

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



Lamina Sankoh Street, empty of traffic on a Sunday morning. Who was Lamina Sankoh? See today's *'Special Court Supplement'*.

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Thursday, 10 April 2008

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

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Awoko

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## **“RUF were engaged in attacking Liberia”** **- Witness told court**

In his evidence at the Special Court yesterday on the trial of the former president of Liberia Charles Taylor the prosecution witness has told the court how Revolutionary United Front (RUF) aided the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) in attacking Vonjama.

Giving his evidence in English the witness who was a radio operator for the RUF disclosed that the first attack on Foya, Vonjama and Golahun was led by Morris Kallon.

As these towns had been cut off from the RUF and NPFL this battle he said was not successful but Kallon stayed in Liberia until an announcement was made for him to return and join the AFRC in Freetown.

He added that Kallon later returned after the coup.

Continuing his evidence the witness said that after the disarmament, the road became free again and then in 1993, they entered Liberia, when fighting was going on in Liberia, the

RUF fighters were looking for AWOL soldiers whom they take to Sankoh's house.

He went on in 1999, operation 'Vulture' was launched and this was the second attack on Vonjama which was led by the RUF and included fighters of AFL.

This attack was successful and after the attack the RUF did not return but stayed there for a month.

The witness said that a good number of the RUF were engaged in looting of goods including radio sets and transportation of these goods without orders from the commander.

The radio which was brought he said was used by Sam Bockarie.

The third attack which was made on Vonjama was done with Benjamin Yete as the commander and after this attack the RUF started looting again.

Benjamin Yet asked the RUF to leave because looting was not part of their plan as they were fighting in the interest of the government of Liberia and so the RUF returned to Foya and left Vonjama and later the insurgents attacked Vonjama from the

RUF end.

Questioned by Mohamed Bangura of the prosecution about the fourth attack which took place in 2000, the witness said that Superman was called upon for this attack, and he came to know about this when '50' called on General Issa to send him a strong commander for this attack.

So Superman was sent to Foya and reported to '50' and Superman was made the overall commander of this fight.

The RUF fought alongside the AFL, SOD, and the SSS who were also jungle fighters.

The witness disclosed that Vonjama was captured and immediately Superman returned to Sierra Leone.

The radio operator also told the court that Superman always sends a message about the situation of the war to General Issa and he used to receive it and then translate them and inform General Issa.

Trial continues today.

Standard Times  
Thursday, 10 April 2008

# Acting Prisons Director outlines reform plans

*BY SANTIGIE KAMARA*

The Acting Director of the Sierra Leone Prison Services, Mr. Moses A. Showers has outlined a reform package he plans to introduce in his administration.

Speaking to Standard Times this week, he confirmed that he has submitted to Government, a work plan that will reform the state of the prison services in the country.

According to Showers, the plan targets improving the management of prison services especially the status of the inmates and prison officers. He confirmed that Pademba Road Prison is congested; therefore, the plan forwarded to government will address constructing a modern prison facility based on international standards.

Over the years, the prison services suffered the worst in terms of management and human rights which have caused people to anticipate that the prisons were hell rather than a place for correctional mea-



asures. "The Sierra Leone prison services will be an open door department where everybody will come in with a positive output" maintained Showers who disclosed plans to decentralize the services manned by various directors countrywide. Like the Sierra Leone Police, the prison services would soon be divided into sub-directors for transparency, accountability and effective output.

Mr. Showers express his profound gratitude to the government for appointing him to act as the new director of prisons. In a confident mood, Mr. Showers assured the government and the people of Sierra Leone he will live up to their expectations.

Since he assumed office a week ago, many prison staffs said his relationship with them has been cordial.

Awoko

Thursday, 10 April 2008

# Prison Watch Donates To Female Prisoners

*By Solomon Rogers*

A local non-governmental organization 'Prison Watch- Sierra Leone' has donated a huge consignment of humanitarian items to ameliorate the

deplorable condition of female prisoners at the maximum security Pademba Road Prisons in Freetown.

The items include 40 mattresses, 40 blankets, 4 dozen slippers, 1 baby walker and 2 bags of used clothing.

The Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and Local Government Hadiru Kaloko said government was aware of all the problems confronting the prisons and disclosed that plans are in the pipe line to address those problems and to even relocate some of the prisoners.

He said male prisoners outnumber female prisoners all over the world but noted that the number of female prisoners is fast growing throughout the country.

The Commissioner and Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission, Jamesina King said her organization was concerned about the numerous human rights violations.

She therefore called on government, through the local government ministry to provide facilities at the detention centre.

She maintained that the judiciary has a vital role to play as most inmates or detainees are either on trial or awaiting trial.

She pointed out that the detention centres are overcrowded and lack most of the basic amenities ranging from lack of bedding to basic medical facilities.

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## Prison Watch Donates To Female Prisoners

*From Page 2*

"These prolonged trials either by lack of resources or otherwise by the judiciary could be a factor for the crowding of these prisons" she opined.

Before he handed over the gesture to the prison administration, the Programme Coordinator Prison Watch Mambu Feika stated that "it is an open secret that Sierra Leone prisons do not meet basic human standards." He said they are doing their best to improve on the lives of prisoners especially the female prisoners who constitute the

most vulnerable group, adding that the primary and principal responsibility of assisting prisoners rest on government.

He disclosed that a couple of days ago, they donated some 18 dozen soap to prisons, but observed that government should not continue to hire contractors to supply soap to prisons, as prisoners were now well trained to manufacture soap for themselves.

"We will continue to monitor prisons until government turns attention to the plight of these prisoners" he said.

Receiving the gesture, the acting

services to the prisoners.

Director of Prisons M.A Showers recalled that there had been an outstanding working relationship with the Prison Watch, through monitoring and rendering other meaningful

He said the monitoring exercise undertaken by Prison Watch was in place, as it would keep them on their toes. He however pleaded with other organizations to emulate Prison Watch-Sierra Leone.



Standard Times  
Thursday, 10 April 2008

## Prison Watch donates to Prison Services

*BY SANTIGIE KAMARA*

Prison Watch Sierra Leone has donated on Wednesday 9th April a large consignment of goods to the Sierra Leone Prison Services. The occasion attracted human rights organizations, civil societies, the press and senior members of the Sierra Leone Prison Services in full attendance. The Deputy Minister of Local Government, Mr. Adiru Kalakoh said the significance of the occasion was the swift change of the authority at the Sierra Leone Prison Services. The minister noted the situation of the prisons in the country and assured that the gov-

ernment is committed to changing things better, one of which plans is to relocate the Pademba Road Prisons to an ideal place constructed on international standards.

On behalf of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, the Chairperson, Jamestina King said she was proud of Prison Watch's gesture, and called on the government to come to the aid of the prisons conditions in the country. She also urged the judiciary to speedily expedite the trials in its domain thereby avoiding unnecessary delays and congestions in prisons.

Mr. Mambu Faiķa of Prison Watch told the gathering that

the donation was made by a philanthropist that has expressed her desire to help inmates after a brief visit at the Pademba Road Prison.

In all, total donation was 40 mattresses and beds, slippers, soaps and used clothing provided by others such as Mrs. Memunatu Pratt. In their investigations over the conditions of prisoners, Prison Watch discovered that prisoners aside from being perpetrators of crimes yet are creative. It was therefore urged that the present administration should stop exploiting government resources through the contracts they receive on behalf of the services.

The Acting Director of the Sierra Leone Prison Services, Mr. Moses Showers expressed profound gratitude to Prison Watch Sierra Leone for the donation. He assured that the goods will be used for the intended purpose. The Acting Director gave a retrospective view of the Prisons Services when he said his administration inherited many loopholes that need urgent help. "I pledged to improve the conditions of the prison services in line with the minimal rules of international standards", said Showers, who appealed to humanitarian organizations to emulate Prison Watch's example and help save prisoners.

New Democrat (Liberia)  
Wednesday, 9 April 2008

# After Blah Who's Next?

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## In The Court's Subpoena Net



BENJAMIN YEATEN      DANIEL CBEA      ROLAND DUO      MOMO GIBBA

The image is a newspaper page layout. At the top, the text 'New Democrat (Liberia)' and 'Wednesday, 9 April 2008' is printed. The main headline is 'After Blah Who's Next?' in large, bold, black letters. Below this, a sub-headline reads 'In The Court's Subpoena Net' in yellow text on a black background. To the right of the main headline is a graphic of a hand pointing to a page icon with the text 'PAGE 8'. Below the headlines are four black and white photographs of men, each with a caption underneath. From left to right: Benjamin Yeaten (wearing a military-style cap with stars), Daniel Cbea (talking on a mobile phone), Roland Duo (speaking into a microphone), and Momo Gibba (in profile). The entire layout is framed by a yellow border.



## Who's Next?

The Sierra Leone Special Court's subpoena ordering former President Moses Blah to appear before it is sending signals that it can drag any of those mentioned in the case as prime participants been before it. Already, several names have been mentioned.

But Blah, who served as Taylor's ambassador to Libya during the height of the war, is seen by some as holding some secrets the Court needs, just as those of his comrades still lingering with deep secrets of the war.

During the evidence gathering stage in the case, reports of fear gripped those linked to the Sierra Leone operations. There were warnings against giving testimony against the Accused. One of the prosecution's witnesses now in hiding, Varmuyan Sheriff, told the Court that former NPFL General Roland Duo warned he and others against testifying. He said:

Sheriff said he was along with Roland Duo. "We spent a week with Yeaten in Togo, then went to Taylor in Calabar."

Def: Were you as close to the president as Roland Duo?

Wit: No.

Sheriff said those sought to testify, because of their knowledge via participation in the war, were apprehensive. He told the Court:

"From 2004, and when I was being interviewed by the Special Court. I told them I fear for my life and my family. Until 2007, when my family was threatened by Roland Duo and NPFL supporters, and that if I was going to testify, they needed to get me out of there first.

"Roland Duo called us to a meeting. He said some people were coming from the Special Court. He said we should be very careful. He said they called him and he switched off his phone because they didn't want to talk to them. He said they were coming for information what happened during the Taylor time.

Defence lawyers confronted Sheriff: "Are you saying you were initially reluctant to speak to them?"

"I was skeptical. I didn't know what their mission was because of the information Duo gave us. Duo moved most of us into fright. He said they were calling people on their phones asking for meetings. Most people were running from one place to another. Most people changed their SIM cards".

Another witness, Gen. Abu Keita, who enlisted in nearly all the rebel factions, said Bockarie's brother and sister told him that Yeaten killed Bockarie, his wife, his children, and his mother. Bockarie's brother told him that Yeaten killed Bockarie to destroy any evidence that could come before the Special Court.

Several other names have been featured at the trial while others such as former Defence Minister Daniel Chea, are scarce. But with the Blah factor, it now seems that subpoena powers may reach many.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
9 April 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Ghana's High Court Issues Stay Order on 'Deportation' of Liberian Refugees**

(National Chronicle, Heritage, Public Agenda, The News)

- The Ghanaian High Court Tuesday issued a stay order on further 'deportation' of Liberian refugees from Ghana. The Court's decision follows legal arguments into the deportation case filed by two Ghanaian human rights groups.
- The stay order would remain in force until next Monday when the hearing will resume into the case. At the same time, the Liberian Senate drew attention to security concerns expressed by the Ghanaian community in Liberia. The Ghanaian community recently reported threats of reprisal following venomous comments by several groups including the Forum for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court in Liberia calling for reciprocal action against them if Liberian refugees supposedly held in the custody of the Ghanaian government were not released.

**Body of 'Murdered' Victim to be Exhumed for Third Autopsy**

(Heritage, The Informer, Public Agenda)

- Media reports suggest that all is now set to exhume the decomposed remains of Angel Togba to undergo a third autopsy and DNA examination by three foreign forensic pathologists next week.
- Angel was found hanging dead last November in the bathroom of her guardians, Han Williams and his fiancée Mardea Paykue. The two are held in connection with the murder.
- A first autopsy conducted on the body ruled out any foul play while the second discovered that she was sexually abused before being strangled to death. But defence lawyers discredited the second autopsy report and opted for a third autopsy and DNA examination at the expense of their clients.

**Students Stage Violent Protest to Demand New School Building**

(The New Liberia, The Inquirer, New Democrat, Heritage, Daily Observer)

- The Liberia National Police and the Jordanian Formed Police Unit of UNMIL on Tuesday used crowd control devices to disperse scores of protesting students on a major highway leading to the Roberts International Airport.
- Students of the Kendeja High School staged a violent demonstration Tuesday claiming that the Government, through the Ministry of Information, had failed to provide a new school building for them to continue their studies.
- The premises of the Kendeja Culture Centre which played host to the school were recently leased to an American billionaire [Bob Johnson] for the purpose of building a four-star hotel. Information Ministry Laurence Bropleh had said the government was relocating the culture centre because the amount of acres of land originally bought to expand the center had been encroached upon. But the protesting students argued that the government should have made alternative plans for them before carrying out the relocation exercise.
- In the wake of Tuesday's demonstration, the Daily Observer newspaper suspect that a senior official at the Information Ministry might be dismissed for 'misleading' the President on the matter.

## Radio Summary

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

### **Government Agrees to Exhume Body of “Murdered” 13-Year Old Girl for Autopsy**

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

### **Kendeja Students Protest, Set Up Road Blocks**

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

### **Lawmakers worried over Threats of Reprisals against Ghanaians**

- Members of the House of Senate have expressed fears over threats of reprisals by some Liberians in the midst of the deportation of some Liberian refugees.
- Discussing the threats yesterday during plenary, some lawmakers called on the government’s mediation team that recently returned from Ghana to adequately inform the public about the refugee crisis to allay their misconception of the situation.

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**BBC**

Thursday, 10 April 2008

## Uganda rebels due to sign peace

**Rebels from Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army are expected to sign a final peace agreement to end more than 20 years of conflict with the Ugandan government.**

LRA leader Joseph Kony is due to attend the signing at a camp in the jungle town of Ri-Kwangba in southern Sudan.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni is then due to sign separately on Monday in southern Sudan's capital, Juba.

The two sides have been in peace talks there since 2006, after a war in which tens of thousands died.

Two million people were displaced in the conflict, during which the LRA allegedly abducted thousands of children to serve as child soldiers.

### **Elaborate camp**

The signing ceremony was supposed to go ahead a week earlier but was postponed at Mr Kony's request when he told the southern Sudanese mediators he was too sick to attend.

The BBC's Sarah Grainger in Nabanga in southern Sudan says mediators and the United Nations have transformed the bush close to the venue of the signing ceremony into an elaborate camp, complete with electricity and a hot buffet.

They have flown in dozens of journalists to report on the event and have already taken several members of Mr Kony's family to the meeting point.

There had been fears that Mr Kony, who has been in hiding since an arrest warrant was issued against him and two of his top commanders by the International Criminal Court, would not appear for the signing.

"As far as I'm concerned everything is going as planned," rebel chief negotiator David Nyekorach Matsanga told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

Southern Sudanese Vice-President Riak Machar has also said the rebel leader was at the camp and was ready to sign the deal.

After Mr Museveni signs on Monday, the rebels will have 30 days to gather in southern Sudan before disarmament and demobilisation will begin.

But the LRA negotiators have already said their fighters will not disarm unless the ICC arrest warrants are removed and they can be tried on war crimes charges in Uganda instead.

"We are going to sign the document on condition that Uganda goes to the UN Security Council to remove these indictments," Mr Matsanga said.

He said the government had yet to secure the LRA immunity from prosecution and they wanted the indictment removed for 12 months.



The signing was put off last week after Mr Kony said he was sick

## Special Court Supplement “Sierra Leonean Heroes” – Lamina Sankoh

### LAMINA SANKOH (1884-1964) CHAMPION OF INTEGRATION

Ethelred National Jones was born at Gloucester in the Mountain District of Freetown on June 28th, 1884. From the 1920s onwards, he used the name Lamina Sankoh. He was one of the most prominent and fearless leaders in pre-independence Sierra Leone, and one of those most dedicated to the unification of colony and protectorate. An astute politician, he founded one of the first political parties, the Peoples Party, in 1948. He was also a radical churchman, and a political writer, analyst and educator.



He was educated at the village school at Gloucester, the Cathedral School, Albert Academy and the C.M.S. Grammar School. He went to Fourah Bay College where he graduated with a B.A. He entered Wycliffe College, Oxford, where he read Theology and Philosophy.

Lamina Sankoh returned home in 1924, but his relations with the church were not so cordial because of his controversial sermons. He was ordained a priest and appointed curate of Holy Trinity Church, a post he held until 1927. During his curacy, he also lectured Logic at Fourah Bay College. He was dissatisfied with the lack of progressive thinking in the Church in Sierra Leone. He therefore resigned his curacy and again proceeded to Britain where he read Education at Oxford. A year later, he travelled to the United States where he taught at Tuskegee Institute at Alabama, Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and the State College at Orangeburg, South Carolina. In 1930 he went back to Britain where he was active in the West African Students Union (WASU), a political pressure group agitating for self-government. He was a regular contributor to the WASU Journal, of which he later became editor.

He returned to Sierra Leone in the early 1940s, and he immediately embarked on political and civic activities. He was at the same time untiringly involved in settling the political conflict between colony and protectorate. He took an active role in the reconstruction of the Freetown City Council and was elected a councillor for the Central Ward in 1948. He taught courses at the Extra-Mural Department of F.B.C. and was at one time President of the Freetown Adult Education Society. He founded the Sierra Leone ARO (Co-Operative) Society and established a Penny Savings Bank for his supporters. In 1948, he started a newspaper in Freetown called "The African Vanguard." He established an African church where theology and philosophy were relatively free of Western influences.

It was however in national politics that this competent political philosopher made his most lasting impact. He founded the (People's) Forum, a cultural organisation intended to examine the values held by Sierra Leoneans. When almost the entire colony was misguided enough to uphold the idea of a "united country based on segregation and prescriptive rights," this colony-born man had the courage to stand by his conviction that Sierra Leone was one country, and that its inhabitants should live and work as one. He merged his People's Party with the Sierra Leone Organisation Society and, through the merger, the S.L.P.P. was born. He also transferred ownership of The African Vanguard to the new party.

Lamina Sankoh was a popular and dedicated nationalist who, with other men of his time, introduced intellectualism into Sierra Leone politics. His untiring efforts to unite colony and protectorate, for which he is always fondly remembered, constitute a significant contribution to the process of national integration.