

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

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:

Monday 10 February, 2003

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact

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The New Citizen
Monday February 10, 2003

SEQUEL TO JOHNNY PAUL'S ESCAPE TWO SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS SUSPENDED



Two senior police officers have been suspended from duty in the wake of the ongoing investigations into the disappearance of the leader of the Peace Liberation Party (PLP), Johnny Paul Koroma. A release from police headquarters confirmed last Friday that Detective Inspector,

B.F. Lebbie of CID Headquarters and Assistant Superintendent of Police A.M. Kamara of OSD had been suspended from duty pending the conclusion of the investigations in respect of the escape from arrest of Johnny Paul Koroma. The release states that further developments will be communicated to the public in due course.

Police investigating the January 13 attack on the Military Engineering base at Wellington had gone to Johnny Paul Koroma's Juba residence to effect the arrest of suspects of the attack, including Johnny Paul on January 18, 2003. Some of the suspects were arrested but Johnny Paul Koroma and others escaped.

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Standard Times
Monday, 10 February 2003

Standard Times
Monday February 10, 2003

Police Commissioner denies link with Johnny Paul

BY MOHAMED ISSA

Acting Deputy Inspector General of Police, Brima Acha Kamara has categorically denied rumours doing the round that he orchestrated the escape of wanted Johnny Paul Koroma, Leader of the Peoples Liberation Party (PLP) and his allies.

"I have never exchanged a call with Johnny Paul nor have I ever visited him," the Deputy D.G. maintained in an exclusive interview with the reporter at Police head-

quarters, George Street in Freetown.

He denied playing any role to facilitate Johnny Paul Koroma's escape, and neither does he have any family ties with the latter.

Commenting on his role during the AFRC junta rule, Commissioner Acha Kamara said he was merely performing a duty and that his posting to Kono during that period was purely a police routine, on the instruction of the

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Police Commissioner

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then Inspector General of Police, Teddy Williams and not by Johnny Paul as it was rumoured.

"I love this country like any other patriotic Sierra Leonean, but detractors are always bent on vilifying hard working people," he noted.

According to him, politics

and policing are two different issues, and that his role in the on going investigation on Johnny Paul and others is part of his police duty.

He said he was the only senior police officer close to the I.G., Keith Biddle when the escape drama took place, and played a significant role in bringing the situation under control.

It was a coup...

10 witnesses to nail Johnny Paul & Co.

BY IBRAHIM KARIM-SEI

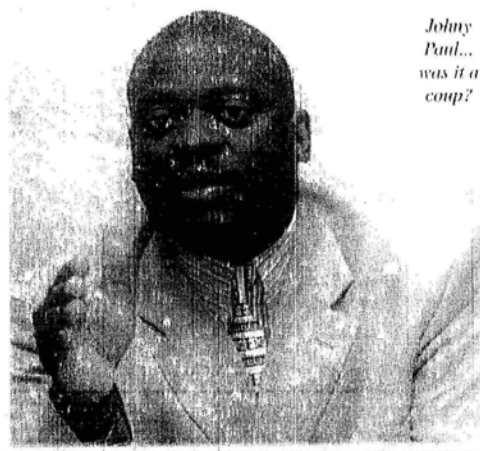
As police investigation continues into the shooting incident at the military depot at Wellington, east of Freetown

on January 13, 2003 and the subsequent raid on the residence of PLP leader, Hon. Johnny Paul Koroma, reports reaching Standard Times have stated that indeed the Wellington attack was a prelude to a coup d'etat, allegedly masterminded by the PLP leader.

Police sources say more than sixty suspects are currently in detention for their alleged involvement in the Wellington attack.

Among these are people now identified as state witnesses numbering over ten for a possible court action.

Among the star witnesses for
CONTINUED BACK PAGE



Johnny Paul... was it a coup?

*Standard Times
Monday February 10, 2003*

10 witnesses to nail Johnny Paul

FROM PAGE 1

the State is former member of the AFRC junta, Komba Nyama who is said to have blown the lid off the subversive act.

In his statement to the police, Nyama said he was among a group of men that boarded a poda poda van

from Juba to Wellington on the night of the attack.

He could not however state who were in the poda poda van and how many of them were in it.

Another suspect likely to testify in the matter is a Pa Momoh Mansaray residing at Devil Hole on the outskirts

of Freetown. He is said to be a father in-law of another suspect Abdulai Sesay alias Rambo. Police sources say wife of Rambo, Kadie had leaked the coup plan to her father, Pa Mansaray who in turned had advised her son-in-law to keep away from the diabolical act

Corruption

The Focus
Monday, 10 February 2003

Johnny Paul In The North

The Focus
February 10-12, 2003

When President Kabbah once pointed out that the North should apologise to the other regions of Sierra Leone for the terrible death and destruction mounted on the people of this country, some people who hail from that region seem to regard the Presidents statement as a personal attack. I for one as former Managing Editor of The STAR Newspaper published, urging the wise thinking and Nationalistic Head of State, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to apologise to the Northerners for such a statement. But it is now becoming clearer and clearer that there are some malcontents, disgruntled, and power thirsty bunch of criminals such as the likes of Johnny Paul Koroma that is bringing mess and shame to the country.



Fugitive Johnny Paul: come out, else?
fled as a fugitive. In speaking to the BBC, Koroma said that he is

any right thinking Sierra Leonean will know that the former Junta Boss has helpers in the North willing and even happy to help their kith and kin in any nefarious adventure he might presently be engaged in. It has been said that an idle mind is the devil's workshop. Here is Johnny Paul, a man who had not only been forgiven for

government, but was also offered the enviable chance of contesting as a Presidential candidate and ultimately given a seat in the respectable Legislature. What else does this man really



IG Kieth Biddle: order

...the respectful life of ... member of

thereby putting to rest the president's earlier call for the blood to

Johnny Paul In The North

From page one

In searching for Johnny Paul Koroma, Sierra Leoneans do not need to go to London, or China or Liberia or Ivory Coast. The man is right here in Sierra Leone in the Northern Province. What we need is to ask our Northern brothers to help identify the fugitive Member of Parliament's location, his refuge. Yes, there is the widely accepted African belief that when a man seeks refuge in his home land, he should not be reported.

We are living in a post conflict country, and Johnny Paul Koroma was one of the Key factors responsible for this conflict. In such a situation, this is a need for all Sierra Leoneans to be patriotic. Peace for Sierra Leone is not necessarily peace for Tejan Kabbah. Bringing more problems for Sierra Leone so as to drag President Kabbah and his government out of power is neither the

solution.
Truth As A Principle
Johnny Paul Koroma's assertion that he is a victim of a witch hunt is not only childish, it smacks of an attempt to bring disunity among Sierra Leoneans and by impression score credit and sympathy for a cause already lost. Why should Koroma be a victim of witch hunting? Johnny Paul Koroma is not an innocent man. His hands are tainted with the blood of innocent Sierra Leoneans and other nationals. It was during his illegal regime that people were executed to death without trial. Students were hacked to death with drug crazed machete welding. thugs encouraged by him. We know how he held the country to ransom, refusing to heed both the call of the International Community and Regional Leaders. So why should Koroma

fear a witch hunt. The fact that the man fled has proved beyond all reasonable doubts that he is guilty. The former junta man had claimed he is a Christian. He goes around proclaiming his belief in Jesus Christ, and he has given numerous sermons and testimonies to this belief but when he was faced with the truth, he did not trust in God's power to free him from any accusation and trial, he did not believe in the power of Christ to save him, he believed instead in his Northern connections and in his grenade, so he fled to the North. Now, we are asking the North to bring their Son, Cousin, Uncle, justice must be seen. Johnny Paul must come out or CORDON and SEARCH will soon be conducted to get him out by force.

Gen K. M. ...

Wall Street Journal
Monday, 10 February 2003



"Bravin, Jess"
<Jess.Bravin@wsj.co
m>

To:
cc:
Subject: Today's Report

10/02/2003 16:58

The Wall Street Journal
10 February 2003

World Watch: Delegates Pick Judges for War-Crimes Court
UNITED NATIONS -- In a complex, weeklong election, delegates from nearly 90 countries chose the first judges for the International Criminal Court, the permanent war-crimes tribunal set to open this year despite U.S. opposition.

The 18 victors, who include the presidents of the current U.N. tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, were winnowed from a field of 43 through a procedure that apportioned seats by sex, region and legal expertise.
Backers

said the voting system aimed to limit the backroom deals that characterize most U.N. elections.

The week ended, however, with the ICC's most important office -- prosecutor -- still vacant. Weeks ago, delegates decided to postpone that vote until April, unable to agree on a candidate.

The ICC's backers, including the European Union, Canada and Australia, say it will serve as a court of last resort for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide when national governments can't or won't act. But Washington fears the ICC could be used for political prosecutions of U.S. soldiers and policymakers.

In the election for judges, the top vote getters were two relatively obscure

candidates, both temporary trial judges for the Yugoslavia tribunal:
Maureen

Harding Clark of Ireland and Fatoumata Dembele Diarra of Mali. A heavy favorite, Yugoslavia tribunal president Claude Jorda of France, was the last

elected, late Friday after 33 rounds of balloting. Other elected judges include Canadian diplomat Philippe Kirsch, who headed a commission that laid

groundwork for the ICC, and candidates from Bolivia, Brazil, Britain, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Latvia, Samoa, South Africa, South Korea and Trinidad and Tobago.

The winners will be inaugurated March 11 at the ICC's seat in The Hague.

-- Jess Bravin

UN Wire

Monday, 10 February 2003

√ Wire: An Independent News Briefing About the UN



TERRORISM: U.N. Official Says Al-Qaeda Still Trading Blood Diamonds; More

Al-Qaeda continues to use "blood diamonds" culled from mines in Sierra Leone to fund its international operations, a senior official with the special U.N. court for the West African country told the *Ottawa Citizen*.

Chief prosecutor David Crane noted the connection between the sale of conflict diamonds, which comprise about 4 percent of the \$7.8 billion annual diamond trade, and the al-Qaeda terrorist organization. "That connection is specific," he said. "They are moving diamonds as a commodity to launder their funds."

Crane questioned the international industry's commitment to the U.N. plan to create a certification system that would block the sale of conflict diamonds, saying the special U.N. court in Sierra Leone plans to indict those who profited through the illicit trade. "They're all interconnected. They all work together," he said. "They know each other. It's a common plan, a scheme, to move diamonds as a commodity, to do whatever they need to trade it for cash, arms or to launder money," he said (Mike Blanchfield, *Ottawa Citizen*, Feb. 9).

U.S. Warns Of New Threats Of Al-Qaeda Attacks

The United States raised its official threat level Friday to Code Orange, the second-highest security alert, warning of fresh threats of attacks by al-Qaeda. A classified FBI bulletin obtained by *Newsweek* magazine said, "Our reporting strongly suggests that al-Qaeda has completed preparations for multiple attacks with spectaculars set for the United States and probably Saudi Arabia, and is delaying them until just before or just after a war begins with Iraq" (Wolffe/Klaidman, Feb. 17).

Officials said the new intelligence warned about the possibility of attacks on synagogues, Jewish community centers, Jewish hospitals, youth groups, hotels and resorts, saying the situation is particularly alarming because of the unusually large number of reports that have come in over the past few days, a senior law enforcement official said (Isikoff/Klaidman, *Newsweek/MSNBC.com*, Feb. 7).

Relatives Of Bali Bombing Victims Join U.S. Class Action Lawsuit

Five Australian families related to victims of bombings in Bali last October and a sixth individual who was seriously injured are joining the relatives of about 900 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack in a U.S. class action suit targeting financiers of al-Qaeda's terror campaigns -- including wealthy Saudi individuals, banks corporations and Islamic charities implicated in the financing of al-Qaeda.

"The objective is to bankrupt terrorism by exposing those who finance terror and stripping them of their assets," said U.S.-based attorney Richard Middleton, who is in Australia conducting interviews with victims' relatives. "We are well aware of banking transactions, a series of financial dealings that regularly occur between interests in the Middle East and those who not only fund but also promote worldwide terrorism, direct links to al-Qaeda and absolutely direct links to the Bali bombings," he said.

"The main thing is if we take \$100 million off them that's \$100 million less explosives they can use," said Dave Stewart, whose son was killed in the Bali attack (Agence France-Presse, Feb. 10).

AFP also reported today that two suspects in the Bali bomb attack said Australians were deliberately targeted because of Australia's roles in East Timor and Afghanistan. One suspect named Australia and the United Kingdom as being close allies of the United States, which he blamed for the deaths of 200,000 innocent men, women and children in Afghanistan (Jack Taylor, AFP, Feb. 10).