

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Wednesday, 26 September 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Sierra Express (Online)
Wednesday, 26 September 2012

AFRC Leaders Found Guilty of Contempt, Interfering in the Administration of Justice

By: SEM Contributor on September 26, 2012.

Three senior members of Sierra Leone's former Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), two of them already serving sentences on convictions by the Special Court, have been found guilty of contempt for tampering with a former prosecution witness.



The judgement was delivered today by Special Court Judge Justice Teresa Doherty from The Hague and streamed to courtrooms in Freetown and Kigali, Rwanda on a three-way VTC video link.

Santigie Borbor Kanu (aka: "Five-Five") and Hassan Papa Bangura (aka: "Bomblast") were each found guilty on two counts of interfering with the administration of justice by offering a bribe to a witness, and for otherwise attempting to induce a witness to recant (or to state that he testified falsely) testimony he gave before the Special Court.



Ibrahim Bazy Kamara
File Photo



Santigie Borbor Kanu
File Photo



Hassan Papa Bangura



Samuel Kargbo

Ibrahim Bazy Kamara was convicted for attempting to induce a witness to recant his testimony. He was found not guilty on a second count, of offering a bribe to a witness. Kamara was also convicted on a third count of knowingly violating a court order protecting the identity of a witness who had testified against him in the AFRC trial.

A fourth Accused, Samuel Kargbo (aka: "Sammy Ragga") pleaded guilty at his initial appearance in July 2011 and was convicted on both counts. He subsequently testified for the prosecution. Kargbo remains free on bail on his own recognizance pending sentencing. He appeared in Court for today's judgement.

During the trial which opened on 16 June, Justice Doherty heard testimony in both Freetown and Kigali.

Kamara and Kanu are currently serving sentences of 45 and 50 years, respectively, at the Mpanga Prison in Rwanda on convictions for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Kamara and Kanu attended the hearings at the ICTR's courtroom in Kigali, while Bangura and Kargbo participated from the Special Court's courthouse in Freetown. The two courtrooms were connected by VTC video link. Kamara and Bangura each testified in their own defence. Kanu also testified in his own behalf and called one additional defence witness.

Justice Doherty will now schedule sentencing proceedings.

Under Rule 77(G) of the Special Court's Rules of Procedure and Evidence, a person convicted of contempt faces a maximum sentence of seven years in prison, a maximum fine of two million leones

(approximately \$500), or both. In May 2012 the maximum fine was increased to twenty million leones, to apply to any future cases.

Convicted persons have the right to appeal both judgement and sentence.

In June, former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) member Eric Koi Senessie was sentenced to a two year prison term after being found guilty of interfering with five prosecution witnesses who testified in the Taylor trial.

Special Court for Sierra Leone, Outreach and Public Affairs Office
Freetown, Sierra Leone, 25 September 2012

Sierra Express (Online)

Tuesday, 25 September 2012

First Peace March ... Master Peace, OFF, COJA Take The Lead

By: SEM Contributor

In celebrating the International Day of Peace, Master Peace Sierra Leone, One Family People and COJA held the first ever peace march as part of their celebration.

The event which was done in collaboration with the Special Court of Sierra Leone began at the Freetown Cotton Tree and ended at St. John with the theme 'Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future'

The Executive Secretary of COJA Sulaman Jabati described the two days event as a special day in the history of the country.



He called all political leaders to put peace in all their campaigns and rallies. He pointed out that justice should be in place and they are working with women and children groups for sustainable peace.

One Family People, Edward said it is important for all to appreciate the International Day of Peace. He encouraged his audience to preach peace in every aspect of their life, through that he said peace will be sustained in the country.

Vice Chair Central ZYC Rugiatu Watta Kandeh in her statement of the role of women in peace said among other things that during the days of the war, women and children are the ones that suffered the most in the country. She pointed out that women stand firm to ensure that peace is restored in the country because they took the lead and now she calls on all women to come forward and take part in decision making.

“This is not the time for us to be left behind, no more for us to be at the backyard. It is time for us to take part in decision making. We should advise our husbands and children about the need of sustainable peace in the country,” she said.

She went on to say that the 30% quota is a clear manifestation for women to take the lead and stressed that women can do it better than men when it come to decision making.

President of the National Youth Coalition, Al-Sankoh Conteh, said if the youth want to maintain the peace they should decess from drugs.

He went on to say that Sierra Leone has more reason to celebrate the day, “... if we are enjoying peace today we have to be grateful to all stockholders, the UN, ECOWAS, AU, EU among others for their tremendous support.”

He stressed that the youth are involved in violence because of lack of jobs, pointing out that all of them have a responsibility to play by not allowing themselves to be given drugs.

Country Coordinator Master Peace Sierra Leone, Charles S. Boye, said their goal is to see that they attain peace. He called on all to use the method of dialogue to attain peace in any community.

The two days celebration climaxed on the 21st September 2012 at the National Youth Commission National Stadium swimming pool where youths gave their commitment and plans for all political parties to sign a ballot card as agreement for peaceful 2012 elections while One Family People’s brass band thrilled the audience with their peace songs.

Sesay Ibrahim Joenal, Freetown

Awoko

Wednesday, 26 September 2012

One Family Commemorates International Peace Day

By Nancy Koroma

The one family people on Friday commemorated the international day of peace at the National stadium. Swimming Pool.

In an overview of the International Day of Peace, the executive secretary of the coalition for Justice and Accountability, Sulaiman Jabati, said that peace is the absence of war in any country. In that light, he read an extract from the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on the International Day of peace.

Explaining the role of the



Special Court, Patrick Fatorma who is the outreach coordinator of the Special Court in his presentation, said that Sierra Leone is now

peaceful. He also gave a brief history of the 11-year civil war and also what led to the civil war in the country, which also led to the establishment of the Special Court.

The Chairman of the National Youth Coalition, Al-Sankoh Conteh spoke about the role of youths in consolidating peace towards the 2012 elections. He called on the youths to be peaceful during the elections and advised that they should not allow politicians to use them to perpetrate violence and should refrain from violent activities to keep the peace.

United Nations News Centre

Tuesday, 25 September 2012

Three men found guilty of contempt at UN-backed Sierra Leone war crimes court



[The Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown. Photo: SCSL]

25 September 2012 – The United Nations-backed court set up to try suspects indicted for war crimes in Sierra Leone today found three senior members of the country's former Armed Forces Revolutionary Council guilty of contempt for tampering with a former prosecution witness.

Santigie Borbor Kanu (aka Five-Five) and Hassan Papa Bangura (aka Bomblast) were each found guilty on two counts of interfering with the administration of justice by offering a bribe to a witness, and for otherwise attempting to induce a witness to recant (or to state that he testified falsely) testimony he gave before the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

Ibrahim Bazy Kamara was convicted for attempting to induce a witness to recant his testimony, the court stated in a news release. He was found not guilty on a second count, of offering a bribe to a witness. Mr. Kamara was also convicted on a third count of knowingly violating a court order protecting the identity of a witness who had testified against him in the AFRC trial.

Mr. Kamara and Mr. Kanu are currently serving sentences of 45 and 50 years, respectively, on convictions for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

A fourth accused, Samuel Kargbo (aka Sammy Ragga), pleaded guilty at his initial appearance in July 2011 and was convicted on both counts. He subsequently testified for the prosecution. Mr. Kargbo remains free on bail on his own recognizance pending sentencing.

Based in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, the court was set up in 2002 to try those most responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law in the civil wars that plagued the country, starting in 1996.

RTT News

Tuesday, 25 September 2012

Three Found Guilty Of Contempt At Sierra Leone War Crimes Court

(RTTNews) - The UN-backed special court set up to try suspects indicted for war crimes in Sierra Leone on Tuesday found three senior members of the country's former Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) guilty of contempt for tampering with a former prosecution witness.

According to a press release issued Tuesday, Santigie Borbor Kanu and Hassan Papa Bangura were each found guilty on two counts of interfering with the administration of justice by offering a bribe to a witness, and for attempting to induce a witness to recant (or to state that he testified falsely) testimony he gave before the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

Ibrahim Bazy Kamara was convicted by the ECSL for attempting to induce a witness to recant his testimony. He was, however, found not guilty of offering a bribe to a witness. Kamara was also convicted of knowingly violating a court order protecting the identity of a witness who had testified against him in the AFRC trial.

Kamara and Kanu are currently serving sentences of 45 and 50 years, respectively, after being convicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

A fourth accused, Samuel Kargbo, had earlier pleaded guilty at his initial appearance in July 2011 and was convicted on both counts. He subsequently testified for the prosecution. Kargbo currently remains free on bail on his own recognizance pending sentencing.

Based in Sierra Leone's capital city of Freetown, the SCSL was jointly set up by the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations in 2002 to try those most responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Sierra Leone since November 1996.

by RTT Staff Writer

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