

**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:**

Wednesday, November 10, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
Ibrahim Tommy  
Ext 7248  
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914

# Bitterness! Hinga Norman Prays For Kabba

Since your Excellency and Government have deemed it MORALLY RIGHT to go back on your SIGNED undertakings in the LOME AGREEMENT in respect of the CDF/SL and particularly the Kamajors, the CDF/SL

Contd. Back Page

## Hinga Norman Prays

SL has no alternative but to forward the following request for urgent action.

Resulting from series of careful discussions among representatives of ADMINISTRATORS, INITIATORS, DIRECTORS, COMMANDERS, FIGHTERS AND OTHER SERVICES of the entire membership of the CDF/SL across the nation, it was decided that your Excellency President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabba, Commander-in-Chief, Minister of Defence and National Commander of the Civil Defence Forces of Sierra Leone (CDF/SL) be informed that the remaining members of various categories listed below are requesting an urgent payment of full compensation for services rendered to the President and Government of Sierra Leone from 1996 to the year 2002 (January 1996 to January 18, 2002) as Civil Defence Forces (CDF), was legitimised by parliament.

In the services of Government, many of the fighters died, they were injured and disabled and most are still missing. Today, their rewards are false charges of crimes against humanity, murder, cannibalism, rape, looting etc; indictments against the MENDE/KAMAJOHS not that we did, but that we bear greatest responsibility for those who did the acts. God alone knows the next tribes in line to be charged for services rendered or for the actions of those who rendered CDF services to your Excellency, your Government and the nation.

Payment is due to the following:-

- a) Administrators
- b) Initiators
- c) Commanders
- d) Fighters
- e) Others services

Now that the UN Funded DDR programme is said to have ended December 31, 2003 without addressing the issues of compensating the remaining huge number of fighters especially now that the men are being prosecuted and harassed, no talk of gratis service will be entertained. Your Excellency is therefore informed that registration has been ordered across the nation for the purposes of assessing the number of persons and amounts payable to every individual and the total amount involved. The CDF/SL is requesting the entire DDR completed documents indicating the total CDF personnel disarmed and total amount paid to the CDF/SL (names, addresses and tools and equipment given out and their cost for verification). Also, names of CDF students, paid for throughout the various institutions across the nation. The demand for payment is non-negotiable.

Highest regards - believe me.

Your Excellency's servant,

*Hinga Norman* 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2004  
Chief Samuel Hinga Norman JP,  
National Co-ordinator-CDF/SL.

His Excellency  
President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan  
Kabba  
President of the Republic of Sierra  
Leone

Your Excellency,  
I have the honour to respectfully address an open letter to Your Excellency for all the affections you, your Government and Party extended to me and the other CDF/SL members in jail throughout the various holidays since your concocted court indicted us for restoring you and your Government to power.

I also wish to thank you for what you did for all the CDF/SL members and those across the nation and the world in today's date (January 18, 2004) commemorating the end of the Disarmament and end of war in Sierra Leone. Your Excellency's machination in transforming RECONCILIATION into PROSECUTION in Sierra Leone of men who laid down their lives for your Excellency, Government and the Nation will surely be remembered. Your Excellency's betrayal of the CDF/SL and the MENDE/KAMAJOHS and the bitter ungratefulness will surely be rewarded even, abundantly by the good Lord!

Erstwhile Deputy Defence Minister and CDF National Coordinator Chief Sam Hinga Norman has been a very bitter man since his indictment and subsequent detention by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

He accuses President Kabba of betrayal and as he puts it "his machination in transforming reconciliation into prosecution in Sierra Leone of men who laid down their lives for him and the nation."

Chief Norman wrote to President Kabba in January this year to mark the end of the DDR programme. Read on:



Friends Turn Foes?

# STANDARD TIMES

Wednesday November 10, 2004

Le500

## SPECIAL COURT...



President Kabbah

### Witness implicates Kabbah

**T**hirty-six-year-old prosecution witness TF2-096 has said at the ongoing trials of the indicted Kamajohs at the Special Court for Sierra Leone that he was at a meeting in 1997 called by Chief Hinga Norman, then deputy defence minister in the exiled government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in Talia village when they were informed

*CONTINUED PAGE 7*

### Witness implicates Kabbah

*FROM PAGE 1*

by Chief Norman that he has been instructed by President Kabbah to establish training bases for the recruitment of youths and others interested in becoming what then came to be known as the Kamajoh civil defence force.

The witness recalled also seeing Chief Norman in the company of the late ECOMOG Commander, Gen. Maxwell Khobe as well as Momina Fofanah and others, having arrived together onboard an ECOMOG helicopter.

The witness explained that Chief Norman told the people that he had a mission to fight for the re-establishment of democracy and President Kabbah, who was then in exile in the Guinean capital, Conakry following his overthrow by the AFRC junta.

The witness also explained how arms and ammunition were regularly conveyed to Talia from across the border in Guinea for onward distribution to Kamajoh fighters around the country.

The witness is believed to have been in a vantage position to monitor the ins and outs of the Kamajoh movement, and is said to have been very knowledgeable of their activities.

The witness is believed to have been in a vantage position to monitor the ins and outs of the Kamajoh movement, and is said to have been very knowledgeable of their activities.

# THE EXCLUSIVE

Vol. 2 No. 2172

Wednesday November 10, 2004

## Kamajors Looted Le17 M In Bonthe *Special Court Witness Reveals*

*By Joseph Turay*

The 22nd witness for the Prosecution of the Special Court against the Civil De-

fence Forces (CDF), TF 2-166 has told the court that some members of the CDF who were deployed in Bonthe

town between 1997 and 1998 looted his house and stole Le17,000,000.00 (seventeen million leones) which he

said was in safe keeping with him.

Narrating the incidence, the witness said that he had

locked his house that day to attend a meeting that was organized by the Kamajors. Upon his return home, he met

the front door broken and the entire house vandalized and looted.

*Contd. page 2*

### Kamajors Looted Le17 M In Bonthe

*From front page*

The witness said his neighbours told him that Kamajors had come and looted the house. He told that when he entered the house he noticed that all his household properties and his Le17,000,000 were missing.

The witness went further to explain that he was a business man who sold rice wholesale and that the money they stole from his coffers was his business capital. Witness said according to his neighbours the Kamajor group that looted his house was led by a Julius Squire who he said had once threat-

ened to kill him.

In cross examination by a defence lawyer for Hinga Norman, Quincy

Wintaker, the witness said that during Norman's visit to Bonthe, he was guarded by two ECOMOG soldiers. Later Norman addressed them about security matters.

[Click here to print this page](#)

## File on Aussie sex-charge policeman

By **Padraic Murphy**  
November 10, 2004

**A DAMNING internal inquiry by the United Nations into allegations a senior Victorian police officer sexually assaulted a 13-year-old girl in Sierra Leone was withheld from local authorities investigating the case.**

The report, conducted by Swiss lawyer Alberto Fabbri on behalf of the UN Special Court and obtained exclusively by *The Australian*, found former homicide squad head Peter "Prong" Halloran appeared to be dishonest and recommended he be sacked.

Mr Halloran is on trial in Freetown's High Court after being charged by the local police with sexually assaulting the girl.

Mr Halloran, 56, had been working for the Special Court as a war crimes investigator when a fellow investigator, former Tasmanian police officer Mandy Cordwell, allegedly found the 13-year-old girl in his room on June 3.

The recommendations in Mr Fabbri's report were ignored by the UN Special Court, and Mr Halloran was eventually charged with sexually assaulting the girl by the Sierra Leone police.

Mr Fabbri's report details allegations the girl gave UN investigators on the day she was found in Mr Halloran's room. The girl alleged that over a three-day period Mr Halloran fondled her breasts, placed his fingers inside her vagina, had sexual intercourse with her on two occasions and forcibly removed her polo shirt and sucked and fondled her breasts. Mr Halloran has consistently denied any wrongdoing or that the girl was ever in his room.

The girl later retracted her initial claims and told police there had been no sexual contact with Mr Halloran.

But Mr Fabbri's report, based on witness statement, logs at the UN compound and the presence of the girl's clothes in Mr Halloran's room, made a finding of fact the girl was in his room.

"Mr Halloran maintains (the girl) was never inside his bedroom, when clearly this is at odds with the totality of the evidence of the other witnesses," the report concludes.

The report was also critical of Mr Halloran's conduct during the investigation.

"Peter Halloran's position at interview, in that some aspects of his account have the appearance to be dishonest, has the effect of undermining the integrity as a senior staff member" of the Special Court, it says.

The report recommended Mr Halloran's right to diplomatic immunity be waived, and that the Australian Government be informed of his alleged conduct.

The report has never been provided to Sierra Leone police and was superseded by a board of inquiry that found the allegations against Mr Halloran could not be substantiated.

None of the four prosecution witnesses listed in the internal inquiry's final report was called to give evidence to the board of inquiry.

A former Freetown housemate of Mr Halloran's, Canadian officer Ralf La Pierre, described the board of inquiry investigation as "a joke" this week during Mr Halloran's trial before the Freetown High Court.

The trial continues.

*The Australian*

***This report appears on NEWS.com.au.***

[Terms](#) | [Privacy policy](#) Copyright 2004 News Limited. All times AEST (GMT+10).

# Herald Sun

---

[Print this page](#)

## Colleagues not friends

Rod MacJohnson

10nov04

A CANADIAN war crimes investigator has denied being a friend of a former Victoria Police homicide squad chief facing sex charges in Sierra Leone.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, 56, is on trial on three charges involving a 13-year-old girl.

Mr Halloran, on a year's leave from the force working as a special UN war crimes investigator in the war-torn African country, has denied the charges.

Ralph La Pierre, Mr Halloran's deputy on the war crimes tribunal, told the country's High Court in Freetown this week Mr Halloran had asked him to be his friend.

He said the approach was made after Mr Halloran had been exonerated of sex claims involving the 13-year-old girl and before criminal charges were laid against him.

"I interrupted him to say that he was not my friend and would never be my friend and that the board of inquiry's decision meant nothing to me," Mr La Pierre said.

"I told him it was a joke as they (the board of inquiry) did not call for people who were mostly involved in the investigation."

Under cross examination by defence lawyer Nicholas Browne-Marke, Mr La Pierre said he had enjoyed taking over from Mr Halloran during his suspension.

The hearing before High Court judge Samuel Ademusu, sitting without a jury, was due to resume later this week.

[privacy](#)   [terms](#)   © Herald and Weekly Times

## **Second colleague accuses Halloran**

By Gavin Simpson

Freetown

November 10, 2004

A senior Canadian war crimes investigator believed Victorian police superintendent Peter Halloran committed "some kind of sexual assault" against a 13-year-old girl.

Ralph La Pierre, 55, told the Sierra Leone High Court that he had become convinced that some form of assault had taken place at the Freetown home he shared with Halloran and another war crimes investigator, former Tasmanian police sergeant Mandy Cordwell.

He also told the court it was his view that an internal inquiry that found insufficient evidence to prove the girl was sexually assaulted was "a joke".

Mr La Pierre, who worked under Halloran as a senior criminal investigator at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, said that he and Ms Cordwell had decided to talk to the girl about her relations with Halloran after becoming aware that she was staying at their house.

He said that on June 3, 2004, after Halloran had left for work, Ms Cordwell took the girl upstairs and questioned her for about five minutes. He and Ms Cordwell then had "a brief conversation" about the girl's activities at the house.

"At this time, as a result of my conversation with Mandy, I was convinced that some kind of sexual assault had taken place in the house over the last three or four nights and that further inquiries and a statement were required from the young girl," Mr La Pierre said.

He said that he and Ms Cordwell took the girl to a nearby leisure complex, having told her brother, Sheka Fofanah, that they were going shopping.

"In order to get the girl to talk, we had to give some protection to the girl, so Mandy told Sheka that she was going to buy some girls' items of clothing," Mr La Pierre said.

He and Ms Cordwell arranged for her to be interviewed by a Sierra Leone police officer attached to the Special Court, Sergeant Janet Tommy.

The court heard that Mr La Pierre, Ms Cordwell, Sergeant Tommy and the young girl then travelled together to a Special Court safe house called Seaview where the girl is alleged to have given a detailed statement claiming that Halloran had committed various acts of sexual abuse against her.

Mr La Pierre said that Sergeant Tommy had taken the statement unaided. "Myself and Mandy did not take part in that interview," he said.



The girl has since retracted her claims, saying she was pressured by Ms Cordwell and had been promised she and her family would be taken care of.

Mr La Pierre told the court that he and another police officer had interviewed the girl's brother, Sheka Fofanah, the following day, June 4.

"I asked Sheka if he knew that his sister was sleeping in Peter's room," Mr La Pierre told the court. "He informed me that he knew she was sleeping in Peter's bed as (Peter) had said so," La Pierre said.

"I asked Sheka if he had a problem with this situation. Sheka said no, he trusted Peter, and that he (Peter) was an old man," Mr La Pierre said.

Sheka Fofanah is charged with procuring a girl under 14 years of age for sex. His elder brother, Abdul Fofanah, is charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice after he wrote a letter to Halloran apologising on behalf of the girl's family for the "embarrassment" he had endured.

Mr La Pierre told the court that after a Special Court Board of Inquiry cast doubt on the allegations against Halloran, his former colleague had asked to meet him. Their exchange, on July 8, 2004, was tense.

"We started off with him (Halloran) saying that he wanted to meet with me as he had been exonerated by the board of inquiry," Mr La Pierre told the court. "He told me he wanted to be friends."

"At this point I stopped him and said: 'You are not my friend. You will never be my friend. The Board of Inquiry's decision means nothing to me. It's a joke'."

Halloran, who took leave from Victoria Police to work as a war crimes investigator in Sierra Leone, has denied the charges against him.

The trial is expected to continue hearing evidence tomorrow.



Alerting Humanitarians to Emergencies

## Liberian fighters enter Ivory Coast, refugees say

09 Nov 2004 13:34:48 GMT

By Alphonso Toweh

MONROVIA, Nov 9 (Reuters) - Former fighters from Liberia are crossing into Ivory Coast to work as guns for hire after hostilities resumed in their West African neighbour, civilians fleeing the violence said on Tuesday.

Refugees from Ivory Coast who started leaving after government warplanes bombed the rebel-held north last week and rioting broke out in the main city Abidjan said they had seen young Liberian fighters going the other way.

More than 1,300 refugees have fled from Ivory Coast into Nimba County in northeastern Liberia since the crisis began last Thursday, according to the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR.

"We saw over 50 Liberians crossing into Ivory Coast to fight for the government. Each person is being paid \$500 by the Ivorian soldiers who are recruiting them," said Anthony Nangbe, arriving with his family in the Liberian capital Monrovia.

"Some of those we saw were already in Ivorian military uniforms in an Ivorian truck heading towards Ivory Coast."

He said he had seen a group of boys taking magic charms which they believed would make them bullet-proof, a common practice in parts of Africa.


"Ivory Coast is a virgin place. It is ripe to loot," Nangbe quoted one fighter he met at the border as saying.

The World Food Programme said it was making contingency plans to cope with up to 5,000 Ivorian refugees.

Liberia is struggling to emerge from more than a decade of civil war which left it economically ruined, awash with weapons and home to hundreds of thousands of jobless youths.

Its two rebel groups -- Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and Model -- formally disbanded last week and the biggest U.N. peacekeeping force in the world, made up of 15,000 soldiers, has helped disarm fighters.

But disarmament has not reached all parts of the country and has been patchy along the eastern border with Ivory Coast. The U.N. force has said in the past it has received reports that guns and former fighters have been crossing its porous borders.

AlertNet news is provided by **REUTERS** 

[Printable view](#) | [Email this article](#) | [Send comments](#)

© 1998-2001 Reuters Limited. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of Reuters content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Reuters. Reuters shall not be liable for any errors or delays in the content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

Find the picture  
that follows  
logically and  
learn your IQ...



# SPACEWAR

INCORPORATING TERRAWAR.COM

WAR.WIRE

## Ivory Coast violence sending hundreds over border into Liberia

MONROVIA (AFP) Nov 09, 2004

Some 1,250 panicked Ivorians have fled into Liberia's northeastern Nimba county since last week, fearing a reprise of tensions sparked by government air strikes on the rebel-held north, the UN refugee agency UNHCR said Tuesday.

Local authorities cited by the UN High Commission on Refugees said that the "sound of gunfire" prompted the Ivorians to leave their homes, crossing the porous and forested border at various points over difficult roads.

The refugees are being sheltered at three makeshift camps near the crossroads town of Saclapea, which played host to thousands of Ivorians when civil war erupted two years ago from a botched coup against President Laurent Gbagbo.

The war in the former west African powerhouse has left the country divided between rebel north and government south.

Ghana, too, is receiving Ivorians seeking shelter from the recent outburst of violence that has left more than 600 people injured in the main city Abidjan.

Most of the 270 people who have crossed the eastern border into Ghana are Nigerian and Burkinabe planters, said UNHCR, who have been regularly targeted in the waves of xenophobic violence sweeping over Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer.

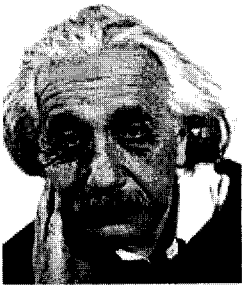
"UNHCR offices in the surrounding region of Ivory Coast have been alerted for any contingencies," said the UNHCR statement signed by spokeswoman Francesca Fontanini.

Q.

- ☒ 80 - 100
- ☐ 101 - 120
- ☐ 121 - 130
- ☐ 131 - 160+

[Click Here](#)

Take the  
FREE IQ TEST



Tickle Your Brain

### New Moon Rising

The Making of America's new Space March and the Remaking of NASA

APOGEE BOOKS

### SO4UZ

Space t-shirt

FREE  
USD  
\$9.99  
See details at  
[www.soyuzbags.com](http://www.soyuzbags.com)

SPACE WAR  
MISSILE  
NEWS  
NUKE WARS  
MILPLEX  
MILITARY  
SPACE  
UAV NEWS  
MILITARY  
COMMS  
CYBERWARS

MISSILE  
DEFENSE  
RAYGUNS  
TERRORWARS  
SPACE DAILY  
SPACE  
TRAVEL  
SPACE MART  
ASTRONAUTIX  
SITE SEARCH

FREE NEWSLETTER  
☒ Subscribe ☐ Unsub  
your email   
SEARCH SPACEWAR  
Site Search

CODENAME: KIDS NEXT DOOR

# BEST

## CREATE YOUR OWN OPERATIVE!

**CN**  
CARTOON NETWORK

**PLAY NOW**

### AFP NEWS WIRE

- [New Indonesian defence minister to visit Washington over arms embargo](#)
- [Japan on alert as suspected Chinese sub detected in territorial waters](#)
- [France may sell four bln euro stake in Areva this month: report](#)
- [Search for missing Malaysian air force pilot intensifies](#)
- [Japan set to extend Iraq deployment as key ally gives nod](#)
- [Japan on alert as suspected Chinese sub found in territorial waters](#)
- [Japan suspects Chinese nuclear submarine entered its waters: report](#)
- [Japan coalition agrees to extend Iraq deployment by one year: report](#)
- [British military projects overspent by 1.7 billion pounds: audit](#)
- [US official leading Iraq WMD hunt narrowly escapes suicide bombing: report](#)

Paid Links

"Planning in case of an outflow of Ivorians is in full swing, including an assessment of emergency stocks and staff."

Ivory Coast has for more than a decade hosted tens of thousands of Liberians escaping that country's back-to-back civil wars in what is considered one of the most successful refugee integration programs in Africa.

Repatriation of the Liberians has begun from around west Africa but has yet to launch in Ivory Coast, over concerns of instability in southeastern Liberia where rebels, known to have been backed by Gbagbo in their war against former president Charles Taylor, are reputed to have hidden large caches of weapons.

All rights reserved. © 2004 [Agence France-Presse](#). Sections of the information displayed on this page (dispatches, photographs, logos) are protected by intellectual property rights owned by Agence France-Presse. As a consequence, you may not copy, reproduce, modify, transmit, publish, display or in any way commercially exploit any of the content of this section without the prior written consent of [Agence France-Presse](#).



[Find a Therapist](#)

## SPACEDAILY EXPRESS

- **Nov 9, 2004**
- [Russia Launches Soyuz-2 Test Rocket](#)
- [Winging It Takes Aviators To The Edge Of Space](#)
- [Astronauts Submit First Medical Research Paper From Space](#)
- [Cassini Observations Show Dynamic Dance At Saturn](#)
- [Oozing Across Titan](#)
- [NASA Reschedules DART Spacecraft Launch](#)
- [China Hopes To Land Robot On Moon By 2012](#)
- [Taiwan Intends To Build Asia's Largest Missile Base: Report](#)
- [Future Pilots Could Fly With UAV Wing Man Under Their Direct Control](#)
- [Laser Points To The Future At Palomar](#)
- [VLA Finds Black Hole Preceded Galaxy Bulge](#)
- [Climate: Earth Losing Ice In Every Form](#)
- [Look At Past Sea-Level Rise Points To Troubling Future](#)
- [Researchers Discover Living Nanoscale 'Necklace'](#)
- [New NSF Center To Study Fundamentals Of Nanostructures](#)
- [Researchers Sound Alarm Bells Over Rapid Arctic Warming](#)
- [Global Warming Reshaping US Ecology: Report](#)
- [Head Movements By Warblers Could Reveal Basis For Birds' Geomagnetic Sense](#)
- [Gilat's Spacenet Adds Hybrid VSAT/DSL Services To Its Broadband Solutions](#)
- [Canberra Online Mapping Tool Incorporates DigitalGlobe Imagery](#)
- [EU Executive Says Pressing Ahead With Microsoft Case](#)
- [Rumsfeld says no talks with Bush on Pentagon future](#)
- [NATO Secretary General Urges Europe And US To Come Together On Iraq](#)
- [Nuclear Waste Convoy Rolls Toward German Dump After Protester's Death](#)
- [EU 'Optimistic' Nuclear Project Will Soon Go To France](#)
- [US Says Any Iran Accord Must End Nuclear Weapons](#)
- [Strong Quake Rocks Taiwan](#)
- [Strong Tremors Injure 13 As Quake-Hit Central Japan Goes Back To School](#)
- [Solar Panels Could Become Obligatory In Spain: Report](#)
- [Volga Court Opens Inquiry Into Rumors Of Nuclear Disaster](#)
-

Source: [News & Business > News > \\$ News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) ⓘ

Terms: **he associated press, november 9, 2004, tuesday, bc cycle, international news, 715 words, ivory coast: why the onetime "paris of africa" is sliding int...** ([Edit Search](#))

⚡ Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery



*Associated Press Online November 9, 2004 Tuesday*

Copyright **2004 Associated Press**  
All Rights Reserved  
**Associated Press** Online

These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The **Associated Press**

**November 9, 2004** Tuesday

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**LENGTH:** 725 words

**HEADLINE:** **Ivory** Coast's Violence Threatens Africa

**BYLINE:** **ELLEN KNICKMEYER; Associated Press** Writer

**DATELINE:** **DAKAR, Senegal**

**BODY:**

On a continent that absorbs 75 percent of the world's U.N. **peacekeeping** forces and budget, **Ivory** Coast's violent downward spiral threatens hard-won gains against West Africa's devastating civil wars of the 1990s.

If **Ivory** Coast - West Africa's economic powerhouse and the world's top cocoa producer - returns to war, everyone from its neighbors to the world's chocolate lovers will feel the pain.

Many hold one man responsible: President Laurent Gbagbo. His fate after the week's violence stands to determine his country's fate as well.

Tuesday saw South African President Thabo Mbeki arrive in **Ivory** Coast on a peace mission, amid deadly rampages that erupted when France destroyed the country's tiny air force in response to an airstrike that killed nine French peacekeepers and an American aid worker.

The world's chocolate lovers will probably feel the effects of the chaos by Christmas. The violence has shut down **Ivory** Coast's cocoa exports since Saturday, closing ports that ship 40 percent of the world's raw material for chocolate. The likely result will be higher prices within a month, and then a shortage.

**Ivory** Coast's neighbors felt the effect immediately - 5,000 refugees **fled into neighboring Liberia and Guinea** massed troops at its border for fear of unrest.

As **Ivory** Coast plunges into war, its neighbors are reveling in the quiet victories of peace.

All but unnoticed by the world, the first 500 of 300,000 Liberians still living in camps for war-displaced people waved goodbye and boarded buses home this week after 14 years of **vicious** civil conflicts in their country.

"When I get back home, I will start to make gardens to survive, and then make blocks to rebuild what once was my small but decent house," said one grateful refugee, 62-year-old Momo Perry.

It took an unprecedented commitment by the international community, and the world's largest deployments of peacekeepers, to get Perry and the others home.

In 2002, British, U.N. and West African armies **crushed** a **vicious Liberia-backed insurgency** in **Sierra Leone**. The next year, American, U.N. and West African forces and Liberian rebels routed the chief promulgator of West Africa's wars, **Liberia's Charles Taylor**.

**Taylor**, a Cold War creation of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's guerrilla camps, had trafficked arms and **insurgencies** across West Africa's borders since 1989.

Today, 75 percent of the world's 62,000 U.N. **peacekeeping** troops are trying to enforce peace deals across Africa, and \$2.9 billion of the world body's \$3.9 billion **peacekeeping** budgets are spent here.

With up to 10 percent of the world's oil reserves in West Africa, the United States and other nations increasingly are saying they have a strategic interest in Africa - and a stake in keeping it peaceful.

More than half the world's total peacekeepers - 32,402 - are based in **Taylor's** old **stomping** grounds - **Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory** Coast itself, divided by civil war since 2002.

With **Taylor** in exile in Nigeria, Gbagbo is looking like the biggest current challenge to peace.

The **Ivory** Coast president has commanded the loyalty of his supporters by pitting them against anyone seen as an outsider - declaring it a matter of their survival to fight the French, African immigrants and their own northern countrymen.

The airstrike on the French was part of three days of government attacks that broke a more than year-old cease-fire.

Street protests put Gbagbo in power in 2000, during an aborted vote count in elections meant to restore civilian rule after a 1999 coup shattered the nation's reputation for stability.

**Ivory** Coast had been considered West Africa's most prosperous country since independence, and its commercial capital, Abidjan, was dubbed the "**Paris of Africa**" for its nightlife and its boutiques. The Hotel Ivoires even boasted an ice skating rink, one of only two in sub-Saharan Africa.

France kept the country peaceful by backing Felix Houphouet-Boigny as the sole post-independence leader. Africa "wasn't ready for democracy," Jacques Chirac, now France's president, famously declared at the start of the 1990s.

Houphouet-Boigny died in 1993. With no tradition of democracy and no clear successor, **Ivory** Coast slid into chaos by 1999.

EDITORS: **Ellen Knickmeyer**, the AP's West Africa bureau chief, has covered Africa for four years.

**LOAD-DATE:** November 10, **2004**

Source: [News & Business > News > \\$ News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **he associated press, november 9, 2004, tuesday, bc cycle, international news, 715 words, ivory coast: why the onetime "paris of africa" is sliding int...** ([Edit Search](#))

Mandatory Terms: **date from 11/04/2004**

View: Full

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 10, 2004 - 5:54 AM EST

[About LexisNexis](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

Copyright © 2004 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

4:28am (UK)  
**Ivory Coast, Rusting Kingpin of West Africa**

“PA”

On a continent that absorbs 75% of the world’s UN peacekeeping forces and budgets and 75% of the UN Security Council’s time, Ivory Coast’s violent downward spiral threatens hard-won gains achieved after West Africa’s devastating civil wars of the 1990s.

If Ivory Coast, West Africa’s economic powerhouse and the world’s top cocoa producer, returns to civil war, everyone from the nation’s newly peaceful neighbours to the world’s chocolate lovers will feel the pain.

Many hold one man responsible – President Laurent Gbagbo. His fate after the unparalleled violence this week stands to determine his nation’s fate as well.

Yesterday, South African President Thabo Mbeki flew in to launch African peace efforts amid deadly rampages that erupted when France destroyed the country’s tiny air force. That move was in response to an airstrike that killed nine French peacekeepers and an American aid worker.

The violence has killed at least 27 people and wounded 900 others, including seven killed yesterday when French troops opened fire as thousands of Gbagbo’s supporters massed outside a makeshift evacuation centre.

If turmoil continues, chocolate lovers will probably feel the effect on prices by Christmas. The violence has shut down cocoa exports in the world’s top producer since Saturday, closing ports that ship 40% of the world’s raw material for chocolate.

Ivory Coast’s neighbours felt the effect immediately – with 5,000 Ivory Coast refugees fleeing into neighbouring Liberia, and Guinea massing troops at its border for fear of cross-border unrest.

As Ivory Coast appeared poised on the brink of full-scale war, however, fellow West Africans across the border were enjoying the fruits of peace.

The first 500 of 300,000 displaced Liberians still living in camps for war-displaced people in Liberia boarded buses, heading home this week after 14 years of vicious civil conflicts in their country.

“When I get back home, I will start to make gardens to survive, and then make blocks to rebuild what once was my small but decent house,” said one refugee, 62-year-old Momo Perry.

It took an unprecedented commitment by the international community, and the world’s largest deployments of peacekeepers, to get refugees like Perry home.

In 2002, British, UN and West African armies crushed a vicious Liberia-backed insurgency in Sierra Leone. The next year, US, UN and West African forces and Liberian rebels routed the chief promulgator of West Africa’s wars, warlord Charles Taylor in Liberia.

Today, 75% of the world’s 62,000 UN peacekeeping troops are trying to secure recent peace deals across Africa, and 2.9 billion dollars of the UN’s 3.9 billion dollar peacekeeping budgets are spent here.

With up to 10% of the world’s oil reserves in West Africa, the United States and others increasingly are saying they have a strategic interest in Africa.

More than half the world’s total of peacekeepers, 32,402 of them, are based in Taylor’s old stamping grounds – Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Ivory Coast itself, divided by civil war since September 2002.

With Taylor pushed into exile in Nigeria, Gbagbo is looking like the biggest current challenge to peace. The risk: war that again would mobilise idle fighters and arms traffickers across West Africa.

The airstrike on the French was part of three days of government attacks on the rebel-held north that broke a more than year-old cease-fire.

Similar street protests to those seen this week’s brought Gbagbo to power in 2000, during an aborted vote count



following presidential elections that were meant to restore civilian rule after a 1999 coup – the country's first-ever.

Although muggy and malarial, Ivory Coast has since independence from France in 1960 stood as the most prosperous country in West Africa.

Abidjan won the title The Paris of Africa for its nightlife and its boutiques – with one of sub-Saharan Africa's only two ice skating rink at the Hotel Ivoire.

France kept it peaceful by backing Felix Houphouet-Boigny as Ivory Coast's sole post-independence leader. Africa "wasn't ready for democracy," Jacques Chirac, now France's president, famously declared at the start of the 1990s.

It was that very attitude that helped ensure that Ivory Coast would not be ready for democracy when Houphouet-Boigny died in 1993. With no tradition of democracy and no clear successor, Ivory Coast slid, then plunged into chaos by 1999 – shattering the nation's reputation for stability.

#### **Latest News:**

<http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm>

[Click here to print this page](#)

## Milosevic's trial resumes

By Anthony Deutsch in The Hague  
November 9, 2004

**SLOBODAN Milosevic's trial resumed today at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal with the court hearing a British lawyer's request to be dismissed as a standby attorney for the former Yugoslav president.**

Steven Kay, appointed in September to defend Milosevic against the former leader's will, filed a "motion for withdrawal" yesterday.

He said Mr Milosevic was uncooperative, and many defence witnesses refused to come to court to be questioned by Kay and his assistant, Gillian Higgins.

Appeals judges ruled last week that Mr Milosevic - whose trial began more than 2&189; years ago - could again lead his own defence, but must have a standby lawyer in case he becomes too ill to continue.

Prosecutors opposed that, saying Mr Milosevic's politicised statements show he is unfit to be his own lawyer. They also feared renewed delays because of his ill health.

The court's administrators appointed Mr Kay and Ms Higgins following a trial chamber order to assign a defence lawyer, but today presiding Judge Patrick Robertson questioned his chamber's jurisdiction to resolve the issue.

Mr Kay was assigned after medical reports concluded Mr Milosevic was too sick to continue representing himself. He suffers high blood pressure and is said to be at risk of a heart attack.

Mr Milosevic refused to cooperate with Mr Kay and Ms Higgins, and many witnesses for the defence have failed to appear to testify.

Mr Milosevic, 63, faces 66 war crimes counts for alleged offences during the decade-long breakup of the former Yugoslavia. He has questioned hundreds of witnesses and prepared his own defence, though he says he considers the tribunal illegal.

The compromise decision to allow him to question witnesses himself was a rare courtroom victory for Mr Milosevic.

But Mr Kay, who is now supposed to step in only when Mr Milosevic falls ill, said the relationship with Mr Milosevic has made it impossible for him to continue.

"The relationship between the accused and us has been completely destroyed," Mr Kay said. "I do not want to play yo-yo on this issue in this building."

Mr Kay said forcing him to proceed against Mr Milosevic's will would be a violation of the code of ethics and "fundamentally flaw" the proceedings.

*The Associated Press*

***This report appears on NEWS.com.au.***

[Terms](#) | [Privacy policy](#) Copyright 2004 News Limited. All times AEST (GMT+10).