

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

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Monday 10 & Tuesday 11 February, 2003

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

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The New Citizen
Monday February 10, 2003

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



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

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

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

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Standard Times
Monday, 10 February 2003

Standard Times
Monday February 10, 2003

Police Commissioner denies link with Johnny Paul

BY MOHAMED ISSA

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

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

quarters, George Street in Freetown.

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

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

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Police Commissioner

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

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

According to him, politics

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

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

It was a coup...

10 witnesses to nail Johnny Paul & Co.

BY IBRAHIM KARIM-SEI
As police investigation continues into the shooting incident at the military depot at Wellington, east of Freetown

on January 13, 2003 and the subsequent raid on the residence of PLP leader, Hon. Johnny Paul Koroma, reports reaching Standard Times have stated that indeed the Wellington attack was a prelude to a coup d'etat, allegedly masterminded by the PLP leader.
Police sources say more than sixty suspects are currently in detention for their alleged involvement in the Wellington attack.
Among these are people now identified as state witnesses numbering over ten for a possible court action.
Among the star witnesses for



Johnny Paul... was it a coup?

*Standard Times
Monday February 10, 2003*

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10 witnesses to nail Johnny Paul

FROM PAGE 1

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

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

from Juba to Wellington on the night of the attack.

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

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

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

Corruption

The Focus
Monday, 10 February 2003

Johnny Paul In The North

The Focus
February 10-12, 2003

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



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

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

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



IG Kieth Biddle: order

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

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

Johnny Paul In The North

From page one

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

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

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

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

Gen K. M. ...