

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



“Bullom Boat”, historic postcard of Freetown by Woermann & Co.

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:

Monday, 1 October 2007

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

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The Spectator
Monday, 1 October 2007

Will Special Court indict Kabbah?



Pa Kabbah

Some Sierra Leoneans are still speculating as to whether the Special Court may try the former President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah for alleged crimes against humanity. The

indictment of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondowa did not go down well with many Sierra Leoneans. They imagine

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Will Special Court indict Kabbah?

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as to why Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was not tried along side with the Kondowa and others because according to reports Kabbah was not only a financier but an adviser to the Chief Norman. Things became worst when it was announced that Chief Hinga Norman had died while in custody of the Special Court. Allieu Kondowa and Moinina Fofana will soon be sent to jail for defending their mother land.

The fact that Sierra Leoneans want the former President to be indicted shows how much he was involved in the destruction of this nation. A worker at the Special Court (who preferred anonymity) said it will be difficult to indict the former President although it

is still possible that certain clauses may hold him responsible for certain odds that went on during his reign as president.

Getting the news of Sierra Leoneans in Bo, Kenema and Kailahun, Mrs. Mamie Gibao in Kailahun said she would appreciate it in deed if the Special Court would indict the former president. Anthony Bio in a furious mood said Hinga Norman sacrificed his life in order to set Sierra Leone free. "When Chief Norman was fighting Pa Kabbah was saying nice things about him what ever the Chief wanted he would provide for him, nobody knew he will turn his back from him. Pa Kabbah was bold enough to see that Chief Norman is silenced."

Standard Times
Monday, 1 October 2007

Special Court trial...

Judgment Day for CDF

BY IBRAHIM BARRIE

The two remaining Special Courts indictees - Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa will this morning know their fates when their sentences are read to them. The prosecution counsel had recommended for long jail terms for the

two former CDF fighters while the defence counsel pleaded for lesser jail terms considering that the two accused have spent four years in custody.

The trial of the third RUF indictee Chief Samuel Hinga Norman was

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Judgment Day for CDF

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discontinued after the CDF Coordinator died while on medical treatment at a military hospital in Senegal. The UN-backed Special Court has already sentenced the AFRC indictees. The Special Court

is expected to continue with the trial of the third and final group-RUF.

Immediately after the sentencing today, the Prosecutor Stephen Rapp will conduct a press conference.

The Spark
Monday, 1 October 2007

Final Verdict Today

BY HASSAN Y. KOROMA
The final verdict of the Special
Court of Sierra Leone in the

case of the Prosecutor ver-
sus Civil Defence leaders,
Moinina Fofana and Allieu

Kondowa will be decided
today Monday 1st Octo-
ber 2007.

According to the Prosecu-
tor, Mr. Stephen Rapp the
Special Court will do its ut-
most to bring the necessary
information to the people of
Sierra Leone.

He maintained that it is the
mandate of the court to bring
to justice those who bore
the greatest responsibility
for atrocities committed in
Sierra Leone after 30 No-

vember 1996. The Special
Court, he said is an independent
tribunal established by the United
Nations and the Government of
Sierra Leone and they will not
leave any stone unturned during
the prosecution.

The prosecutor has indicted
eleven persons on various
charges of war crimes, crimes
against humanity, and other seri-
ous violations.

Cocorioko

Monday, 1 October 2007

Sierra Leone: Reconciliation without Truth and Justice is a Farce

By Joseph S. Sherman, Washington, DC

Tears and the emotional trauma of mourning, anger, and psychological torture are now an indelible part of the families of those killed by members of the NPRC Junta when they overthrew the APC government of the late President Joseph Saidu Momoh. The killings are not only selective but were directed to progressive northerners like Colonel Cawuta Dumbuya, Bambay kamara et al. Notwithstanding the vindictiveness in which these selective murders were carried out with impunity, the out-going SLPP government under the directives of former vice president, Solomon Berewah, inflamed the situation by ordering the summary executions of 24 soldiers most of whom are northerners, in spite of the international community asking for restraint.

Today we see the perpetrators of these heinous crimes in the likes of Maada Bio, Tom N'yumah et al, hypocritically extending an olive branch to President Ernest Koroma as a show of allowing bye-gone- be- bye-gone.

The Special Court in Sierra Leone, under ex-president Kabbah's regime did well to investigate and prosecute human rights abusers during the civil crisis in Sierra Leone. In the same vein, if peace, reconciliation and unity are to prevail in Sierra Leone, the government of Ernest Koroma should set up a truth and reconciliation commission to investigate members of undemocratic regimes like the NPRC that carried out summary execution of Sierra Leoneans without due process of law and the SLPP's government wanton and summary execution of 24 soldiers in disregard for the sanctity of human life. After all ex-president Kabbah's Special Court was constituted to investigate the AFRC and Kamarjors that helped to install him in power.

The notion of truth is a complex one. There are at the same time facts which, however explained or interpreted, need to be acknowledged. People were murdered, maimed, and brutalized for little more than their political views.

Reconciliation, however, is more than sentimentality. It involves more than tears. It is never cheap. It is something that needs to be earned. It can never be assumed. It takes time. This inclines some to balk at the emotional words associated with public apologies. The relatives of those viciously killed during the NPRC regime and the SLPP government spearheaded by ex-vice president Berewah are day in day out crying for justice and the rule of law to prevail.

Reconciliation does not take place in a vacuum, and perhaps not simply across a table or in a confessional booth. The requirements of justice and sustainable peace are not reduced to apologizing or learning to apologize, to forgive and accept forgiveness, etc. Nor are they the product of "training" and the external injections or "capacity-building" for peace.

Unlike personal conflicts, structural ones are not subject to healing and closure, at least not in the same fashion. The emphasis is neither on conflict closure nor ending the grievance, but on conflict transformation and the construction of equity. The differences should be apparent, and apples should not be compared to oranges, however the sometimes insidious introduction of the reconciliation notion into international and social issues obliges us to insist on clarity.

Even in the case of a purely internal solution, it would be equally naïve however well meaning to presume that the change in heart will mark a change in history. It may well be that without a change in heart there will be no sustainable peace, and that reconciliation as a heart felt or attitudinal phenomena is an important factor. Yet we do not wish to fall into a reductionism exercise where by hearts are posed to win over minds and that minds will win over structures: the dubious proposition that a change in every individual heart translates into a change in society and social organization.

There is naïve sense of political correctness attached in the “search for common ground” and worse yet, accompanied as it is by impatience and power, can have counterproductive effects. No justice, no reconciliation, and no peace: a simple answer to those that believe that reconciliation can substitute for the others, along with pompous self-congratulating discourse of new legality (amnesties) or stability (negotiated peace). Forgiveness is not enough because the world is ruled or is supposed to be ruled more by a state of legality than one of morality. Most worrisome, in our day and age, is the apparent retreat of morality by way of the pseudo-reconciliation discourse leaving legality to flounder and become “holier than the Pope”. Turning the moral consciousness of the unacceptable into law has and continues to be a driving force of humanistic advocacy, particularly in the face of the multiple atrocities witnessed over the course of the last few years- justice taking the form of law and universal norms. But is some of the misplaced concern with reconciliation pushing both law and justice to retreat along the path of impunity and unaccountability? Here lies the heart of the matter.

Our concern here is not only the denial of justice to the victims, but its denial to society and future generation. Must the movement against impunity clash with the movement for reconciliation? Or if we do not wish to counter pose terms, then we ask which path toward real justice, real repentance, real restitution and therefore real reconciliation? The question must be framed properly, and failure to do so will only add to legal and moral confusion undermining the much needed will to take clear and committed stances on the issue of peace and peace building

Justice Initiative

Friday, 28 September 2007

Press Release

Justice Initiative Urges Release of Khmer Rouge Court

Additional Steps Needed to Prevent Corruption at ECCC

New York, September 28, 2007—The Open Society Justice Initiative today called for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to make public the full audit report on personnel management at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). The ECCC must take this opportunity to actively demonstrate its commitment to maintaining a corruption-free court, according to the Justice Initiative.

The UNDP, which oversees donor funds earmarked for the Cambodian side of the ECCC, today released a summary of the audit, which was conducted earlier this year. That summary identifies significant challenges facing the court, including serious irregularities in the hiring and evaluation of Cambodian ECCC staff.

However, the summary fails to shed light on important questions about the audit, including whether (or how) auditors investigated allegations that Cambodian ECCC staff had to kick back portions of their salaries in exchange for their jobs. Only a public release of the full audit report will allow the public—and donor states—to identify which issues still need to be addressed in order to secure the integrity of the court.

"Regardless of the scope of the audit report, this is an important moment for the ECCC to demonstrate its commitment to transparency and ability to sustain the trust of those who must help it succeed in its historic task," said Robert O. Varenik, acting executive director of the Open Society Justice Initiative. "The ECCC introduced a code of conduct this week prohibiting staff from receiving or soliciting payments beyond their salaries, but further steps are needed to eliminate the possibility for corrupt practices to exist in the future."

"Anti-corruption measures are a basic requirement for the integrity of any judicial institution and the best anti-corruption practices of other international courts should be adapted for use at the ECCC," said Varenik.

The Justice Initiative also urged donors to recognize the important role they have to play in helping the court operate transparently, efficiently, and effectively by:

- Actively overseeing public monies spent by the ECCC;
- Conditioning future funding on improvements in the court's operations, including targeted measures designed to combat corruption.

"The ECCC has made great strides in the past few months with the adoption of the internal rules and two high profile arrests," said Varenik. "Now, it is up to the United Nations, donor states and the court to swiftly address transparency, management, and efficiency concerns to make sure that justice can be effectively delivered to the Cambodian people."