

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



Issa Sesay returned from Dakar Senegal just after midday. Photos in today's 'Supplement'.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Thursday, 1 March 2007

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

Local News

Kabbah's Crocodile Tears For Norman's Death Rejected / <i>For di People</i>	Page 3
Outrage: Prosecutor Says no Verdict on Norman / <i>Christian Monitor</i>	Pages 4-5
Norman's Family Vows To Reject SLPP Contribution / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 6
Who Killed Hinga Norman? / <i>Concord Times</i>	Pages 7-8
Hinga Norman Never Enjoyed the Fruit of His Labour / <i>The African Champion</i>	Pages 9-10
Now That Sankoh, Maskita, Paul Koroma and Norman Have Died... / <i>The African Champion</i>	Page 11
\$20 Million For Taylor's Trial / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Pages 12-13
Wrong Time to Die: Hinga Norman / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Page 14
Would Kabbah / Berewa and Co Attend Norman's Funeral? / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Pages 15-16
Special Court is Not Helping the Peace Process / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 17
Opinion Pools on the Death of Hinga Norman / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 18
SLPP, Chief Norman and the Special Court / <i>Standard Times</i>	Pages 19-20
"I'll Die For My Country" / <i>The Spark</i>	Page 21

International News

Chief Hinga Norman Takes Valuable Secrets With Him to His Grave? / <i>Cocorioko Website</i>	Pages 22-24
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 25-27
Darfur War Crimes Suspect Defiant / <i>BBC Online</i>	Pages 28-29
ICC Claims Further Isolate Sudan / <i>BBC Online</i>	Pages 30-31

Special Court Supplement

Issa Sesay's Return to the Special Court After Medical Treatment in Senegal / <i>Public Affairs</i>	Pages 32-33
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For di People
Thursday, 1 March 2007

KABBAH'S CROCODILE TEARS FOR NORMAN'S DEATH CONDEMNED!

MANY SYMPATHISERS for late Kamajor chieftain and SLPP government minister, Chief Sam Hinga Norman has widely condemned what they termed the 'crocodile tears' that president Kabbah is now shedding for him following his recent death in a Senegalese army hospital as an indictee for crimes against humanity.

According to James Campbell of Kissy

most unfortunate,"he said. Campbell said what

Blair or Bush would have permitted even their worst

Dockyard, Kabbah should be sanctioned seriously for stating that "as a government, we could do nothing when Chief Hinga Norman was arrested, but only to wait and see what would happen' as well as saying that "Norman was one of my best ministers."

"Mr President these two statements coming from you upon the death of the 'neglected hero Hinga Norman' were

Kabbah and his government should have done was to have ensured a more dignified and respectful arrest rather than the disgraceful and humiliating episode which his government sanctioned.

"You should have told the Special Court that as 'one of my best ministers' I shall see that he is available whenever you require him but not to authorise that he be totally humiliated and handcuffed.

"Do you think your English or American counterparts,

ministers to be so treated?"he queried.

He said both are statesmen but Kabbah is not and that furthermore, when Norman desired that Kabbah should be a witness for him, he deliberately, defiantly resolutely refused to do so.

"And it suits you now to call him 'one of my best ministers,"he lamented.

Campbell then asked Kabbah why he didn't go forward like a man and testify on Norman's behalf and that people are now con-
jecturing that if Kabbah had come forward as he should have done, he would have been judiciously exposed as equally 'blameworthy'-a fate that he fought to avoid. Campbell believed that this

is one time when Kabbah should have kept quiet firmly rather than make a sincere mockery of both him and government.

"On the issue of blame for the fate of Hinga Norman,

you and your government are firmly and squarely to blame.

"As one writer puts it, your culpability will be determined in the beyond,"he said.



NORMAN:that the SLPP plunged the dagger that humiliated and killed him

Christian Monitor
Thursday, 1 March 2007

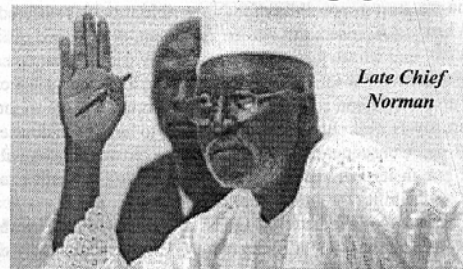
Outrage: Prosecutor says no verdict on Norman

Family and friends of late Chief Hinga Norman have expressed outrage following the announcement by the prosecutor of the Special Court that Norman's case will be closed and judgment cancelled. Stephen Rapp said Norman's death last week means that there will not be a judgment issued by

the Trial Chamber in his case.

A friend of the family said it is injustice and it makes mockery of international law. It is a wrong not only to the late man but the entire family he left behind and all those members of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF), who

Contd Page 2



*Late Chief
Norman*

Editorial

Outrage: Prosecutor says no verdict on Norman

From Front Page

felt they were fighting a just cause.' The former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone Peter Penfold, who is a known critic of the Special Court said, Norman's "arrest and incarceration for the past 4 years by the UN's Special War Crimes Court has been a grave injustice. His death, in peculiar circumstances, is not only a great loss to his family, his friends, and his country, but also a tragedy for all those who not only talk about peace and democracy but are prepared to fight and die for these causes".

Supporters of the Special Court have compared the cases of Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader Cpl Foday Sankoh and Sam Bockarie (Mosquito) whose cases were terminated upon their deaths. Internationally, they have also cited the case of Yugoslavian leader Slobodan Milosevic, at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, whose trial also ended without a verdict upon his death.

None of these cases however, had heard conclusive evidence from both the prosecution and the defence, unlike in the case of Norman. In fact, Sankoh appeared once, only briefly in court while Mosquito never had the opportunity of putting up an appearance. Milosevic's trial was ongoing before his death, but had not heard conclusive evidence. According to the spokesman of the court, the decision not to issue a judgement would be determined by the judges of the Trial Chamber possibly next week and it is not the decision of the prosecutor nor should he pre-empt the Judges ruling on the matter.

However, Peter Andersen said, there is the 'likelihood' that the judges may withhold and not issue a judgement on the matter in which both the defence and the prosecution have concluded their testimonies and final submissions.

In his statement, Rapp said 'all parties to this case deserved to see a verdict rendered' and that Norman's death 'means that the people of Sierra Leone are deprived of their right to see justice done in an important and high-profile case before the Special Court. Our mission, our pledge and our duty has been and remains to bring justice to those who bear the greatest responsibility for the terrible atrocities suffered by the people of Sierra Leone. When an Accused dies before judgment, then justice is denied'.

What, and whose justice is this, a family friend questions. M. Kai Kai says a no-verdict decision is not satisfactory to anybody, a statement which the court spokesman agrees with. Anderson said a verdict would bring closure to the matter, for the court and the family as well. Justice would be seen to have been done even when the man is dead and gone. Consequently, a verdict whichever way it goes will be good for the image of the court in its avowed responsibility to bring to justice to those who bear the greatest responsibility for the 11-year war.

The Prosecutor indicted Hinga Norman in March 2003 with eight counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by forces under his command during Sierra Leone's civil conflict and since then, has kept him in detention till his death last week. An episode seen as a 'grave injustice' to a man perceived as a 'hero' in the efforts at restoring democracy in Sierra Leone following the coup of April 1997.

As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere'. It is in this spirit that friends and family members as well as those who not only talk about peace and democracy but are prepared to fight and die for those causes, call for and request a verdict from the Trial Chamber in the case of the late Chief Hinga Norman. A verdict will bring closure to the matter at the very least. The alternative as suggested by the prosecutor is a tragedy and a travesty of justice; of international justice.

Concord Times
Thursday, 1 March 2007

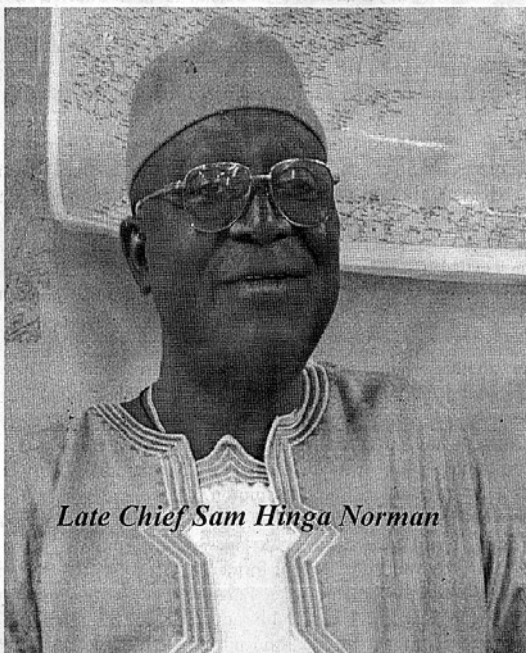
Norman's Family Vows To Reject SLPP Contribution

As preparations are in top gear to receive the remains of late Chief Sam Hinga Norman from Senegal, the family of the deceased has vowed to reject any contributions from or on behalf of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP).

This was disclosed in a press release issued Wednesday signed by Alfred Sam Foray.

The statement also advised officials of the Sierra Leone government, the SLPP and the Special Court to give due diligence to the instructions of late Mr. Norman, the wishes of the family and customs of the people by not transferring late Mr. Norman's body to any person or group not designated for that purpose by the family or the Society of the Kamajors and allied societies.

It also stated that the funeral



programs do not include a state funeral or any other government sponsored activities, funding or participation in Freetown or Bo where the funeral itself will take

place.

Though funeral committees have been formed in Freetown, Bo and Mongere in

Cont. page 5

Norman's family vows to reject SLPP contribution

From page 1

the Valunya Chiefdom of Bo District, the release wrote that travel plans by members of the family from various parts of the world as well as funeral programs are uncertain because the Special Court Registrar is yet to determine how long the proposed autopsy on the late chief will take and when the body will be

returned to his family in Sierra Leone.

Teams of forensic pathologists representing the UN and the Norman family are expected in Senegal possibly some time next week to perform a court-mandated autopsy after which the body will be handed over to the family's designated representative, former Vice President, Dr. Albert Joe Demby

who with another family member, Norman's eldest son, Sam Norman, Jr. and the family's forensic pathologist in Dakar to take part in the autopsy.

Meanwhile Norman's family friend, confidant and former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Chief Peter Penfold, has arrived in Sierra Leone to assist the family.

Concord Times

Thursday, 1 March 2007

Who Killed Hinga Norman?

Opinion

By Karamou Kabba

From last edition

Norman had fled from the war in Liberia at a time when Charles Taylor and his backers were in search of war mongers - where the spoils of war was a profitable enterprise for soldiers of fortune; where Foday Sankoh, whose reason for self-exile could be stack up against Norman's - to recruit. Sankoh had also been released from prison after he was charged with treason. Thus he was an embittered man unlike Norman who had always looked at the good side of every misfortune that had befallen him.

Norman came quietly to settle in his village away from national politics. He became an interpreter and a spokesman for his chiefdom where he was shortly appointed regent chief for Jiama Bongor chiefdom in 1994. By then, the civil war in Sierra Leone was in its third year. The National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) had overthrown Siaka Stevens' pre-ordained successor, the late President Joseph Saidu Momoh. But Foday Sankoh's rebels remained a challenge for the young military regime that had been showered with praises, for their gallantry, by the marginalized and politically suppressed society for removing the APC from power.

Norman's chiefdom headquarter town of Telu had been saturated with displaced people from war affected surrounding chiefdoms including refugees from Liberia. He knew his chiefdom was next, and in preparedness for such onslaught he narrowly survived according to his Special Court narrative. He helped to form a coalition of chiefs that offered seventy-five young, energetic and civic competent chiefdom men to defend their people. This is the coalition we now know as Kamajor in Mende (meaning hunters) that was emulated across the country as a defense mechanism against rebels. This force later became the Civil Defence Forces (CDF).

In the first attack on his chiefdom, Norman counted fifty dead of his seventy-five young men he had submitted to the coalition of chiefs for the purpose of self-defense. They were actually hastily trained and armed by the NPRC military regime. Although he counted himself lucky again, suffice it to state that he was the most and properly trained former army officer of the lot. Yet many have called him a warrior with magical powers that protected his body from bullet penetration.

He left Telu and settled in Bo. He never returned to Telu until he helped to reinstall civilian rule. He continued to organize the CDF nationally from between Bo and Freetown without any evidence of another live encounter with rebels. In that respect, many Sierra Leoneans are saying that Norman was as guilty as President Kabbah is, especially when he organized the CDF in his capacity as the Deputy Defense Minister. Such was how Norman and his CDF fighters helped to restore civilian rule in Sierra Leone. President Kabbah and his army had disappeared upon being demoralized by the rebel onslaught. The people were now left at the mercy of rebel fighters known for hacking of limbs of their victims in the cruelest way akin only to the ironic King Leopold's Congo Free State of colonial Congo.

Norman's luck started running out when he, through his knowledge of military intelligence, knew there was going to be another political crisis in Sierra Leone before President Kabbah was overthrown, some one year after the 1996 elections. Norman did his best to give President Kabbah early warning signs of the looming political crisis in vain.

"And I was told that there was an imminent coup, but that with those parts of the weapons absent the coup may not be deadly and destructive. And so they were giving it to me for safekeeping. I took it from them. And as soon as they left, I also left and took this bag to my boss." That boss that Norman was referring to in his testimony was President Kabbah, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Instead of taken

Who Killed Hinga Norman?

... Was it a Foul Play or Did His Luck Run Out?

action, Norman became the one who was now on President Kabbah's radar as a suspect of a coup until he was overthrown only for Norman to stay behind with his CDF fighters to restore him.

Norman had become an enigmatic figure in Sierra Leone for treading where no other politician dared. He took both weapons and orders from President Kabbah who was in Guinea and worked in collaboration with the UN-peacekeepers throughout the process of restoring civilian rule to Sierra Leone.

Vice President Berewa who was the Attorney General with his eyes on the succession of President Kabbah's leadership, according to some speculations, signed the Special Court deal that fell short of accommodating the protection of late Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who many Sierra Leoneans have called a First Class National War Hero. This in itself contravened the Lome Peace Accord and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that indeed advocated blanket amnesty for all. In fact, the Lome Peace Accord was ratified in Parliament here in Sierra Leone.

Once the Special Court was instituted, Hinga Norman was arrested in his office. According to the spokesman for the CDF, Rev. Sam Foray, "President Kabbah called Hinga Norman for no reason apparently other than making sure he was in his office. Few minutes after he hung up, officers were in Norman's office and he was arrested by the Special Court."

Norman's family and supporters held a controversial position over his transfer to Senegal for medical treatment. The Rev. Sam Foray had confirmed that Norman told him in a telephone conversation that he was surprised when he realized that he was taken to Senegal only to be locked up in yet another prison far worse than that of the Special Court. Juliet, Norman's daughter who has become the family spokesperson since his arrest broke the story on BBC focus on Africa programme that Norman was in a cell, a charge that the Special Court press release refuted.

A local newspaper in Sierra Leone Concord Times, reported that Norman gave all his belongings to his attendants at the Special Court prison, stating that he would not make it alive. It was reported in the same edition of the Concord Times that Norman performed some ritual at Lungi in which Norman rubbed his thumb against the asphalt, licked the dirt off his thumb and pointed to the heavens. The editor reportedly challenged the Special Court press secretary, Peter Andersen, for yet another rebuttal of the report, but nothing has been heard from the Special Court as of writing this paper.

The Special Court stated heart attack as the cause of Norman's death before a proper medical autopsy was performed. This has caused much suspicion among Norman's family members, friends and supporters. A close family member, who was at the Norman family house in Freetown, told me that former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold met with family members in London and offered to help with the private investigation into the cause of the death of Norman by an independent doctor. Peter Penfold is one of the espousers of Norman's heroism who also gave a testimony at the Special Court on behalf of Norman.

The family of Norman has demonstrated dissatisfaction with the SLPP for suspicions of having hands in the death of Norman. Another family friend of the Norman family told me that an SLPP Parliamentarian, Hon. Ansu Kai Kai of Pujehun, who was officially charged by the SLPP with the responsibility of meeting the family to represent the party and the government, was asked to leave the Norman compound and the money he brought for contribution towards the burial was thrown back at him. The Standard Times reported the news as follows: "Kaikai's baptism of fire came when he went to the residence of the family to sympathize with a token of Le 50,000 [about \$15, added for clarity] and was ordered by family members to quit the premises or have himself to blame. 'Take your money and leave our house now' the family ordered the MP."

Interestingly, the Norman family has officially appointed Dr. Albert Joe Demby to head the Norman funeral arrangements and the investigation of all matters leading to his death. He is a relative and close friend of the Norman family. Dr. Demby was also the Vice President to President Kabbah whose popularity as running mate to President Kabbah during the 2002 elections partly won SLPP the presidency. Dr. Demby was sacked from his position and replaced by Vice President Berewa just after the latter had signed the Special Court agreement.

Another twist to this story was the intriguing political drama that preceded the death of Norman, which has become the strongest contributing factor to the strong speculations amongst the people of Sierra Leone that a foul play was involved in the death of Norman.

Norman had recently just signed a communiqué to join Charles Margai's Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC). Among an array of reasons he stated was that the SLPP is greatly responsible for the divide in the country, shortly before he was taken to Senegal.

What is more, we are yet to understand, fully, the extent of the medical condition of Norman that prompted the knee surgery that could not have been performed in Sierra Leone, but in another developing country. What we do know though, we saw in the images taken shortly before they took him away, a man bound for knee surgery, walking through the gates of the Special Court without a wheelchair or any other ambulatory aide. This reminds us of George Orwell's Boxer in his Animal Farm political satire.

Another butt of suspicion of a foul play in the death of Norman is directly pointing at the Special Court. There are reports and statements suggesting that the Special Court is more like a deathtrap for its prisoners, where high profile prisoners die in custody or before they are even brought to trial once they are indicted.

The list goes on from Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie alias Maskita, Johnny Paul Koroma and now Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

It seemed Norman was not lucky, this time: while awaiting the verdict from the Special Court, he died mysteriously in Senegal. The questions remain; who killed Chief Sam Hinga Norman? Was it a foul play or did his luck run out this time round?

The African Champion

Thursday, 1 March 2007

Hinga Norman Never Enjoyed the Fruit of His Labour

The Special Court for Sierra Leone on Thursday 22nd February announced the death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, the first accused of the three Civil Defense Force (CDF) indictees who were charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity nearly four years ago.

Before his arrest in March 2003, he was Minister of Internal Affairs. He also served as Deputy Defense Minister, the first ministerial position he held when the SLPP took the reigns of power in 1996. On 18th January, Chief Sam Hinga Norman and the former leader of Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Issa Sesay, were flown to Dakar, Senegal, for medical treatment in a military hospital. where Chief Norman died of what the Special Court called "post operative complications." His death came as a rude shock to many Sierra Leoneans who believe that the SLPP government did him an injustice as he did not deserve the inhuman treatment that was meted out to him after his great contributed to restore the so-called democratic government of Tejan-Kabbah to power when the Sierra Leone military rebels and RUF toppled President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah on Sunday 25th May 1997.

It is on record that when anarchy was on the loose during the interregnum, it was the late Chief Norman who organized the Kamajors to resist the rebels and to defend the civilian populace in the southeastern region of the country. Besides, the Kamajors fought alongside the ECOMOG force during the military intervention that chased the AFRC/RUF rebels out of Freetown on 9th February 1998, thus paving the way for President Kabbah's government to be reinstated on 10th March 1998.

It's no gainsaying that the late Chief Norman was very instrumental in the reinstatement of the democratically elected SLPP government. When the AFRC/RUF coup took place, President Kabbah and most of his henchmen took to their heels on hearing the first gun shot. But the former Deputy Defence Minister, who escaped together with the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, returned in four days time to organize civilians to resist the combined forces of the SLA and RUF rebels and to defend the civilian populace. In December 1997, the Kamajors declared "Operation Black December" as the first step to resist the SLA and RUF fighters. Indeed, the operation destabilized the fighters in most parts of the southeastern region. When this development took place, Hinga Norman was on the ground coordinating the Kamajors while President Kabbah and his henchmen were at liberty in Guinea and the Diaspora. If ever the Kamajors committed any war crimes and crimes against humanity, they were direct products of their efforts to restore the SLPP government to power.

After the restoration of the SLPP government, the euphoria that greeted the gallantry of Chief Sam Hinga Norman and the Kamajors was so overwhelming that even President Kabbah praised them at mountain top prior to the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Some of the Kamajors even served as bodyguards to prominent politicians in the SLPP and also used some government facilities like vehicles, the Brookfields Hotel and many others, all in the name of appreciating their gallantry. During that period, Chief Sam Hinga Norman was the iconic figure of the Kabbah government and nobody dared to raise an accusing finger against him for the alleged crimes the Kamajors committed. Instead, he was elevated to the position of Minister of Internal Affairs, a position he held until he was disgracefully arrested, handcuffed in his Liverpool office and dragged to detention by the police. That was the moment President Kabbah and his henchmen started shying away from anything that had to do with the Kamajors. It is a fact that President Kabbah denied knowing anything about the Kamajors when he went to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to testify. The scenario was similar to the situation where Peter denied Jesus Christ three times when He was arrested and brought before Pontius Pilate. The only difference between the two scenarios is that, whereas Jesus Christ foretold Peter's denial, Chief Sam Hinga Norman never saw it coming at all. President Kabbah told the Commission that the Kamajor movement was a society which he was not a member. Indeed, he wasn't part of that society though he benefited from its activities during the struggle to reinstate him. But as revolutionaries say, revolutions kill their children. The very government he so defended had to sacrifice him on the political altar. Many political analysts have long observed that it was unwise for the SLPP government to have endorsed the establishment of the Special Court. President Kabbah and members of his Cabinet were no strangers to the atrocities the Kamajors committed during their clash with the AFRC/RUF junta. But they failed – if not a

deliberate act – to realize that endorsing a UN backed criminal court for Sierra Leone to try war crimes suspects would affect some members of the Kamajors who weathered so many terrible storms to restore the SLPP government to power. Now the worst thing has happened: the SLPP redeemer they offered to the Special Court has passed off in a very disgraceful manner. What do they have to tell the world about Chief Sam Hinga Norman's death? Like many Sierra Leoneans, I strongly believe that the SLPP government did Chief Sam Hinga Norman an injustice by endorsing the establishment of the Special Court which many government officials failed to envisage its repercussions on those who fought for them. Despite the Lome Peace Accord which called for a blanket amnesty for all the warring factions, Parliament went ahead to pass an Act for the establishment of the criminal court which President Kabbah endorsed with no second thought. All this happened in the name of bringing to justice all those who bear the greatest responsibility during the civil conflict. Proponents of the Special Court had often said that there is no peace without justice but failed to realize that justice is not holistic.

When the great Nelson Mandela was released from jail and later became the first black President of South Africa, South Africans who were oppressed by the apartheid regime for more than four decades unanimously called for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. They were never oblivious of the fact that a criminal court for war crimes suspects would affect both members of the apartheid regime and the African National Congress (ANC) in that both groups committed heinous crimes against humanity. Also in neighbouring Liberia, President Ellen Johnson Sarleaf disparaged criminal court for war crimes suspects and opted for the establishment of the TRC as the best way to bring peace and stability to Liberia after fourteen years of bloodletting. The new democratic regime in the Democratic Republic of Congo is also pressing for the TRC instead of opting for a UN backed criminal court to try war crimes suspects. But in Sierra Leone, the government was quick to accept the criminal court as though the governors are robots. Or, was it a ploy to deflate the political balloon of Chief Norman - whose name became a household name after the military intervention – so that he would not challenge the SLPP megalomaniacs for the party leadership? To me, the SLPP government contributed greatly to the death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman because nobody twisted their hands to set up the Special Court. Many people have claimed that it was the UN and the International Community that pressured the government to endorse the establishment of the Special Court to try war crimes suspects. If that is the case, then our own situation is unique in that neither the UN nor the International Community prevailed on Nelson Mandela or Ellen Johnson Sarleaf to set up a special court after all the atrocities that were committed during the apartheid regime in South Africa and the fourteen-year civil conflict in Liberia. Indeed, Chief Norman's death is a mitigation that won't wash for generations and many Sierra Leoneans will not forgive the SLPP government for his death. Though he is gone, millions of people including Peter Penfold will remember him for the heroic battle he fought for democracy and the restoration of President Kabbah to power.

May his soul rest in perfect peace. Amen!

The African Champion

Thursday, 1 March 2007

Now That Sankoh, Maskita, Paul Koroma and Norman Have Died... Who Will Special Court Try Now?

Now that the main players, Foday Sankoh, Sam 'Maskita' Bockarie, Johnny Paul Koroma and now Hinga Norman, the ones with the greatest responsibility have died, what is the relevance of the Special Court for Sierra Leone then? This is the question Sierra Leoneans are now asking. This question comes in the light of the absence of these four prominent personalities who might be seen as the main factors bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes committed against humanity. Will the court therefore continue the whole process of trying minnows when the bigger kakatoa have already died?

The Lome Peace

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) found that the Amnesty Clause in the Lome Peace Agreement was well intentioned and meant to not only forgive and forget but to secure enduring peace and reconciliation between the different factions in Sierra Leone. The TRC found that in repudiating the Amnesty Clause in the Accord, both the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone sent an unfortunate message to combatants in future wars that they cannot rely on peace accords with amnesty clauses. The TRC found that there was too much haste in instituting the Special Court without any attention given to the rehabilitation of victims of the war. Many people are of the opinion that the \$100 million budgeted for the Special Court to try a handful of so called war criminals would have better been spent on improving the capacity of the whole judicial system as well as upgrading the prisons system to become real reformatory institutions rather than the hell holes they still are.

In particular, the Commission finds that the United Nations and the GOSL should have enshrined the right of detainees and prisoners in the custody of the Court to participate in the truth and reconciliation process. Maybe, we should ask ourselves why neither Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf nor the Parliament of Liberia gave any consent to the setting up of a Special Court. Was it not in the interest of genuine peace and reconciliation?

Benefits of Amnesty

The Lome Peace Accord granted general amnesty to all combatants in order to end the hostilities in Sierra Leone and to secure the commitment of all the warring factions to the peace process. Article IX of the Agreement clearly applies to all combatants and collaborators, including ECOMOG, UN troops and the Sierra Leone military. That is why it is discriminatory and legally unsound to suggest that one party to an agreement could, by its subsequent actions, deprive individuals belonging to other groups, of the benefits of the same amnesty which had earlier on been signed by all parties in the conflict. It is worth noting that it was only the government of Sierra Leone, one of the signatories to the Lome Peace Accord, that went ahead to call on the UN to institute the Special Court.

Mastermind

The other parties involved: the AFRC and the RUF were neither consulted nor were they in agreement. It was Solomon Berewa, as Attorney-General and Minister of Justice who tirelessly masterminded this coup, with the approval of his boss President Kabbah, to ensure that Norman, regarded as too big for his political shoes is removed from within the corridors of power. The international community clearly understands, looking within the ramifications

that created Special Court that both the government of Sierra Leone and its parliament and the United Nations were in breach of the Lome Peace Agreement when they instituted the Special Court. The Special Court for Sierra Leone with the demise of Hinga Norman has outlived its usefulness. What is now going on is a farce, with money being spent on expatriates which would have been better spent on the rehabilitation of the war torn parts of Sierra Leone.

To those expatriates who are now working in the Special Court, they will rather prefer that the charade continues, but even a high school kid knows that there is nothing going on here except a total waste of resource better spent on other priorities. The Tejan Kabbah Berewa hegemony has finally succeeded in their hidden agenda which was to see that Norman is taken out of the scene, as he was their main threat. Ambition is one virtue which is not allowed within this cabal that was why Norman had to be taken out of the scene.

White Hustlers

Nobody can deny the fact that the Special Court has failed as far as we are concerned in Sierra Leone. It has now been revealed to be a bogus venture inspired by Berewa and carried out by the western world to create jobs for hustlers like Peter Anderson; the media man whose job seem to be to hide the

truth from the very people who are supposed to know about the workings of this court. There have been repeated stories of drug addicts employed from the West to come and work for the Special Court. Numerous instances have shown that these people are criminal-minded and have to regard for the country and the people within which they are working. The case of the Australian Security employed by the Special Court and who was indicted for raping a teenage girl shows the type of criminal minded people working there.

The bogus aspect of the Special Court has been proved through the refusal of the prosecutors, to indict Mr. Tejan-Kabbah, who beyond all reasonable doubts supported, financed, armed and give orders to the Kamajors and by implication to Norman who has repeatedly stated that the president is his immediate boss. Vast quantities of resources including money has gone down the drain just to ensure that Norman is taken off the political scene, even to the extent of creating a Special Court and prison to house him. With the death of Norman as the fourth indicted person to be absent, there is every indication that the Special Court, if it cannot indict Kabbah, should stop work and let Anderson and others go home and look for other jobs instead of living off the misery of a people traumatized by war and bad governance. This is the only way which will ensue that Sierra Leone leaves behind the negative era of the past to a better future.

The Exclusive
Thursday, 1 March 2007

Revealed

\$20M



Charles Taylor

For

Taylor's

By Musa Sesay

Documents available to this press have revealed that the trial of the former Liberian President and high profiled indictee, Charles Ghangay Taylor, is worth a whopping sum of Twenty million United States Dollars

(\$20,000,000). The estimated figure excludes the cost of those that will have to travel a round a trip of 10,000 kilometers to testify and will require protection not

Contd. page 2

Trial

\$20M For Taylor's Trial

From front page

only where they live, but also, while in the Netherlands.

The budget, staffing, visa, logistics and accommodation arrangements to be made to accommodate the transfer of large number of witnesses and staff across two continents are extremely daunting.

It is even stated that the projected budget for the court in 2007 was estimated at \$33 millions. This figure does not include the 2008 budget to be

completed by March 15, this year after the management committee would have left Freetown.

It is even rumoured that so far, the court only has funds sufficient to continue operating until June 2007 which is just half the amount spent for the opening stage of the trial, and therefore without a dramatic and immediate increase in the level of contributions from donors, it is believed that it won't be possible for the trial to be completed if it

commences in The Hague June 4, 2007.

With all the foreboding inconveniences and constraints, Mr. Taylor's lawyers are submitting that the President of the Special Court has jurisdiction to order a transfer of venue to Freetown without recourse to the UN Security Council. Rule 4 according to them, does not require the president to seek the Security Council's approval before a decision is made to order a change of venue.

The Exclusive
Thursday, 1 March 2007

Commentary

By Chief Gbondima Gbondo

Wrong Time To Die: Hinga Norman

If Sierra Leone ever had a controversial son – with a stubborn character, it was the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman. The late Chief loved SLPP and he died SLPP!

No body is competent to write the history of Sam Hinga Norman as the man himself was a bundle of contradictions and mishaps, which cost him his aged-old life.

“Struggler”

Late Sam Hinga Norman was a born ‘Struggler’ and died struggling.

Those who believe in predestination will affirm the life pattern of the former National Coordinator of the now defunct Civil Defence Forces – CDF – the man was born to die in prison, hence, his ambition in adventures requiring his energy and life at all times.

Problem

Should one-try to locally define the meaning of problem – the definition fits Sam Hinga Norman very aptly.

The former Minister and war crimes indictee (not yet guilty), was a problem to every institution he served and even to himself. He was a problem to the late Sir Lightfoot Botton, Siaka Stevens, Tejan Kabbah, Foday Sankoh, Johnny Paul, Special Court, SLPP etc.

Solution

Was there a solution to late Chief Sam Hinga Norman's problems?

No. The late chief was stubbornly arrogant and very entrenched in his viewpoints that he never at once attempted to compromise on that score.

Another question is, was the late chief convinced that the end has really come?

Solitude in Special Court confinement worsened Hinga Norman's problems. Here was a man who so much loved freedom and free uncontrolled life, whose life pattern was rudely interrupted by an alien justice culture.

Strange that they (AFRC/RUF/CDF) though defunct but on trial at the Special Court reportedly pitched together to endorse the PMDC and even formed that party, falsely believing that their salvation lies in it.

Ending

To every story (long or short), there is bound to be an end. For Hinga Norman, he knew whether by instinct or otherwise that the end was in sight before his departure for Dakar, Senegal.

The late Chief Sam Hinga Norman was a hero and villain to a set of people at a time but to the special court, he remains their indictee.

The Exclusive

Thursday, 1 March 2007

Would Kabbah/Berewa and Co Attend Norman's Funeral?

Death of Whatever Circumstance is Death. But the Death of Some Become an Issue of National Concern. Such is the Death of Hinga Norman among Others like Gloria Newman-Smart and Harry Yansaneh in Recent Past.

If the death of any individual has ever moved this nation and made series of stricken headlines, that of late Norman seems to have taken the lead. Born on 1 January 1940, in Ngolala Village, Mongeri, Valunia Chiefdom, Bo District, Southern Province, Norman served in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone from about 1959 to 1972 and rose to the rank of Captain. In 1966, he graduated from the Mons Officer Cadet School in Aldershot, United Kingdom and later served as the Liaison Representative and Chiefdom Spokesman, Mongeri, Valunia Chiefdom, and also Regent Chief of Jaiama Bongor Chiefdom. In 1996, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Defence for Sierra Leone and during the hit of the war, became head of a civil militia group called Civil Defense Force (CDF). In 1992, Norman was again appointed Minister of the Interior – a position he held until he was raided one morning at his offices at Liverpool Street, arrested and subsequently detained him at the Almighty 'Special Court' for trials where he finally passed away. ... Sounds pathetic.

His Indictment dated 3rd March 2003 reads in part: "THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE CASE NO. SCSL – 03 – I THE PROSECUTOR Against SAM HINGA NORMAN. - The Prosecutor, Special Court for Sierra Leone, under Article 15 of the Statute of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (the Statute), charges: **SAM HINGA NORMAN** with **CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, VIOLATIONS OF ARTICLE 3 COMMON TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II, and OTHER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW** in violation of Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the Statute..."

The Charges where many... Under "Individual Criminal Responsibility," Norman stood indicted (according to the Special Court) because he was not only the National Coordinator of CDF but also the principal force in establishing, organizing, supporting, providing logistical support, and promoting the same. In other words he had the *de jure* and *de facto* command and control over the activities and operations of the CDF particularly the Kamajors.

Excerpt of the many, many allegations on this one man reads: "**SAM HINGA NORMAN**, by his acts or omissions is individually criminally responsible pursuant to Article 6.1. of the Statute for the crimes referred to in Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the Statute as alleged in this indictment, which crimes the **ACCUSED** planned, instigated, ordered, committed, or in whose planning, preparation or execution the **ACCUSED** otherwise aided and abetted, or which crimes were within a common purpose, plan or design in which the **ACCUSED** participated or were a reasonably foreseeable consequence of the common purpose, plan or design in which the **ACCUSED** participated."

When The Exclusive first reported that Norman is gravely sick, nobody gave a hoot about it. Then came another headline "Norman is Dying." It was then that Special Court Peter Anderson called up the Editor of The Exclusive to caution him on such sensational headlines while arguing that the story was false. The next thing we had was that the Chief Norman has been flown to Senegal for surgery and now dead. What has the Special Court got to say to The Exclusive? Norman's death has not only made the SLPP more unpopular but also, to some extent, watered down the credibility of the Special Court. At least, that is the view of many Sierra Leoneans.

It goes without saying that the late Chief Hinga Norman was up to his death considered a hero than the villain he was made by the Special Court. To many, no matter the charges the Court proffered against him, he was innocent for the simple fact that he sacrificed his life to restore democracy during those perilous days when his boss, Kabbah and others were hibernating in peace elsewhere. Norman stood his ground. And as popular local artist, Emerson Bockarie said in one of his revolutionary songs - 'Borbor Pain,' Norma was an original 'Borbor Pain' who actually waited for the late Maxwell Kobe.

I can imagine how he felt that morning when corps knocked at his door... "...you are indicted"! they must have told him. "For What"! He must have asked. Today, he is no more but his contribution towards the restoration of democracy and the achievement of peace will ever continue to linger in the minds of many patriotic Sierra Leoneans. Historians will record his contributions for posterity to read and judge him not only by the many things he did whether right or wrong, but for his immense contributions to national stability.

But the recent outburst of his son, Sam Hinga Norman Jr: "Before my father died, he told me that if he dies at the Special Court, neither the government of Sierra Leone nor the SLPP should have nothing to do with his funeral," is enough for the SLPP to know that Norman did not forgive them even up to his death. It is enough for the SLPP to know that their popularity is at stake; that the death of Norman is not only a minus to them but a plus to the PMDC; and that their chances of winning the July 28 elections has become more remote than ever before.

The circumstances that led to his final demise coupled with his last interview with the BBC further served to question the credibility of the Special Court in the whole drama. Norman and Kabbah were best of friends until the ugly claws of the Special Court grabbed the former.

To him and his followers, he was betrayed by Kabbah for allowing the setting up of a structure that was designed to nail him if found guilty of the charges that were slammed on him. And like Julius Caesar said to his friend Brutus '*Et tu Brute,*' (William Shakespeare) - Latin, meaning "*and you too Brutus,*" so also Norman must have said: "*Et tu Kabbah/SLPP*"?

And as Mark Antony said to the remains of Caesar: "*O mighty Caesar! Dost thou lie so low? Are all thy conquest, glories, triumph, spoils shrunk to this little measure...*," so also we join the Norman family to lament.

And we ask: "would Kabbah, Berewa and members of the SLPP attend Norman's funeral"?

Let's wait and see.

Awoko

Thursday, 1 March 2007

Special Court is not helping the peace process – PMDC Scribe

Secretary General has said in Freetown that the Special Court is not in any way helping the peace process in the country by trying pro-government militia. He noted that the Special Court coming after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is to a

Contd. Page 4

Special Court is not helping the peace process

From Page 2

large extent a duplication. "If we were not going to have the TRC, then the Special Court may have served the purposes but even at that

I am of the strong opinion that the Civil Defense Forces (CDF), the pro-government militia that fought very very hard to restore democracy in Sierra Leone, should not have been indicted before the Special Court" he maintained. The Secretary General echoed that Norman is a hero at the time when the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) rioted over the legally elected democratic government, most of the Ministers at that time left the shores of the country. Norman stayed and organized a stiff resistance against the juntas.

Mr Lansana went on "he risked his life, paid personal inconveniences and sometimes slept in the bush in wild places to make sure the juntas did not have their way and the country had its legally democratic government restored and I really think he is a hero and he ought to be given a hero's treatment and not the type of ignominy that he was subjected to."

On his reaction to Norman's death Ansu Lansana said "indignation and one of shock and one that saddened me

extremely to the fact that it gave me an indication that I live in a country that does not glorify its heroes."

He went on "I regard Norman as a man who is steadfast - in the face of atrocities he held on to the view that Sierra Leone should have peace and he also held the view that his indictment was not the end of his life but unfortunately and ironically it turned out to be the end of his life."

Mr Lansana recalled that Chief Norman "was a very jovial man, at a point in time he was supposed to be very depressed when he was incarcerated at the Special Court but he would joke with visitors cite stories and could explain about his past and he was emotionally very strong." Arguing that the Special Court was not necessary, Lawyer Ansu Lansana said

"That is not to say one or two Kamajors did not inflict injuries and did not kill innocent civilians but to say that they should be tried before the special court means that they have criminal intent or criminal agenda to wreak havoc on Sierra Leone, that is not correct," he noted explaining that "the collective mentality of Kamajors was to restore the democratically elected government and not to wreak mayhem and carnage on Sierra Leone, that was not there collective intention so to say they have joint criminal

enterprise to commit war crimes" as is stated in the indictment - he said "was incorrect."

The PMDC Scribe maintained that the Special Court ought not to have tried Hinga Norman.

Giving his reasons further, he said "this group of people sacrificed their lives to restore democracy in the country and these people are indicted before an international tribunal - in case there is a recurrence of civil strife in the country" he argued "would we have the assurance that the Kamajors would come to the aid of the government they would not" he answered.

He added that "taking them before the Special Court or trying them is a bad precedence the Special Court could have helped in the peace process by ensuring that they don't try the pro-government militia." Mr Lansana maintained "there is no way in the world where allied forces fighting terrorism have been tired before an international tribunal for committing war atrocities."

"Norman was a hero who had fought to ensure that we have peace and stability in the country, and I think the Special Court is not in any way helping the peace process by trying pro-government militia" he ended saying.

Awoko Newspaper
Opinion Pools on the Death of Hinga Norman

Monday 26 February:



Opinion Poll

Who would you say is responsible for Norman's death?

Text: "S" for Special Court - "G" for Government or "H" for Hospital

To numbers 076-444444 or 030-445566

Your phone calls will not be answered text only please

Texts close Friday 2nd March. 2007

Last week's Results

40s - 18%

50s - 64%

60 - 18%

Tuesday 27 February:



Opinion Poll

Who would you blame for Norman's death?

Text: "S" for Special Court - "G" for Government or "H" for Hospital

To numbers 076-444444 or 030-445566

Your phone calls will not be answered text only please

Texts close Friday 2nd March. 2007

Results

Government - 100%

Special Court - 0%

Hospital - 0%

Wednesday 28 February:



Opinion Poll

Who would you blame for Norman's death?

Text: "S" for Special Court - "G" for Government or "H" for Hospital

To numbers 076-444444 or 030-445566

Your phone calls will not be answered text only please

Texts close Friday 2nd March. 2007

Results

Government - 100%

Special Court - 0%

Hospital - 0%

Thursday 1 March:



Opinion Poll

Who would you blame for Norman's death?

Text: "S" for Special Court - "G" for Government or "H" for Hospital

To numbers 076-444444 or 030-445566

Your phone calls will not be answered text only please

Texts close Friday 2nd March. 2007

Results

Government - 100%

Special Court - 0%

Hospital - 0%

Standard Times

Thursday, 1 March 2007

SLPP, Chief Norman and the Special Court

PART II

When news about the death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman was finally confirmed, as a media institution we tried to brainstorm in order to arrive at a possible conclusion as to what led to the chief's untimely demise from planet earth. I made the indications in yesterday's publication that this article is divided into three parts. This is the second part of the series; the final will be published on Friday. It is hoped that my readers will accommodate me especially at this time of grief. We are satisfied that internally as well as externally, there were wide condemnations regarding the treatment meted out on Chief Norman. The detention is without doubt the factor that contributed to the problem he suffered which eventually resulted into his death.

Since the death of Chief Norman I have been most time glued to my radio and greatly satisfied with the complimentary remarks made by a good number of Sierra Leoneans about his role in defending this nation and its people. He will be remembered by his compatriots not for anything but for what he stood for and achieved on behalf of his people. It is certainly true that people like Momoh Pujeh, Dr. Harry Will, Dr. Albert Joe Demby and a host of others would miss him just like any meaningful Sierra Leonean. They would miss him not because they were all colleagues but when they reflect the sufferings and the difficult conditions they went through in the bushes in their determination to free this nation from the claws of Foday Sankoh and his band wagon of rag-tag boys. Certainly several generals both in the Armed forces of this country and ECOMOG yet to be borne would have learnt about Chief Norman. This has to be so because the history of the Sierras Leone rebel war will have to survive for several years.

Following the death of Chief Norman an utterly annoying press statement was reportedly issued out by the Special Court. The statement by the UN Radio relayed that with the death of Chief Norman, the people of this country have been robbed of justice. Which people are robbed of justice? Who robbed the people of Justice? The SLPP government or the Special Court?

We have said, and will continue to say that the very establishment of the Special Court in this country was in itself a contravention of the wishes of the vast majority of Sierra Leoneans. What is the meaning of the Special Court to the suffering masses when Europeans,

SLPP, Chief Norman and the Special Court



President Kabbah and late Hinga Norman

Americans and other foreign nationals are repatriating the hard currencies to their places of birth?

How has the establishment of the Special Court improved the living conditions of the suffering masses?

outside the political arenas? Some have blamed the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) as being responsible for the death of the man.

Whosoever takes the blame, the fact of the matter is that Chief

When the issues are thoroughly reflected upon, one would be made to wonder about the degree of consciousness president Kabbah has attached to either the death of Norman or the relevance of the court. It is no sur-

“ Considering the situation it would be prudent and most significant not to allow any member of the Kabbah administration and anyone from the SLPP to get close to the home of the late man and the bereaved family ”

We will continue to insist that the establishment of the Special Court in this country was nothing but a mis-direction. The government would have requested for the funds and used them to improve the living standards of its people and not against the very people who fought for the liberation of Sierra Leone.

Since the death of Chief Norman, there have been the struggle of apportioning blames for the death of the late man; some have even blamed president Kabbah alleging that he calculated all the mathematical principles to get rid of Chief Norman

Norman is dead. However there is need to treat this matter with all degree of seriousness. Today, it is Chief Norman but are we certain who will be the next victim of either president Kabbah's trap or the SLPP betrayal?

Did Kabbah request for the Special Court without having control over it? If he has control over it how did he come to allow Chief Norman his one time friend, minister and the nation's rescuer to be indicted? Was Mr. President Kabbah not aware of the sacrificial role Chief Norman played in bringing back the SLPP government at the time it was thrown into political limbo?

prise therefore, that this nation has been plunged into disaster after disaster since president Kabbah shot to prominence.

However knowing who president Kabbah is and may be his personal reasons for making the request, one would just sit and wait for every dog has its day. But like the wise saying "That time has solution to every problem under the sun", president Kabbah's motive for requesting the Special Court will be made known in the not too distant future.

Since president Kabbah assumed political power to date the Sierra Leone Peoples Party has

not been able to survive as a political party. There is no unity, no love, no sharing and no sympathy among its members. It is like a jungle where everyone fights for survival.

What has been most painful is the fact that all those who played key roles in bringing president Kabbah to power have been rewarded negatively. Perhaps that largely account for the predicament in which Chief Norman found himself and was not able to go through it.

Where are the Dr. Albert Joe Dembys, the Momoh Pujehs, the Harry Wills, the Charles Margais, the Paul Dumbars, and the Mana Kpakas the list goes on. Where are all these people today? Were they rewarded positively or not for transforming president Kabbah, a status from a UN retiree to president of a nation, though less than five million. Where were all the SLPP members that could not do anything until the death of Chief Norman? Will they have the guts of visiting Chief Norman's family?

The question will be for what?.

For all that we know the SLPP made president Kabbah what he is today, an event that has occupied the pages of the history of this nation. Therefore it is not for us to ask whether he gained anything or not for being made president of a nation of people.

The question is, if president Kabbah was able to display some degree of ingratitude to the party by sending a letter to members of the party some months back, telling them that he was president of a nation and not a party, why blame him for demonstrating similar ingratitude to an individual who sacrificed his life and that of his entire family for restoring him to power?

While president Kabbah and some SLPP members were unable to come to the realization and appreciate the fact that Chief, Norman sacrificed his life to bring back the party and the former back to power, it was a white man, Peter Penfold that took up the issue and became very vociferous about what was done to the man that sacrificed so much to redeem his people.

Considering the situation it would be prudent and most significant not to allow any member of the Kabbah administration and anyone from the SLPP to get close to the home of the late man and the bereaved family.

The Spark
Thursday, 1 March 2007

'I'll Die For My Country'

-Sam Hinga Norman

By Isaac Randy Wright
When Retired Chief Samuel Hinga Norman swore under oath

that he was willing to spearhead the attack to ensure that Sierra Leone had lasting peace and

that he would wrench the nation from the grips of the modern Hitlers and Bokassas who had forcefully woke us up on that fate-

ful Sunday morning, May 25, 1997 to wreak terror of the highest order on poor innocent citizens - a deed which was to last forever in

our memories, many Sierra Leoneans did not give it a

Continued page 6

'I'll Die For My Country'

From front page

thought.

Here was a man who in March 1967 had manned the State House gates in the first ever coup in the country, a man who had ordered the arrest of Siaka Stevens, Ibrahim Taqi, the then Governor General Sir Henry Josiah Lightfoot Boston and heralded the ignominious David Lansana coup of 'Martial Law' fame, blasting Judas for betraying the hard won democracy in which an opposition had been declared winner in a democratically conducted general elections a few days earlier.

Indeed, from the much feared Captain in the army to the refined Chief, he got all the factions, loyal and patriotic fighting forces together and formed the Civil Defence Force to fight the renegades who had come like savages from the bush to turn decent people into zombies.

By then, our revered President who himself confessed that he had got wind of the coup plot THREE days earlier, had packed his accoutrements and

fled to his cousin, confidante and compatriot Lansana Conte in Guinea, leaving the millions of his subjects under the glaring claws of the savages. Each passing day brought untold misery and one hesitated to say goodnight fearing that one would not live to say good morning. All this while, President Kabbah was lounging in his mansion in Guinea barking over every electronic media that come what may, whether the country was inhabited by chickens, dogs or stones, he would return to rule the remains.

When Sam assembled his esprit de corps, he went with them straight to the bush to further train his local hunters, unlike our bosses who prefer the swivelling chair and airconditioned office. He coordinated his men and they became a counter force against the rebels and the renegade soldiers who were aptly renamed sobels.

This move by Chief Norman had the blessings of both the President and government which languished in the haven

of the capital Conakry and instructions and financial support came from the Executive desk. Norman walked miles from pillar to post mobilising his men, encouraging them to fight for love of country without adequate food, no bed, risking attacks by wild animals just to make sure sanity returned to Sierra Leone.

Finally, with the help of Maxwell Mitikishie Khobe and his gallant ECOMOG

forces the ferocious dogs were repelled and Sam Hinga Norman became a hero. To millions of Sierra Leoneans, his blurred past had been forgotten and forgiven. President Kabbah returned to Sierra Leone to enjoy the glories he never sweated for. He came with flowery speeches from the Roman gardens he never watered and gave promises as loŕg as Jack's Beanstalk.

Well, all that is past and over. Kabbah gave a thank you to Hinga in the form of ministerial posts firstly as Deputy Minister of Defence then as Internal Affairs Minister, a post he carried so well till 10th March,

2003 when he was picked up like a common criminal in his office at Liverpool Street in Freetown and bundled to the Special Court - a kangaroo court hurriedly agreed upon by the then Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Solomon Berewa in concert with the world's greatest hypocrites, the United Nations.

First to be booted out for his valiance was Dr. Albert Joe Demby, former Vice President, then with Sam Hinga Norman out of the way, the path was made clear for the hungry Solo Bee.

With all the powers vested in our Fountain of Honour, Father of the Nation, Grand Commander of the Armed Forces, nothing was done to secure the 'Winston Churchill' of Sierra Leone. He was totally abandoned - by his own people; the people he had given the crowns of glory!

Not a soul from the merry political band paid him a visit to just see how he was faring on. Even when he requested Pa Kabbah to testify in the proceedings, he refused.

He started complaining about his hip since 2003 but was never taken seriously. Well David Crane had promised that those detained at his kangaroo court will be lucky to see sunrise. Things got to a head when the ailment got worse and like the hypocrites they are, the Special Court sent Hinga off to Senegal to spend his last days.

As if he knew, he touched the tarmac, kissed the dust and bade Sierra Leone farewell and indeed he left us alive and now he has to be brought a martyr, a hero, another Amilcar Cabral, a Nelson Mandela.

To shock us further, President Kabbah has told the nation that Hinga was his friend and one of his best Ministers... What provocations, what mockery, what a glaring statement at a time like this when we needed Hinga most. The family is very much in place to close the door on each and every Tokpoi who would have wanted to shed crocodile tears while they smiled under the breath and say 'good riddance.'

Cocorioko website

Thursday, 1 March 2007

<http://www.cocorioko.net/HingaNormanfuneralfundhowtocontribute.html>

Chief Hinga Norman Takes Valuable Secrets With Him to His Grave?

By Wilfred Kabs-Kanu

Amidst the clamours of contending parties and supporters, it seems like former Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force (CDF) and also one-time Deputy Defence Minister, Chief Hinga Norman, took valuable secrets with him to eternity, after breathing his last in a Senegalese Hospital one week ago.

Robbed of the opportunity to face his former Defence Boss, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah live on the witness stand after the Special Court's Trial Chamber denied his subpoena on the President,, Norman did not really get down to the business of telling the world the role that President Kabbah played to help bring about the sequence of events that led to him (Norman) being indicted by the Special Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

According to some Hinga Norman loyalists, the chief, a consequential person, was waiting for a more opportuned time to tell his story. Loyalists told this newspaper that Norman was buoyant because he was always confident that he could have been found not guilty of the charges brought against him. He was said to have been awaiting his acquittal before telling the nation how President Kabbah and the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) failed him. It is said that there were things that Norman wanted to tell Kabbah but he never told anyone as he wanted to tell the President these things to his face.

It was also alleged that during the planning of the counter-attack against the military junta and rebels which overthrew the SLPP government in 1997, Kabbah gave Norman specific instructions while taking cover in Conakry, Guinea, some of which Norman used to successfully prosecute the war to bring back the SLPP government. Norman, the reports continued, had always looked forward to the day when he could have confronted Kabbah with these instructions, to find out why his government did not give him (Norman) the required immunity that could have shielded him from being indicted by any war crimes tribunal, knowing fully well that whatever he did as Deputy Defence Minister was fully known by Kabbah, the Defence Chief.

The other valuable secret that Norman is said to have refused to divulge until the appropriate time was the identity of certain top government and public officials who provided him full moral and financial support in his fight against the rebel soldiers and the RUF but who failed to stand up for him after he was indicted by the Special Court.

The chief's real political allegiance is also now being said to have been truly known only to himself, as he did not really quit the SLPP. Many Hinga Norman loyalists still do not believe in the authenticity of the letter from the indictees in which they declared for the People's Movement For Political Change (PMDC). Under intense scrutiny from COCORIOKO, these people failed to provide any credible facts to authenticate their belief that the document was fake. But they did not fail to draw many inferences from Hinga Norman's past history of being an unwavering man in whatever he did as to make anyone know that it was quite unlike him to have shifted his allegiance to another party just like that.

"Hinga Norman always stood for whatever he believed", said one of the New Jersey loyalists . "He was never a quitter. I want somebody to tell me when Chief Norman ever quit a battle or something he believed ". Hinga Norman was said to have been a man that never loved to be a loser and quitting the SLPP to join the PMDC, to him, was a kind of defeat that the true Hinga Norman would not accept. "It was more customary of him to have remained in the SLPP and defeated his rivals, instead of quitting the fray " .

They also pointed to a fact known to all that Norman loved the SLPP with a passion and could not have worked towards the downfall of the party, knowing the dent his joining the PMDC placed on the ability of the SLPP to win the elections. But were the Rev. Alfred SamForay group deceiving the public announcing to the world that Norman had joined the PMDC ?

Sierra Leone former Ambassador to the U.S, Mr. John Leigh, writing for the COCORIOKO FORUM from Freetown , also said today that Hinga Norman did not quit the SLPP. In his usual feisty and blunt style of writing, Leigh said : "You are both(Editor's note: Reference to Allieu Iscandari and Albert Moinina) dead wrong if you believe that Chief Norman ever defected to the PMDC. He never did. He died a committed member of the SLPP. Flunky PMDC is merely playing childish schoolboy pranks. They need to play pranks as they have no one reliable within. The group is led by a Form Four Flunky drop out who never completed high school. You both completed high school even if one or both funkied on the way. But each of you persevered to a successful completion. " Leigh demonstrated his closeness to the grieving Norman family : "My staying away from the forum has nothing to do with any purported defection by Sam Norman - as you both supposed. I am merely traveling inside Sierra Leone. Presently, I am spending time with the Norman Family and making preparations for a visit to Sam Norman's much beloved Mongheri, headquarters of Valunia Chiefdom, Bo District" .

Leigh also provided what sounded to him a good reason why Hinga Norman would not have quit the SLPP . The party, he contended, did nothing wrong to the chief. READ MORE : "For your information, SLPP did nothing wrong to Chief Norman. In fact, months before he died, Chief Norman recognized this fact and issued a detail statement through his attorney of record to make it clear to the whole country that he could never hold the SLPP responsible for his unfortunate situation. The Normans are not the only SLPPers suffering. I am a member of the SLPP. I spent a chunk of my family's money to reverse the AFRC coup and have the elected government re-instated. We were highly successful in getting this job done. The first ever in Africa. Yet the Government has still not paid me the \$90,000. balance - 10 years after those events. Others beside Chief Norman and myself are suffering terribly. It is the government that is punishing us, NOT the SLPP. The SLPP is itself suffering terribly but has begun to make much needed reforms."

The only mystery none of these loyalists have been able to resolve and which is working in favor of the Rev. SamForay group presently is why no member of the Norman family--Neither his wife, nor his son or outspoken daughter, Juliet --ever came out swinging that the story about the chief joining the PMDC was false. Knowing how much the SLPP was embedded in the lives and essence of the South/Eastern people, this was a major announcement that impacted tremendously not only on the chief's future then, but the place of the Norman family in the extended family system represented by the SLPP. That such a falsehood, as the loyalists would want us believe, would have been perpetuated without any comment emanating from the Norman family was and is still strange.

But there are people who would swear on their Poro Society that Norman did not discuss everything with Samforay and that with regards to his real political allegiance the chief kept it close to his chest. The loyalists argued that the truth would have been known when the Chief

would have returned to Sierra Leone from his treatment in Senegal. He was supposed to have made a major statement, they said. And SLPP supporters were anxiously awaiting that statement. But then, the chief died suddenly.

With all these claims and counter-claims, it is easier for some people to speculate that Chief Norman really took some valuable secrets with him to his grave. True or false, one thing remains certain : all that is going on demonstrate the mystique that was the man Sam Hinga Norman. Even in death, he is making more waves than the living.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 28 February 2007

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

International Clips on Liberia

VOA 28 February 2007

Liberia: Government Bans a Newspaper for One Year

The Liberian government Tuesday banned The Independent newspaper from publishing for one year. The government has been criticized for hastily closing the paper. But information minister Lawrence Bropleh said the paper exposed Liberian children to pornography by publishing the nude picture of former minister of state for presidential affairs Willis Knuckles having sex with two women.

Norway Post 28.02.2007 07:25

Norway to Cancel Parts of Liberia's Debts

Norway will provide NOK 68 million (USD 11 million) towards an international debt cancellation initiative for Liberia. This was announced by Minister of International Development Erik Solheim. Liberia has developed in a positive direction since the peace agreement was entered into in 2003. The international donor community must provide further resources if this trend is to continue. Cancelling Liberia's debts to the international financial institutions is key and I am pleased to announce that Norway will contribute significant funds to the cancellation of Liberia's debts, commented Mr Solheim.

Liberia Watch Calls on U.S. Congress to Provide \$195 Million in Aid

Feb 27, 2007 (Liberia Watch/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Following last month's visit to Washington by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a coalition of Africa-focused organizations in the United States have appealed to Congress to provide \$195 million in funding for Liberia's most urgent needs.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea's new premier vows broad consensus cabinet

By Saliou Samb

CONAKRY, Feb 28 (Reuters) - Guinea's new Prime Minister Lansana Kouyate vowed to build a broad consensus cabinet and stick closely to a power-sharing deal which ended a two-week strike against President Lansana Conte's 23-year rule. Conte named respected diplomat Kouyate as prime minister on Monday from a list of candidates presented by unions, which in turn ended their strike on Tuesday in the world's largest bauxite exporter.

President Obasanjo's Special Envoy Brokers Peace in Guinea

Abuja, Feb 28, 2007 (Nigeria First/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --General Ibrahim Babangida (rtd), on February 27 successfully brokered a peace deal to end the crisis in

Guinea. The Senior Special Assistant to the President (Media) Mrs. Oluremi Oyo in a Press release, stated that the peace deal was sequel to consultations.

Local Media – Newspaper

Journalists Detest Newspaper Closure for Publishing Absurd Material

(The News, The Inquirer, The Informer, The Analyst, National Chronicle, Heritage, Public Agenda, New Vision and New Democrat)

- In its press release issued yesterday, the Press Union of Liberia detested the arbitrary suspension of the permit and closure of *The Independent* newspaper for re-publishing the “infamous” pornographic picture of former State for Presidential Affairs Minister Willis Knuckles in a sex orgy with two women.
- The Government, announcing the closure of the paper for one year, said that no one was allowed to transact business with it and specifically called on printers not to print the paper in question. But, *The Independent’s* publisher, Mr. Sam O. Dean, in a telephone interview, told the *New Democrat* that he was yet to be notified about the ban imposed on his paper.
- In their editorials, *The Inquirer* and *The News* enjoined the Executive Branch of government not to be unilateral in its reaction to the violation, supposedly committed by *The Independent* as the justice system must be allowed to work in this regard.

Government Begins Demolition of Makeshift Structures in the Capital

(The Informer, Daily Observer and New Democrat)

- Acting on President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf’s determination to enforce the zoning laws, bulldozers yesterday went into action demolishing makeshift stalls around the new Ministry of Defense complex in Congo Town. But the squatters, whose derelict structures were being destroyed, allegedly rained insults on the Police and Defense Ministry designees who were sent to supervise the exercise.

Government Nets over US\$500m from Donors

(The Informer, The Inquirer, The News and Daily Observer)

- Addressing a news conference in Monrovia yesterday, Finance Minister Antoinette Sayeh announced that from goodwill of its international partners, the Government netted more than US\$500 million during the Partnership Forum on Liberia in Washington D.C.

President Johnson-Sirleaf Meets Visiting UN Executives

(The Analyst)

- An Executive Mansion release said that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday, Tuesday, met with the visiting Executive Board members of some United Nations agencies and re-echoed her Government’s determination to provide affordable education and health-care services, create jobs and ensure sufficiency in food production.

UN Peacekeepers Donate Skills Training Gears to Impaired Females

(The Inquirer, New Vision, Public Agenda and Tidings)

- Presenting sewing machines and their accessories to some impaired females in Monrovia which were donated by the Signal Unit of the Nigerian Contingent of UNMIL yesterday, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss said that disability was not inability and hailed the Association of the Disabled Female International in Liberia for not relegating its members to begging.
- Meanwhile, UNMIL’s Public Information Community Outreach Officer Ousman Sankoh told *Tidings* that a sports tournament dubbed: “Sports for Peace” organized by Liberia’s Youth and Sports Ministry and the Mission, would be launched in Monrovia on

Friday with UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sports for Development and Peace, Mr. Adolf Ogi in attendance.

World Bank Supports Government Emergency Projects

(Heritage)

- The World Bank has provided US\$16.5 million towards Government's Emergency Infrastructure Project Supplemental Component, US\$7 million of which would be used on urban development projects such as improving the sanitary condition in Monrovia and strengthening the Monrovia City Corporation as well as rehabilitating some rural and Monrovia city roads.

Lawmakers Grant "Sick Leave" to Colleague

(National Chronicle)

- The House of Representatives yesterday granted to Representative Edwin Snowe, a sick leave for 6 weeks following a request for the time to seek medical attention.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

Government Declares Major Bridge Unsafe

- A Ministry of Public Works statement issued in Monrovia yesterday said the Stockton Creek Bridge, commonly known as Caldwell Bridge, is experiencing a serious structural failure and declared the bridge closed to trucks and other heavy vehicles or equipment.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Government Revokes Newspaper License for Publishing Obscene Material

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

World Bank Supports Government Emergency Infrastructure Projects

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Deputies Grant "Sick Leave" to Colleague

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

BBC Online

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6404467.stm>

Darfur war crimes suspect defiant

Sudan's humanitarian affairs minister, accused of war crimes in Darfur by the International Criminal Court (ICC), has said the move against him is political.

Ahmed Haroun said he "did not feel guilty", his conscience was clear and that he was ready to defend himself.

The ICC accuses Mr Haroun and a Janjaweed militia leader, known as Ali Kushayb, of 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.



Ahmed Haroun was responsible for Darfur in 2003 and 2004

Some 200,000 people have died in the four-year conflict in Darfur.

"I am not worried at all and I do not feel guilty because I acted within the legal framework and in accordance with the general interest," Mr Haroun told AFP news agency.

Mr Haroun was the former interior minister in charge of Darfur and according to the ICC was responsible for organising and funding the Arab militia known as the Janjaweed.

Ali Kushayb is accused of ordering the murder, torture and mass rape against innocent civilians during attacks on villages near Kodoom, Bindisi Mukjar and Arawala in west Darfur.

Next steps

The United States has urged Sudan to co-operate fully with the ICC, but Sudan says it will not hand over the two suspects as the ICC has no jurisdiction to try its citizens and its courts are capable of prosecuting the suspects.

ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo asked judges to issue summonses for the two men, saying there was reason to believe they bore "criminal responsibility for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur in 2003 and 2004".

The attackers, he said, "did not target any rebel presence. Rather they targeted civilian residents based on the rationale that they were supporters of the rebel forces".

The strategy, Mr Moreno-Ocampo added, "became the justification for the mass murder, summary execution and mass rape of civilians who were known not to be participant in any armed conflict".

He said, "Ahmad Haroun visited Darfur on a regular basis and became known to people in Darfur as the official from Khartoum who recruits, staffs and arms the Janjaweed.



"The evidence shows that Ahmad Haroun provided arms for the Janjaweed from a budget that was unlimited and not publicly audited."

ICC judges will now have to decide whether to open an inquiry against the suspects with the

aim of issuing international arrest warrants, after Mr Moreno-Ocampo filed evidence against the two suspects.

More than 2m civilians have fled their homes, with most now staying in insecure camps supported by humanitarian agencies, who complain of frequent harassment from the Sudanese authorities.

Aid agencies are now said to be assessing how viable their operations may be following the ICC's intervention.

BBC Online

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6401607.stm>

ICC claims further isolate Sudan

By Jonah Fisher

BBC News, Khartoum

No-one had expected the International Criminal Court (ICC) to be quite as bold.

In naming Ahmed Haroun, a government minister, as a war crimes suspect the ICC has transformed a long-running disagreement with Khartoum into a head-on collision.

For four years the Sudanese government has denied backing the Janjaweed militia. But the message from ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo is clear.



Mr Haroun is still a Sudanese government minister

He has evidence that Darfur's worst atrocities were orchestrated by the Sudanese government through Mr Haroun and not the actions of rogue Arab militia.

As the minister responsible for the Darfur portfolio in 2003 and 2004 Mr Haroun was regularly in Darfur.

According to the ICC he was recruiting, funding and personally arming the Arab Janjaweed militia and encouraging them to target civilians.

The ICC says that during a public meeting in 2003, Mr Haroun said that as part of his job he had been given "all the power and authority to kill or forgive whoever in Darfur for the sake of peace and security."

'Colonel of colonels'

Ahmad Haroun is still a minister in the Sudanese government.

As minister of state at the ministry of humanitarian affairs Mr Haroun is now part of a department that is supposed to help Darfur's two million war displaced.

In practice the ministry infuriates Sudan's many aid agencies by imposing visa and permit restrictions on their work.

The other man named is Darfur militia leader Ali Kushayb. At the peak of his powers Ali Kushayb was one of the most powerful of Darfur's commanders.

A so-called "colonel of colonels", Mr Kushayb commanded thousands of men in mid-2003.

According to the ICC, Mr Kushayb ordered his men to mass rape, kill and torture the local population.



Luis Moreno Ocampo's report is the result of 21 months of research

Under its terms of reference the ICC can only step in when a country's judicial system has proved unwilling or incapable of putting people on trial.

Mr Kushayb is thought to already be in the custody of the Sudanese government for attacks committed in Darfur but Mr Moreno-Ocampo said his evidence related to different incidents.

'One-sided'

Despite numerous reports of human rights abuses committed by Darfur's rebel movements none of their leaders were named by Mr Moreno-Ocampo.

For the Sudanese government that will be seen as further confirmation of the one-sided attitude that they believe the international community has taken to the conflict.

Sudan's president regularly complains that rebel ceasefire violations are not condemned with the same severity as government attacks.

There is little prospect of either Ahmad Haroun or Ali Kushayb appearing in court soon.

Sudan has always maintained that its own courts are capable of trying Darfur's war criminals.

"We would never accept that any Sudanese national stand trial outside the national legal framework," Justice Minister Ali al-Mardi said, "even if he was among those who took up arms and fought against the government."



Mr al-Mardi dismissed the allegations against his fellow minister.

He said that Mr Haroun had been in charge of the police service and had never handed out money or weapons to the militia in Darfur.

New approach

In recent weeks the African Union and the United Nations had taken an increasingly conciliatory stance towards Sudan.

Special envoys visited and, despite evidence of continued government bombing, praised Khartoum's expressed commitment to a negotiated not a military settlement.

Being positive was all part of a new effort to re-energise the peace process and try and achieve a new ceasefire on the ground.

But that may count for little now.

By linking the government directly to Darfur's worst atrocities, ICC prosecutors may have finally shattered Sudan's fragile relationship with the international community.

Aid agencies and UN operations are already assessing what Mr Moreno-Ocampo's words mean for their safety of their operations.

Special Court Supplement
Issa Sesay's Return to the Special Court after medical treatment in Senegal, 1 March 2007



