

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
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Thursday, June 10, 2004

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The Court Decides Hinga Norman Can Represent Himself (but only with Assistance of Counsel)

Sierra Leone Special Court

Special Court for Sierra Leone - Freetown

two, 09 June 2004

FREETOWN - Over a hundred people waited patiently to see what Hinga Norman would do to steal the show on the second day of his trial. They left an hour and a half later not entirely disappointed.

The short morning session consisted almost entirely of Judge Itoe reading the Trial Chamber's unanimous decision regarding Hinga Norman's right to self-representation. At the outset, the Trial Chamber noted that the right to self-representation is not absolute but rather is a qualified right, and particularly so because Article 17(4)(d) of the Statute of the Special Court states that counsel may be assigned to the defendant "in any case where the interests of justice so require." In determining the interests of justice, the Trial Chamber considered the fact that the defendant has been in detention since March, 2003 and that Article 17(4)(c) of the Statute requires that he be tried "without undue delay." The rights of the two co-defendants to a fair and expeditious trial were also considered as was the fact that a change in counsel would require an unduly long adjournment to allow Hinga Norman (or any new counsel) to familiarize himself with the case. Additional time for preparation would cause a delay which the Trial Chamber noted it has a duty to prevent given the limited time mandate of the Court.

The Trial Chamber compared this to the case of Milosevic and said that unlike the present case in which Hinga Norman waited until the first day of trial before seeking to represent himself, Milosevic asserted his right to defend himself from the outset. Even though that Trial Chamber decided that Milosevic was competent to represent himself, it recognized that the right to self-representation is not absolute and held that the interests of justice may require the appointment of counsel in certain circumstances. Indeed, the Court appointed 3 amici curiae to look after Milosevic's interests. Also, unlike in the present case, Milosevic has no co-defendants.

The Trial Chamber also cited the Vojislav Seselj case in which the defendant, a professor of law at the University of Belgrade, sought to defend himself. Seselj too asserted his right to self-representation from the outset. Again confirming that the right to self-defense is not absolute, the ICTY Trial Chamber appointed standby counsel to assist with the defense. As further support for its position that the right to self-representation is not absolute, the Trial Chamber cited a case from the United States Supreme Court which held that the defendant's right to self-representation "is not violated when a trial judge appoints a stand-by counsel – even over the defendant's objection – to relieve the judge of the need to explain and enforce basic rules of courtroom procedure." *McKaskle v. Wiggins*, 465 U.S. 168 (1984),

The Court noted that the role of the Defense Counsel is not meant to serve only the interests of his client, but also the interests of the Court and the overall



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Judges:

Judge Bankole Thompson
Judge Benjamin Mutanga Itoe
Judge Pierre Boutet

Indictees Mentioned:

Fofana, Moinina
Kondewa, Allieu
Norman, Sam Hinga

interests of justice. Citing a 9th Circuit case from the US, the Trial Chamber said that permitting self-representation, regardless of the consequences, threatens to divert criminal trials from their clearly defined purpose of providing a fair and reliable determination of guilt or innocence. A defendant can not waive his right to a fair trial as this right implicates not only the interests of the accused, but also the institutional interests of the judicial system.

The Court held that considering the complexities of the trial, the gravity of the offenses, the public interest in the expeditious completion of the trial, the high potential for disruption of the court calendar and the time limited mandate of Court, the defendants request to represent himself could not be granted unconditionally. The Trial Chamber said it could not allow the integrity of the proceedings to be tarnished and cited the European Court of Human Rights decision in *Croissant v. Germany* which held that the defendant's wishes may be overridden when the interests of justice so require.

However, at the end of this lengthy and well-supported discussion which seemed to be leading to a decision that the defendant would not be allowed to represent himself, the Trial Chamber's actual ruling was ambiguous. The gallery was left scratching their heads when trying to interpret the order, which is as follows:

"That the right to self-representation solicited in this case by the 1st Accused, Samuel Hinga Norman, can only be exercised with the assistance of Counsel to be assigned to the trial and in whatever capacity they are assigned or designated, standby-or otherwise, without prejudice to the Registrar's discretion to designate, if the 1st Accused so expresses this desire, Members of his former Defence team, and this, in accordance with the provisions of Article 17(4)(d) of the Statute of the Special Court The Rules of Procedure and Evidence, and of the provisions of the Directive for the Assignment of Counsel promulgated by the Registrar of the Special Court on the 3rd of October, 2003."

Although it is quite difficult to understand exactly what this ruling means (in fact, I have not been able to locate anyone who can interpret it with confidence) it seems the Court is allowing the defendant to represent himself with the assistance of stand-by counsel whose role is still undefined. The Trial Chamber gave the defendant until Thursday June 10 at 10:00 a.m. to consider whether he would accept his trial counsel as standby counsel but placed the burden on the Registrar to designate counsel in some capacity. One of the problems with the decision on the whole, however, is that the Trial Chamber failed to ask the defendant his reasons for wishing to dismiss his counsel. We do not know whether Norman's relationship with his lawyers has suffered some sort of irreparable breakdown nor whether Hinga Norman was even requesting an adjournment of the trial to prepare. No one can predict what will happen when the trial resumes tomorrow.

Before adjourning, the Trial Chamber asked the defendant if he had any reaction to the decision. Hinga Norman said his right to defend himself was absolute. Furthermore, he said he "preferred to be put in [his] cell" since he "has been denied his right to defense". (His reaction seems to indicate that he too was somewhat confused by the decision). The audience gasped and the court was adjourned. As one of the last to exit the crowded courtroom I had the opportunity to observe as at least half of the courtroom tried to catch the defendants' attention and wave before they were escorted out of the room. They may not be wearing "Free Hinga Norman" tee-shirts, but Hinga Norman definitely has his supporters.



Trial in Absentia?

Sierra Leone Special Court

Special Court for Sierra Leone - Freetown

09 June 2004



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FREETOWN - After the judges' decision yesterday, Samuel Hinga Norman declared he would "prefer to be locked in [his] cell" and said to "let the trial go on" without him if he was not able to represent himself on his own terms. Going ahead with the trial in his absence, while not ideal, is not in conflict with international human rights standards.

Indictee Mentioned:
Norman, Sam Hinga

The European Court of Human Rights has addressed this issue several times and has determined that if the defendant has received a summons to appear and has not been denied the assistance of a lawyer, conviction in absentia is not a violation of the right to a fair trial under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. See, for example, Case of Medenica v. Switzerland, no. 20491/92, 7 June 2001, (paragraphs 58-59). Likewise, the Human Rights Committee has long expressed the view that a trial in absentia is compatible with human rights covenants when the accused is summoned in a timely manner and informed of the proceedings against him. Mbenge v. Zaire, Communication 16/79 (8 September 1977).

In the international criminal court context, the ICTR faced a similar situation not long ago in the case of The Prosecutor v. Jean-Bosco Barayagwiza. There the defendant boycotted his trial because he felt the ICTR was too closely tied to the "anti-Hutu regime of Kigali" and was therefore unable to render fair and impartial justice. Barayagwiza instructed his counsel (who were ordered to appear in court) not to act on his behalf. Defense counsel felt there was no point in attending the trial if it was unable to actively participate in the proceedings and therefore moved to withdraw. In its Decision on the Defense Counsel Motion to Withdraw rendered on 2 November 2000, the Trial Chamber noted that when a defendant is aware of his trial "but has chosen not to be present, despite being informed by the Chamber that he may join the proceedings at any time . . . neither the Statute nor human rights law prohibits going ahead with the trial in his absence" (para. 6). The Court cited Maleki v. Italy in which the Human Rights Committee reiterated that a trial in absentia is compatible with Article 14(3) (d) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights when the accused is summoned in a timely fashion and informed of the proceedings against him. In that case the accused was convicted in absentia and duly represented by a court-appointed attorney.

With regards to the awkward position in which the defense found itself, the Trial Chamber held that counsel had an obligation not just to the client but also to the Tribunal "to ensure that the Accused received a fair trial" (para. 21). The Chamber noted that in several jurisdictions a lawyer is not obliged to comply with client instructions to take no action in court and that "the accused does not lose the benefit of the right to legal assistance merely on account of not being present at the trial" (para. 23). The Trial Chamber held that the defendant's boycott of the proceedings was an effort to obstruct justice and therefore Counsel was not under an ethical obligation to follow their client's instructions. The request to withdraw was denied.

Here, should the defendant follow through on his threat and refuse to appear in court, the Trial Chamber could allow standby counsel to defend him in his absence. In their role as standby counsel the defense would not face the ethical dilemma the lawyers in Barayagwiza faced of whether to follow their client's instructions not to act on his behalf. (Appointment of existing defense counsel as standby counsel was, in fact, the course of action recommended in a concurring opinion by Judge Asoko de Z. Gunawardana in the Barayagwiza Decision for precisely that reason). In this way the Trial Chamber could guarantee a fair trial despite Hinga Norman's efforts to the contrary.

Submitted by Sara Darehshori on 09 June, 2004 - Updated: 09 June 2004 15:23

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Justice Delayed . . .



Sierra Leone Special Court

Special Court for Sierra Leone - Freetown

two, 08 June 2004

FREETOWN - Although the first trials of the Special Court are scheduled to begin in a timely fashion (by international criminal law standards that is) the pace at which the Trial Chamber is moving so far means it will be years before the trials are over. So much for expediency.

The first trial, the CDF case, began on June 3. However, after one defendant Hinga Norman, not surprisingly expressed his desire to dismiss counsel and represent himself, the Court recessed for five days to consider the matter. After issuing its decision this morning, June 8, the Trial Chamber again adjourned until June 10 to give the defendant a chance to consider his options. These delays are especially unfortunate since the CDF trial is only scheduled to continue until June 22 before being recessed until September. This means that this month less than nine days of evidence will be presented at most. Though the RUF trial will begin July 5 and is on the calendar for most of July, the Trial Chamber is not in session at all in August. Starting in September the Trial Chamber will hear the CDF case and the RUF case in alternating months. But because each Wednesday the Trial Chamber adjourns for the day at 1:00, as a practical matter the court is in session only approximately 18 days a month (in a good month). When adjournments and holidays are taken into consideration, each trial is likely to be in session for less than 100 days per year. Considering that the Prosecution intends to call over 100 witnesses in the CDF case (and over 150 in the RUF and AFRC cases) and the fact that the defense has indicated its intent to call at least that many witnesses, it will be years before the cases are resolved. And that estimation assumes that a second trial chamber is convened to handle the AFRC and Charles Taylor cases (if he is arrested). (The length of this process was doubled by the Trial Chamber's decision on January 27th of this year to deny the prosecutor's motion to join the AFRC and RUF trials. As a practical matter, that means the prosecution will have to call its 160 witnesses to testify twice to many of the same events before different trial chambers since the defendants in both trials are alleged to have participated in the same criminal enterprise.)

Furthermore (although it is hoped this is a result of the uncertainties around the first week of the first trial and not a sign of things to come) an additional aggravating factor is that the Trial Chamber has appeared 45 minutes to an hour later than its appointed time on each of the first two days of trial (not including the delay to fix the sound system). With only five-and-a-half hours of court time scheduled per day (excluding breaks) it is important for the Trial Chamber to begin promptly.

Leaving aside the defendants' right to a speedy trial, the drawn-out trial schedule has other costs as well. It is difficult to retain international staff over long periods of time in a post like Sierra Leone where people are often separated from their families. That means that experienced personnel with knowledge of the case and relationships with witnesses will likely be replaced with people who do not know the case as well over the course of the trial. Furthermore, the witnesses' memories will not be as sharp the longer they have to wait before testifying. Indeed, witnesses may be harder to find after long periods of time or may change their minds about testifying at all. In these ways the quality of the cases may suffer because of the length of the proceedings.

Delays like the ones we had this week have further costs in that they require witnesses to disrupt their lives and be brought to safe houses for long periods of time while the court decides motions that could possibly have been handled in a timelier fashion. Furthermore, the international press left immediately after the trial was adjourned so the trial may not get the kind of international attention that it deserves and might have gotten had it resumed more quickly. Extensive delays will discourage international reporters from returning to Freetown at all rather than risk coming here only to find the trial has adjourned. And finally, but most importantly, Sierra Leoneans are anxious for the cases to be decided and will lose faith in the Special Court if the cases take too long and justice is not seen to be done.

The Trial Chamber has repeatedly noted in its decision that its mandate runs out in three years and that it must proceed swiftly. Its actions do nothing to indicate, however, that it is pushing itself to hurry. The Trial Chamber now needs to demonstrate by its actions, not just its words, that it is working hard to see that justice is done fairly and expeditiously.

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Africa News June 9, 2004 Wednesday

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Africa News

June 9, 2004 Wednesday

LENGTH: 1065 words

HEADLINE: Sierra Leone;
Special Commentary: **David Crane and the UN Backed Court**

BYLINE: Standard Times

BODY:

David Crane and the American agenda After more than a year since the Special **Court** for Sierra Leone began indicting and arresting suspects, the much trumpeted and talked-about trials have finally started, interestingly and very ironically, with those who actually fought to ensure that this country is safe and secure for everyone, the formal Civil Defence Force commanders.

For quite a considerable period of time, the editorial position of this news paper was completely obversed to the so-called indictment and trial of the leadership of the CDF.

In the view of many Sierra Leoneans, a lot has already been said in opposition to the establishment of the **Court** including pointing out the inherent dangers involved in the entire programme.

For most of the time, I personnaly hated the mere pronounciation of the name, **David Crane**.

Where was he when we were running in the bushes and forests trying to escape from the rebels, who were looking for innocent people to kill or maim?

Whoever gave him the right to say the things he says of the inditees, many of whom are held in very high esteem, even as heroes in some quarters?

What legitimacy is there in a **court** that is built on a foundation of greed, treachery and back-stabbing?

The government who insisted on the establishment of this **court**, against the wishes of the majority of the people of this country, must also be made to face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for waging an illegal war on the innocent people of Iraq.

In all this time since the **court's** prosecutor, **David Crane** began making careless statements about the inditees, we have in several ways tried to educate this so called manufactured bogus redeemer but has refused to listen and is going ahead with the so caled trial.

Perhap this **David Crane** needs to be reminded that some of us are aware of his, and that of the American, hidden agenda that he is here to promote, for otherwise, he should be in the

United States trying those Americas that are illegally holding another group of innocent people as 'illegal combatants' in Guantanamo Bay.

Certainly trying people here that a large number of us consider as heroes is simply helping to expose the warppish nature of United States foreign policy, refusing to submit to the international Criminal **Court** while at the same time talking about international justice.

What could they actually know about international justice, which makes them feel that they have a right to impose their will on others?

What Mr. **Crane** should be doing is helping his government recover its lost credibility and battered image instead of trying to tell us he knows more about what happened here than us, who were here when it all happened.

Infact, all that his **court** is doing here is sowing more seeds of discord among the people, dividing the people further and undermining the fragile peace and reconciliation that has been achieved.

David Crane should be reminded that many of us are aware of his hidden agenda, which is ultimately to ensure that the government here becomes a puppet of the US government.

The desperate search for oil by the Americans is also at the heart of **David Crane's** mission here, whereby the Americans plan to bring another war here that would give them the reason to take control of the oil stocks that are suspected to be in the country.

The majority of the people had wished for only the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as it is more akin to traditional methods of settling disputes.

But contrary to the wishes and expectation of the large number of Sierra Leoneans, that TRC was made to starve for lack of funds, as against the lavish funds that is wasted on this bogus **court**.

There is no way most of us can be impressed with the activities of the this **court**, as in the end it is going to leave our country in shambles and sharply divided.

Certainly, in spite of the sacrifices of people like chief Norman and the other CDF leaders, there are those, for some personnal reason that were against them, who have now been recruited by Mr. **Crane** to testify against the leadership of the CDF.

But for most of us who have been informed and have been keenly montoring the activities of the CDF, there is no way anyone can defame them.

This is because we are aware of the circumstance that precipitated its formation and operation, to protect defenceless citizens.

What would **David Crane** have expected us to do? Sit down with hands between our legs and see our entire population wiped out? Did they go to the aid of the Liberians when they were calling on them to save them from the rebels?

What moral justification has this man (**Crane**), coming from the most hypocritical nation on earth to judge us?

Standard Times did a couple of articles last year about the activities of this manufactured 'mandela' of ours and his hidden agenda, and I kept asking the editor whether this **David Crane** ever challenged what was published, and to my greatest amazement, he never did.

My concern therefore is how can a man with such a checkered background be made to prosecute people we consider heroes?

Certainly, **David Crane** has refused to learn.

He and his supporters must therefore be informed that if any problem erupts in this country due to the so called trails, he will certainly be held responsible by the people of this nation.

He will not be allowed to leave this country in shambles or frames, so he must be prepared for the consequences of the shallow thinking.

The trials have started and chief Norman has refused allowing his lawyers to defend him.

This, **David Crane** should know, is extremely important, and all well meaning Sierra Leoneans must be ready to stand up against any attempt at denying chief Norman defending himself. After all, it is happening in other **courts**.

Certainly **David Crane** and his cronies have never realised the seriousness of imprisoning chief Norman in this country for so long a time, and trying him for his role as head of then CDF.

David Crane, a backward American, should be ready to be properly educated by chief Norman about affairs in this country.

For those of us who really know chief Norman, it is clear that many in high places are beginning to realise the danger chief Norman is capable of causing, and are growing restless with the insistence of the indictee to defend himself.

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David Crane On Hinga Norman ---Says Evidence Will Be Produced

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

June 8, 2004

Posted to the web June 9, 2004

By George Bardue

Freetown

The Prosecutor of the United Nations-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone David Crane says every count for war crimes against the former leader of Sierra Leone's Civil Defense Force and others will be proven at the trial.

In a statement at the formal opening of the trial of Leadership of the Civil Defense Forces in Sierra Leone, Prosecutor Crane indicated that during the course of the trial, there would be focus of various crime bases where alleged criminal acts occurred.

He said Samuel Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Alieu Kondewa are three officials of the disbanded Civil Defense Force expected to stand trial during the June term of the Special Court.

Crane pointed out that throughout the trial, children who fought alongside the CDF would be brought on the witness stand to testify on stories of alleged horrors Norman and his men committed.

He told the audience who had gathered in the Courtroom in Freetown last week for the opening of the CDF case, that citizens would testify to acts the accused committed in the town of Bradford in Sierra Leone.

The Special Court Prosecutor claimed that one of the witnesses alleges that the CDF moved into the town and began to reign havoc on the civilians.

He maintained that Norman was in overall command of the CDF as National Coordinator in which he was to establish, organize, support and promote the CDF. Crane also disclosed that Hinga Norman was leader of the Kamajors.

As for Moinina Fofana, Crane said in the absence of Norman, he stood in command as national director for war by implementing policy and strategy for prosecuting the war.

The third accused from the leadership of the CDF Alieu Kondewa, the prosecutor revealed to the court that he was the high priest with supervision and control over all initiations within the CDF.

He added that the special court was now ready to prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Crimes alleged to have been committed by Norman, Fofana and Kondewa in the joint indictment include unlawful killing, physical violence and mental suffering, looting and burning and the use of child soldiers, among others.

Crane emphasized that all of these offenses were committed within the territory of Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

For his part, the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone Justice Emmanuel Olayinka Ayoola told the audience that as the court enters into trial phase, it was an opportune time to emphasize the commitment of the court to the values that underlie its establishment.

He said justice is affronted when impunity reigns bringing in its wake, injustice and a challenge to civilized values and a peaceful world order.

Meanwhile, defendant Samuel Hinga Norman is said to have terminated the services of his lawyers. He informed the court that he would represent himself during the trial.

The special court is expected to hand down ruling into Norman's action later today.


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Justice on trial at SLeone tribunal


 Alastair Leithead
BBC, Freetown

Safinatu Karoma was just nine years old when the last thing she ever saw was her father being murdered.

The rebel soldiers had come to their home, and with a characteristic brutality killed first the man of the house and then turned on his daughter.

Safinatu was screaming, crying uncontrollably, and the killers ordered her to be quiet.

When this traumatised child did not, they blinded her.

"When I was still crying they burst my eye and they melted plastic in my other eye," she said in her soft voice, dropping her head towards the floor.

"I found it difficult because it is very hard to be blind."

She is now 14 and her family have abandoned her.

She lives in Freetown's Milton Margai School for the Blind.

Safinatu remembers everything about that terrible day - and the last thing she ever saw - but has an incredible outlook.

"God said we should forgive the people who do bad to us, so I forgive them - for the sake of God."



Sierra Leone is trying to come to terms with its brutal civil war

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Deep wounds

Forgiveness is sometimes difficult to understand.

Justice and punishment is much more tangible.

Tens of thousands of people were killed in Sierra Leone's brutal and devastating civil war, and there are many stories like Safinatu's.

Peace has returned to this beautiful country, but the wounds are deep and rebuilding the nation will take many years.

There is a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which has brought some hidden atrocities to the surface, and now there is a court where those responsible will be brought to justice.



The tribunal is also about justice seeing to be done

The Special Court for Sierra Leone is a hybrid international criminal court, run jointly by the United Nations and government where the atrocities were carried out.

The first trial is of three men who face eight indictments, among them unlawful killing, physical violence, mental suffering, looting, burning, terrorising, "punishing".

They were leaders of the Civil Defence Force, a pro-government militia.

One, Sam Hinga Norman, led the notorious Kamajors, associated with terrible violence against civilians.

The first trial is the pro-government militia, next month the rebels.

Foday Sankoh would have been here had he not died in custody.

And the former Liberian president Charles Taylor, blamed with fuelling West Africa's bloody wars, is avoiding arrest in Nigerian exile.

Investigations continue

The chief prosecutor, David Crane, has issued 13 indictments. Nine people are in custody, two have died and two remain at large.

He has made it clear the investigations are continuing and more indictments could follow.

"In August of 2002, I arrived here and began the process of which to investigate and indict those who bear the greatest responsibility," he said.

"That's why we are here to represent the 500,000 murdered, maimed, raped and mutilated victims of Sierra Leone and hope that we can get some justice for them."

It is all about justice, and justice being seen to be done.

“ We are here to represent the 500,000 murdered, maimed, raped and mutilated victims of Sierra Leone ”

In his opening remarks as the first trial began, Judge Benjamin Itoe stressed its importance.

David Crane
Chief prosecutor, Special Court for
Sierra Leone

"Justice delayed is justice denied," he said, warning the defence and prosecution not to stall this trial any more than was necessary.

Lengthy and expensive delays have dogged the court's sister tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

Only hours after opening on day one, the trial was adjourned until next week as Sam Hinga Norman sacked his defence counsel.

In an aid camp for amputees - victims of the war - I found Alhaji Lamin Jusujarka.

His arms were cut off by rebels as he saved his daughter from kidnap and rape.

He is now an observer in the new court as the chairman of the Sierra Leone Amputees and War Wounded Association, and believes prosecutions are essential for rebuilding the country.


"If you can chop off your brother's arms, there is a need for justice to prevail and to bring those to the court of law," he said.

"You need to set an example to make sure that what has happened will never happen again."

In the coming weeks and months, this court will hear some terrible accounts of atrocities committed in a war that killed tens of thousands of people and destroyed the lives of many, many more.

Only if justice is seen to be done can this court really have an impact on preventing this from happening again, and helping to heal the wounds of civil war.

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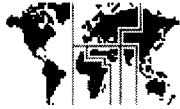
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Sierra Leone war 'hero' on trial

The first trials of suspects accused of committing atrocities during Sierra Leone's civil war resume shortly.



Many in Sierra Leone see Sam Hinga Norman as a hero

A popular pro-government militia leader Sam Hinga Norman alongside Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa are facing the UN-backed war crimes tribunal.

Among the charges are the forcible conscription of child soldiers - the first time the crime has been prosecuted under international law.

About 50,000 people were killed, and many more maimed and raped in the war.

The hearings were adjourned last week after Sam Hinga Norman sacked his defence counsel, saying he wanted to defend himself, but the court ruled earlier this week that he could not.

Mr Norman is regarded by some in Sierra Leone as a hero for standing up to the rebels who were trying to oust an elected government and his supporters are angry that he is being placed in the same bracket as the rebels.

Court officials estimate up to 500,000 people are direct victims of the violence meted out in the 1991-2002 conflict.

The conflict was marked by the frequent hacking off of limbs, ears and lips of civilians, including children.

The three suspects, who

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face eight counts of committing war crimes, all belonged to the Civil Defence Forces (CDF), or Kamajors, a group that fought alongside the Sierra Leone army against rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). Mr Hinga Norman was deputy defence minister.



Justice on trial
Catalogue of horrors awaited

Prosecution lawyers told the court last week that the defendants were personally liable for crimes carried out under their orders "as if they committed each and every crime themselves".

The case against the three CDF men is particularly controversial in Sierra Leone, as much of the populace regards them as heroes for having helped repel the RUF, well known for their brutal treatment of civilians.

Next month, former rebels will appear in court.

Thirteen indictments have been issued so far, among them the former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, accused of backing the RUF in exchange for diamonds.

The trials follow more than two years of investigation into crimes carried out during the bloody decade-long conflict and are seen as a test of whether the court, a combination of international and domestic law, can provide justice.

The special court is the first of its kind to sit UN-appointed judges alongside local judges, in the country where the crimes were committed.

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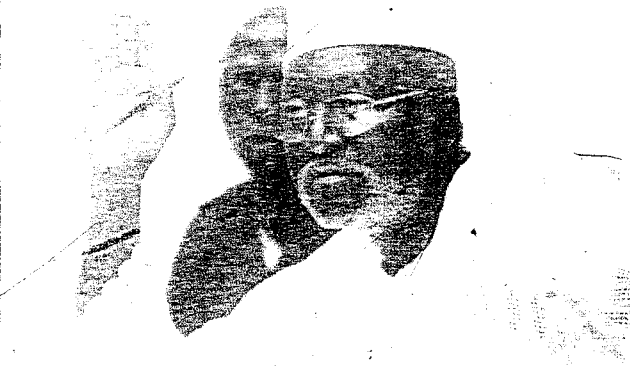
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Thursday June 10, 2004

Special Court on the Brink as.. Norman's Standby Defence Named Today

Following the ruling by the Trial Chamber of the Special Court Tuesday 8th June, on Hinga Norman's right to self defence, the registrar of the court will today announce Norman's standby legal team.

Norman's right to self defence is not absolute the court ruled against his expressed wish and that he needs legal help on at least court rules and procedures, for various reasons submitted amongst which is the life span of the court. The Trial Chamber therefore mandated the registrar of the court to choose a standby counsel for Norman in case he does not change his mind on self representation and if he also stands by his decision to



Sam Hinga Norman

stay in his cells and not appear in court for his trial. Norman's outburst in court has left many tongues wagging both at home and abroad. The legal snag created by his insistence on defending himself has brought the whole Special Court issue into the homes of the average Sierra

Leonean and the court on the brink. "The court is at crossroads" a legal expert confided to this press and the way it deals with this Norman issue will surely demonstrate the character of the court, he went.

It is understood that the registrar of the court Robin Vincent is un-

likely to appoint a standby team that is altogether new to Norman's case but will instead choose to appoint the team that has served him since his incarceration over a year ago. "It will be expedient and time saving to do so" our legal expert says, because appoint-

ing a new team will definitely mean further delay to the trial which the court is trying to avoid. The insistence of the time span of the court and the need to speedily get on with the trial is being questioned by critics of the court. "Is time consideration more important than the rights of the accused persons to a fair trial?" a critic of the court asks.

Delaying tactics also will not go down well with such a high profile case and the court has a mandate to discharge justice judiciously.

As at press time Hinga Norman's sacked lead defence attorney Jenkins-Johnston was not available for comment but Sulaiman Banja Tejan-Sie another

sacked member of Norman's defence team confirmed to the Christian Monitor that the old team has been contacted by court authorities and that negotiations are underway. The outcome of those discussions will be revealed today, he said. Tejan-Sie said he is ready to perform his duties as a criminal lawyer at all times. This can be interpreted as an indication that, the registrar of the court whose discretion it is to choose the standby team is considering reinstating the ousted team because of time constraints. Time is of the essence and Norman must understand that he is being tried with two others on the same indictments our legal expert concluded.

For Special Court Ruling **Norman's Family Accuse Kabbah**

By Joseph Turay

Family members of the first accused of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), Chief Sam Hinga Norman, have claimed that President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has conspired with the Special Court to ensure that the accused does not have the right to defend himself. The family members, who

were gathered outside the Special Court building at Kenyatta Road on Tuesday when the court ruled that Chief Hinga Norman does not have the right to self-representation in the on-going trial, argued that Chief Norman's appeal to defend himself is a legitimate right. An aggrieved senior family member who opined that the

court ruling was a calculated ploy by the Special Court and the SLPP government, said: "The court and the government fear that if our brother is allowed to defend himself, he will make some revelations that will rock the president and other senior officials in the SLPP." The irate family members also claimed that the court

ruling is sequel to the Special Court previous decision to deny Chief Norman the right to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which created some misunderstanding between the two post-war institutions. They also claimed that the Special Court did promise to give the accused a chance to

Contd. page 2



Norman: fought for democracy



Kabbah: enjoying Norman's labour

From front page

defend himself, but it deliberately reneged on the promise. Meanwhile the family

Norman's Family Accuse Kabbah

has expressed fears that Chief Norman's detention will be prolonged like in the case of the late RUF leader, Rtd.

Cpl. Foday Saybana Sankoh, who eventually died in prison after a protracted illness.

The Exclusive

Thursday June 10, 2004



Sam Hinga Norman

The Prosecutor of the United Nations-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone David Crane says every count for war crimes against the former leader of Sierra Leone's Civil Defense Force and others will be proven at the trial.

In a statement at the formal opening of the

NORMAN'S HORROR AT SPECIAL COURT

trial of Leadership of the Civil Defense Forces in Sierra Leone. Prosecutor Crane indicated that during the course of the trial, there would be focus of various crime bases where alleged criminal acts occurred.

He said Samuel Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Alieu Kondewa are three officials of the disbanded Civil

-Says David Crane

Defense Force expected to stand trial during the June term of the Special Court.

Crane pointed out that throughout the trial, children who fought alongside the CDF would be brought on the witness stand to testify on stories of alleged horrors Norman and his men committed.

He told the audience who had gathered in the Courtroom in Freetown last week for the opening of the CDF

case, that citizens would testify to acts the accused committed in the town of Bradford in Sierra Leone.

The Special Court Prosecutor claimed that one of the witnesses alleges that the CDF moved into the town and began to reign havoc on the civilians.

He maintained that Norman was in overall command of the CDF as National Coordina-

See page 3

New Vision

Thursday June 10, 2004

tor in which he was to establish, organize, support and promote the CDF. Crane also disclosed that Hinga Norman was leader of the Kamajors.

As for Moinina Fofana, Crane said in the absence of Norman, he stood in command as national director for war by implementing policy and strategy for prosecuting the war.

The third accused from the leadership of the CDF Alieu Kondewa, the prosecutor revealed to the court was the high priest with supervision and control over all initiations within the CDF.

He added that the special court was now

ready to prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Crimes alleged to have been committed by Norman, Fofana and Kondewa in the joint indictment include unlawful killing, physical violence and mental suffering, looting and burning and the use of child soldiers, among others.

Crane emphasized that all of these offenses were committed within the territory of Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

For his part, the President of the Spe-

cial Court for Sierra Leone Justice Emmanuel Olayinka Ayoola told the audi-

ence that as the court enters into the trial phase, it was an opportune time to emphasize the commitment of the court to the values that underlie its establishment.

He said justice is affronted when impunity reigns bringing in its wake, injustice and a challenge to civilized values and a peaceful world order.

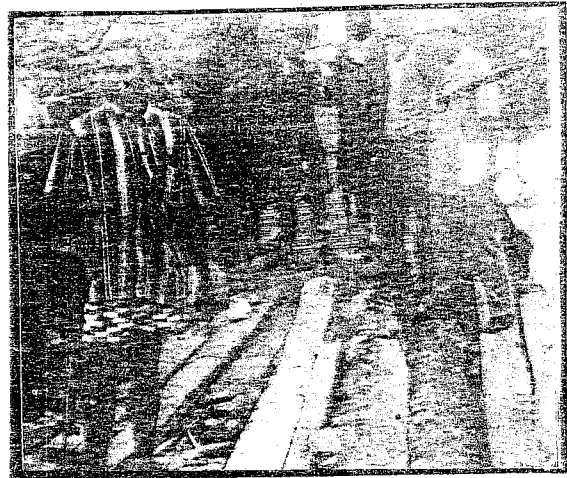
Meanwhile, defendant Samuel Hinga Norman is said to have terminated the services of his lawyers. He informed the court that he would represent himself during the trial.

As Special Court Overrules Indictee...

Norman Asks For Jail Sentence



Kamajor militia during the ten year civil war



Kamajors cover up a trench dug by rebels

By Joseph Turay

The first accused for the Civil Defence Force (CDF) and

head of the enterprise. Chief Sam Hinga Norman, yesterday

faced the Special Court bravely by asking for an everlasting jail sentence

after the judges over-ruled that he should not

defend himself.

Chief Norman, who is

facing eight count charge for

Contd. page 2

Rebeld! al-Nada Wanne As

The Exclusive

Wednesday June 09, 2009

From front page

various crimes committed during the ten-year civil conflict, last week appeared before a panel of judges and pronounced that he would henceforth defend himself and that he had earlier written a letter to inform the court about his self-representation.

But when he made his second appearance before the Cameroonian Judge Benjamin Itoe yesterday, the court ruled that it would not allow the first accused to defend himself.

When the judge asked if the accused had anything to say in spite of the ruling, Chief Norman, who was well clad in a white safari suit, stood up and vehemently opposed to the

court ruling.

"My lord, I respect your ruling and appreciate your decision but I will prefer to be put in cell forever and allow the court to go ahead," Chief Norman said.

According to Judge Itoe, the decision not to allow Chief Norman to defend himself is based on the fact that the trial is a joint trial and cannot allow a single indictee to avoid the fray while the others have legal representation.

It will also set procedural difficulties of

granting the right because it will be at the detriment of the other two indictees, Moinina Fofanah and Alieu Kondewa, who cannot speak or hear English.

The learned judge also pointed out that granting Chief Norman the right to defend himself will affect the whole judicial process and the integrity of the court because the accused is not a legally minded person.

Meanwhile, the court was adjourned to Thursday 10th June, 2004.



Chief Hinga Norman making a speech during his heydays

Norman Speaks To The African Champion



Chief Norman speaks to The African Champion's Alhaji Jalloh

The African Champion

Wednesday June 9, 2004

Norman Speaks

Special Court indictee and former Minister of Internal Affairs, Chief Sam Hinga Norman has made two appearances before the UN backed court for Sierra Leone for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Two days before his arrest last year, he spoke to Alhaji Jalloh of The African Champion Newspaper about the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Now we publish extracts of the interview:

AC: Now there is much talk about the Special Court as accusations continued to point at the former civil militia forces, particularly the Kamajors. Do you think it is justifiable for the Kamajors to face the Special Court?

Norman: If they are found wanting. If they are guilty of any offence that is liable to be investigated, they should be investigated. But generally they defended. So it will be very difficult to indict defence.

AC: In your view, do you think the setting up of the Special Court is timely?

Norman: Well, this is now a situation Chief Hinga Norman as a person who is a Sierra Leonean, and entitled to express his views. The other side of Chief Hinga Norman is talking as part of the executive of government. I will say that, the best way out is not only to punish the would be criminals but also to find a way to remedy the victims. So if that is the intention of the Special Court then, I believe that the people of Sierra Leone will welcome it. Again, impunity in the area of inflicting injury on people will be stopped. Secondly, when those bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes are punished, then the problems of the victims would also be redressed. That is, those that are homeless, those without jobs and those who have had their limbs amputated will be sympa-

thetically treated so that their suffering can be ameliorated.

AC: The Special Court has emphasised on the need to bring to book those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes committed against humanity. Don't you think the "Kamajors" are part of the group?

Norman: Well, the greatest responsibility is pointing at those in authoritative positions who would have made things to sway from one angle to the other side of the pendulum. You are asking if the Kamajors or more appropriately the Civil Defence Forces are affected.

The "Kamajors" are naturally Mendes so if you mention "Kamajors" you are referring to the Mende speaking part of the Civil Defence Forces. Generally, the Civil Defence Forces comprised of Kamajors, Kapras of the North, Gbetis of the North, Tamaboros of the North and Donsos of the east. There are the civil militia groups formed by Kono people and the OBHS (Organised Body of Hunting Society) of the cosmopolitan area, which is the Western Area. So it's a massive number of human beings under one organisation.

Coming now to those who bear the greatest responsibility, I will say that whoever bears responsibility bears responsibility in two areas: One responsibility is to take protective measures of whatever is the responsibility given to somebody. If that was not the case and, the authority one had was misused because of position that authority must be investigated and punished.

So I will say, it is not

against the AFRC, RUF or CDF, it is country-wide. Maybe, some people who committed heinous crimes would not have been associated even with fighting forces.

AC: Were you not having command over all the civil militia groups in the country?

Norman: I am not denying that, I was having command over all of them. But derivatively are you insinuating that because Chief Norman had command over all the militia groups, therefore if something happened in Freetown or the far corner of Sierra Leone which Chief Norman was not involved or aware he is to be held responsible? Well, Chief Norman will say, I derive my authority from parliament. So, therefore, if I ask you to raise the issue with parliament what would you say?

AC: So in case you are requested to face the Special Court, are you prepared to do that?

Norman: If I am invited, I will go there. My invitation doesn't mean I am indicted. Chief Norman had continuously said that he got involved in the fighting to defend the constitution, lives of the people and their property which he did. So if one was to indict Chief Norman for defending then, one would ask if across the World: Church Hill, Deguile to mention but few of the previous years against Adolf Hitler's war were indicted for defending? We can still look into the situation of George Bush and Tony Blair. The two presidents are standing strongly now to defend the world. Are they going to be indicted?

This interview was conducted by Alhaji Jalloh together with the Editor-in-Chief of The Critic Magazine International.

Independent Observer

Wednesday June 9, 2004

Court Stops Hinga Norman

By John Baimba Sesay

Justice Benjamin Itoe yesterday overruled suggestion by indictee, Sam Hinga Norman for him to defend himself after dismissing his entire legal team last week.

In his ruling, the Judge said the right to self defence is qualified but not an absolute one as the accused is jointly indicted with two others who do not speak nor understand the English language.

He also referred to the limited mandate the court has and emphasised that the court cannot allow its integrity to be tarnished as their responsibility is to protect the integrity of the court. And therefore stated that the court is of the opinion that the accused person cannot and would not be allowed to represent himself. He also made it clear to him that the right to self defence by Norman be exercised with the assistance of a lawyer as, according to him, it is very essential.

Replying with the Judge's permission, Norman extended appreciation to the Judge but categorically stated that he prefers to be kept permanently in his cell while the court continues with the trial.

Peep

Wednesday June 09, 2009

HINGA NORMAN DEFIES SPECIAL COURT!

"my right to defend myself before the war crimes tribunal is absolute"



Hinga Norman: ready to speak out

Chief Sam Hinga Norman has defiantly stuck to his position that he will defend himself before the Special Court despite the advice of the panel of judges. When sittings resumed yesterday following Norman's firing of his three defence counsel last week after his first appearance. Justice

Bankole Thompson said that the rights of the indicted persons must be protected.

"The right to self-defence before the court is not an absolute one" he said.

The Sierra Leonean born judge also cautioned Chief Norman that his plan to represent himself would cause "undue delay".

He noted that two prosecu-

tion witnesses who should have given evidence on Tuesday were unable to do so because of the wrangle over Chief Norman's defence.

Justice Thompson also noted that since the 3 accused were co-joined, CDF War Commander Moinima Fofana and former High Priest Allieu Kondewa may also be affected.

"They may need a Mende interpreter to translate to the court" the judge noted. He asked Chief Norman to

re-consider the issue of his defence.

However when asked whether he had anything to say, Chief Hinga Norman said he was standing his ground.

"The right to defend myself has no qualifications whatsoever" he stated defiantly.

He said that he would rather go back to his cell and let the case go on without him than use a lawyer. The case was adjourned till Thursday June 10, 2004.

CAGING THE JACKAL OF IMPUNITY

A Review Of David Crane's Opening Address To The Special Court In The Trials of Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana And Allieu Kondewa

The long awaited Special Court trials have now begun. Every Sierra Leonean with access to a radio or newspaper will be able to make his/her own mind as to the guilt or innocence of those indicted. Of course for some Hinga Norman is innocent - whatever evidence is presented before the Special Court.

And Presiding Judge Benjamin Itoe was very careful to point out that the indictments against the accused, all of the accused, remain "mere allegations" until they are proved beyond reasonable doubt before the international war crimes tribunal.

Principles Of Justice

We here at this paper have always supported the Spe-

times verged on the histrionic. But he did present a powerful argument to rebut those who claim any crime committed in the name of 'democracy' is no crime at all.

"The ghosts of thousands of the murdered... stand among us. They cry out for a fair and transparent trial - to let the world know what took place here in Sierra Leone"

Mr Crane sees his responsibility within a global and historical context; he linked our Special Court with "the horrors of Rwanda and Yugoslavia" and subsequent war-crimes tribunals and the judgments of Nuremberg in 1945. As he put it,

"The Special Court... gives the new millennia

crimes against humanity, unlawful killing, inflicting physical and mental suffering - inhumane acts - on innocent civilians, looting, burning and pillaging, terrorizing the civilian population and imposing collective punishment and the use of child soldiers.

Thursday June 3, 2004 was the first opportunity which we had to hear the prosecution's evidence. And David Crane presented a compelling opening address

"Greatest Responsibility"

Crane does not need to prove that Hinga Norman and the other 2 defendants physically executed or tortured anyone. As he pointed out,

"The accused sitting here

though *"the hand may have been that of Esau, the voice was that of Jacob"*.

What Is Democracy?

One of the most puzzling arguments put forward by defendants of Hinga Norman and the CDF was that his crimes were 'justified' because they were fighting for Democracy?

This is the same Hinga Norman who put Sierra Leone's Governor-General under arrest in 1967 and began the whole cycle of military intervention which led to war and coups in later years.

And this is the same Hinga Norman who, just a few years ago, equated journalists with rebels and seemed quite prepared to execute 'extraordinary measures' against those who were

really 'offenders of the nation looking out for their own self interest'.

Nations have gone to war before, and as the prosecutor noted, bearing arms in defence of one's country is an "honoured and necessary profession".

But the prosecution's case against Norman and the CDF indictees is that war itself has laws. And because your enemy is brutal and

ruthless - as the RUF - AFRC undoubtedly was - this does not excuse you adopting the same tactics especially towards non-combatants.

If you serve Democracy - a noble ideal - then you serve a Higher God. Adopting the tactics of your enemy means you become that enemy.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



Indictment of Norman and others is not condemnation of CDF, Crane says

cial Court in principle Sierra Leone lacked (and still lacks) the capacity to fairly try those accused of atrocities in war crimes during our brutal conflict. And it is important that those who did commit crimes against humanity are tried and punished; so these horrors never happen again.

David Crane's opening address to the Special Court in the trials of senior CDF commanders at

the chance to face down the beast of impunity": a beast he described earlier as a 'jackal of death, destruction and inhumanity' which has to be caged behind "bars of justice... hope and reconciliation".

The Charges

Sam Hinga Norman, former National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force, Moinina Fofana, CDF Director of War and Allieu Kondewa, High Priest of the CDF have been charged with

today either planned, instigated, ordered, committed or otherwise aided and abetted in the planning, preparation or execution of the crimes in the indictment.

The prosecution's argument is that the CDF leaders "either knew or should have known" (our emphasis) what their men were about to carry out.

They failed to take "necessary and reasonable measures" to prevent such acts. So, to use a Biblical saying,

critical of this government. The hidden sub-text to this whole argument, (and I have listened to the argument carefully), is firstly was Hinga Norman fighting for 'Democracy' or the hegemony of the SLPP and the Mende tribe which it represents?

A more intriguing question, which no-one has yet addressed, is... 'are any crimes permissible in the name of Democracy? Does Democracy remain Democracy when it is covered with the blood of innocents?'

Proving A Case

Some of those questions were addressed, tangentially, in the prosecutor's opening address.

Mr Crane submitted that rather than fighting for 'Democracy' in the abstract, the three indictees were fighting for selfish, narrow interests.

"Defending one's nation is a just cause. The just cause of a civil defence force in Sierra Leone... became perverted and was twisted beyond measure by Norman, Fofana and Kondewa".

Mr Crane noted that rather than being 'defenders of the nation', the three men were

Pecp

Wednesday June 09,
2004

The half-day workshop

NORMAN CHALLENGES JUDGE'S RULING

By James B. Sawyerr

When the Special Court Trial Chamber presided over by Judge Benjamin Itoe resumed sitting yesterday, the speedy proceedings of the court suffered another hiccup when Civil Defence Force war crimes

indictée, Sam Hinga Norman, warned Judge Benjamin Itoe that if the Special Court denies him his international human rights of self representation in court, he would have no alternative but to renege from appearing as he would cease to



Sam Hinga Norman
cooperate with the Special Court.

in a strongly worded response to the former Kamajor clan leader's application raised dur-

Cont. back page

FROM PAGE 1

ing the commencement of the first sittings of the court last week, to allow him defend himself, Judge Benjamin Itoe informed the court that Sam Hinga Norman's right of self representation would be considered without pre-qualifications.

Judge Itoe further ruled that Sam Hinga Norman has a right before the court to dismiss his present team of defense lawyers and that the Trial Chamber would not allow its international integrity to suffer any dent as a result of any unfair injustices.

But Judge Benjamin Itoe's

ruling took a dramatic turn when he declared that the court's approval of Sam Hinga Norman's application to the court for self defense would only be exercised with the assistance of defense counsels appointed by the Special Court whose responsibility would include among other things, to guide the accused in accordance with international court procedures of evidence.

At the end of his address, Judge Itoe requested war crimes indictée, Sam Hinga Norman, to make a comment.

Norman responded; "My Lord, I seem to be in a difficult condition to make a comment concerning your ruling. I have my international rights to self defense, and if I am denied my rights by this court, I will stay in my cell whilst you go ahead with your trial."

The presiding judge, Benjamin Itoe then declared, "the court has delivered its ruling and I therefore adjourn the Trial Chamber of the Special Court to 10th June 2004".

The New Citizen

Wednesday June 09, 2004

Norman drops bombshell

Chief Sam Hinga Norman yesterday told the trial judges at the Special Court that he "prefer to be locked up permanently at the cells of the court without facing trial or die there since he'd been denied the request for



Hinga Norman

self defence".

Hinga Norman said the right of self defence "has no qualification whatsoever".

Hinga Norman made this pronouncement after the ruling by the Trial judges refusing to grant him the request to self defence

which he requested last Thursday, June 3.

The trial judge, Benjamin Itoe in his ruling stated that Hinga Norman is on a joint trial with two other co-defendants and that granting him the request

Contd. page 7

From Front Page

to self defence will have a negative effect to the other two who can neither understand nor speak english but Mende.

Comparing Norman's trial to that of former

Yugoslavia president Slobodan Milosovic, Judge Itoe said Milosovic's trial was him alone. he was legally minded and had expressed his intention to defend himself, even before the commencement

of his trial, unlike Hinga Norman who had lawyers defending him since his arrest in March last year. After the adjournment of the trial to Thursday, June 10, Hinga Norman's family members told the press that the Judges

should have asked the other two accused persons, Moinna Fofanah and Alieu Kondewa whether they supported Norman's request to self defence. "Hinga Norman was denied the right to talk

at the TRC, he'd again been denied the right to talk at the Special Court. This is unacceptable. We are suspecting a foul play. We will hold the Special Court and the government of Sierra Leone particularly

Ahmad Tejan Kabbah responsible if anything happens to Hinga Norman", an angry family member told journalists at the precincts of the Special Court.

The Pool

Wednesday June 09, 2004

Thursday June 10, 2004

Hinga Norman must conform

In the absence of major figures like ex-President Charles Taylor of Liberia and ex-Junta leader Johnny Paul the focus of the Special Court trials shifts to Captain Hinga Norman erstwhile leader of the Kamajors.

At the establishment of the Special Court most citizens thought that it was all about indicting RUF and AFRC officials. But according to the mandate of the Special Court it was to try those who bore the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity.

Little did they know that that mandate would cover the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and not least its leader who had wide ranging powers.

As a result he might have thought himself absolved from all the indictable crimes under the umbrella of the government of which he was a Minister.

Now as if suffering from tantrums and trauma, Hinga Norman in the first place relieved his defending lawyers of their responsibility and secondly decided that he would defend himself. Not only that. The latest development is that he has decided to stay in his cell and not appear before the court proceedings at all saying that the court can carry on in his absence because he has been deprived of his right to defend himself. The result of this budding impasse is that the Special Court would lose all the interest shown in it by the several thousands of Sierra Leoneans whose representatives cheered when Hinga Norman made this bold statement.

All the hopes and fears of government loyalists are pinned on the outcome of the case against Hinga Norman especially the southerners and easterners from whose ethnic groups Norman hails.

The legal implications of Hinga Norman's non-cooperation with the Special Court are unknown but one thing is clear, Norman cannot be set free only on the grounds of non-compliance. There is no provision for an indictee who refuses to free himself from blame because the onus of proof rests on the prosecution. The ex-Kamajor should be advised to co-operate with the court in order to avert indefinite incarceration.

.....

David Crane and the American agenda

BY AHMAD NABABA

AFTER MORE than a year since the Special Court for Sierra Leone began indicting and arresting suspects, the much trumpeted and talked-about trials have finally started, interestingly and very ironically, with those who actually fought to ensure that this country is safe and secure for everyone, the former Civil Defence Force commanders.

FOR QUITE a considerable period of time, the editorial position of this news paper was completely obversed to the so-called indictment and trial of the leadership of the CDF.

IN THE view of many Sierra Leoneans, a lot has already been said in opposition to the establishment of the Court including pointing out the inherent dangers involved in the entire programme.

FOR MOST of the time, I personally hated the mere pronounciation of the name, David Crane.

WHERE WAS he when we were running in the bushes and forests trying to escape from the rebels, who were looking for innocent people to kill or maim?

WHOEVER GAVE him the right to say the things he says of the inditees, many of whom are held in very high esteem, even as heroes in some quarters?

WHAT LEGITIMACY is there in a court that is built on a foundation of greed, treachery and back-stabbing?

THE GOVERNMENT who insisted on the establishment of this court, against the wishes of the majority of the people of this country, must also be made to face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for waging an illegal war on the innocent people of Iraq.

IN ALL this time since the court's prosecutor, David Crane began making careless statements about the inditees, we have in several ways tried to educate this so called manufactured bogus redeemer but has refused to listen and is going ahead with the so called trial.

PERHAPS THIS David Crane needs to be reminded that some of us are aware of his, and that of the American, hidden agenda that he is here to promote, for otherwise, he should be in the United States trying those Americas that are illegally holding another group of innocent people as 'illegal combatants' in Guantanamo Bay.

CERTAINLY TRYING people here that a large number of us consider as heroes is simply helping to expose the warppish nature of United States foreign policy, refusing to submit to the international Criminal Court while at the same time talking about international justice.

WHAT COULD they actually know about international justice, which makes them feel that they have a right to impose their will on others?

WHAT MR. Crane should be doing is helping his government recover its lost credibility and banered image instead of trying to tell us he knows more about what happened here than us, who were here when it all happened.

INFACT, all that his court is doing here is sowing more seeds of discord among the people, dividing the people further and undermining the fragile peace and reconciliation that has been achieved.

DAVID CRANE should be reminded that many of us are aware of his hidden agenda, which is ultimately to ensure that the government here becomes a puppet of the US government.

THE DESPERATE search for oil by the Americans is also at the heart of David Crane's mission here, whereby the Americans plan to bring another war here that would give them the reason to take control of the oil stocks that are suspected to be in the country.

THE MAJORITY of the people had wished for only the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as it is more akin to traditional methods of settling disputes.

BUT CONTRARY to the wishes and expectation of the large number of Sierra Leoneans, that TRC was made to starve for lack of funds, as against the lavish funds that is wasted on this bogus court.

THERE IS no way most of us can be impressed with the activities of the this court, as in the end it is going to leave our country in shambles and sharply divided.

CERTAINLY, in spite of the sacrifices of people like chief Norman and the other CDF leaders, there are those, for some personal reason that were against them, who have now been recruited by Mr. Crane to testify against the leadership of the CDF.

BUT FOR most of us who have been informed and have been keenly monitoring the activities of the CDF, there is no way anyone can defame them.

THIS IS because we are aware of the circumstance that precipitated its formation and operation, to protect defenceless citizens.

WHAT WOULD David Crane have expected us to do? Sit down with hands between our legs and see our entire population wiped out? Did they go to the aid of the Liberians when they were calling on them to save them from the rebels?

WHAT MORAL justification has this man (Crane), coming from the most hypocritical nation on earth to judge us?

STANDARD TIMES did a couple of articles last year about the activities of this manufactured 'mandela' of ours and his hidden agenda, and I kept asking the editor whether this David Crane ever challenged what was published, and to my greatest amazement, he never did.

MY CONCERN therefore is how can a man with such a checkered background be made to prosecute people we consider heroes?

CERTAINLY, David Crane has refused to learn.

HE AND his supporters must therefore be informed that if any problem erupts in this country due to the so called trials, he will certainly be held responsible by the people of this nation.

HE WILL not be allowed to leave this country in shamelbes or flames, so he must be prepared for the consequences of the shallow thinking.

THE TRIALS have started and chief Norman has refused allowing his lawyers to defend him.

THIS, David Crane should know, is extremely important, and all well meaning Sierra Leoneans must be ready to stand up against any attempt at denying chief Norman defending himself.

AFTER ALL, it is happening in other courts.

CERTAINLY DAVID Crane and his cognates have never realised the seriousness of imprisoning chief Norman in this country, for so long a time, and trying him for his role as head of then CDF.

David Crane, a backward American, should be ready to be properly educated by chief Norman about affairs in this country.

For those of us who really know chief Norman, it is clear that many in high places are beginning to realise the danger chief Norman is capable of causing, and are growing restless with the insistence of the inditee to defend himself.

Standard

Times

Tuesday

June 08, 2004



Nimbaians Count Corpses of Taylor's 'Revolution'

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

June 9, 2004

Posted to the web June 9, 2004

By the middle of 1985, it was clear that the marriage of convenience between the Krahns and Gios/Manos that culminated into the violent overthrow of more than a century of settler hegemony and dominance in Liberia was teetering to breaking point.

By then, B/Gen. Thomas G. Quoinwonkpa, the man who symbolized the Gio/Mano mantle of power of the "revolution of the People's Redemption Council (PRC)" was locked in the battle for supremacy with Samuel Kanyon Doe, head of state and embodiment of Krahn power quest. Doe briefly succeeded in eliminating Quoinwonkpa, but the main battle was yet to begin. On December 24, 1989 a group of Liberians, acting under the command of Charles Ghankay McArthur Taylor a criminal fugitive from a Baltimore jail in the US, attacked the Nimba border town of Butuo to announce the dawn of the end of the days of Doe's grip on Liberia. Taylor's military adventurism termed "Popular People's Uprising" which rode largely on the surf of the genuine grievances of the Nimba people and drew 75% of its fighting men thence succeed in eliminating Doe in less than ten months.

But not surprisingly, no sooner did the uprising succeeded in eliminating Doe factor in Liberian politics than Taylor began the systematic elimination of the apostles of his "revolution," some say to strengthen his political base and to avenge the slaying of 13 of his settler kinsmen the PRC at the beachpoles in April 1980. By the time the "Popular :People's Uprising" was jettisoned on August 14, 2004 under the combined pressure of the rebel LURD, MODEL, and the international community backed by the US and Britain, all Nimba has to show for its effort to rid Liberia of tyranny are dozens of corpses of its architects, politicians, engineers, lawyers, educators, doctors, and farmers.

As Freelancer Reuben Gongo reports, the citizens of Nimba at a mournful ceremony this week, have been counting the corpses of Taylor's revolution, calling for justice, and calling it a day violent approaches to national issues.

Several hundreds of citizens of Nimba County including family members, relatives, friends, and loved ones of the two slain sons of the county, Deputy Minister of National

Security for Operation, John Yormie, and the Deputy Minister of Public Works for Technical Services, Isaac Vaye, yesterday, held a memorial service to remember the two Nimbaians and many others before them.

The two were allegedly arrested and gruesomely murdered on orders of former president Charles Taylor by and through his dreaded Special Security Services Director Benjamin Yeaten.

Delivering a sermon based on Matthew 14:1-12, under the theme, "When Terror Triumphs Over Righteousness, What Do We Do?" the Acting Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church on 18th Street, Sinkor, Rev. G. Lague Vaye challenged the mourners against vengeance or retributive justice and all forms of mob justice.

Pastor Vaye told the congregation, some of whom were wailing, weeping, and grieving, that only God can punish the killers of the two men - John Yormie and Isaac Vaye, and other Nimbaians including Jackson Fiah Doe, Sam Doeke and his entire family, Moses Duopue, Stephen Daniels, Augustus Wright, David Toweh, and Lewis Q. Bailey all at the hands of Taylor's death squad.

Speakers upon speakers at the memorial repeatedly pointed accusing fingers at former President Charles Taylor for engineering the killings of those they invariably referred to "great sons of Nimba County." They named Paul Vaye, George Mansuo, Ocebio Pehmie, Edwin Russell, one SSS Banana, Joe Touah, Tiagen Mantee, Benjamin Yeaten and Joseph Montgomery all of the Special Security Services (SSS) all of Nimba County as members of Charles Taylor's death squad used against the people of Nimba.

It may be recalled that the last victims of Charles Taylor's regime of terror, Deputy National Security Minister John Yormie and Deputy Public Works Minister for Technical Services Isaac Vaye, were allegedly lured from their respective homes in Paynesville on June 5, 2003 by death squad members Ocebio Pehmie, Edwina Cassell, and one SS Banana.

They reportedly acted on the orders of the dreadful former death squad commander and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Gen. Benjamin Yeaten who feigned that President Taylor wanted to see them.

Once lured out of their homes, according to eyewitnesses' accounts, the men were bundled into a civilian jeep and taken to the CNC concession site in Lao Clan in Nimba County where they were ghastly murdered.

Announcing the death of the two men following days of intense family pressure on the government to produce them, former Vice President Moses Blah said the men were killed by individuals acting not on government orders but failed to say who the perpetrators were or where their bodies were disposed of.

Family demands for the bodies of the victims and for justice to be done did very little to change the situation even more than 12 months on.

Veep Blah himself narrowly escaped summary execution for alleged attempts to overthrow Mr. Taylor while he (Taylor) was attending peace talks in Accra, Ghana.

Meanwhile, Nimba County Superintendent Harrison Karnwea has cautioned the people of Nimba County to see the memorial service of the deceased as the end to the killing of Nimba people by their armed brethren from the county.

Tracing the origin of the intra-tribal violence in the county, Mr. Karnwea recalled that it all started in 1983 when former Nimba County Superintendent Robert G. Saye was murdered on the farm of the mother of the late Gen. Thomas Quoinwonkpa in Nimba County.

Arguing that forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, stability, and genuine brotherhood amongst Nimbaians can only be possible if justice and reconciliation concomitantly work hand in hand in the county, Superintendent Karnwea said the killers of these Nimba citizens would be identified and made to confess and then punished through the justice system to deter others from doing same.

He emphasized that even though he is amongst many Nimbaians being blacklisted for elimination for speaking the truth and seeking justice, he would not rest until true justice takes its course in the killings.



Conneh Terms Lurd Executives As 'Bandits', Rejects Suspension

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

June 9, 2004

Posted to the web June 9, 2004

Monrovia

The Chairman of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) Sekou Damate Conneh has rejected his suspension by Executives of the organization, describing them as "bandits".

Mr. Conneh pointed out that those who tried to remove him as head of the organization were individuals who want to undermine the peace process. The LURD leader said he would deal with those concerned upon his arrival.

A Radio Veritas report monitored said Mr. Conneh spoke from Senegal, where he's currently visiting.

He claimed that his home in Guinea was recently looted by certain elements of the organization and US\$2 million was taken away.

The LURD Chairman said he would blame certain executives of the group who are undermining the peace process.

Mr. Conneh then reminded the executives of LURD to concentrate on disbanding the armed group for peace and stability rather than fomenting trouble by squabbling for jobs for personal reasons.

The decision to suspend Mr. Conneh was announced early this week by executives of the organization at an "emergency extraordinary session" attended by some senior members of the former rebel group, calling themselves the National Executive Council (NEC) of LURD.

A special statement read on behalf of the group by Edward Farley, Director General of the General Services Agency (GSA), at a news conference Monday did not give reasons for the indefinite suspension of Mr. Conneh, but said the decision follows a

recommendation from the Military High Command of LURD, which has been unanimously endorsed by the NEC.

Following the "emergency extraordinary session", the group appointed NPA Managing Director Chayee Z. Doe as Acting National Chairman, Justice Minister Kabineh M. Ja'neh, Acting National Vice Chairman for Administration and Labour Minister Cllr. J. Laveli Supuwood as Acting National Vice Chairman for Operations.

Others appointed include LURD's former Spokesman and Commissioner of Customs and Excise Charles Bennie, Acting Secretary General and Attorney Moiffie Kanneh, Acting National Spokesman.

This latest development in the former rebel group is believed to have been prompted by the apparent refusal of Mr. Sekou Damate Conneh to relieve Lusinee Kamara from the post of Finance Minister and have him replaced with Sekou V. Sackor, Director of the Cabinet.

Also at the news conference Monday, the National Executive Council of LURD said the need to purge Mr. Kamara out of the Ministry of Finance cannot be over-emphasized. "Lusinee needs to go and must go now," they said.

The senior members of LURD dismissed as "shear ignorance," beliefs that once a nominee is confirmed by the NTLA, he or she cannot be withdrawn by the nominating party.

They argued that LURD, as a nominating party under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is under obligation to recall or nominate any personnel it wishes to represent its interest in the power-sharing government.

The National Executive Council is appealing to Liberian people and the international community to prevail on the NTGL Chairman Gyude Bryant to officially relieve the Finance Minister and nominate to the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA), Sekou V. Sackor as LURD's new nominee for the post of Finance Minister.

Accordingly to the NEC, these decisions are in no way intended to disrupt the ongoing peace process but rather enhance the implementation of the Accra Accord.

The group said it will communicate these decisions to ECOWAS' Chairman and Ghanaian President John Kufour, the International Contact Group on Liberia (ICGL), the African Union (AU), the UN and other members of the international community to take due note.

"Therefore, any person and/or organizations doing business with Sekou Damate Conneh, Jr., will be doing so at his or her own risk," the NEC stated emphatically, assuring Liberians and the international community that LURD is committed to the peace process, and as such, would not do anything to the contrary to implementation of the Agreement.

"We will not pull out of the Government but we will remain in to strengthen it for the common good of the Liberian people."

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Africa News June 9, 2004 Wednesday

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Africa News

June 9, 2004 Wednesday

LENGTH: 553 words

HEADLINE: Liberia;
Work Toward the Disbandment of Lurd

BYLINE: The NEWS

BODY:

The Chairman of the former warring faction of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (**LURD**) this week reiterated some salient points in reaction to his reported suspension as Chairman of the group. In an interview from Senegal, the **LURD** Chairman, Sekou Damate Conneh, reiterated that the war in **Liberia** was over and it was time that all former warring factions submit to the peace process.

Sekou Conneh pointed out that squabbles for jobs and positions at this time within the movement was tantamount to trouble making and has the potential to undermine the peace process. He reminded his colleagues that in view of the ongoing disarmament and demobilization exercise, the Executive members of **LURD** should now concentrate on working **toward** disbanding the group.

He also reminded his colleagues who are interested in jobs or positions to take advantage of the political process leading to the October 2005 presidential and general elections.

Sekou Conneh made these points following a news briefing during which some Executive members of his group announced his "indefinite suspension" as Chairman of the group.

For some time now, there have been rifts within the former rebel Movement over the removal of the Finance Minister. Some individuals on the Executive Committee of **LURD** had threatened to commit the group into a non-cooperative posture within the power-sharing Transitional Government unless the Finance Minister was removed.

But the **LURD** Chairman sees such moves as an attempt to undermine the peace process. He has therefore made it clear that he would not be a party to any attempts that would derail the Peace process.

With this development, it would appear to us that some individuals are still maintaining a war mentality, failing to allow their conscience to serve them right.

For we find it unacceptable that after all that has happened, there would still be individuals calling themselves Executive Committee members of a former warring faction who are clearly bent on placing their personal interest above the national interest.

Let it be restated that the Liberian people have suffered unbearably under shattered lives and dehumanizing conditions as a result of 14 years of warfare. As such, the preoccupation of

everyone should now be the restoration of the country to better and decent living standards instead of fomenting trouble that could retard our National efforts **toward** lasting peace and stability.

We see the recent attempts by some executives of **LURD** to have their Chairman suspended as insignificant as far as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is concerned.

Under the agreement, Article XXI section 5 states that, "The **LURD**, MODEL and all irregular forces of the GOL shall cease to exist as military forces, upon completion of disarmament".

With the disarmament and demobilization exercise now midway, we expect that the executive committee members of **LURD** would begin to disband **LURD** and redirect their energies **toward** establishing political parties or simply joining one of the 18 existing political parties of their choice.

But to behave in a way and manner not indicative of attempts to disband **LURD** is an act of national betrayal. We therefore call on the Executive Committee members of **LURD to work toward** disbanding their group.

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Timeline: Sierra Leone

A chronology of key events

1787 - British abolitionists and philanthropists establish a settlement in Freetown for repatriated and rescued slaves.

1808 - Freetown settlement becomes crown colony.

1896 - Britain sets up a protectorate over the Freetown hinterland.

1954 - Sir Milton Margai, leader of the Sierra Leone People's Party, appointed chief minister.

One-party rule

1961 - Sierra Leone becomes independent.

1967 - Military coup deposes Premier Siaka Stevens' government.

1968 - Siaka Stevens returns to power at the head of a civilian government following another military coup.

1971 - Sierra Leone declared a republic, Stevens becomes executive president.

1978 - New constitution proclaims Sierra Leone a one-party state with the All People's Congress as the sole legal party.

1985 - Major-General Joseph Saidu Momoh becomes president following Stevens's retirement.

1987 - Momoh declares state of economic

FREETOWN


Port city and commercial hub

 Settled by freed and rescued slaves in 18th century
Became capital in 1961

WATCH AND LISTEN
2000: British n
departs

 BBC's Kate Adie
Freetown as UN

[▶ VIDEO](#)
2001: Presiden
Liberia's Presiden

 "preoccupied wit
British in Sierra l

[▶ AUDIO](#)
2004: War crin

 BBC's Alastair Le
Sierra Leone are
want justice"

[▶ VIDEO](#)

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War and coups

1991 - Start of civil war. Former army corporal Foday Sankoh and his Revolutionary United Front (RUF) begin campaign against President Momoh, capturing towns on border with Liberia.

1991 September - New constitution providing for a multiparty system adopted.

1992 - President Joseph Momoh ousted in military coup led by Captain Valentine Strasser, apparently frustrated by failure to deal with rebels. Under international pressure, Strasser announces plans for the first multiparty elections since 1967.

1996 January - Strasser ousted in military coup led by his defence minister, Brigadier Julius Maada Bio.

1996 - Ahmad Tejan Kabbah elected president in February, signs peace accord with Sankoh's rebels in November.

1997 Peace deal unravels. President Kabbah deposed in May by coalition of army officers led by Major-General Paul Koroma and members of the RUF; Koroma suspends the constitution, bans demonstrations and abolishes political parties; Kabbah flees to Guinea to mobilise international support.



RUF rebels waged a campaign of amputation and rape

1997 July - The Commonwealth suspends Sierra Leone.

1997 October - The United Nations Security Council imposes sanctions against Sierra Leone, barring the supply of arms and petroleum products. A British company, Sandline, nonetheless supplies "logistical support", including rifles, to Kabbah allies.

1998 February - The Nigerian-led West African

intervention force Ecomog storms Freetown and drives rebels out.

1998 March - Kabbah makes a triumphant return to Freetown amid scenes of public rejoicing.

1999 January - Rebels backing Revolutionary United Front leader Foday Sankoh seize parts of Freetown from Ecomog. After weeks of bitter fighting they are driven out, leaving behind 5,000 dead and a devastated city.

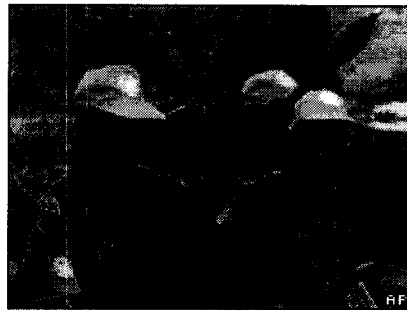
UN intervenes

1999 May - A ceasefire is greeted with cautious optimism in Freetown. In hospitals and amputee camps, victims of rebel atrocities express hope that eight years of civil war may soon be over.

1999 July - Six weeks of talks in the Togolese capital, Lome, result in a peace agreement, under which the rebels receive posts in government and assurances they will not be prosecuted for war crimes.

1999

November/December - UN troops arrive to police the peace agreement - but one rebel leader, Sam Bokari, says they are not welcome. Meanwhile, Ecomog troops are attacked outside Freetown.



Nigerian peacekeepers: Central role in holding back rebels

2000 April/May - UN forces come under attack in the east of the country, but far worse is in store when first 50, then several hundred UN troops are abducted.

2000 May - Rebels close in on Freetown; 800 British paratroopers sent to Freetown to evacuate British citizens and to help secure the airport for UN peacekeepers; rebel leader Foday Sankoh captured.

2000 August - Eleven British soldiers taken hostage by a renegade militia group called the West Side Boys.

Disarming rebels

2000 September - British forces mount operation to rescue remaining UK hostages.

2001 January - Government postpones presidential and parliamentary elections - set for February and March - for six months because of continuing insecurity, which it said made it impossible to conduct free and fair elections nationwide.



Amputee victim: The conflict left thousands of civilians impaired

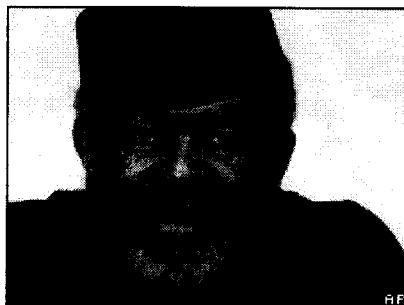
2001 March - UN troops for the first time begin to deploy peacefully in rebel-held territory.

2001 May - Disarmament of rebels begins, and British-trained Sierra Leone army starts deploying in rebel-held areas.

2002 January - War declared over. UN mission says disarmament of 45,000 fighters complete. Government, UN agree to set up war crimes court.

2002 May - Kabbah wins a landslide victory in elections. His Sierra Leone People's Party secures a majority in parliament.

FODAY SANKOH



2002 July - British troops leave Sierra Leone after their two-year mission to help end the civil war.

RUF leader was idolised as a lion by supporters

2003 July - Rebel leader Foday Sankoh dies of natural causes while waiting to be tried for war crimes.

RUF was notorious for mass rape, mutilations of thousands of civilians during 10-year civil war
Sankoh died before being tried by UN-backed court on war crimes charges

2003: Foday Sankoh - The cruel rebel

2003 August - President Kabbah tells truth and reconciliation commission that he had no say over operations of pro-government militias during war.


2004 February - Disarmament and rehabilitation of more than 70,000 civil war combatants officially completed.


War crimes trials

2004 March - UN-backed war crimes tribunal opens courthouse to try senior militia leaders from both sides of civil war.

2004 May - UN-backed war crimes court rules that it has the right to try former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, for his alleged role in Sierra Leone civil war.

2004 June - War crimes trials begin.

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