

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



Mambudu Checkpoint, entering Kono District, controlled by the RUF rebels in June 2001

**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:**

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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## Stand Firm

Friday, 8 November 2013

# HOW JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA WAS FRAMED UP!

**Lawrence Salifu Conteh {Lieutenant Col. Rtd}  
{Produced Verbatim - Continued from last edition.}**

Kondowa was making charms to protect themselves from gun shots and was receiving fifty thousand Leones Le50, 000, a bag of rice and five gallons of palm oil daily. After his ceremony, kamajors felt they have been fortified but when JPK sent those who were not fortified; Johnny Paul Koroma was immediately invited at the Army headquarters. He was asked as to how he took that line of action. He simply replied that that was the reason why his supply route was blocked. That was the excuse he gave to Colonel Mondeh. He supported me and then contacted the Deputy Defence Minister and the matter was closed. He also experienced a civilian build up which was worrisome because the SLPP gave direct order for the 15 kamajors in Bo to be released. That was carried out by the same Defence Minister. He knows the rules of engagement. Life for life. Instead of an extended detention to suit ethnicity, He went on an interview to Brigadier Hassan Conteh. He gave him a complete explanation on attacks at that place and also knew he was haunted too. JPK requested for a change of command and it was done. Johnny Paul koroma resumed command at 22nd Battalion. I knew JPK did a fantastic job in Waterloo and Newton in stopping the RUF from their intended move to Freetown. Their plans were aborted. So, the SLPP wanted to teach him a lesson for his quest in stopping the rebels advancing.

JPK displayed vigilance at 22nd Battalion. It was just within a period of 2 months. He was invited by the SLPP government of ex president Kabbah. That invitation to Freetown was for an interrogation into a fabricated story of a coup plot. This officer was at a distance of about 120 miles from the city. The story of Waterloo and Newton was still in play. Johnny Paul Koroma was confined at Mahaung at Officers mess. He halted a sensitive move which should have destabilized the capital.

The second issue cannot be separated because "birds of the same feather flock together".

The SLA incorporated a group called STF. They were a group that deserted former President Charles Taylor of Liberia. They too assisted the army and also prevented any advance from the NPFL to Sierra Leone. JPK had a large number of them at Grafton Magbay, Pujehun District.

A Major of the STF made a visit to Gbangbatoke. As soon as he arrived, the Major disappeared and was never seen again. The second issue was a soldier from the SLA, a native of Gbangbatoke who was on a visit to his family. This soldier was warned by the RSM of 22nd Battalion not to go to Gbangbatoke but did and he too disappeared.

When Johnny Paul Koroma enquired about this new development, he was instead invited to report on the 4th October. His detention was an isolated case. When officers, soldiers and civilians requested an explanation for his detention, no reason or explanation was given.

In the Army, you cannot detain anybody without a holding charge. This is the authority for your detention and it should

be limited to 24 hours. His detention was from the Head of State and Defence Minister. I never knew that JPK was at Myhaung officers mess. He was detained for just 4 days and then transferred to the Maximum Prisons at Pademba Road. His stay at the Officers mess was to wait for a team from Nigeria.

The team was sent by the former Nigerian President Sani Abacha. This team was to carry out a crude torture and inhuman extraction of evidence of their interest to implicate JPK.

I know the Beoku Betts report of 1967 that ex President was very skillful in meddling with somebody's life.

The investigation team was all Nigerian soldiers, composed of Lt-Cols and other ranks. A few CID personels from ST Police were in attendance but rigidly warned not to say things to free Johnny Paul Koroma.

After the establishment of this Kangaroo investigators, Johnny Paul Koroma was put before them and the first thing they said was " we ve heard you are a good fighter and that you fight like Tom Nyuma". He answered them whether the army was for cowards. Staff Sergeant Lamin was a military police. He was asked to say things to implicate JPK but he refused saying he does not understand anything about Johnny Paul Koroma. In the process of extracting their interests, the Nigerians started their crude, inhuman torture. Because he could not make any meaningful contribution to their demands, Staff Lamin was tortured to death.

The Nigerians told Johnny Paul Koroma that Staff Sgt Lamin died because he attempted to escape by jumping through a window from a three storey building. To be candid, this Staff Sgt was arrested on his way home. The Nigerians forced him to make a false statement about Johnny Paul Koroma of whom he knew nothing about.

What is most surprising and also doubtful is why should Ex president Kabbah hide his dangerous undertakings in secrecy and also meddle with Staff Sgt. Lamins life without the Nation knowing about it. The idea of a coup plot should have been on the SLBC.

The Nigerians then invited 2 soldiers and they were also instigated to make false statements. These soldiers were Cpl Mensah Warrant Officer Class II and Warrant Officer Class II Abdul. They all said they don't know much about Johnny Paul Koroma. The Nigerians then displayed the dead corpse of Staff Sgt. Lamin Conteh and told them that if they refused, they will be like the dead man.

Because of that threat, they made statements and were then put forward as prosecutors.

While they were in court, on cross examination, Johnny Paul koroma's defense lawyers late Claude Campbell made an application to the High Court Judge that there is nothing substantial to implicate Johnny Paul Koroma. So the witnesses said they were instigated to make false statements and requested to make new ones since the first were made under stress. They too confessed that that Staff Sgt. Lamin Conteh did not attempt to escape but was tortured and beaten to death by the Nigerian investigators because he refused to make a false statement to implicate Johnny Paul Koroma.

## Kenya Today

Friday, 8 November 2013

### **SHOCK: CHARLES TAYLOR shares jail with Europe's condemned Murderers, Child molesters**

DURHAM – The notorious body of Africa's abysmal winners known as presidents and heads of governments will not contest the conviction of one of their former club officials, President Charles Taylor who has begun serving half a century jail term in Britain.

Taylor, notorious for chopping off limbs of defenceless citizens was convicted by a 'kangaroo' court based at the Hague and sentenced to 50 years away from the civilised humanity. His new society at HMP Frankland, a maximum security in Britain, includes notorious murderers, terrorists, psychopaths and paedophiles.

Paedophiles are those hapless savages who rape children. Psychopaths are those whose nihilistic members of the human species whose mental disposition manufactures violence like Brukenge.

Terrorists you all know because they forced our soldiers to loot Westgate the other day. Murderers are bad people. . .very bad people who kill others. Charles Taylor, former president of a sovereign African state, and member of the African Union, is condemned among these people.

Three years ago at HMP Frankland, a double child-murderer, Ian Huntley, had his throat slit by other inmates!

You see, even the condemned have conscience amongst them and if someone dare sneaks in that Blood Diamonds movie for the inmates, the AU should consider their former esteemed official a dead meat.

Taylor's whereabouts after leaving the Hague was first revealed by his wife, Victoria Addison Taylor (she had a child with him while at the Hague) who called the prison as the abode of 'high-risk criminals'.

"He is being incarcerated in Frankland prison," Taylor's wife Victoria Addison Taylor told AFP.

"They took him to this prison where high (risk) criminals, terrorists and other common British criminals are kept and he is being classified as a high risk prisoner. . .He is going through humiliation and you cannot treat a former head of state that way," she added.

The Liberian civil war, where Taylor's Sierra Leone rebels and his Liberian soldiers committed some of the most gruesome acts of modern warfare is seen as one of the most brutal wars of the 20th century. It is such incomprehensible human fatalities, committed to retain political power, that the ICC was established to mitigate.

Frankland is the largest of five high security prisons in England and Wales. Among the late alumni of the prison is Harold Shipman, one of the most prolific serial killers in recorded history, blamed for up to 250 murders, who hanged himself in HMP Wakefield in January 2004.

Next?

## Standard Media (Kenya)

Friday, 8 November 2013

### **Central leaders tell International Criminal Court to leave Kenya alone**

By JOB WERU and PEACELOICE MBAE

**KENYA:** Leaders in Mt Kenya region continued to call on the International Criminal Court ( ICC) to drop charges facing President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Deputy William Ruto, saying The Hague-based court should respect Kenya's sovereignty.

Led by Tetu MP, Mr Ndung'u Gethenji, who is also the Parliamentary Select Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations chairman, the leaders also demanded that ICC and its Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda should respect the wishes of Kenyans and those of the Africa Union.

"We support the position of the President of the AU Summit and Commission that the cases against the President and Deputy President be halted pending determination of the prosecutor's appeal," said Gethenji.

#### **Frontal attack**

Speaking at Miagayuini PCEA Church Sunday, Gethenji said the present scenario of the cases has shifted from an individual matter facing Uhuru and Ruto to "full frontal attack on the sovereignty of the people of Kenya and its constitutional order".

"The ICC is attempting to steal sovereignty from the people of Kenya by trying the President and Deputy President of Kenya who are the embodiment of the sovereignty of the people under Article 129 (1) of the constitution," Gethenji alleged.

## Premium Times (Nigeria)

Tuesday, 5 November 2013

### **Nigeria Will Not Withdraw From International Criminal Court, ICC – Jonathan**

President Goodluck Jonathan on Tuesday assured the President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Sang-Hyun Song that Nigeria was not considering withdrawing from the jurisdiction of the Court.

Some African leaders had suggested that African countries pull out of the ICC, accusing the court of mainly targeting leaders in the continent.

Speaking at an audience with Mr. Song at the State House, Abuja, Mr. Jonathan said, however, that while Nigeria still maintains its endorsement and commitment to the guiding principles and objectives of the ICC, it wanted urgent action to address the current concerns of African leaders over the operations of the court.



The President told the ICC President that Nigeria and the African Union will work with the United Nations and the Assembly of ICC State Parties to achieve a review of sections of the ICC's Rome Statutes, including those that deny the deferment of cases against sitting heads of state and government with definite tenures.

"Nigeria freely signed up for the ICC because we believe in its objectives and the reduction of crimes of impunity. We believe in doing what is right, but we also think that the ICC and other stakeholders need to take greater cognizance of the challenges African leaders are facing. We are not thinking of pulling out, but we will work with others to strengthen and reform the ICC.

"Leaders with definite tenures should not be distracted from doing the work their people freely elected them to do. Courts should solve problems, not compound them. Let us look at the ICC's legal instruments and modify them to address the concerns of Nigeria and the African Union," Mr. Jonathan told Mr. Song.

The President of the ICC congratulated Mr. Jonathan on Nigeria's recent election to the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Song also commended President Jonathan's statement to the United Nations General Assembly in September, saying that the President's stance on human rights, the rule of law, peace, security, democracy, and political stability were very much in line with the ideals the ICC was established to promote.

"We are not far from each other. We are trying to achieve the same goals," the ICC President said.

He assured President Jonathan that the African Union's current concerns over the courts operations could be resolved with further dialogue and consultations.

## Business Day (Nigeria)

Thursday, 7 November 2013

### Is the ICC harming Africa?

Author: Juliet Torome

The International Criminal Court, after facing harsh criticism from the African Union (and threats from AU states to withdraw), finally seems to be paying attention to Africa's concerns about its approach to trying leaders charged with crimes against humanity. But is that good or bad for Africa?

To be sure, criticism of the Hague-based ICC is not new in Africa. Initially, the complaints seemed nationalistic in nature, with some people arguing that accused African leaders should be tried by Africans in Africa. Others have asserted that the ICC unfairly targets Africa, citing the fact that, so far, most indictments and investigations have been of Africans.

Most Africans ignored the ICC's opponents, not least because the ICC indicted the likes of Sudan's Omar Al Bashir, who is widely reviled for his long record of engaging in – and capitalizing on – brutal civil wars. But that changed last March, when ICC-accused Uhuru Kenyatta was elected as Kenya's president.

Kenyatta and Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto – both charged with crimes against humanity in connection with the 2007-08 post-election violence that left more than 1,000 people dead and displaced several hundred thousand – are the first suspects indicted by the ICC to be elected to lead a country. To most people outside Africa, Kenyatta's election was proof that Africa is incapable of prosecuting war criminals.

But African leaders viewed it as evidence of the ICC's bias against Africa, and have used Kenyatta's victory to amplify their criticism of the court. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni labeled the ICC a tool of Western powers, aimed at installing their preferred leaders in Africa and eliminating those "they do not like." By electing war-crimes suspects, the argument goes, Kenyans have rejected the ICC.

This claim was strengthened in early September, when, for the second time, Kenya's parliament approved a motion to withdraw from the Rome Statute, which established the ICC. (The parliament passed a similar resolution in 2010, but then-President Mwai Kibaki did not act on it.)

By the time the AU acted, criticizing the perceived bias of the ICC, support for the court had waned enough that African leaders knew that they had leverage. The 54-member AU considered voting as a bloc to withdraw from the Rome Statute, but decided instead to demand that the ICC halt the prosecution of sitting heads of state.

Moreover, the AU requested that the ICC delay Kenyatta's trial, owing to the unusual nature of the case against him. Unlike the other ICC suspects, Kenyatta and Ruto committed their alleged crimes not while commanding armies, but during the spontaneous violence that erupted after the elections.

More unusual is that Kenyatta and Ruto were electoral rivals at the time, joining forces only last year. Kenyatta's supporters laud the former rivals for overcoming their differences to form a government, citing it as proof that the African tradition of reconciliation works – another reason the ICC should drop the case.

Kenyans, however, are split on this issue, as I saw firsthand on recent trips to Nairobi and rural areas. “They should just leave us alone,” one woman told me. “They should respect our votes.” But Kenyatta’s opponents continue to demand justice for the victims of the post-election violence. In Nairobi, one man insisted that no one should be above the law. “All this talk about the ICC being a foreign court,” he said, “is an excuse to let people get away with killing innocent people.”

For now, the ICC has agreed to excuse Kenyatta from attending most of the trial, which was recently postponed and is now set to begin on February 5, 2014. The Kenyans I spoke with – including Kenyatta’s detractors – seem dubious about a conviction.

Regardless of the case’s outcome, however, it will almost certainly have a positive impact on Kenya – and Africa more broadly. Indeed, Kenyatta’s indictment is already shaping his behavior, potentially making him Kenya’s gentlest president. His approach so far is very different from that of his predecessors, including his father Jomo Kenyatta, the founder of modern Kenya, who was notorious for openly threatening his opponents with the words, “Nitawasaga kama unga” (I will grind them like flour).

Opponents of President Daniel arap Moi, who succeeded the elder Kenyatta, were not safe, either; there were even government torture chambers operating in the basement of a skyscraper in downtown Nairobi. Kenya’s last president, Mwai Kibaki, was known for his affinity for verbal abuse.

By contrast, Kenyatta never uses vulgar language in public. Moreover, he works to negotiate with – and persuade – his opponents. For example, rather than sending the police to end a recent teachers’ strike, as his father would have done, Kenyatta urged the strikers to return to work, assuring them that, though the government could not meet all of their salary demands immediately, it was willing to negotiate.

Kenyatta is much younger than his predecessors, but that alone probably does not account for his diplomatic approach to governance. In fact, his rejection of rule by violence may reflect the recognition that the ICC indictment has attracted the world’s attention. Even the suggestion of brutality would give Kenyatta’s detractors a reason to say, “We told you so.”

In fact, Kenyatta might feel compelled to maintain his political style even if he is acquitted, in order to prove to the world that the court made the right decision. In doing so, he would raise the bar for future Kenyan presidents. In this sense, the ICC’s indictment of Kenyatta may well advance Kenya’s development toward robust democracy.