

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Thursday, March 10, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
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Salone Times, Thursday March 10th, 2005

# 'AFRC COMMANDER FORCED ME INTO SEX AND MARRIAGE'

By Mohamed Mansaray

Special Court Prosecution witness, TF1-023 revealed yesterday that she was forced to marry to a rebel commander whose name the witness did not disclose publicly, when the AFRC forces invaded Freetown in January 1999.

"I had sex with the commander that same night," she told the court, adding that that was her first time of ever having sex in her life. The witness was testifying about AFRC activities in the Western Area during that period. She told the court that

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Some Judges of the Special Court

## 'KAMAJORS LOOTED MY WIFE'S MONEY, THEN KILLED HER'

By Mohamed Mansaray

The 55th Prosecution witness in the trial of CDF indictees at the Special Court, TF2-168 has disclosed that Kamajors looted Le1.6 million from his wife and then shot her dead after they invaded Bradford in the Moyamba district on March 23, 1998.

The witness testified that CO. Kakpata gave the orders for his wife to be killed and was shot twice. "I later buried her at the edge of my farm," he said. The witness was led in evidence by a Prosecution counsel, Raimund Sauter at Court Room No.1, New Engaland in Freetown over the weekend. He told the court that Kamajors who invaded Bradford were mainly from Rotifunk, Bumpie and other surrounding villages and were led by Obai Kamara.

From the Ribbi Chiefdom, Moyamba district, the witness informed the court that Kamajors also looted 63 bag of husk from him during that period.

Describing himself as a farmer and a well known figure in his community, he told the court the rice looted was harvested in 1995 and was bagged in 1998. He informed the court that Obai Kamara summoned a meeting when they entered Bradford and introduced himself as the Kamajor Commander of the Ribbi area. "Obai said that he was appointed as Kamajor commander to be in charge of Ribbi and Bumpie," he quoted Obai Kamara as announcing at the meeting.

During his testimony in Krio from the witness protection box, through an interpreter, the witness recalled that an NGO, AFRC was operating in Bradford community and assisting

the people with bulgur, oil and beans, adding that CARE had long abandoned the area before the rebels entered the community.

The witness testified that he escaped rebel harassment and fled to Freetown in late 1996 but returned to Bradford the following year, after the rebels had left the area.

Under cross-examination by Victor Koope, who is defending the 2nd CDF accused, Moinina Fofana, the witness testified that his statement was neither read back to him nor did he sign it after two officers from the Office of the Prosecution obtained it from him at the Moyamba Police Station.

The witness denied telling the prosecution under cross-examination that the amount Kamajors looted from his wife was Le600 thousand. He also denied that he buried his wife on the left hand side of the road in the bush.

Cross-examined by Ansu Lansana, defending the 3rd accused, Allieu Kondewa, the witness denied telling the Prosecution that he returned with his family to Bradford from Freetown sometime in June 1998.

He also denied telling the prosecution that Obai and his Kamajors entered Bradford on March 23, 1999. The witness went on to deny ever telling the Prosecution that the quantity of rice taken away by Obai and his group was 33 bags and added that at no time did he tell the prosecution that the rice looted from him was given to him by CARE, meant for farmers at Bradford.

The witness was testifying about Kamajor activities in the Bradford community during that period. The trials continue.

### Testimony On Forced Marriage

six other teenage girls were also captured in Freetown.

She was led in evidence by a prosecution counsel, Boi-Tia Stevens at Court Room No.2, New Engaland in Freetown.

Giving her testimony in Krio from the witness Protection box, through an interpreter, she disclosed that ten other captured women she knew at Lumpa, were also given to lieutenants and private soldiers as wives.

Born in Freetown, the witness told the court that the rebels initially told them following their capture, that they would be used as human shields.

"One of the rebels who captured my cousin took me to Calaba Town where the other rebels were," she testified and disclosed that he later handed over to another commander as wife against her will. She revealed that the rebel commander who brought her and her niece from Allen Town to Calaba Town also had her cousin as his wife.

The witness further testified that she saw about 100 captives at Allen Town, including children when they arrived there from Calaba Town. She told the court that people the witness described as Small Boys Unit (SNU) were constantly guarding captives at Allen Town to prevent them from escaping.

She further disclosed that the rebels amputated the two hands and tongue of one Mr. Samuel at Allen Town, whom they accused of being a Kamajor. "I was forced to watch the amputation," she said.

The witness testified that they were later moved from Allen town to Waterloo, Benguema, Lumpa and then finally, to 4-Mile, where she re-united with her rebel "husband."

According to the witness, they were forced to move from one place to another because ECOMOG was also attacking rebel positions. She testified that captured civilians who attempted to escape were beaten up and subjected to various kinds of inhuman treatment.

"My 'husband's' boys had great regard for me because they never called me by my name but instead they would call me 'the Mammy,'" she said.

She added that her rebel "husband" left her in the care of one captain at Lumpa before he finally proceeded to Makeni. The three AFRC indictees, namely, Alex Tamba Brima, Ibrahim Bazyi Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu are charged with individual criminal responsibility for crimes committed against civilians during the war in Sierra Leone.

The trials resume this morning.

Huboko, Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

## **as AFRC trial continues...**

### **"I was forced to become a rebel's wife" - *witness***

*By Odilia French*

As the trial of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) continues, witness- TF1 023 yesterday testified in Court how she was forced to become the wife of a rebel Commander. She said that after she was handed over to this Commander (whose name was withheld because of

the protection of the witness) who took her as his wife. According to the witness who said she was a virgin at that time, "the Commander told me to undress and had sex with me without my consent and after that incident

slept with me frequently."

The witness further revealed that while she was with the rebels, other women were given off into marriage to the rebel Commanders; adding that she even knew some of these

### **I was forced to become a rebel's wife**

*From Front Page*

girls. Led in evidence by Prosecutor- Boi-Tia Stevens, the witness said that she was captured in Freetown, together with some other people including her cousin and were taken to Allen Town. "At Allen Town, we met about 300 to 400 rebels armed with guns, daggers and cutlasses," she said. She revealed that among

the people captured were women and children, adding that, "we were not able to escape as they placed SBUs (Small Boys Units) around us with guns to prevent us from doing that." These SBUs according to her comprised of young boys between the ages of 13, 14 and 15 years. She went further to reveal that whilst at Allen Town, a small boy called- Samuel was

captured and his two hands and tongue chopped off by the rebels; who claimed he was a Kamajor. "The rebels then made a note, which they placed in a bag and hung around the boy's neck and told him to go to ECOMOG and warn them that they are still around," she explained. She said that from Allen Town, they went to Calaba Town and then to Waterloo, walking through the hills.

For the People, Thursday March 10th, 2005

# AT THE SPECIAL COURT

## AFRC/RUF trial begins

IN HIS opening remarks, the Special Court prosecutor, David M Crane, gave an overview of the general allegations against the AFRC/RUF indictees. He said, in the indictment, organized armed factions from about March of 1991 to around January of 2002, engaged in an internal armed conflict which resulted in massive international crimes in all politi-

by SU

**THORONKA**

cal districts.

These armed factions, he said, consisted of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), and the Civil Defence

Forces (CDF). The Special Court prosecutor disclosed that the indictees, Brima Kamara and Santigie Kanu were all members of the AFRC founded by members of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces, who "unlawfully seized power from the elected government of

the Republic of Sierra Leone in a coup d'etat on 25 May 1997". On that day, Crane said, Johnny Paul Koroma, a war crime indictee, became the leader and chairman of the AFRC. These forces, he said, were also referred to as 'Junta', 'Soldiers' and 'ex-SLA'.

He said during this time, Koroma invited the RUF to join forces with the 'Junta' and on orders of Foday Sankoh, deceased war crime indictee, the forces of the RUF joined the AFRC and thereafter acted

jointly, politically and militarily for the rest of the conflict. He said within the 'Junta' was a Supreme Council, which became the sole legislative and executive authority within Sierra Leone until 14 February 1998, when it was ousted from Freetown by West African forces led mainly by Nigeria. The Supreme Council, he said, included leaders of both the AFRC and RUF and that after the 'Junta' was removed from power, the AFRC/RUF alliance continued into the bush.

Continuing, the prosecutor said, the offences alleged against Brima Bazy Kamara and

Santigie '55' Kanu were committed within the territory of Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996, during an internal armed conflict and adding that

Continued Pages



JOHNNY PAUL: still to be nabbed by the court

## RUF trial begins!

From Page 2  
they were part of a wide spread systematic attacks directed against the civilian population of Sierra Leone, persons who he said most assuredly took no active part in the hostilities, or were no longer taking an active part in the hostilities.

Dilating on the individual criminal responsibility, Crane said, Alex Tamba Brima 'Gullit', was a senior member of the AFRC, the 'Junta' and the

AFRC/RUF forces. Brima was a member of the group that staged the coup that ousted the government of President Tejan Kabbah.

"Johnny Paul Koroma appointed Brima as a Public Liaison Officer. Brima was a member of the Junta's governing body, the Supreme Council. Between mid-February 1998 and about 30 April 1998, Alex Tamba Brima was in direct command of AFRC/RUF forces in the Kono district and conducted

operations throughout the north, east and central areas of Sierra Leone, to include the Bombali district between May 1998 and 31 July 1998.

"Around 22 December 1998, Brima was in command of the AFRC/RUF forces that attacked and largely destroyed Freetown in January of 1999. Brima Bazy Kamara was also a member of the group that staged the coup against the government of Sierra Leone in May 1997.

Johnny Paul Koroma, the leader of the AFRC, also appointed Kamara a Public Liaison Officer," Crane told the court.

Kamara, he added, was a member of the junta's governing body and that during February 1998 and 30 April 1998, Kamara commanded AFRC/RUF forces based in the Kono district and also commanded forces

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For di Peple, Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005

## SPECIAL COURT SITTINGS!

THE SPECIAL Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) was set up as a test case - to try whether the American set examples for International Criminal Justice System would actually work well given the Sierra Leone factor.

by DAUDA  
SANDY

Court sittings have started quite well in Freetown amid doubts about whether the socio-economic factors prevalent in the country multiplied by

the numerous forces of poverty, disease, malnutrition, industrial strike-actions and all, will provide a possible framework for the proper operation of the Special Court.

There are still doubts. First, the trials were en-

visioned to be a little bit too mechanized by all Sierra Leonean standards. Secondly, the course of justice the court keeps pursuing vigorously may in the best interest of Sierra Leone be left as bygones of history and not being persistently dug up.

This seems the view of many peace-loving Sierra Leoneans. Because what is needed is not a recollection of our recent

past but rather a clear path toward sustainable development and peace.

As it stands now, key organs of the government of Sierra Leone are not working. Only the court works and apparently against all odds. Let's put it this way; the whole court drama looks like a goddam fucking show.

Awoke, Thursday March, 10th 2005

# Halloran granted bail



The Appeal Court yesterday granted Australian-born Peter Halloran bail exactly six days after his application was rejected in the Freetown High Court.

The motion for bail was first heard on Tuesday by the panel of Jurists comprising of Justice Sir John Muria, as Presiding

Judge; Justice Abel N.B. Stronge and Justice Patrick O. Hamilton. The Presiding Judge granted

*Contd. Page 2*

## Lotto pledges to help youths

*By Ophaniel Gooding*

The Managing Director and Chief Executive of the Sierra Leone State Lottery-Alhaji Ibrahim K. Cole has

pledged that his Management would be helping youths for developmental

# Halloran granted bail

*From Front Page*

the bail pending appeal on the following terms. The terms are that the applicant surrenders his passport to the Registrar of the Court, while in addition he should enter into his own recognizance as surety in the sum of Ten Million Leones (Le10, 000, 000.00). Furthermore, the Judge ruled that the applicant must not leave Freetown pending the determination of the appeal and that he should reports to the Congo Cross Police Station from where he

resides in Freetown on Wednesday before 4p.m each week. Failure to fulfil any of the said terms will result in the arrest of the applicant and would be kept in Prison pending the determination of his appeal. Last Thursday, Trial Judge Samuel Ademusu dismissed the convicted Australian Police officer's application for bail after Counsel Nicholas Browne-Marke had presented a passionate case. During the application for bail at the High Court, Lawyer

Browne-Marke presented a medical report issued by the Prisons Medical Doctor, which stated that Halloran was suffering from "Bronchial Asthima" and "Pulmonary Embolism". Representing the State as Respondent in the matter is Akie.A.A. Barber. At exactly 2.45 pm, the former Chief Investigator of the Special Court was seen leaving the confines of the Law Court building with a plastic bag in his hand; smiling to the few friends that were there to demonstrate their solidarity.



**ABC Online**

## **Aust policeman on bail in Sierra Leone. 10/03/2005. ABC News Online**

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200503/s1319892.htm>]

**Last Update:** Thursday, March 10, 2005. 8:39am (AEDT)



Peter Halloran ...  
released on bail. (File  
photo) (ABC TV)

# **Aust policeman on bail in Sierra Leone**

By Africa correspondent Zoe Daniel

A Victorian policeman jailed for sex offences in Sierra Leone has been released on bail.

Peter Halloran has been released on a range of conditions: he must surrender his passport, provide a surety of about \$3,500 and report to the police station in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, once a week.

His lawyer, Nicholas Browne Marke, says the Court of Appeal granted bail because of the likelihood of an appeal succeeding.

"My belief is we have a very strong ground of appeal and it seems to be that the court of appeal based its decision on that," he said.

The ABC has spoken to Halloran, who seemed in good spirits but refused to speak on the record until his appeal is complete.

He has been in Freetown's Pademba Road prison for three weeks since his conviction for indecently assaulting a 13-year-old girl.

Victoria's Police Association is attempting to contact Halloran.

The association's assistant secretary, Bruce McKenzie, says Halloran has been kept in poor conditions in the jail's hospital.

"We have had very limited contact at this point in time but during the day today we hope to establish contact with him again," Mr McKenzie said.

"We certainly intend to do all we can to lend our support to the appeal process but the fact that he's been bailed now is very good news for the Police Association, its membership and of course his family."

*-additional reporting by staff reporters*

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## Halloran in good spirits: police union

March 10, 2005 - 10:29AM

A former Victorian detective released on bail and awaiting an appeal on a child sex offence in west Africa was in good spirits, according to a representative of Victoria's police union.

Peter Halloran, 56, a former head of Victoria's Homicide Squad, was convicted in a Sierra Leone court on February 21 of the indecent assault of a girl, 13, and faces 18 months in the squalid Pademba Road jail in the capital, Freetown.

He has consistently protested his innocence and said his conviction was the result of a corrupt legal system.

Halloran went to Sierra Leone in January last year to serve with a United Nations task force investigating war crimes committed during the country's 1991-2002 civil war.

He was acquitted of three other more serious charges and has protested his innocence throughout, saying he was the victim of a corrupt system.

On March 3, a High Court judge rejected Halloran's bail request, made ahead of an appeal against the conviction, saying that granting bail to a convict awaiting an appeal ran counter to accepted practice.

Submissions by lawyers for Halloran said he suffers bronchial asthma, severe hypertension and pulmonary embolism.

Halloran was later moved from his cell to the prison hospital.

And a three-judge appeals court panel overturned the March 3 decision, citing his ill health, provided that he surrendered his passport, posted a A\$3,760 bond and reported weekly to police.

Victorian Police Association assistant secretary Bruce McKenzie said he had spoken with Halloran.

"He is safe and as well as can be expected given his circumstances," Mr McKenzie said.

"We're very happy that he has been bailed but the next step in the process is to ensure his appeal is heard as soon as possible.

"It's great news that he is out of the Pademba Road prison because the conditions were deplorable, even in the hospital section.

"We hope that soon the appeal will exonerate him and he can come back to Australia with his family."

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# Herald Sun

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## Canberra aid sought for officer

Keith Moor

10mar05

POLICE Minister Tim Holding has appealed to the Federal Government to help jailed Victoria Police superintendent Peter Halloran.

Halloran, 56, is serving 18 months in a West African jail after recently being convicted of indecently assaulting a teenage girl in Sierra Leone.

Mr Holding has suggested Halloran be allowed to serve his time in Australia.

Halloran's lawyer has lodged an appeal against the conviction and sentence, but no date has been set for the hearing.

It can take several months -- or even years -- to get an appeal heard in war-torn Sierra Leone.

A decision on Halloran's latest bail application before three judges in the Court of Appeal is expected within days.

Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer has said he has real concerns that due process may not have been followed during Halloran's trial, and that there were irregularities during it.

Mr Holding has written to Mr Downer asking him to lobby the Sierra Leone Government for a speedy appeal process.

"The Victorian Government is concerned about Mr Halloran's safety and wellbeing," the letter to Mr Downer says.

"Although he is currently in the prison hospital, the Pademba Road Prison houses people Mr Halloran has investigated for war crimes.

"He also suffers high blood pressure.

"In light of the risks to Mr Halloran's life and health in the Sierra Leone prison, it is essential his appeal be heard quickly.

"The Australian Government is best placed to ensure Mr Halloran is treated fairly by the Sierra Leone Government and that he receives appropriate consular assistance.

"I would also like to request that you pursue the prospect of entering a prisoner exchange agreement with Sierra Leone, which may allow Mr Halloran to serve any sentence in Australia."

A spokesman for Mr Downer said the Government was already very active in trying to help Halloran get a speedy appeal.

He said Mr Downer had been in contact with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

"The British High Commission in Sierra Leone is being very helpful," Mr Downer's spokesman said.

"We have also instructed our High Commissioner, who is based in Ghana, to render various forms of consular assistance and to make various representations to the Sierra Leone Government on Mr Halloran's behalf.

"Australian consular staff are doing what they can to ensure Mr Halloran is treated well in jail while awaiting his appeal.

"Our consul is also in Sierra Leone at present to support Mr Halloran's latest bail application and to discuss further steps with Mr Halloran and his lawyers."

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