



Special Court for Sierra Leone  
The Office of the Prosecutor

**PRESS RELEASE**

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 4 May 2003

**Prosecutor Provides Location of Fugitives Koroma and Bockarie**

This afternoon, the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, David M. Crane, called on Charles Taylor, President of Liberia, to arrest and surrender two indicted war criminals to the Court. "Sam Bockarie and Johnny Paul Koroma are international fugitives hiding in Liberia. I expect Mr. Taylor to deliver on his offer to arrest and turn them over to the Court," Crane said. "The time has come for him to fulfil his international obligations and immediately transfer these war criminals to the Court. Any credibility he still has with the international community is now linked to this promise. He knows where they are."

Crane's comments come in response to the following report published on Sierra Leone Web two days ago: "The Liberian government quoted Taylor as assuring the Sierra Leonean president that any fugitive who crossed into Liberia would be turned over to the authorities in Freetown. According to the Monrovia newspaper, The News, the Liberian government reaffirmed its commitment to ridding the sub-region of non-state actors who use violence to achieve their aims."

Crane offered specific details regarding the whereabouts of the wanted individuals for Liberian authorities. "We have credible information that as of this morning, Koroma continues to be located in the Foya Kamala area, located in Lofa County; Bockarie is in Kahnple, a small village located in Nimba County."

According to Dr. Alan White, the Court's Chief of Investigations, Koroma is allegedly commanding a new unit set up by President Taylor, known as the "Special Monitoring Group," comprised of approximately 3,000 men from former RUF members, ATU, Marine Forces, and militia forces. This unit is heavily armed and equipped with arms recently brought into Liberia from outside sources in spite of the UN arms embargo. Former Special Security Service Deputy Commander, Ziza Maza, serves as Koroma's deputy. Bockarie is in Kahnple accompanied by 40-50 armed former RUF rebels.

Bockarie and Koroma, indicted by the Court on March 7, 2003, are wanted for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. They are the two remaining indictees not in the custody of the Court. Six others have been arrested and are awaiting trial in Sierra Leone.

"I call on all West African nations, and others, genuinely interested in peace and stability for the region to seize, arrest, and surrender these individuals to the Court. There can be no hiding place for them. There can be no peace for West Africa until this is done. They must be brought to justice," said Crane.

The Special Court, created through an international agreement between the United Nations and Sierra Leone, is mandated to try those who bear "the greatest responsibility" for atrocities committed during the country's decade-long civil war.

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