

Special Court for Sierra Leone  
The Office of the Prosecutor

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 7 May 2003

**Prosecutor Responds to Reports of Bockarie's Death**

The Office of the Prosecutor has become aware of developments regarding indicted war criminal Sam Bockarie.

Responding to news reports that Bockarie was killed during an apparent arrest attempt by Liberian government forces in Nimba County, the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, David M. Crane called on the Liberian government to back up their claims. "If reports of Bockarie's death are true, I ask Liberian authorities to provide proof and request that they turn his body over to us for forensic examination and positive identification."

Earlier this week, Crane challenged Charles Taylor, President of Liberia, to arrest and surrender international fugitives, Sam Bockarie and Johnny Paul Koroma, to the Court. Crane offered specific details regarding the whereabouts of the wanted individuals for Liberian authorities.

"Koroma is located in the Foya Kamala area in Lofa County. Regardless of Bockarie's fate, the Liberians still need to arrest and transfer Koroma to us. Their clear international obligation remains. Additionally, Koroma has the option to turn himself over to the Special Court, if he so desires. I urge him to do so."

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.

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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