

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 Press and Public Affairs Office
as of:**

Friday, 10 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248

Table of Contents

Sierra Leone Media

Prosecutor Welcomes Sierra Leone Parliamentary Resolution Supporting Taylor’s Trial at the Special Court <i>OTP Press Release</i>	Pages 3-4
Penfold Testifies at Special Court <i>For di People</i>	Pages 5-7
Peter Penfold Nails Kabbah <i>The News</i>	Page 8
“Kabbah Knew About May 25 Coup” – Penfold <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 9
Norman, Penfold May Rope Kabbah <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 10
Penfold Dissatisfied Over Norman’s Arrest <i>Spectator</i>	Pages 11-12
Demby Reveals His Role During the NPRC Regime <i>Awoko</i>	Pages 13
Hingha Norman and the Press <i>Democrat</i>	Pages 14-15
U.I. Judges Gain First-Hand Insight on International Humanitarian Law at Special Court <i>Independent Observer (from SCSL Press Release. Also carried by Spectator)</i>	Page 16

International Media

UK Envoy Backs S Leone “War Hero” <i>BBC</i>	Page 17
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 9 Feb 2006 <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 18-20
Serbia Arrests Former Mladic Aide <i>BBC</i>	Page 21
Suspect in Argentina’s “Dirty War” Arrested <i>CNN</i>	Page 22

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, 9 February 2006

Prosecutor Welcomes Sierra Leone Parliamentary Resolution Supporting Taylor's Trial at the Special Court

Special Court Prosecutor Desmond de Silva QC has welcomed a resolution adopted unanimously by Sierra Leone's Parliament on Wednesday urging the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

In proposing the Private Members Motion, Hon. Dr. Princess Baba Jigida (Freetown West-East), called for "the temporary asylum of Charles Taylor" to come to an end.

"In my frequent outreach meetings with ordinary people around the country, the question I am asked most frequently is when Charles Taylor will face justice before the Special Court," Mr. de Silva said. "This resolution clearly reflects the will of the people of Sierra Leone."

"With its unanimous adoption yesterday, it is clear that it reflects the will of their elected representatives as well."

Hon. Dauda Kamara (Kambia District) also spoke to the motion, and called for support for the Court to complete "its vital work".

"We all know that external factors and actors exacerbated the internal conflict in Sierra Leone," Hon. Kamara said. "Therefore it is vital for us that Charles Taylor is brought to the Court for it to be documented the role that was played by others, as well as by himself."

Said Mr. de Silva: "As Hon. Dr. Princess Baba Jigida stated yesterday in Parliament, the whole world is now speaking with one voice. The Sierra Leone Parliament has now added its own voice."

"Nigeria cannot ignore the growing consensus, both here and internationally, that Mr Taylor's temporary asylum must be brought to an end," Mr. de Silva said. "He must answer before the Special Court for what he has done to the people of this country and this region."

Produced by the
Office of the Prosecutor
Special Court for Sierra Leone
Email: SCSL-Prosecutor-Press@un.org

Visit the Special Court's website at www.sc-sl.org

PROPOSER: HON. DR. PRINCESS BABA JIGIDA

SECONDER: HON. MOMOH PUJEH

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Honourable House congratulate the United Nations through the Secretary-General, Dr. Kofi Annan, Esq., on the occasion of the attainment of sixty years of existence recognising their role in:

- i. The independence of African nations
- ii. Peacekeeping in various troubled war areas of the world
- iii. The MDGs with focus on poverty reduction
- iv. The establishment of a “Special War Tribunal Court” in Sierra Leone

and attached to which appreciation is our well-considered request that the Republic of Liberia’s former President, Charles Taylor, be tried, and in absentia in the event that he fails to appear in court in person.

Penfold Testifies at Special Court

PENFOLD!

Calls Maskita Nasty!

Kabbah Is CDF Boss!

Also Kabbah's Deal

With Mercenaries, His

Unpopularity & Calls

For Him Not To Be

Restored To Power!

PETER PENFOLD, the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone during president Kabbah's overthrow testified before the Special Court on Wednesday in the trial of former kamajor chieftain, Chief Sam Hinga Norman and his two lieutenants-Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondowa.

by
SU THORONKA

Penfold said he arrived in Guinea after Kabbah's overthrow in 1997 when Ecomog designated Ecomog to restore the Kabbah government and though initially comprised Nigerians but were later joined by Guineans, Ghanaians etc and that Ecomog was based at Lungi where vice-president Albert Joe Demby was located and another contingent was at Kossoh Town, Hastings.

He said he was made to understand that there was active resistance by kamajors, Gbethis, kapras, Donsos etc. There was need to co-ordinate the activities of these civil militia groups and further need for the president to have control of what was going on in Sierra Leone while the government was in exile in the Republic of Guinea.

Penfold said it was during this period that president Kabbah conceived the idea of CDF, meaning civil defence forces and appointed the vice-president as the

chairman responsible and directly answerable to him and Norman was appointed as the national co-ordinator based on his military experience and as deputy minister of Defence.

He told the court that being a diplomat in Sierra Leone from 1997-2000, he often visited Sierra Leone and other African countries and that he'd travelled by road from Senegal to Sierra Leone to present his credentials to Kabbah. That he also worked as British representative in the OAU and that he arrived in March 1997 at which time the Abidjan accord was concluded between the government of Tejan Kabbah and the Ruf.

He said the Ruf on several occasions reneged on the agreement although they did not pose a serious security threat because they were confined in three areas.

On his arrival, Penfold said he and his colleagues, the US ambassador and the Nigerian High Commissioner engaged in assisting several institutions mainly the judiciary, media, civil service etc and providing military service as well and it later occurred that there was corruption in the army which claimed to have 15000 men and was therefore claiming rice and salary for this number.

Penfold's meeting with Kabbah and Brig Hassan Conteh later discovered that the army was 8000 men and there was a follow-up meeting with Kabbah, Demby, Norman, Brig Conteh and army chief of staff, Max Kanga and that Conteh who had earlier refused his men for training produced 300 men to start at Benguema.

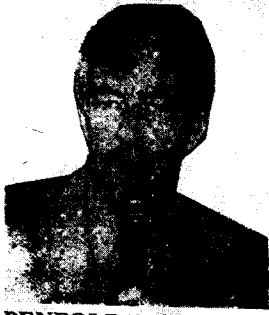
Brig Conteh was asked to reduce the rice quota and Penfold was made to understand that a colonel received 30 bags while a private received one bag a month. But only the ration of the private was removed while the officers remained the same.

On 17 May 1997 Penfold had a private meeting at Kabbah's residence and in attendance was UN ambassador Bahano Dimka in which they warned him of a possible coup and Kabbah responded that he had heard such rumours.

The following Sunday 25 May 1997 barely a week after the meeting, a coup took place when a lance corporal by the name of Tamba Gborie went on radio and announced that the army had taken over and that the president had fled and then followed looting and raping of the wife of one expatriate.

Penfold said he advised the 200 British to stay at home and listen to the radio. He said 17 soldiers had broken into the ordinance depot and stolen arms and ammunition and one group went to State House and another went to Pademba prisons and broke the prison and released all inmates.

One of those released was Johnny Paul Koroma who had been charged with treason and he was subsequently appointed leader of this group called AFRC. Penfold said he had no knowledge whether Kabbah did anything to forestall the coup but was later made to understand that the Nigerian soldiers who were his personal security made arrangement for him to be airlifted to neighbouring Republic of



PENFOLD: unfolds

Guinea. Penfold testified that he was told Norman was rallying loyal soldiers to turn down the coup while rebel soldiers were looking out for him and was later informed that Norman had gone into hiding at the Mammy Yoko hotel at Aberdeen which had a contingent of Nigerian soldiers and five days later, he was taken onboard the American ship for evacuation.

Penfold said on 26 May 1997, Johnny Paul Koroma and six other soldiers came into his residence together with the Nigerian High Commissioner, the deputy Nigerian commander of the detachment, ambassador Dimka, the British officer responsible for training and they discussed the situation at his dining room.

Koroma assured the meeting that there will be no more looting and apologised for what had happened but Penfold told him that the coup was unpopular and that the international community was not going to recognise them as a government and that they left after drinking and eating.

He said his residence was chosen as the venue because the junta boys felt it was safe but from time to time different people appeared with the soldiers and Koroma stopped attending meetings. Penfold was later informed that the soldiers were not prepared to stand down for Kabbah and Johnny Paul Koroma who could have made the an-

NORMAN: scapegoat?

nouncement on radio could not be traced. Following the coup, one of the first decisions of the AFRC was to send a message to Foday Sankoh, the Ruf leader to come to Freetown to join the AFRC as the chairman but Sankoh was at the time in Nigeria but he informed his men to join the AFRC.

Penfold said Maskita the field commander of the Ruf threatened to kill Koroma and his top officers if they ventured to give in to the demands made by Penfold. The witness described Maskita as nasty because of his behaviour.

In subsequent discussions, Penfold said Koroma confessed to him that he regretted inviting the Ruf into their fold. A week after the coup, fighting broke out between the AFRC-Ruf and the Nigerians at Mammy Yoko hotel with rebels firing mortar at the 800 Nigerian soldiers who had run out of ammunition and the rebels only ceased firing when he threatened to deploy the US marines.

The following day, the civilians at Mammy Yoko were evacuated to Conakry, Guinea and briefed Kabbah about events in Sierra Leone. He showed the agreement made with the rebels that if he could

Continued Page 7

NOT CONTINUED

Peter Penfold nails Kabbah

By Alisha Payne

Former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold could not hold back his emotions but publicly shed tears for Hinga Norman Wednesday morning whilst testifying at trial chamber 1 of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

Testifying in court, Penfold President Kabbah showed him documents

on a contract with the Sandline Company in England. He said the contract was for Sandline to provide equipment for the restoration of democracy in the country.

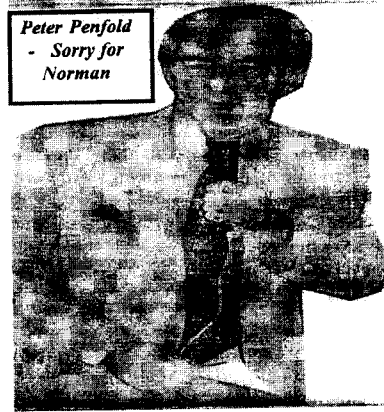
"I never encouraged

President Kabbah nor did I discouraged him about the Sandline contract" Penfold said adding "what I did was that I only advised him on the dangers on using mercenaries".

He went on to state that a

Cont page 2

Peter Penfold
- Sorry for
Norman



Peter Penfold nails Kabbah

From front page

Col. Spicer confirmed to him that a contract was signed by President Kabbah to send small arms and ammunition in early 1998, but when the items arrived, the then ECOMOG officers seized them.

Penfold said Hinga Norman, who was former Deputy Minister of Defense, was very instru-

mental in the restoration of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party government led by President Kabbah. He went on to state that Norman was committed to peace and helped restored democracy in the country. "Norman is a hero and not a war criminal," Penfold told the court as he burst into uncontrollable tears. He said most of president Kabbah's ministers did not

do anything when Sierra Leone was at a crossroads and regretted to see Chief Norman being treated like a war criminal.

The former High Commissioner said Chief Norman only coordinated the affairs of Civil Defense Forces and was not the head of the local militia.

Exclusive
10 February 2006

“Kabbah Knew About May 25 Coup”

By Mohamed Kai

The former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone Komrabai Peter Penfold has disclosed that

---Penfold

prior to the 25 May 1997 coup that ousted President Kabbah's govern-

ment, the then head of the Sierra Leone Army, Brigadier Hassan

Contd. page 2

“Kabbah Knew About May 25 Coup”

From front page

Conteh held a “meeting in which they discussed reports about a possible coup manned by the army.

Penfold told the court that in another meeting convened by the President, in which the President Kabbah mandated Brigadier Conteh to properly examine and assess the burning issue facing the military especially with respect to the distribution of rice quotas.

He went on to reveal that Brigadier Hassan Conteh was in the course of executing the orders of the president when members of the Sierra Leone Army armed with rocket propelled grenades and other dangerous weapons took to the streets of Freetown and subsequently announced the overthrow of president Kabbah's government on FM 98.1 Radio.

Responding to questions from prosecuting counsel, Desmond De Silva on whether he held meeting with president Kabbah in which he ordered the execution of RUF and AFRC prisoners, Mr. Penfold responded in the negative, but added that following the restoration of the democratically elected government in 1998 some senior military personnel of the Sierra Leone Army were tried by a military tribunal and later executed.

Mr. Penfold narrated that at a particular meeting with the president it was revealed that the government of the United Kingdom is against the execution of twenty-four military personnel and that he was told about the Kamajor Death Squad at Base Zero but never visited the said base at Falia.

He clearly stated that he was not complacent in the manner in which Chief Sam Hinga Norman was arrested and flown to Bonthe Island detention, and added that the president appointed Chief Norman because of his rich military background. The trial continues today.

Norman, Penfold May Rope Kabbah

By Our Political Editor

Ongoing testimonies at the Special Court for Sierra Leone seem to give the impression that President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah may be forced to appear before the court to give evidence in the trial of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, former Deputy Minister of Defense and Minister of Internal Affairs and National Security.

Led in evidence at the Special Court, former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold aka Chief Komrabai told the court that it was president Kabbah who informed them that he had formed a Civil Defense Force (CDF) committee headed by the then Vice President Albert Joe Demby who reported directly to the president and that the now indicted Chief Norman was the National Coordinator since the latter had military experience.

According to Peter Penfold, during his meeting with the heads of the kamajors in Bo and Pujehun - Daramy Rogers and Eddie Massally respectively- he learned that both men never regarded Chief Hinga Norman as their boss.

He also described Hinga Norman's commitment to president Kabbah as well as the significant role he played in the restoration of stability in Sierra Leone as, heroic. The million dollar question glued on the lips of very many Sierra Leoneans as well as members of the international community is, to whom Daramy Rogers and Eddie Massally were reporting?

If Chief Norman as National Coordinator was unrecognized by other kamajor leaders, especially in Bo and Pujehun does it mean President Kabbah was the National Leader of the Kamajors or CDF?

It's noteworthy that during the period of Kabbah's exile in neighbouring Guinea, there was need to coordinate the activities of the kamajors with the West African intervention force, ECOMOG, which was mandated by ECOWAS to reinstate the government of President Kabbah.

"While we were in Guinea we heard talks of resistance to the AFRC by the kamajors and other militia... and there was the need to coordinate with ECOMOG..." Peter Penfold said at the Special Court. He further revealed that during a meeting with President Tejan Kabbah, it was agreed that the CDF should assist in the restoration of the democratic and legitimate government.

The issue of command/responsibility with respect to the CDF seems to have been laid to rest considering the fact that Chief Norman's evidence tallies with that of Chief Komrabai Penfold as both really truly did justice to the issue by throwing light on the question of whether President Kabbah has immunity from giving evidence to the court or not. This is important because it has been disclosed that there were kamajor leaders who neither recognized Chief Norman as their leader nor reported kamajor activities to him. It has been observed that if this were the case, then it's highly probable that Daramy Rogers and Eddie Massally were either directly reporting to the Chairman of the Civil Defence Force Committee, Albert Joe Demby or to President Kabbah. Why should Chief Norman be held responsible for the actions of kamajors in Bo and Pujehun under the command of Daramy Rogers and Eddie Massally respectively, especially when they were never answerable to him, is absolutely preposterous. It would be recalled that during Kabbah's exile, he

was not in good speaking terms with the Chief until the latter was visited by both the UN Representative to Sierra Leone, Berhaun Dinka and the then US Ambassador to Sierra Leone, John Hirsh; who prevailed on him to mend fences with President Kabbah in order to restore the government back to power.

It is for this very reason that the Attorney General's defense of President Kabbah's immunity from responding to a subpoena and should he disobey, he cannot be subjected to any punishment whatsoever falls on hollow ground. The argument is 'weak and legally untenable' and if Kabbah doesn't have anything to hide, let him appear before the Special Court as a witness for the defense.

Political pundits have described Norman's evidence and the ongoing testimony of Peter Penfold as tightening the noose around President Kabbah's neck. "It's highly likely that Kabbah may be roped by these startling revelations," a competent political pundit observed.

Penfold dissatisfied over Norman's arrest

By Joseph Turay

Special Court witness, former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Alfred Penfold Thursday 9th February expressed his dissatisfaction over the way and manner in which Norman was arrested by the Special Court. Penfold, who was under cross-examination by Prosecuting Counsel- Desmond de Silva, says the Court should treat Norman very well, as somebody who was a serving Minister at the time he was arrested. He cited that on the day of Norman's arrest, he was

forcefully handcuffed and later detained at the Bonthe Prisons where his family members and

Lawyer were banned from visiting him. The witness went further to state that Norman is

still innocent for the crimes he is being held responsible for; continued page 2

Penfold dissatisfied over

from front page

adding that even though the Prosecution has the right to indict anybody, they should not have indicted somebody like Norman who he believes is honest and has leadership and good qualities. Asked whether he likes President Kabbah, Penfold responded that he only admires the President as a democratically-elected leader who was also committed to the restoration of peace in this nation. Penfold said that President Kabbah had never told him that prisoners of war, members of the junta and their collaborators should not be spared nor did the President tell him that Kamajors should kill and commit atrocities. The Defence witness also disclosed that President Kabbah had once told him while in exile in Guinea that Hinga Norman had become a "loose canon".

This according to Penfold means that Norman was uncontrollable. He went further to state that if at any stage during the war Kamajors committed atrocities, it was as a result of trying to protect their families

and the civil populace particularly in a bid to restore democracy. He added that nobody had ever met him directly, complaining the bad deeds of the Kamajors. The former British Diplomat said even those that committed such atrocities during the war in Sierra Leone may not be aware of the laws governing certain international conventions and regulations that forbid them to commit such crimes. Penfold said the establishment of the Special Court could have been only necessary if Charles Taylor, Foday Sankoh and another key players who played greater role in the conflict would have been in custody. Meanwhile, former Vice President Albert Joe Demby has begun his testimony at the Special Court Thursday 9th February as witness for the Defence. He has already disclosed that Dr. Alpha Lavali and himself formed the Kamajor, which was made up of local hunters on the request of Lt. Col. Tom Nyuma of the N.P.R.C after the RUF had attacked Normoh Faiyama. The former Vice President is expected to continue his testimony today.

Demby reveals his role during the NPRC regime

By Betty Milton

Former Vice President of Sierra Leone, Dr Albert Joe Demby in his evidence at the Special Court yesterday revealed the role he played during the rule of the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) in 1998.

The witness, who was testifying in defence of the

first accused Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, said when the war started in March 1991 members of the Sierra Leone Army were resisting the rebels. But that when the NPRC took over government in April 1992, most parts of the Eastern District had been overrun by the rebels and so the then Secretary of State East,

Lieutenant (Lt) Tom Nyuma conveyed a meeting with Paramount Chiefs from Kailahun, Kono and Kenema and other people who were residents in Kenema having been displaced by the war.

Contd. Page 2

Demby reveals his role during the NPRC regime

From Front Page

During that meeting, he stated, they were told that a decision had been taken in cabinet that they needed the services of the traditional hunters known as "Kamajosia". This came about because the SLA's did not know the by-passes and that was the reason why the rebels were taking over towns and villages.

Dr. Demby explained that an Eastern Region Defence Committee was formed which later seek the services of the traditional hunters. The hunters, he said, were drawn from the respective chiefdoms and were brought by their chiefs and handed over to their Brigade Commanders who would use them as and when required for deployment.

The funds, he disclosed, were got from extra levy of

local tax in Kenema District and occasionally Lt Nyuma brought monies for them which they use to subsidise them, adding that they were also given short guns and cartridges.

During this time, he noted, the hunters and soldiers liberated the entire Kono, Kailahun and four chiefdoms in the Kenema District which were under the control of the rebels. Because of this, they planned to organize a victory parade but there was security lapses as the senior military officers abandoned their positions and went to Kenema to collect logistics for their Christmas party during that time the rebels invaded their deployment and made away with large amount of arms and ammunition and the war escalated.

Between March and

April 1994, he said he left for his village in Jerehun in Bo district where he [Dr. Demby] discussed with his uncle Paramount Chief A.S Demby III and his chiefs about the successes of the "Kamajosia" when fighting with the Army.

He maintained that they later called the two chiefs adjacent Gboma. These were Jijama-Gbongo, represented by Chief Hinga Norman and his sub-chiefs. They were told that they should cooperate in recruiting hunters for the Civil Militia in case the chiefdoms were attacked.

He also stressed that they later received reports that the soldiers were conniving with the rebels to attack and loot, and so therefore they were not able to fight back and these reports were made to Lt Tom Nyuma.

Democrat – Hingha Norman and the Press

10 February 2006

By Allieu .B. Kamara

THE tide in the affairs of men does not remain at the flood, it ebbs. We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is deaf to every plea and rushes on.

So much has been written about the Special Court and so much done to create mischief in the name of propagation. What are the charges against Mr. Norman? Why is Norman at the Special Court? Why are the men from the other outfits at the Special Court? How many of us are familiar or conversant with the indictment? It must be looked at intrinsically and rationally to allow objectivity to win the day. Today, we hear and read about Peter Penfold's appearance at the court and his presence could be meaningful to defence. What new testimony are we anxiously awaiting that has not been reported, discussed, proffered and analyzed to the best of our abilities? You will agree with me that Chief Norman was our Deputy Defence Minister and His Excellency the President's Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Before the emergence of the SLPP in 1996 after the demise of the NPRC, the Kamajors had existed, it had been established to help the NPRC and the Army flush out the RUF and defend their communities.

ANALYZING

It should be further exposed that the late Dr. Alpha Lavalie was the brain child behind the Kamajor outfit and there were other outfits that were established to help in the fight against the common enemy (RUF). It must be accepted now that Chief Norman did not establish the Kamajor but was only a major player before his appointment as Deputy Minister of Defence.

COMBATANTS

What we should start analyzing is what went wrong during the period in review. Did he play a significant role in destroying life and property? Did he order the killing of innocent lives? Did he order the massacre of innocent citizens? Did he orchestrate the destruction of Koribundu and that of Telu Bongor? Did he participate in the recruitment of child combatants? Did he participate in the initiation exercise? Was he part of the cannibalistic game that is part of his indictment? These and many more should be our concern rather than ostentatiously sensationalizing our headlines. I am not in defence of what led to the formation of the Special Court nor the dramatization of the crisis but rather the objective in such a fluid situation that borders on our national security.

MANIFESTATIONS

Let us for once, accept the fact that the CDF had been legitimized in Parliament, a body that has the constitutional mandate to ratify our Laws. The bone of contention here is why should Hingha Norman be behind bars? Despite many manifestations, some fabricated, you will agree with me that the outfit committed heinous crimes against humanity. Few of our journalist, editors and guest writers have insinuated that the president is in the picture because he provided resources to the Kamajor or CDF for his reinstatement. Did President Alhaji Tejan Kabba participate in any of the ceremonies? Did he participate in the initiation ceremonies? Did he as Commander-in-Chief witness any looting, burning, killing, maiming, raping and human sacrifices in the name of restoring democracy? Let me provoke this all-British diplomat

called Penfold. The Ex-Diplomat, did he participate in any of Mr. Norman's escapades? I am flabbergasted at this diplomat that he was relieved of his diplomatic functions after his undiplomatic escapades with the Kamajors and Hingha Norman; to stand out and tell the world that Norman is a Hero. Who is a hero? What ingredient constitutes heroism? My dear brothers and sisters, President Kabba in an interview on BBC with Robyn White told the world that; Chief Norman exceeded his constitutional mandate. As professional journalists, has anyone bothered to interview the President for him to elaborate on that phrase "Constitutional mandate?" This and many more should be treated with caution as we try to put up defence for a man who I believe went the extra mile to cause massive devastation across the country. I am not against heroism, I am not against trust, I am not against politics, but I am against intellectual fraud, intellectual dishonesty and political witch hunting. This writer feels much has been fabricated, doctored and grotesquely presented to denigrate the President and create havoc for a nation that has suffered disastrously. We must as

a people present the facts as honorably as possible but the venom and hatred in our reportage borders on humiliation and ridicule.

MISREPRESENTATION

Did Hingha Norman endorse the recruitment of kids or not? That is heroism according to a discredited diplomat who was relieved of his post together with Mr. Robin Cooke for misrepresenting the British Government. Let us play the game honourably because this witness (Peter Penfold) that has been harped on for months is neither credible to his government nor to any patriot. Why are we being patronized by this discredited diplomat whose country, Britain, dissociated herself from his escapades? We must be realistic. We must be honorable to our nation and we must protect the Presidency against such blatant disregard for truth.

Norman was a Kamajor - he was a minister of state who worked to bring back democracy. But did he do it the right way - without committing crimes against humanity. Let us allow the rule of law to take its course. We are in a democracy where a free press is obliged to present the facts with all sincerity and honest.

U.K. Judges Gain First-Hand Insight on International Humanitarian Law at Special Court

The Interim Registrar and the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court briefed a delegation of fifty-one visiting British immigration judges Monday on the progress of the Special Court and the challenges ahead.

The judges are currently on a private visit to West Africa, to see first hand the situation in the region.

Interim Registrar Lovemore Munlo SC described how the Special Court came about, and some of the major challenges it has had to meet in the first three years of its existence.

Funding of the Court is based only on voluntary contributions and this has got its own challenges, Mr. Munlo said. It creates uncertainty as to whether you will get funding, and whether it will come in time.

He told the judges that

being situated in the country where the conflict took place required the Court to connect and interact, through the Outreach Section, with the people of Sierra Leone.

(We must) explain to them what the court is here for, what it is supposed to achieve, and also get feedback from the Sierra Leonean people relating to how they perceive the court, Mr. Munlo said. Across the social fabric, we talk to schoolchildren, we talk to chiefs, we talk to police officers and military people, across the country.

Chief Prosecutor Desmond de Silva QC told the judges that when the United Nations

Security Council decided to establish the Special Court, they took into account lessons learned from the other tribunals. They took the view, perhaps rightly, that the other tribunals were costing too much and taking too long to dispense justice, he said.

I do believe that unless one can discharge one duty to the international community within a politically acceptable timeframe, you have failed, Mr. de Silva said. The administration of justice is vital in bringing those have perpetrated abominable crimes against man to

contd. page 3

Special Court

from page 2

court, because the victims are entitled to see justice done.

Said Mr. de Silva: The whole process of trials tears at the fabric of war. Trials must be brought to a speedy end to allow the healing process to begin and for people to move beyond the memories of the atrocities into a new future.

The visiting judges also observed a trial session, and met

informally with the Special Court Trial Judges of Trial Chambers I and II, and with Justice Gelaga-King of the Appeals Chamber.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for

atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996. To date, the Prosecutor has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.



UK envoy backs S Leone 'war hero'

By Mark Doyle
BBC News

A former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone has appeared as a witness in a controversial case before a United Nations-backed war crimes court.

Peter Penfold argues that a pro-government militia leader during the conflict, Sam Hinga Norman, is a hero, not a war criminal.

The court was set up to prosecute those with most responsibility for war crimes during a brutal 10-year civil war.

The conflict spread across West Africa and created millions of refugees.

During the conflict, which ended in 2001 after a muscular intervention by the British army, backing United Nations forces, Revolutionary United Front rebels were widely condemned by the UN and others for their brutal tactics.

But ironically many of the top commanders of the rebels have either escaped capture or died, and the highest profile individual on trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone is the leader of the pro-government militia which fought the rebels - Mr Norman.

Alliance

The prosecution believes it has a strong case against him, and has accused him of being responsible for, among other things, murder.

But Mr Norman's defence lawyers have assembled some influential witnesses who they hope will sway the case.

Mr Penfold has argued for many years that Mr Norman was a defender of democracy and a war hero.

Another potentially influential witness due to be called by the defence is one of Britain's top generals, David Richards.

General Richards' forces operated in Sierra Leone in 2000.

The British, the UN and Mr Norman's pro-government militia formed a loose alliance against the rebels who were then defeated.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4697768.stm>

Published: 2006/02/09 15:29:18 GMT

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 9 Feb 2006**

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

International Clips on Liberia

VOA, 9 February 2006

Experts, US Officials Say Taylor Still Threatens Liberia

By Dan Robinson
Washington

Experts have told members of the U.S. Congress peace in Liberia and the success of the new government there depend on former president Charles Taylor being turned over for prosecution on war crimes charges to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

David Crane, the Special Court for Sierra Leone former Chief Prosecutor until last year, says Taylor continues to be a threat for Liberia. "He meant it then, and he means it to this day -- he will be back. Charles Taylor knows [that] the western world, to include the United States, better than we do ourselves. He is relatively young, wealthy, and influential and has a supportive base militarily and politically within Liberia and the Mano River region. Taylor knows that the west, particularly this country, will never send its sons and daughters to West Africa, to stabilize a faltering Liberia," he said. Crane was among witnesses at a hearing [Wednesday] of the House Africa Subcommittee. All expressed concern a combination of Taylor's influence in Liberia, easily-obtainable weapons, and economic strife could undermine President Johnson-Sirleaf.

New political order pulling Liberian refugees home

MONROVIA, Liberia, 9 Feb (UNHCR) – Heeding the call of their new president to return and help rebuild the country, Liberian refugees have been streaming home from Ghana, Nigeria, and neighbouring Sierra Leone and Guinea with UNHCR assistance to embrace the new peace.

International Clips on West Africa

BBC 09/02/2006

Sierra Leone vice-president warns journalists against "untrue" reports

Vice-President Solomon Berewa has disclosed that nobody even journalists will damage his political career. Mr. Berewa was reacting to an interview with the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service [SLBS] concerning two publications in the African Champion and the For di People newspapers.

Local Media – Newspapers

UNMIL Supports President’s Decision to Annul Forest Concessions

(The News, The Analyst and New Vision)

- UNMIL Chief Spokesman Douglas Coffman told journalists in Monrovia yesterday that UNMIL backed President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf’s decision to annul all forests concessions in Liberia, adding that it is a major step toward Liberian authorities gaining full control over the exploitation of the country’s natural resources. He said the decision would also help lead to the lifting of UN sanctions on timber exports.

UN Envoy Clarifies Media Report

(The Inquirer)

- Speaking in Monrovia yesterday during a reception in honor of the United Nations Assessment Mission, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss clarified that the redeployment of a batch of UNMIL soldiers to neighboring Côte d’Ivoire was no indication that the mission would soon come to an end. He added that UNMIL would rather stay a longer time in Liberia.

Disgruntled Former Liberian Soldiers Joining Ivoirian War

(Liberian Express)

- Disgruntled former soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia are said to be daily crossing over to neighboring Côte d’Ivoire—using border points in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties--to join the country’s civil war, an unnamed former Defense Ministry Official was quoted as saying. Most of these demobilized soldiers moving to Côte d’Ivoire are unlettered and unable to pass the aptitude test for recruitment into the restructured Liberian army, the Defense official said.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

President Appoints New Members of Government

- According to an Executive Mansion press statement, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday made 10 new appointments pending Senate confirmation.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

UNMIL Unhappy About Dwindled International Support to Liberia

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) said that international donor support was dwindling to reform the Liberian National Police (LNP). The Mission said that US\$600,000 was required to foot operational expenses of the police, US\$4 million to rehabilitate infrastructure and improve the capacity of the Police Academy, and US\$3.9 million to demobilize police personnel whom may not be eligible to join the LNP.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

UNMIL Welcomes President’s Decision to Nullify Forest Concession Agreements

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Vice President Wants Liberia Marketing Association Act Reviewed

- Speaking during a meeting with representatives of the Liberia Marketing Association yesterday, Vice President Joseph Boakai said that a committee would be constituted to review the Act creating the Association to make it responsive to the needs of marketers and the general public.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO (*News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm*)

Justice Ministry Says Fugitive Maritime Commissioner Surfaces in the United States

- Montserrado County Attorney Samuel Jacobs said the Ministry of Justice has disclosed that suspended Bureau of Maritime Affairs Commissioner J.D. Slanger is in Philadelphia, the United States after he escaped the country on allegation of misapplying some of Liberia's maritime fund.

STAR RADIO (*News culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

Local Education-Support Group Pledges to Work with the Government

- During a courtesy call on President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday, the Head of the Restoration of Educational Advancement Christine T. Norma assured the President of the group's commitment to work with the government to train the youth and community leaders in reconciliation, good governance and anti-corruption programs management. President Johnson-Sirleaf praised the organization for contributing to the nation's renewal.

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. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.



Serbia arrests former Mladic aide

Serbian police have announced the arrest of a former aide to the fugitive Bosnian Serb wartime commander, General Ratko Mladic.

Sasa Badnjar is suspected of helping the general to evade capture.

He was part of Gen Mladic's security team during the Bosnian war in the early 1990s.

Nato troops have also searched the eastern Bosnian home of Milisav Kljestan, another alleged aide to Gen Mladic. The raid happened in Vlasenica.

Mr Badnjar was picked up on Monday, when the UN's chief war crimes prosecutor Carla del Ponte was in Belgrade, urging the authorities to capture Gen Mladic.

The international war crimes tribunal is anxious to put Gen Mladic and the Bosnian Serb political leader, Radovan Karadzic, on trial to face war crimes charges, including genocide.

Last month the Serbian police arrested another of Gen Mladic's suspected aides, the former Bosnian Serb lieutenant, Jovo Djogo.

Correspondents say the arrest last year of Croatia's top fugitive war crimes suspect, General Ante Gotovina, was preceded by the detention of several of his aides and supporters.

Gen Mladic commanded the Bosnian Serb armed forces and is wanted for his involvement in the siege of Sarajevo and the massacre of nearly 8,000 men and boys at Srebrenica in 1995.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/europe/4696444.stm>

Published: 2006/02/09 10:45:45 GMT

© BBC MMVI



Powered by Clickability

Suspect in Argentina's 'dirty war' arrested

MADRID, Spain (AP) -- Spanish police have arrested a former Argentine police officer in Madrid wanted in connection with kidnappings and torture during his country's "dirty war" against leftist dissidents, authorities said Thursday.

The man was identified as Ricardo Taddei, 63, a police spokesman said on condition of anonymity because he is not allowed to be identified.

He was arrested Wednesday in Madrid on an international arrest warrant.

He is allegedly connected to 161 cases of kidnapping and torture, authorities said.

Police said Taddei was an officer at the Argentine Federal Police in the so-called Clandestine Detention Centers between 1976 and 1979, where he worked as a guard and interrogator.

During the 1976-1983 dictatorship, at least 9,000 Argentines vanished -- and presumably were killed -- often after torture as the government sought to round up and silence leftists and anti-government activists.

Human rights groups put the figure at 30,000.

A Jewish businessman was among the people Taddei allegedly kidnapped and tortured, authorities said. His remains were discovered in a field outside Buenos Aires in the late 1980s.

Taddei left the Argentine Federal Police in 1979 to enter the army as a colonel, and he also worked in military intelligence, Spain's police said.

He fled Argentina in 1985 after he was implicated in several court cases and came to live in Spain with his wife and child.

Though Taddei was arrested on an international warrant, an official at Spain's National Court said the tribunal was studying whether he is wanted in Spain as part of an eight-year investigation by Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon into alleged crimes against humanity in Argentina and neighboring Chile.

Taddei is being held at a police station in Madrid and will appear for questioning before a judge in a few days, said the court official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because court rules forbid her from being identified.

She added that the judge is likely to order him to remain jailed while extradition proceedings get under way.

The Spanish government has the last word on extradition.

Spain has arrested and tried other Argentines for crimes committed during their country's military dictatorship, using authority granted by Spanish law that give the country power to pursue cases involving crimes against humanity.

Garzon has led the effort with the investigation of human rights violations by members of former military regimes in Argentina and Chile.

Argentine military officer Ricardo Miguel Cavallo is due to be tried in Spain this year on charges of genocide, terrorism and crimes against humanity, becoming the second suspect to stand trial in Spain.

Former navy officer Adolfo Scilingo was convicted and sentenced to 640 years in jail in 2005.

Copyright 2006 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or