

**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:**

Thursday, 6 September 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
Martin Royston-Wright  
Ext 7217

**Local News**SDI Trains Monitors on Court Monitoring / *Concord Times*

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**International News**... The Inside Story of the Conflict in Sierra Leone / *Royal African Society*

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# SDI trains monitors on court monitoring

By Hassan G. Koroma

**T**he Society for Democratic Initiative (SDI) last Friday trained some court monitors on how to report on human

rights cases around the country. The session took place at the Talking Drum Studio in Freetown.

During the training, a human rights lawyer, Augustine Marah, said

that as a court observer, the monitors should know the location of the courtroom so as not to be late for the particular case they are observing and choose the right place to sit to be attentive as every courtroom has a different seating arrangement.

Marah added that in certain circumstances, trial observers may ask to be publicly introduced by the court officials at the start of the proceeding in order to ensure their presence is officially recognized, and that some monitors in the provinces should try to have an interpreter and translator if the observer is not proficient in the language in which the trial is being conducted.

He said during the trial observation, the observer should

note what is happening during the proceedings, stressing that this is not only important for compiling the subsequent mission report but because they should be seen taking notes.

Marah said non-interference in the trial process and the independence of the judicial process are fundamental principles of trial monitoring that observers ought to respect and on meeting and interviews at the place of trial, he said: "Although the observers' primary obligation is to observe the trials, you should meet and interview people outside the courtroom about the trial. Talk with the accused persons' families and get their own

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part of the story. And you should also meet with the president of the court or the trial judge. This is an important opportunity for observers to increase the impact of their presence on the proceeding."

The human rights lawyer also urged observers to meet with the defence lawyers, the prosecutors or examining magistrates, the defendants, the legal representatives of the victims and listen to public statements during the trial observation.

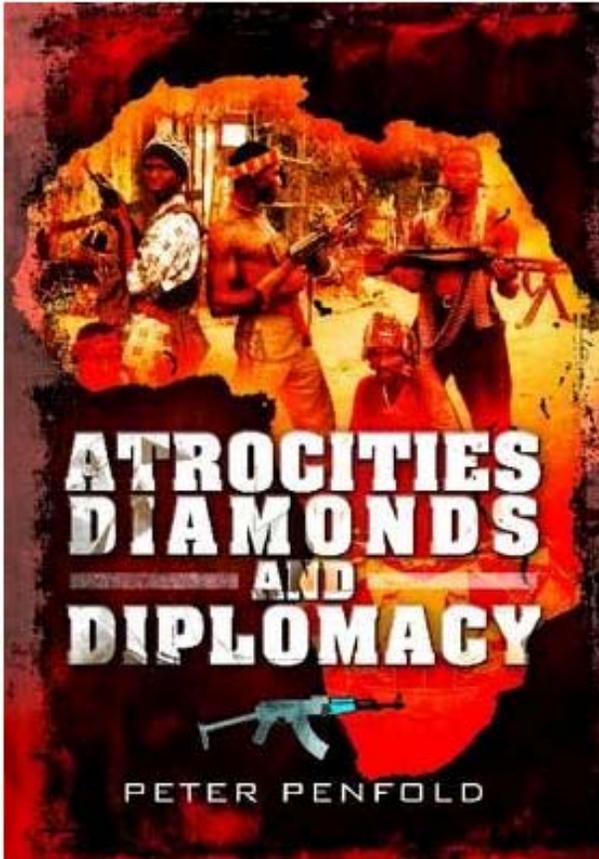
## Royal African Society

Press Release

### Book Launch: Atrocities, Diamonds and Diplomacy: The Inside Story of the Conflict in Sierra Leone

12 September 2012 Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, 6 - 8pm

In early 1997, Peter Penfold arrived in Sierra Leone as the British High Commissioner. This authoritative book describes not just his eventful three-year tour, but the background and subsequent events that placed Sierra Leone at the centre of the world stage.



During his tour in Sierra Leone, Penfold quickly became a passionate advocate for the democratically-elected government and was closely identified with the country's efforts to achieve stability and lasting peace. Penfold's experiences brought him into face to face negotiations with the rebels. He also worked closely with the UN, the international community and British and African military forces, as well as with local and international humanitarian and emergency agencies.

Almost immediately after being praised by Prime Minister Tony Blair for his pivotal role in getting this once rich country back on its feet, he found himself under Customs and Excise investigation and Parliamentary Committee scrutiny for his supposed role in what became known as the 'Arms for Africa' and Sandline affairs. While reprimanded by the FCO, in recognition of his efforts, he was appointed a Paramount Chief by the Sierra Leone people and made a Freeman of the city of Freetown.

#### About the Author

Peter Penfold, CMG, OBE, was a member of the British Diplomatic Service for 38 years until his retirement in 2002. Most of this time, he spent in Africa and the Caribbean, witnessing several coups, insurrections, civil wars, kidnappings and hurricanes. Prior to his appointment in Sierra Leone, Penfold was the Governor of the British Virgin Islands and the British Government's Adviser on drugs trafficking in the Caribbean. Her Majesty The Queen awarded him the CMG (1995) and OBE (1986). In his retirement, Peter has remained involved with Sierra Leone, visiting the country regularly and especially promoting assistance for the disabled. He also appeared before the Sierra Leone Special Court as a defence witness on behalf of the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Penfold has published various articles on Africa, democracy, international justice, conflict and drugs in international journals and periodicals and is Chairman of New Africa Analysis, a monthly magazine produced and distributed throughout Africa.