halloran said he and Ms Cordwell fell out over various matters in the weeks before the sex allegations were aired.

Ms Cordwell arranged for a local police officer to take a statement from Kadia, in which the girl claimed she had sex with Supt Halloran and that he indecently assaulted her. But Kadia later told the court the claims in her various statements were false and she made them only because Ms Cordwell offered her rewards.

Ms Cordwell has returned to Australia and recently joined the Queensland police force as a uniform constable.

Supt Halloran last night said he had medical evidence to support Kadia's contention that the sex allegations were false.

"I, like many others, still don't know for sure what drove Mandy to do what she did, but I hope she can be made accountable for what she did to me," he told the *Herald Sun*. "I hold her largely responsible for me being pursued over this despite the complete lack of evidence that an assault took place.

"There was no physical evidence of an assault, never any evidence that the girl and I were ever alone together and the girl herself told the court it didn't happen."

Supt Halloran spent several weeks in one of the worst jails in the world before being freed on bail.

Last night he said he would explore every possibility, including legal advice, to ensure those he blames for his ordeal are held to account.

Supt Halloran accused two high-ranking Victoria Police officers -- and at least one Australian Federal Police agent -- of spreading false allegations about him.

He claimed the officers blackened his name by suggesting he was corrupt and about to flee Sierra Leone to escape the sex charges.

"It's going to be extremely difficult to pick up the threads of normal life and get on with it," Supt Halloran said. "It will be particularly hard back home in Melbourne, because that is where all the damage has been done to my reputation, career and personal life.

"I have been cleared of the sex charges and can easily prove the other allegations are equally false, but some of the mud invariably sticks."

Victoria Police Association secretary Paul Mullett said Supt Halloran should now be treated as an innocent man.

"The Police Association certainly welcomes him back to Victoria Police with open arms," he said.

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## Cleared cop faces murky future on return

October 13, 2005 - 5:24AM

An Australian policeman cleared of child sex offences in west Africa faces an uncertain welcome from commanding officers when he returns home a free man.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, 57, a former Victorian homicide squad chief, has won an appeal against his conviction of the indecent assault of a 13-year-old girl.

The girl was a domestic worker in the house Supt Halloran shared with other police in war-torn Sierra Leone, where he was on leave without pay from Victoria Police investigating war crimes for the United Nations.

Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon is refusing to say whether Supt Halloran will be reinstated and has been accused of failing to support him.

She has asked for court transcripts from Sierra Leone to help determine his fate.

Supt Halloran said he was undermined by senior state and federal police in Australia, and no one from police command had contacted him after his arrest.

He has told Southern Cross Radio he wants a meeting with Ms Nixon.

"I was certainly undermined, it certainly affected me in this highly unusual environment," he said.

"I'm being diplomatic when I say that, but I think it was either people were being mischievous or they were very naive as to what the environment is here."

Supt Halloran said he did receive support from rank-and-file police.

Victoria's police union says Supt Halloran should be immediately re-employed.

"He's an innocent man, he's provided the police force with excellent service and leadership over 41 years," Police Association secretary Paul Mullett said.

"He has endured significant hardship for a long time, including being in prison in the world's worst prison.

"His reputation remains intact and he should be welcomed back to the Victoria Police force with open arms."

Supt Halloran's lawyer Lex Lasry, QC, said he did not yet know whether his client wanted to be reinstated.

"All I know is he is pleased," he told AAP.

Ms Nixon said she would meet with Supt Halloran to help him "move on".

"The best thing I can do with Peter Halloran is for him to come back and for us to talk about it," Ms Nixon told ABC Radio.

"I meet with many members who are unhappy, who've had difficult things happen to them in the organisation or outside.

"I'm happy to meet with Peter and I'm sure he'll be very clear in telling me what his concerns are. And then, I think, it's about a way we can assist him in moving on."

Snr Sgt Mullett said Ms Nixon had failed Supt Halloran.

"She was found very wanting in terms of demonstrating leadership and support to one of her police officers," he Mullett said.

Ms Nixon should have flown to Sierra Leone or provided a very senior police officer to monitor Supt Halloran's welfare, he said.

Snr Sgt Mullett said the union wanted an investigation into how and why charges against Supt Halloran were laid.

"There was no evidence, and that is supported by two independent inquiries," he said.

Mr Lasry said the policeman might not be able to return home immediately.

"The police in Freetown hold his passport, and you can only get flights out of there on Thursday and Sunday," he said.

The 57-year-old was charged in 2004 and convicted of indecent assault in February. He was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

However, the girl and her family said police, including former Tasmanian officer Mandy Cordwell, bullied them into making the allegations.

In a 2-1 ruling, the Court of Appeal supported Mr Halloran's appeal, ruling the original judge should not have admitted evidence from the girl after she changed her version of events.

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## Sex case cop directs anger at AFP

By Selma Milovanovic

October 13, 2005 - 3:14PM

### Related

- [Sierra Leone frees Victorian policeman](#)

Victoria's police chief has rejected an officer's claim that federal and state police 'undermined' his trial in West Africa on indecent assault charges.

Peter Halloran, a former head of Victoria's homicide squad, is a free man after a court in Sierra Leone upheld his appeal yesterday.

He was on secondment to the United Nations Special Court in the West African country when he was accused of having sex with a 13-year-old girl who was employed as a domestic worker in the house where he'd been staying.

The 57-year-old was charged in 2004 and convicted of indecent assault in February. He was sentenced to 18 months in jail, but was yesterday acquitted of the charge on appeal.

Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon said today she "felt very sorry" for what had happened and would welcome a meeting with Superintendent Halloran to discuss his future.

But she rejected Superintendent Halloran's claims she and the force had failed to support him during his ordeal, or that she had been misled by a former deputy commissioner about the level of contact he was having with Superintendent Halloran and his family.

Ms Nixon said she had behaved appropriately since Superintendent Halloran's arrest.

"For me as a chief commissioner to have attempted to interfere in a trial in another country would have been entirely inappropriate. I think we were very limited in what we could have done," she said.

But Police Association secretary Paul Mullett labelled Ms Nixon's comments as a "fairly lame explanation". He said she should have flown to Sierra Leone to intervene in the case or ordered a senior police officer to do so.

"She was found very wanting in terms of demonstrating leadership and support for one of her police officers," Senior Sergeant Mullett said.

"The Chief Commissioner must now welcome Superintendent Halloran back into the Victoria Police force with open arms. He's an innocent man. He has provided Victoria Police and the broader community with excellent leadership for 41 years."

Ms Nixon said she would like to discuss Mr Halloran's court case with him as it was difficult to get court transcripts from Sierra Leone.

But Senior Sergeant Mullett said an investigation should instead be launched into the circumstances that led to him being charged and that the association was inquiring into which jurisdiction was appropriate for such an investigation.

Ms Nixon defended her previous claims that Mandy Cordwell gave appropriate evidence, saying she still had no information to the contrary.

Cordwell, now a constable with Queensland Police, was criticised in two reports over the investigative process which led to the charging of Superintendent Halloran.

Earlier today, Mr Halloran said his trial had been undermined by senior state and federal police in Australia. No-one from police command contacted him after his arrest, he said.

He told Southern Cross radio he wanted a meeting with police Commissioner Nixon.

"I was certainly undermined, it certainly affected me in this highly unusual environment," he said.



**ABC Online**

**Australian police undermined me: Halloran. 13/10/2005. ABC News Online**

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200510/s1481245.htm>]

**Last Update:** Thursday, October 13, 2005. 12:02pm (AEST)

## **Australian police undermined me: Halloran**

A former head of the Victorian Homicide Squad has accused Victorian and federal police of undermining him during his trial on sex charges in the west African nation of Sierra Leone.

Peter Halloran was on leave without pay from Victoria Police to work with the United Nations in Sierra Leone.

He was jailed for indecently assaulting a 13-year-old girl there but was acquitted of the charges on appeal.

Mr Halloran says he was undermined by senior state and federal police in Australia and no-one from police command contacted him after his arrest.

He has told Southern Cross radio he wants a meeting with police Commissioner Christine Nixon.

"I was certainly undermined, it certainly affected me in this highly unusual environment," he said.

"I'm being diplomatic when I say that but I think it was either people were being mischievous or they were very naive as to what the environment is here."

However, Commissioner Nixon has rejected the Mr Halloran's suggestion that she acted inappropriately.

She says senior officers did contact his family but they were limited in what they could do.

"It's a very difficult situation when someone is tried in another jurisdiction," Commissioner Nixon said.

"You have to pay some respect to that jurisdiction, no matter what we might think about it.

"For me as a Chief Commissioner of Police to have attempted to interfere in a trial in another country I think would have been entirely inappropriate."

Mr Halloran says he did receive support from rank-and-file members of the force.

The head of Mr Halloran's legal team in Australia, Lex Lasry QC, says the verdict in Mr Halloran's case is the right result.

"We're pleased obviously, it's the right result, there was never any evidence against him in the first place and he should not have been convicted in the first place, so he's been put through a very difficult process in that country."

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