

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



Fishing boats look seaward from Kent, on the Freetown Peninsula.

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Monday, 12 March 2007

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

Monday, 12 March 2007

# Bo gives Norman last honour

**L**ike a flock of sheep, so were the people of Bo Town on Friday when they gathered along the Bo-Freetown Highway from late morning to noon to give the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman his last hero's honour.

Upon arrival of the cadaver of the late man, many people started crying while others sang songs which glorified the patriotic deeds of the former government

minister and war crimes indictee.

The cadaver was driven to the Bo Coronation Field where more than 5,000 were waiting.

The Bo civil society representative, Sama Sandy, evoked tears from those around when he apostrophized: "Sam Hinga Norman, a world of justice awaits you; a world of gratification awaits you. You fought for your motherland like Nelson Mandela of South Africa."

NUSS President, Alex Bhonapha, declared the guilt of everyone gathered: "we could have averted [his] death if all of us had gone to the streets to demonstrate 'free Hinga Norman'."

Former Vice President, Albert Joe Demby, appealed to all not to politicise the death of the late man.

His remains had been interred in his home town, Mongere, in southern Sierra Leone.

## Awoko

Monday, 12 March 2007

### Bye Bye Chief Norman

*By Kelvin Lewis*

I first heard of Hinga Norman when the story about his dramatic escape at the hands of rebels at Tellu Gbongor broke out. Like any journalist then I was curious to know the man whom it was rumoured possessed magical or supernatural powers.

The story went that the rebels had captured him and tied him up, but to their surprise the old soldier simply vanished from within their midst. To many this was unbelievable with all the tints of superstition, given the then developing myth surrounding the kamajors.

Back then the military boys toyed with the idea of giving this Regent Chief some prominence, and coming from the same tradition (military) he was invited to State House to be recognized.

This was when I first saw the white bearded man with an athletic spring in his steps. When we questioned him all his answers were in riddles bringing out the comment from a senior journalist that this man was a smart old fox full of trickery.

This description endeared him to the hearts of some while for others they never trusted him. Perhaps this is what may have contributed to his demise today.

My next encounter with Chief Norman was in January of 1998. I had come back from Guinea intent on witnessing the rooting out by ECOMOG of the AFRC, and I was staying in the ECOMOG camp in Lungi. I had learnt about the Kamajor camp deep in the southern jungles and was anxious to visit there. Luckily for me Chief Norman came to Lungi and I asked him if I could come and he said anytime.

A few days later General (then Colonel) Khobe called me and said do you still want to go to base zero? I said yes eagerly and he told me I am sending supplies so you better go and get ready.

I ran from his office to the now Presidential lounge which was my temporary home and quickly stuffed a few clothes along with my tape recorder, microphone and camera in a handbag leaving the rest behind.

This was when I saw Norman again wearing his then trade mark short trousers, T-shirt and sandals. He had come to briefly say hello to his wife (less than one hour) and go back to Base Zero.



We took off in the same helicopter with the South African pilot –Joubert – practically hugging the tree tops, climbing up and dipping down giving my stomach the most uncomfortable feeling. Chief would glance at me and smile – he was a man liked to taunt (in krio we say provoke) people and he was obviously relishing in a funny way my discomfort.



*Giving the clenched fist salute with General Khobe at Base Zero*

When we came down in the school's football field and I saw the number of people running to greet the helicopter, I realized that the talk back in Guinea about Norman was all quite unfair to him.

As I stayed in that base for two weeks I began to look at the man and ask myself why would a man leave his family and come into this bush with all the mosquitoes and discomfort? Was it true as they said in Guinea that his intention was to rush and capture Freetown and declare himself President?

I got the opportunity one day, sitting alone with him under the banana trees and I put it to him that this is the feeling among some circles. He did not hesitate to answer in his usual way saying words to the effect that the people know and his God also knows that if after making all this sacrifice



*At Base Zero Chief Norman flanked by General Khobe*

for his people other people are saying other things then God is the judge. This was typical of Chief he never answered in a straight way, and he always left you wondering whether he accepted or denied. For a lot of people this was his main controversy. Watching him exercising his control, sitting in the council meetings left me with no doubt about his zeal to fight the AFRC. He used to grumble about the lack

of logistics and his view that the Sierra Leoneans must be in the forefront of the fight with the ECOMOG coming in as crucial supporters. I had the unfortunate joy of angering the High Priest and for two days I feared I would be killed, but when Chief came, instead of a direct confrontation he used his riddles and I was safe again.

The experience in base zero was for me a chance in a lifetime, and I will continue to bless the soul of Chief Norman for giving me that opportunity given that I could not speak Mende, nor am I a member of the Poro society. Except for Chief Norman it would be unheard of, for a krio to be within the midst of a secret society to which he does not belong nor speak their language. I was not barred from seeing anything or going anywhere, infact I began to wonder what was

secret about the kamajor movement.

During that period I spoke religion with Chief and found him to be as equally knowledgeable about the quoran as he was about the bible to the extent that I could not tell truly what his religion was.

I ran away from base zero hours before I was to be initiated as a kamajor. Until his death, whenever Chief Norman sees me he would tell everyone willing to listen the story of how I ran away from base zero.

I saw Chief embrace Foday Sankoh during the peace building visits to Kenema. That was when I

knew the two men had similar history. They had both been soldiers, both charged with treason and jailed, both came out and went to Liberia, and both ended up leading militias and fighting each other. Sadly, both died in the custody of the Special Court.

The stories about his supernatural powers which makes him disappear and appear among groups talking about him abound, but the only charm I saw him wore was a single tigers tooth on a black rope round his neck. I was told that was the ultimate powerful charm, but whether you believe the stories or not, Chief Norman was a mysterious man.

On the day he was being taken away for his surgery, the last thing Chief did was to stoop down touch the ground with his fingers and with the dust make the sign of the cross. This was as if he knew he would not come back.

His last words after that act – "God Bless Sierra Leone"

I say God Bless you Chief Norman

## Awoko

Monday, 12 March 2007

### US Human Rights Report Indicts Prisons

By Mohamed Fofanah

The US State Department in its 2006 Human Rights report has strongly condemned the Sierra Leone Prisons Department.

The report states that conditions in most facilities remain poor. Prison overcrowding is a severe problem, including the Pademba Road Prison, which was designed to house 325 prisoners but holds an estimated 944.

The report goes on that, "human rights observers reported that detention conditions frequently fell below minimum international standards because of overcrowding, lack of access to food, unhygienic conditions, and insufficient medical attention. Prisons were often poorly ventilated. There were no reports that such conditions resulted in any deaths during the year."

The human rights report holds that few prisons have adequate medical facilities, and sick prisoners are treated at state hospitals

but that however, prisoners often receive inferior treatment from doctors and nurses in these hospitals because of the social stigma associated with assisting criminals.

The report states that Prison officers are inadequately paid, poorly trained, and in many prisons are not provided private quarters or uniforms. Consequently, guards provided only minimal security, and abuse of prisoners and prison breaks occurred.

"Men and women continue to share cells in Kenema's prison and minors are imprisoned with adult offenders, but police sometimes release juveniles suspected of committing crimes to avoid incarcerating them with adults, the report continues.

The US human rights report relates further that, "Juvenile detainees do not have adequate access to food, education, or vocational training, and sometimes are unable to attend court hearings due to lack of transportation from juvenile detention facilities. Violence is a problem among youth in

juvenile detention homes, of which there are two, both in Freetown: Kingtom Remand Home, and the Approved School.

Pre-trial detainees are held with convicted prisoners. Prison guards reportedly beat prisoners with impunity.

Many problems result from the lack of resources and inefficiency of the judiciary. For instance, case backlogs in the courts, which often leads to long pre-trial detention, resulting in severe overcrowding. Government records indicate that there are approximately 1,610 detainees in 12 prisons nationwide, 688 of whom have not yet been convicted of a crime. This figure does not include detainees in jails or detention centres.

In February the JSDP hosted a workshop to launch the development of a Prisoner Classification and Security Assessment process—one of a number of initiatives to improve living conditions for prisoners and pre-trial detainee case management. Other JSDP initiatives focused on pilot literacy and

numeracy programmes for prisoners in the Western Area and Moyamba District, and a prison farm project in Moyamba District.

Conditions in holding cells in police stations are extremely poor, especially in small stations outside Freetown; however, overcrowding in police cells improved during the year as a result of the deployment of magistrate judges to the districts to process cases. Some police stations have no cells for suspect

detention.

In August a man hanged himself in the toilet while being detained at Goderich police station. A later inquiry by an NGO revealed that detainees were locked in the toilet at night and kept in open detention during the day.

The government permitted family visits, but for a short time only. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided a message delivery service that allowed prisoners housed in all district prisons to communicate with

their families. ICRC officials were permitted to meet privately with detainees.

International monitors, including UNIOSIL and the ICRC, had unrestricted access to Pademba Road Prison and other detention facilities, including the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) detention facilities. Prison Watch, a local human rights group, reported on detention facilities throughout the country but stated that during the year it had difficulty in gaining access to some detention sites."

## The African Champion

Monday, 12 March 2007

### How SLPP Used and Abused Hinga Norman

“The SLPP used, misused and finally abandoned Samuel Hinga Norman, former leader of the defunct Kamajoh militia who fought to restore President Kabbah’s government,” said Moinina Lahai, a disgruntled SLPP supporter from Mongere.

Lahai made this statement following the recent low key laying out ceremony at the Victoria park during which no minister of government functionary or party member from the ruling SLPP attended. Only curious



*Chief Sam Hinga Norman, as Minister in the SLPP Govt*

by-standers and other passersby thronged the Victoria park to get a glimpse of the famous man.

The laying out ceremony is a big disgrace to the country as the government did not send a single representative to honour the late minister who until his indictment and arrest by Special Court security personnel, was the internal affairs minister. This move is said to have angered a lot of people who saw this as a blatant manifestation of ungratefulness and disregard for the late man and what he did for the party. To add salt to the injury, Vice President Berewa is said to have gone on a campaign trip to the Bombali District instead of at least paying his last respect to the late man.

Norman supporters also expressed dissatisfaction over the decision of the Mayor of Freetown His Worship Winstanley Johnson to give the late chief a civic burial with the full official ceremonies observed. Although the mayor had given the reason why the late man should not be accorded a civic burial, Norman supporters had seen it as a deliberate attempt to snub their man from getting a burial befitting a statesman. In Bo, thousands of people turned out in to see the remains of Norman, weeping and wailing. Mourners condemned the treatment given to the late man as a disgrace and blamed the government for what they say is a calculated attempt to belittle the late man. “We shall never support the SLPP anymore because we see it as a bunch of ungrateful people who have no regard for those who work for the party,” said Joseph Karimu, a teacher. During a mass meeting convened by ex-Kamajors in Mongere in preparation for the burial of Hinga Norman, a lot of former combatants stated that President Kabbah has destroyed the SLPP and therefore they should not support Berewa who is seen as the president’s choice. “The unfulfilled promise of the Lungi Bridge, the promise of food security, the Biriwa chieftaincy issue, the SLPP’s Makeni convention and now the dismal way in which Hinga Norman was treated shows that President Kabbah is indeed responsible for the destruction of the SLPP,” said Allie Sesay, a member of the SLPP who says he will now put his support behind Charles Margai.

## The African Champion

Monday, 12 March 2007

### ICC Violates Taylor's Rights, Camera Still On

The Association for the Legal Defense of Charles G. Taylor is saddened, yet not surprised that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has blatantly disregarded the 21 February 2007 ruling of Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) president, Hon. Justice George Gelaga King who officially declared that:

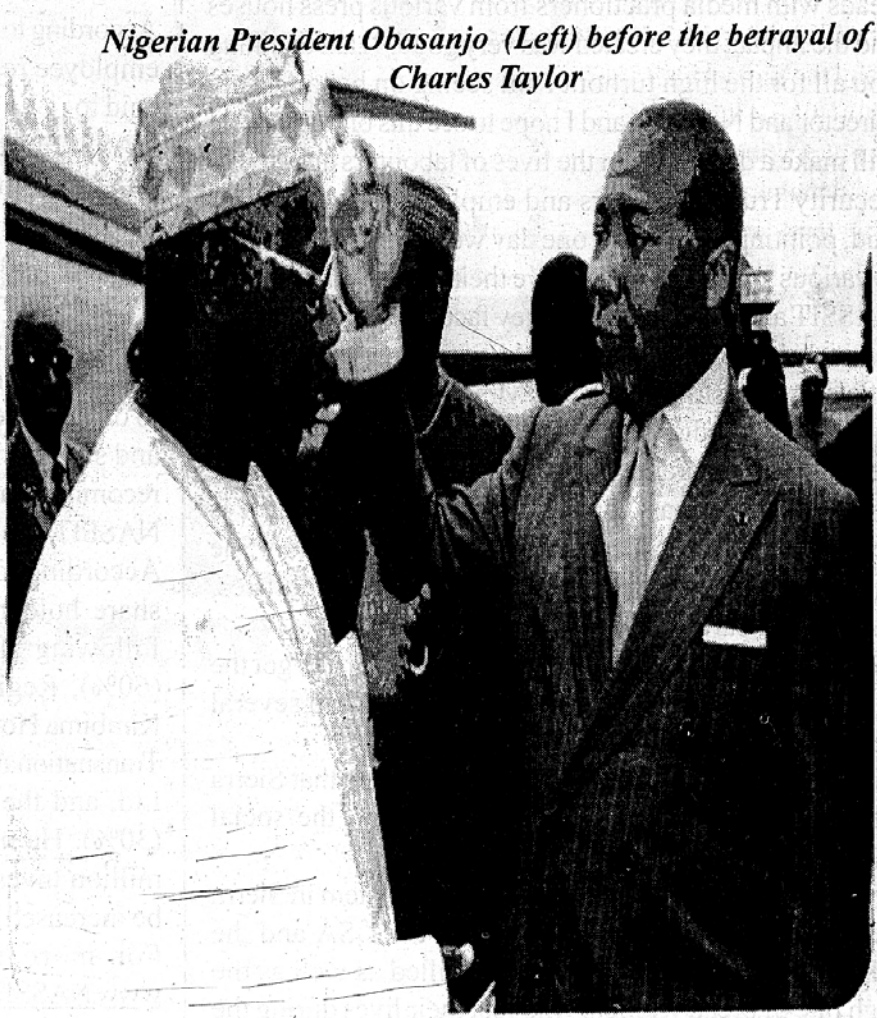
(i) [...] "the use of video surveillance of the legal consultations of the Detainee Charles Taylor with his Counsel be discontinued;"

As of this press release, Friday, 9 March 2007, video surveillance on Mr. Taylor during sanctioned legal consultations is ongoing and at the request of Mr. Taylor, further legal consultations shall be halted until the ICC complies with Hon. King's ruling and removes their unlawful surveillance. Lawyers for Mr. Taylor believe the disregard of the ICC for Hon. King's ruling comes from the very loosely interpreted and somewhat flawed agreement between the ICC and the SCSL. In summary, the SCSL, though having full jurisdiction over the proceedings of the Taylor trial at the Hague, has essentially bartered Taylor's rights to a fair trial for a "safe venue".

The Association for the Legal Defense of Charles G. Taylor urges the international community to take note of this breach of SCSL rules by the ICC. If justice is to be served for Taylor and the people of Sierra Leone, the proceedings of the SCSL must be held in strict accordance with their rules and objectives, other wise the SCSL's proceedings at the ICC may become an unfortunate injustice to all.

For more information and a full description of Taylor's Lawyers official stance on the misconduct of the ICC and its continued surveillance, please view the official trial documentation page or view the decision in PDF format directly. [Click here...](#)

*Nigerian President Obasanjo (Left) before the betrayal of Charles Taylor*





Sierra News  
Monday, 12 March 2007

# Late Sam Hinga Norman makes final journey

*By Patrick Amara*

Former Minister of the Interior and head of the Civil Defence Unit, the late Captain Sam Hinga Norman was yesterday buried at his home town, Mongere in the Bo district after well attended and befitting funeral ceremonies both in Freetown and Bo town.

On arrival in Bo on Friday, the mortal remains of the late war hero was received by thousands of mourners and sympathisers including Kamajors who had been waiting anxiously in the main streets of the township and the Coronation grounds to accord him their last

*See back page*



## Late Sam Hinga Norman makes final journey

respect. In the evening an all night vigil was held at his residence in Bo before his remains were conveyed to his lasting resting place in his home town in Mongere. In Freetown, the Victoria Park in the heart of the Municipality was packed to capacity as thousands of Sierra Leoneans from all works of life defied the hot burning sun to pay their last respects to the late man at a laying out ceremony. The laying out ceremony which was organized by the Civil Society Movement led by the Acting Chairman, Festus Minah,

saw anxious sympathizers and mourners storming the Victoria Park to get their last glimpse of the man most Sierra Leoneans saw as "a fallen hero".

A Man of God who conducted a short service for the repose of the soul of the late man, before the casket was opened described him as a "Burden Bearer", meaning he bore the burden of all what the country went through during the ten years war. In a tribute paying session, the late man's son thanked the people of Sierra Leone for their support during their period of grief.

The Exclusive  
Monday, 12 March 2007

# Kabbah Could Not Have Rescued Norman

*Norman is dead.*

*May his soul rest in perfect peace. His death in detention for his role as coordinator of the various militia groups that complemented*

*Contd. page 4*

*From front page*

*the effort of the then loyal troops in the RSLAF and Ecomog, in restoring peace to Sierra Leone, made him the proverbial sacrificial lamb, who was destined to die so that others may live. Like Christ, who died on the cross to save humanity from damnation, so Norman. But that is just one side of the story, with the other being the role of the government in all this, remember not Kabbah per se, in which Norman himself served and must have subscribed to the idea of ushering in a Special Court, to try all that bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed on defenseless civilians in the course of the war, because so far, there has been no proof that he actually objected to the idea.*

*The idea of setting up a Special Court, never came from the blues we must remember. It was I am pretty sure, extensively debated in Parliament and must have received the blessing of the required 2/3 majority before it was sold to the international community that provided the required funds before it was set up.*

*Well, it boils down to what we have always stated, that excessive greed, could sometimes lead people to take decisions without cognizance of their repercussions. Again, there are lessons to be learnt from all this, including the fact that we must always exercise caution in digging pits because; your immediate victim, could be your own very son, daughter or sometimes even yourself.*

*It could be recalled that the Sierra Leone government's main desire for the setting up of a Special Court was to try key players in the RUF/AFRC outfits, as they were seen as bearing the greatest responsibility. The government had always basked in the illusion that no member of the CDF would be roped by the court because they were complementing government's effort at bringing peace to Sierra Leone and therefore they, ( CDF) would be exonerated for what ever atrocities they may have committed towards that end. But the international community saw the whole scenario from a different perspective which was why when the idea was sold to them, although it was bought, yet insisted that the culprits to be tried should not only be the RUF/AFRC but, "all those that bear the greatest responsibility..." That was why they advised the government to take a second look at the proposal apparently because they never wanted to embarrass anyone. Back home, and in less than a month, the international community's position of dishing out the required funding on their stipulated condition, received an overwhelming support in Parliament, with the SLPP little realizing that a man like Norman would eventually be roped. Did the government swallow the international community's hook, "all those that bear the greatest responsibility..." because they erroneously thought the funds were going to be directly dished out to them for the implementation of the project? Probably. But had that been the case, would the court have looked so ultra-modern knowing the Kleptocracy that characterizes this government? Doubtful. Because, a significant percentage of those funds would certainly have gone to enrich a lot of big guns in the SLPP, which was probably why the funding agencies chose to seek independent agencies to implement the project, much to the disappointment of those who had already seen the project as another opportunity for their aggrandizement. I am pretty sure that if they had the slightest suspicion that Norman would eventually be roped under that arrangement by the international community, they would not have approved. And when one considers the mandate of the court, and the fact that it is UN backed, and so once it had been set-up, not even Kabbah or the SLPP was capable of revoking anything about its jurisdiction and mandate.*

*Who knows, perhaps he too, has his own indictment statement folded and waiting for him because for now, he enjoys presidential immunity.*

*With the world community of nations, when it comes to taking crucial decision, they could be very hard to predict.*

*You remember Charles Taylor?*

*Who ever imagined he would be where he is today. So, lets wait and see.*

Awareness Times  
Monday, 12 March 2007

*With their presence at his Bo Town Funeral last weekend...*

# SLPP MPs Honoured Norman

*By Juliet Ansumana*

In typical African tradition which directs everyone to mourn the dead and even the bitterest of enemies to extend condolences to each other during times of bereavement, several senior members of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) last

*Contd Page 2*

## SLPP MPs Honour Norman

*Contd from Front Page*

weekend defied orders allegedly issued by the Norman family for them not to show their faces at the Hingha Norman funeral when they joined thousands of mourners from all walks of life who thronged Bo district to pay their last respect to the late Chief Samuel Hingha Norman. The SLPP stalwarts included Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Liberia, Patrick Foya, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon Elizabeth Alpha Lavalie, the Government Resident Minister for the South, Hon. Abass Collier, the SLPP's Parliamentary Whip, Hon. Ansu Kaikai, and Hon Momoh Pujeh.

The body of Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, former National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and Special Court Indictee arrived in Bo City last Friday at about 4:00 pm and was received by throngs of sympathizers including former Kamajor fighters in a mixture of pomp and somberness.

The former Kamajor fighters who chanted "He is a Hero!" also held palm tree fronds and other green leaves whilst singing traditional songs depicting the late Chief's 'heroism' and what they say was "his commitment and dedication to Sierra Leone."

People of all works of life including school children lined up the route from New London on to the Coronation field where the body was laid in state for the people to pay their last respect. Hundreds of people filed past the remains as it laid "in sleep" in its silver casket, most of them weeping openly. A vigil was later organized at the Bo Town Hall by the Salvation Church with Father P.R. Jimmy as the officiating Minister. The Bo Town Hall was full to capacity with hundreds more seated outside as prayers were offered for the peaceful repose of the Chief's soul.

As early as 6:30am Saturday morning, the casket containing the body of Chief Norman was taken over by the former Kamajor fighters and was paraded along the main streets of Bo in a slow regal pattern depicting the steps of the fighting Kamajors as were led by the late man during their fight to restore constitutionality in the country. They sang traditional songs as they marched slowly with the casket firmly held aloof over their heads. They processed through Dambala Road, Fenton Road, Maiboima Road and ended at the Norman Estate at New Jerihun where the body was ceremonially handed over by Sam Hinga Norman jr, (the eldest son of the late man) to Mr.

Prince Boima, who represented Paramount Chief Kamanda Bongay of the Kakua Chiefdom. Traditional family rites were performed and the body later conveyed to the Salvation Church on Sewa Road for the funeral service.

In his homily, the officiating Minister, P.R. Jimmy described him as "a true son of the soil who died as the sacrificial lamb for the salvation of his country and people."

Giving his tribute, former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold described the late Chief Norman as "a friend indeed" and one who fought and died "in order to ensure that the rest of his compatriots would live in peace." He referred to him as "a Hero", noting that he was sure the late man's souls is restive since what he sacrificed his life for was attained. He however lamented that the treatment meted out to the late Chief as a result of his arrest by the Special Court, was "unfortunate and a betrayal by the government and people of Sierra Leone."

Mojue Kaikai, on behalf of the Diaspora said Chief Norman was not a criminal, but a Hero, whose legacies would continue to resonate in the minds of Sierra Leoneans both old and young for a very long time. He also noted that the late Chief was betrayed and was made a sacrificial lamb.

Juliet Norman, a daughter of the late Chief Norman described her father as "a charming father" who had taught them to be "true patriots" and always to be prepared to lay their lives for their country. "Papa, we assure you as you are by the right side of our Lord, that we will never go against what you've taught us and we will always endeavour to follow your good examples," Miss Juliet Hingha Norman promised.

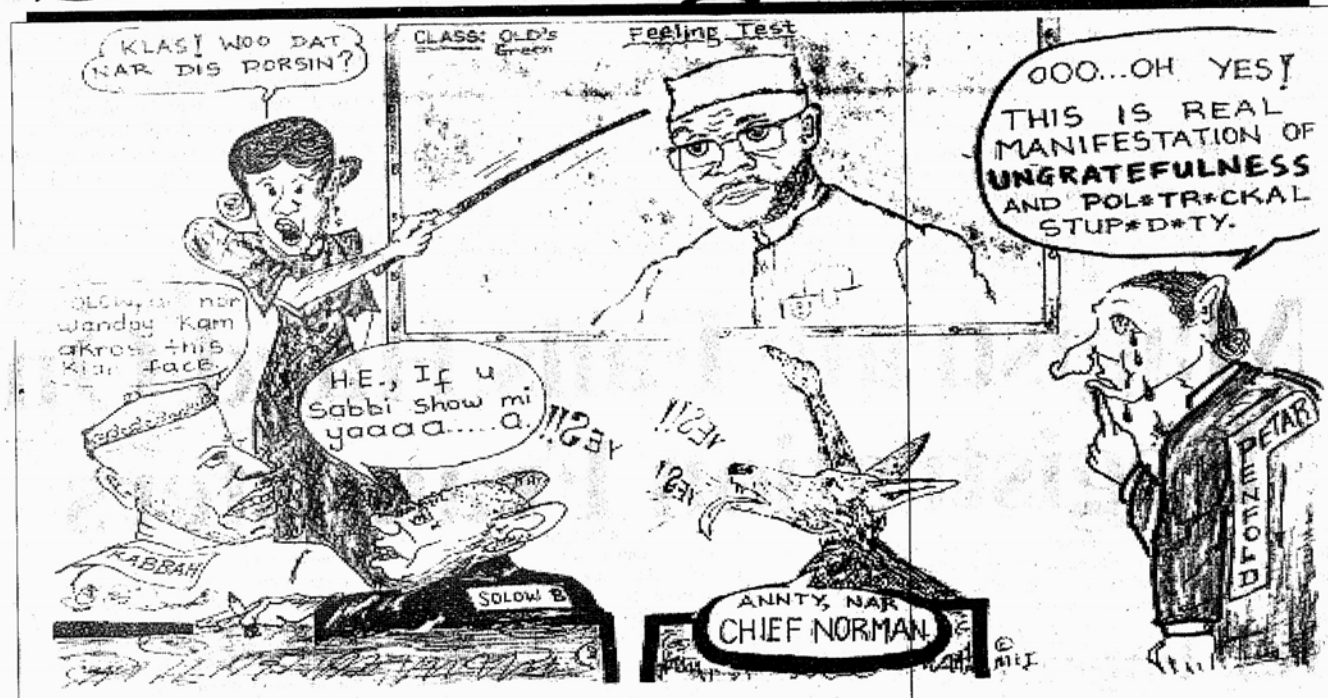
After the funeral service, a cortege of several vehicles was lined up heading for Mongere, the birth place of the late Chief. The 27 miles distance took a better part of the Saturday journey to the Chief's birth place characterized by intermittent stops in each of the six villages along the route to allow for the people to pay their last respects.

Three miles to Mongere Town, where sympathizers paid their last respects, a message was sent for all the women, children and non-Kamajor society members to leave the village. The Chief's body was at that point, completely taken over by the Kamajors for the rest of the journey and for the final traditional burial rites.

The late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman was finally buried yesterday Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007. He was 67 years.

The New Storm  
Monday, 12 March 2007

# SLPP Ungrateful?



# Yes! Ungrateful

*From front page*

*the barbaric RUF thugs, whose trademark was the hacking of the limbs of babies, the disemboweling of pregnant women and the rape of under-age girls. What Chief Norman got, in turn, was prolonged detention and convoluted trial sessions.*

*Those who he fought for, the government he passionately defended – the SLPP – turned a blind eye to his plight and agony.*

*The West, especially the US and Britain, arm-twisted the Kabbah government into easily accepting a 'Special Court', to prosecute both the bandits and liberators, with Norman falling into the latter category. This, to us patriotic Sierra Leoneans, is justice turned upside down.*

*For, how can one justify the treachery, betrayal and wickedness of the Kabbah government, which is now the prime beneficiary of Norman's sacrifices?*

*This is simply a callous government and one that has hurt millions of people who believe that Chief Norman was fighting a just cause.*

*And, for President Kabbah to refer to the late man in a public utterance, as 'a close and trusted friend' is like insulting the intelligence of Norman's bereaved family, friends and supporters. This government is simply ungrateful.*

# Thousands pay respect to Norman

*By Allieu V. Kai-Samba*

Thousands of Sierra Leoneans from all walks of life yesterday afternoon lined up at the Civic Ground, Victoria Park to pay their last respect to late former Deputy Defence Minister and Kamajor Boss, Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

The spell bound crowd notably exhibited the non-politicizing the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman during the laying out ceremony.

Addressing the solemn crowd the President of Civil Society, Mr. Festus Minah, lauded the late Chief as a hero, patriot and a true democrat who sacrificed his life to ensure the well-being of the people of Sierra Leone. Minah added that, Chief Norman fought for peace and democracy, stressing that his contributions far outweighed his wrongful deeds.

Responding to an interview with The New Storm during the laying out ceremony, he disclosed that, Civil Society is a democratic and an independent institution, noting that the role-played by late Norman as a true democrat obliged his institution to marshal his burial ceremony.

Responding to question as to why the SLPP led government representatives were not present, he revealed that prior to his demise, the former Special Court indictée while on sick bed in Dakar, Senegal willed that he will never rest in peace if any SLPP officials are allowed to participate.

As at press time reliable sources monitored indicate that the Southern Headquarter Town is anxiously prepared to receive their Hero's remains.

Positive Change  
Monday, 12 March 2007

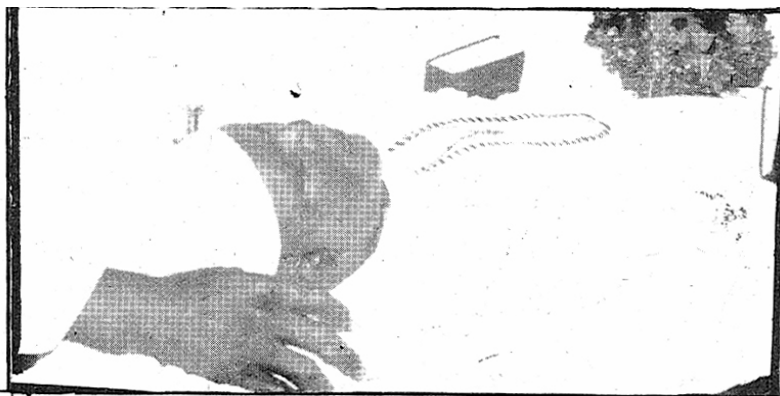
[Note: Positive Change is the official newspaper of the People's Movement for Democratic Change, led by Charles Margai.]

# Chief Norman Honoured

*By Roy Kossen*

The remains of the late Chief

*Continued page 10*



*The remains of late Chief Hinga Normdn*

## Chief Norman Honoured

*From front page*

Samuel Hinga Norman JP were on Tuesday this week, flown home from Senegal, for onward burial in his home town, Mongere, South of the country.

The late Chief Norman died at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal, where he was purportedly taken by operatives of the Special Court for routine medical treatment.

The late Chief is said to have been operated upon to remedy his hip condition, and according to the Special Court under whose custody he was, up to his time of death the operation seemed successful.

Contrary to that however, independent accounts have it that the operation was far from being successful, as the man bled profusely up to his death. The result of the postmortem examination that was performed on him by Special Court hired pathologists, is yet to be released, while eye brows are being raised and foul play not

being ruled out.

It could be recalled that Chief Norman was indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone some four years ago, allegedly for crimes committed by the Kamajor militia during the cause of the war.

Chief Norman and his other co-accused person had since pleaded not guilty to the allegations, but the court insists that they obviously have a case to answer.

Chief Norman died at a time when both sides of the matter have concluded their cases, and awaiting ruling.

The charges against Chief Norman have been dropped, since the court does not have jurisdiction over the dead.

Meanwhile, family members of the late chief have said in no uncertain terms that they do not want to see any member of the SLPP or the government at the funeral of their late prince, and have since rejected the offer of a civic burial.

The late Chief Norman

will therefore be buried in his home town, Mongere, where he shall be given the full traditional burial rites entitling a chief.

Before his death, Chief Norman and the rest of the other detainees at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, signed a joint press release, pledging their unflinching support to the PMDC, and calling on all their supporters, relatives and sympathizers to follow suit.

The press release in question damned the SLPP as being the only dividing force in the country, and on other hand heaped praises on the PMDC and its leadership, saying the PMDC is the only political party that has what it takes to move this country from its current unenviable state.

The PMDC is playing a pivotal role in the funeral of the late Chief, who by indications may have been hounded to death.

The family of the late man is so far impressed with the support and solidarity it has received from the PMDC and its leadership.

## The Spark

Monday, 12 March 2007

### Discrimination Laws Against Women in Sierra Leone

## My Views

By Abu  
Bakarr  
Jalloh

The discriminatory laws against women in Sierra Leone have attracted the attention of the public especially the women folks who consider them as primordial and parochial laws with the naked tendency of relegating women below the political social and economic dustbin of regress..

Diverse efforts have been made by concern groups to enact the bills relating to discrimination against women and also ensure that women have equal rights in any forum be it political and social by any standard. In critically analysing the discriminatory laws, one should first take into cognisance the local traditional customs and values entailed in every ethnic social, and political domain.

In the case of the Southern Province, where the traditional customs and values give rights to women as Paramount Chiefs, Town Chiefs and Section Chiefs these laws are not applicable in these areas because women are not enfranchised when we talk about leadership positions of trust. There are certain loopholes that women do have serious problems like manual labour which results in low economic status, health issue, HIV/AIDS, domestic and sexual violence.

On the issue of economic status, the proportion of poor women are more than men in Sierra Leone. According to Poverty Records Assessment Survey, about 74 percent of women are living on less than or below one dollar a day, which economist describe as sub human standard. The reasons for such poverty emanates from marathon tons of work done by women for their living and the financial returns of their income generating activities which are very low to meet their standards of living. The health facilities for women to access are inadequate which culminates the life expectancy rate to be on the lows and the infant death rate has risen so much that it has been rated recently in the United Nation Development Index report to be one of the highest in the world.

The one major factor is the lack of general access to post and antenatal care of all pregnant women. The 11 years of brutal killing and ignorance contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS with many school going children and students being involved in sexual spree without prevention. One serious problem is domestic and sexual violence and many vibrant women of substance are currently advocating for a law to be enacted against domestic and sexual violence. According to reports, 67 percent of urban women revealed that they had been beaten by their partners and over 50 percent reported being forced to have sexual intercourse.

Traditionally, if women groups want to men to task on the grounds of equality in any form they should consider traditions, customs and values in fighting for their rights to equate with men. One should take into consideration



the cultural values that surrounds certain traditions that debar women equal opportunities. This is as a result of some schools of thought and historic beliefs have shown that certain culture did not encourage women to hold leadership positions as compared to other cultures which are opened up for competition.

These laws are opened to many debate in different platform on a different forum. In the north where Islamic tenets have been recognised practically and issues which they think men should lead and coupled with the traditional culture especially their secret society which eliminates women from the position of Paramount chiefs. These have been a bone of contention that are too strong to break especially in an area where customs dictate. So if the women are fighting for equal representation in all forum they should be looking critically on the traditional and cus-

In the case of the Southern Province, where the traditional customs and values give rights to women as Paramount Chiefs, Town Chiefs and Section Chiefs these laws are not applicable in these areas because women are not enfranchised when we talk about leadership positions of trust

toms of the country's heritage. They should be able to fight on the ground of certain issue that does not negate the traditional customs of certain groups. Though certain laws are discriminatory against women which need to be addressed has a potential to be re-enacted so that they can stand as equals to their male counterparts in a position of trust.

Pundits of diehard traditional believes would ask if women be a Paramount Chiefs in the north say, Yonibana chiefdom, what would be the fate of old age secret society that has existed from time immemorial where only men are allowed to be substantive candidates for such positions. The women are advocates of other relevant issues to be equally represented and very careful about the way of approaching the issue of Paramount chief in the north. In the area of political participation women have a democratic role to play. In political parties and in government in the political area and according to report women suppose to have 30 percent representation in all political parties especially in parliament where the number of women is very small as compared to men. There have been the yarning discussion of women folks and men who

consider themselves to be party in the struggle to fight against the discriminatory laws that have silenced women for far too long. A clear example show women's participation in local government to be very low.

As the maxim goes, 'behind every successful man there is a woman' such notion has a social reality to explain as many anti-feminist may ignore the marked fact that successes come by the willingness and destine of God not by women. The significant move here is to collaborate men as well as women to walk for development of Sierra Leone through the real and actual method of recognising international instruments like the Universal Declaration of Human rights, the International Convention on civil and political rights, the Africa Charter on human rights, the convention of the right of the child, the convention of the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and all other instruments that promote human rights that does not discriminate against women especially the assimilating of all these instruments into our laws as a policy on the advancement of women on gender mainstreaming. The 1991 constitution discriminated against women on different grounds such as the Sierra Leone citizenship act 1973 which has now been enacted into Dual citizenship, Christians, Mohammedans and Civil Marriage Act of 1960, the Matrimonial Clauses Act, Married Women's Maintenance Act and other instruments.



The Spark  
Monday, 12 March 2007

# U.S. Condemns Salone

On March 6, the United States Department of State released its annual Report on Human Rights for 2006. The Report, mandated by U.S. law and submitted to congress annually,

examines the status of Human Rights in 2006 in 196 Countries including Sierra Leone. It describes the performance of Governments putting in to practice their international commit-

ments on human rights. The report is designed as a balanced, accurate and comprehensive review of human rights conditions in the various countries it examines.

The Human Rights Report of the United State Department that was released by the Bureau of Democracy ,Human Rights and Labour seriously indicts the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party on issues related to human rights

ive force with detainees, theft extortion ,poor conditions in prisons and jails, official impunity, arbitrary arrest and detention .

The report further stated that in the area of press, freedom of expression and speech is restricted ,and the journalists are harassed , detained and victimized. It brings out clearly the negative attitudes of the ruling party supporters in harassing the oppositions, and the widespread official corruption in the country. *Continued page 7*

violation in the country.

According to the report, the security force was accused of the following crimes: forceful abuse, rape, the use of exces-

## U.S. Condemns Salone

*From front page*

However, the report highlights the societal discrimination and violence that was perpetrated against women , in the area of political representation and other public positions of trust, child abuse and the rampart trafficking of children and young girls.

It further spelt out clearly that vigilante justice is common in urban areas amongst the youths where they are engaged in beating up suspects or thieves without taking them to authorities concern. Also the issues of Yenga was mentioned in the report , indicating the

harassment that was meted out to Sierra Leoneans by the Guinean forces and the issue remains unresolved.

Announcing the publication of the report, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice noted that the United States is recommitting itself to "stand with those courageous men and women who struggle for their freedom and their rights. We hope that these reports will be a source of information for governments and societies everywhere and a source of inspiration for all who are still working for peaceful democratic change around the globe."

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 09 March 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Africa's First Elected Female Head of State to be Honored at 2007 Africare Award**

Washington, D.C., Mar 09, 2007 (Africare/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The 2007 Africare Bishop Walker Dinner, to be held on Thursday, October 18, in Washington, D.C. , will honor Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who will receive the Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award. The award is given annually to the people who have made major contributions to the continent of Africa. Prior recipients include former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, then President Nelson Mandela, Andrew Young, Dorothy I. Height, Graca Machel, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, and philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates. The Africare Dinner is now the largest annual event for Africa in the United States. We symbolically chose International Women's Day to announce President Johnson Sirleaf as Africare's 2007 honoree," noted Africare Senior Vice President Jeannine B. Scott. "As the first elected female head of state in Africa, President Johnson Sirleaf embodies the progress of women in achieving leadership positions on the continent. At the 2007 Africare Bishop Walker Dinner, Africare will pay tribute to her efforts to bring peace, economic prosperity, and a bright future for the people of Liberia Africare's work endeavors to do the same thing, every day."

#### **SA to Give R26m to Liberia to Help Promote Democracy**

Johannesburg, Mar 09, 2007 (Business Day/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --SA is to give Liberia R26,28m to help it clear its unpaid debt in the interests of promoting sustainable democracy in the west African country, according to government spokesman Themba Maseko. The generosity towards Liberia comes against the background of SA being one of the few countries that regularly settles its dues with Africa's multilateral institutions such as the African Union (AU) and the Pan African Parliament. Last year, SA was the only one of the five largest contributors to the AU to pay its dues in full, while Algeria, Egypt, Libya and Nigeria -- all oil producers -- did not.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Unicef, Marie Stopes Promote Exclusive Breastfeeding**

Concord Times (Sierra Leone) via NewsEdge Corporation :

Marie Stopes in collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation Friday issued certificates to healthy and exclusively breastfed babies from 0-6 months old. The exercise which was funded by UNICEF is geared towards sensitizing and encouraging suckling mothers to exclusively breast feed their babies with breast milk as the latter is the best and safest food for babies.

Marie Stopes' Outreach Coordinator, Anna Macauley explained that at times the water used by lactating mothers to mix the powdered milk is not pure thus exposing the children to diarrhea.

## **Local Media – Newspaper**

### **Women Groups Stage Sit-In Action at Temple of Justice**

*(The Inquirer, National Chronicle, Public Agenda, New Democrat, The Analyst, The News, The Informer, Daily Observer and Heritage)*

- Several women groups yesterday staged a sit-in action in front of the Temple of Justice to press for speedy trial for perpetrators of violence against women.
- In a statement to Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis, the women said violence against women especially sexual exploitation and gender based violence were unacceptable and should be put to an end.
- The women called for strengthening the judiciary because they thought the judiciary was a complete disappointment to common citizens seeking justice through the court.
- Responding, Chief Justice Lewis acknowledged that the lack of qualified judges was impeding the work of the judiciary.

### **Rights Groups Warn Against “Selective Justice” in Prosecuting Corrupt Former Officials**

*(Daily Observer, The Informer, New Vision and Heritage)*

- At a joint news conference held in Monrovia yesterday, a group of Human Rights organizations called on government to prosecute all former officials linked to corruption but cautioned against being “selective” in the process.
- The group asserted that while the former Managing director of the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company, Edwin Snowe was undergoing investigation on allegations of corruption during his tenure they thought other members of the management should be invited.
- The rights groups include the Liberia Democracy Watch, Green Advocates and the Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy, the Foundation for International Dignity, the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission and the Centre for Democratic Empowerment.

### **Liberia Seeks Strong Partnership with Spain, President Johnson-Sirleaf**

*(The News, The Informer, and New Vision)*

- Speaking during a meeting with Spanish officials in Madrid, Spain, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said Liberia needs to develop strong partnership for the future and said fostering bilateral ties between the two countries would lead to “win-win cooperation”.
- The Spanish Prime Minister, Jose Luis Zapaterro pledged his government’s support toward strengthening the bilateral ties between the two countries.

### **New U.S. Report Reveals Paralyzed Justice System in Liberia**

*(New Democrat)*

- A new report released by the U.S. State Department on Human Rights Practices around the world says Liberia judicial system borders on corruption with judges influenced by money, political ties and family connection.
- The report said though the constitution and the law provide for an independent judiciary corruption still persisted in the system.

### **Liberian Media under Surveillance by Government**

*(Forum)*

- [sic:] Credible sources reaching the FORUM says the Liberian media, especially the print, are said to have been placed under government surveillance.

- [sic:] According to information gathered, newspapers printing houses were allegedly invited by some security agencies to inform them that government had decided to preview all headlines before printing.

### **Local Media – Radio Veritas** (*News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm*)

#### **Women Stage Sit-In Action at Temple of Justice**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **President Says Violation against Women Continues with Impunity**

- In an Executive Mansion statement issued in Monrovia yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said gross violation of the rights of women and girls around the world are continuing with impunity but said despite these problems there is more global sensitivity and awareness.
- President Sirleaf said for any change to occur for women, the leadership and support of men would be greatly required.
- She spoke in Madrid, Spain when she addressed the opening session of the Spain-African conference on women.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **Human Rights Groups want Government to Prosecute Corrupt Officials**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **South Africa to Help Pay off Liberia's Debt**

- South Africa has announced that it is to pay of a portion of Liberia's debt to the African Development Bank (ADB).
- Disclosing this to journalists yesterday in South Africa, the government Communication head, Themba Maseko said this was their contribution towards appeals to help salvage Liberia's debt to the bank and said an amount exceeding 26 million rand an equivalent of US\$3.6 million was approved by the South African cabinet.
- Mr. Maseko said the approval followed a request from the ADB for South Africa to contribute to the clearing of Liberia's unpaid debt to the bank and disclosed that the contribution represented about 6.25 percent of the amount requested from bilateral donors to the clearance of Liberia debt to the bank.

### **Star Radio** (*News culled today from website at 8:35 am*)

#### **President Johnson-Sirleaf Meets Spanish Officials**

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.*

## Voice of America

Wednesday, 7 March 2007

### Former Child Soldiers Still at Risk in DR Congo

By Nico Colombant

Dakar

07 March 2007

**The United Nations is focusing attention on child soldiers in Africa. One country where children are still feeling the terrible effects of war is the Democratic Republic of Congo. VOA's Nico Colombant reports from our regional bureau in Dakar.**



In the eastern city, Bukavu, near the border with Rwanda, former child soldiers are getting free language lessons at a facility run by the United Nations children's agency, UNICEF.

The director, Murhabazi Nawegabe, points to a board indicating which militias the children came from.

One young woman used to be a sexual slave for one of the militias. She says she ran away and wants to stay here.

#### **Former Congo child soldiers now receive their lessons in the classroom**

The director says he hopes Congo's new army will have no children. He says he hopes children in his country will be allowed to have a life with notebooks and pens, rather than guns and grenades.

Nawegabe says the recently-appointed government needs to do more to make sure children can be fully rehabilitated. He says many are rejected by their families because of what has happened to them.

U.N. officials say several thousand children are still in armed groups that have yet to be demobilized. They say they are paying close attention to issues surrounding former child soldiers.

The U.N special representative for children and armed conflict is on a week-long visit.

After meeting with top government officials, including the defense minister, earlier this week, Radhika Coomaraswamy says she is optimistic.

"For the first time, a commitment is being made to deal with these issues very effectively," she says. "I think the issue of children will be kept in the public eye because, if they do not deal with it - especially with the armed children - and do not reintegrate them, possibly these children will become centers of instability."

But, last month, other U.N. officials said they had evidence several hundred children had already been deployed as soldiers within the country's new post-war army.