

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Thursday, January 13, 2005

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

New Star

Thursday January 13, 2005

# Decapitated Heads, 239 Houses Burnt Down In Tombodu

**By Joseph Komeh**

Special Court Prosecution witness TF2-304 on Wednesday narrated to the Trial Chamber, presided over by Hon. Benjamin

Itoe that, "I saw a huge quantity of decapitated human heads, very many of them". The 59 years old witness, testifying in the Kono language through the

aid of an interpreter, said on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1999, he returned from Yaryah his place of refuge to his hometown, Tombodu to

*Contd page 2*

## Decapitated Heads, 239 Houses Burnt Down In Tombodu

*From front page*

assess the security situation in the area. On his way to Tombodu, he saw a pit with scores of skeletons and bones heaped together. According to him rebels in the town told him the pit was called 'Savage Pit'. The witness told the court he saw more human bones in the town, adding that out of the 360 houses in the town before the RUF invasion, only 21 survived arson. When making these revelations, the witness bitterly wept until the presiding judge instructed court management to assess his condition to see if he was fit

enough to continue, which he later did.

TF2-304 also testified that there was a house located up the hill in the town with the inscription 'Capt Savage'. He said underneath it was also written '6,000 people more will die'. He said there was also a house at Yusuya Road where he saw human skulls at every room in the building. He said rebels in the town confirmed that it was Savage and Staff Alhaji that locked the people and set the house ablaze.

The witness was lead in evidence in chief by Special Court Prosecutor

Robert Braun, a Swiss national on secondment with the court.

In another development, three newly appointed judges of the court's second trial chamber would be sworn in tomorrow. The presiding judge of the first trial chamber, Benjamin Itoe, will administer the oath to the three judges-Teresa Doherty, Julia Sebutinde and Richard Lussick. Though not a Sierra Leone national as in the case of Judge Bankole Thompson, Samoan born Judge Richard Lussick is the government appointee, reports say.

# *Special Court wahala as...*

## **Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon quit trials**



*RUF's Morris Kallon and Issa Sesay*

By Tamba Borbor  
After refusing on  
Tuesday to continue

with the trial at the Special  
Court, Revolutionary United  
Front (RUF) indictees- Issa

Sesay and Morris Kallon  
have now said they  
would no longer attend

the sittings of the Court.  
This comes after the  
Trials Chamber Presiding

Judge- Benjamin Itoe  
gave them an ultimatum  
on Tuesday to decide  
whether they intend

attending subsequent trials  
of the Court. According to  
Wayne Jordash, Defence  
Contd. Page 2

Page 2

## **Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon abandon trials**

**From Front Page**  
Counsel for Issa Sesay,  
the RUF indictee  
indicated to him that he  
no longer wants to  
continue attending the  
trials of the Court- not  
even in the future. A  
similar decision was  
pronounced by Defence  
Counsel for Morris

Kallon- Melron Nicol-  
Wilson on behalf of his  
client. Melron Nicol-  
Wilson informed that his  
client told him he no  
longer wish to attend the  
trials of the Court and  
that he does not plan to  
do so even in the future.  
Melron went on to say  
that his client had written

a letter stating his position  
and reasons for his  
decision not to attend the  
trials anymore. The letter  
was accepted by the Bench  
as 'Exhibit 13'. However,  
both accused according to  
their respective Defence  
Counsels, wish to retain  
their Counsels to represent  
them in the trials. Defence

Counsel for Augustine  
Gbao, O'Shea informed  
that his client after not  
meeting with him for  
quite a long time now,  
still maintains his  
position of not wanting to  
attend the trials of the  
Court. O'Shea went on to  
disclose that his client  
stated that he does not  
want to be visited  
anymore by his Defence  
Team. "However, we  
have written a letter to  
him, informing that he  
can communicate with us  
through  
correspondence,"  
Defence Counsel O'Shea  
said. This recent refusal

by the three indicted  
members of the  
Revolutionary United  
Front (RUF) to no longer  
attend the trials of the  
Special Court, adds to that  
of the three Civil Defence  
Force (CDF) indictees  
who had long since  
stopped attending the  
Court's trials. Meanwhile,  
Special Court witness-  
TF2-304 led in his  
evidence-in-chief by  
Prosecution Counsel-  
Robert Braun yesterday  
disclosed that he saw  
scores of human bones  
and skulls in a pit in  
Tombodu town in the  
Kono district. According

to the witness, after they had  
ran away from the rebels and  
later returned to Tombodu, he  
was strolling in an area in the  
township when he suddenly  
bumped into the horrendous  
scene at Bendu 2 where these  
human bones and skulls were  
piled up in a pit called "savage  
pit." At Yusufuya Road in  
Tombodu town, the witness  
recalled seeing considerable  
number of human bone and  
skulls in nearly all the rooms  
of one house on the Road;  
adding that the rebels told him  
it is the handiwork of one  
Staff Alhaji and Colonel  
Savage who had locked up  
some people in the house and  
set it alight.

Awoko

Thursday January 13, 2005

Aworko

Thursday January 13, 2005

## 3 new Judges for Special Court

*From Front Page*

Justice Richard Lussick from Samoa. The latter was nominated by the Government of Sierra Leone. The three newly appointed Judges would be sworn on Friday by the presiding Judge of the First Trial Chamber, Justice Benjamin Itoe. They are expected to preside over the former Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) junta indictees— Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu— alias 'Brigadier Five Five'. These indictees are facing an 18-count charge of war crimes and other related crimes against humanity. To date, the Prosecutor of the Special Court has indicted 11 persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the Special Court. The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. Its mandate is to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after November 30<sup>th</sup> 1996.

## 3 new Judges for Special Court

Justice Teresa Doherty, one of the Commonwealth Judges who were handling matters in the Freetown High Court has been appointed a Judge to the shortly-to-be-established second Trial Chamber of

the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Judge who hails from Northern Ireland is among two others newly appointed to constitute the Second Trial Chamber. The two others are: Justice Julia Sebutinde from Uganda and

*Contd. Page 2*

*After boycotting yesterday's sittings*

# Issa, Morris Kallon ...Say No More Special Court

*By Joseph Turay*

Following the dramatic event that unfolded on Tuesday this week at the Special Court room No. 1 between the first accused of the Revolutionary

United Front's (RUF) Issa Sesay and the trial chamber presided over by Camerounian born judge Benjamin Itoe which led to bitter altercation between the trial judges and the first accused that led both ac-

cused persons, Sesay and Kallon to march out of the court room, after an order was given by the trial chamber for the first accused to be marched out of the court room by security guards, both accused persons did not show up in

court yesterday. According to their lawyers, Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon, both accused persons have said they are not prepared to attend the

proceeding any more and that their legal representatives should continue to represent them. A letter submitted to the court by lawyer for second accused confirmed that he

does not wish to attend court proceeding in any way but that his defence team should act on his behalf. The letter was marked by the judge as exhibit 13. However,

*Contd. page 2*

## Issa, Morris Kallon

*From front page*

the prosecution team objected that the letter did not go through the normal procedure, as according to them, it is improper to communicate to the trial chamber without going through the Registrar of the court, arguing that a document has to pass through the registrar before it goes to the judges or the court and that it should not be an exhibit in court in the first place.

Responding to the prosecution's submission, the judges argued that the court is not bound by national rules and that the prosecution must not consider national rules, which to the chamber does not operate in the issue at hand. Instead, the judges ruled that the prosecution should concentrate on the truth adding that only the trial chamber in the end would ensure that jus-

tice is delivered. In his submission to the matter, the defence counsel for Morris Kallon, Andreas Oshea, supported the argument of the prosecution as by normal practices, documents must first go through the registrar before it comes to the trial chamber. In conclusion, the chamber agreed that they are not bounds by national jurisprudence.

*The Exclusive*

*Thursday January 13, 2005*

Standard Times

Thursday January 13, 2005

## ***"Security of the state is the concern of everybody"***

**- Gen. Bamali**

The out-going Unamsil Commander, Northern Command, Major General Alhaji Nuhu Bamali has said the security of the state should not be left alone to RSLAF, SLP and the Office of National Security (ONS), but should be the concern of everybody, adding that the security of the state is very important to the well being of the state.

The outgoing commander was speaking during a farewell ceremony held on his behalf at Venil Guest hotel by River Side Drive as an appreciation of his tenure of office under Unamsil.

The reception was hosted by of-

ficials of the Office of National Security (ONS).

He said he was happy to have worked with members of the ONS during his tenure, noting that he is leaving with mixed feelings.

While commending the organizers for such a reception, Gen. Bamali said Sierra Leone is now his second home for as he put it, he "has made many friends both in government and at grass root level."

The General was optimistic that the Nigerian Government will continue to support the cause of this country in its stride to consolidate the peace, and added that in his report he will definitely record the improvement of the

peace building and the consolidation of new security arrangement in the country.

Mr. Lawrence Bassie, a senior official of the ONS congratulated the commander for his recent promotion to the rank of Major General and wished him well in his new assignment as Deputy Commander National War College in Nigeria.

He said ONS was pleased with all the assistance the Nigerian government has rendered to this country and its military through its Armed Forces to achieve peace, since the service of ECOMOG and now UMAMSIL.

**Special Court...**

## **RUF Indictees boycott trials**



*David Crane... Prosecutor*

**BY THEOPHILUS S. GBENDA**

With no end in sight, the much talked about Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) continues to face more and more challenges, with the surprised boycott of the trial proceedings by all three RUF Indictees, being the latest.

This latest action of the RUF indictees comes on the heel of an earlier boycott by all three CDF indictees. But such boycotts have not stopped the court from proceeding with the trials.

CONTINUED PAGE 7

Standard Times

Thursday January 13, 2005

## **RUF Indictees boycott trials**

FROM PAGE 1

By provision, the court can go on with or without the presence of the accused persons, as long as counsels legally or otherwise represent the accused persons.

This is supposed to be the third phase of the RUF trial and with the exception of Augustine Gboa who had long waved his right of appearance both Issa Sesay and Moris Kallon have been very cooperative until now when they are beginning to change their minds.

It all started when Issa Sesay challenged the court, leaving the trial judges with no alternative but to order the security on guard to march him out of the courtroom.

Counsel representing Issa Sesay Wayne Jordash, told the chamber that his client has indicated his desire not to attend the proceedings henceforth, although they as a team wish to continue representing him.

According to Melron Nicol-Wilson, representing Morris Kallon, his client's position is similar to that of Issa Sesay, saying his client's position is authenticated by a correspondence

addressed to the chamber.

As for Augustine Gboa, his counsels reported to the court that his position remains unchanged and that he does not wish to be visited by them (the court appointed counsels) any further.

The non-appearance of the RUF indictees was also attested to by the Chief of Detention, Barry Wallace, who maintained that the indictees in question are in good health and that they had earlier indicated their positions not to attend the proceedings.

Despite their non appearance, however, the chamber in a no-nonsense mode, ruled that the proceedings move on, with the prosecution calling its 19th witness TF2-304, who claimed that he saw scores of human skulls and skeletons, piled up in a pit and others scattered in every corner of a house at Tombodu in the Kono district.

The atrocities, the witness claimed, were reportedly carried out by one Captain Savage and a staff simply known as Alhaji who he earlier said saved his life as he was about to be killed by junta forces.

# As Special Court Trial Proceeds RUF Joins CDF Boycott

Two RUF indictees Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon yesterday appearing before Justice Bankole Thompson decided to boycott their trial by "waiving their right to attend court proceedings."

"Some of the difficulties this tribunal is experiencing are novel – the accused persons waiving their right to attend proceedings, and a breakdown between lawyers and their clients," Thompson said. The third RUF indictee Augustine Gbao, since the start of the RUF trial on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004, decided not to take part in the trial because he does not "recognize the legitimacy or jurisdiction of the Special Court."

This was reinforced yesterday when one of Gbao's Defence Counsels Melron Wilson, informed the three trial Chamber Judges, Benjamin Hoo, Bankole Thompson and Pierre Boutet, "today (that is yesterday) is the first time I spoke with Gbao and his position has not changed."

Earlier, on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2004, the three CDF indictees, Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa boycotted their trial.

Yesterday Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon were absent in court and their respective Defence Counsels, British born Wayne

Jordash and Sierra Leonean Melron Wilson informed the trial judges that their respective clients Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon "do not wish to attend court, but, however, wish their legal team to continue to represent them."

Justice Hoo said: "this has been a day of multiple adjournments." On Thursday after a three-hour adjournment and after Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon had been ordered out of the court by the Judges, the two accused returned in the afternoon, to, as Justice Bankole Thompson put it, "come and have their written statements admitted as exhibits and then walk out again."

Wayne Jordash, told the court Sesay's present position is that he no longer wants to take part in the trial and Melron Wilson affirmed same position for Kallon.

Issa Sesay continued to request the Judge to allow him to make a statement as he did earlier on Thursday. When allowed, he started off by saying "I am a human being, coming to this trial now for two months (the two earlier sessions of one month duration each). I am not properly arraigned before this court." Justice Hoo immediately stopped him and sternly asked him "are you prepared to state that you no longer want to attend this court?" Sesay's defence counsel Wayne Jordash replied on his client's behalf saying he has decided not to attend this court after the admission of exhibit ii (that is his written statement) to the trial Judges. When the court resumed yesterday Chief of Special Court detention center Ronald Wallace informed the



The RUF Men (Center) who bore the 'greatest responsibility'

court that Sesay and Kallon "were warned to come to court today. They indicated that they did not wish to attend and gave no reason. There is no medical reason

to prevent them from coming to court. They are healthy." Justice Thompson, on behalf of the three Judges ruled: "this chamber is satisfied that Issa Sesay and Morris

Kallon have waived their rights to be present at their trial. The court accordingly ordered the trial to proceed in the absence or the presence of the accused persons."

Christian Monitor

Thursday January 13, 2005



# Australia pressures Salone for Halloran



*By Chernoh Alpha M. Bah*

The Australian government has reportedly sent an appeal to London requesting Britain to pressure authorities in Sierra Leone to ensure a fair trial for Victorian Police Superintendent, Peter Halloran who is facing a three counts charge of unlawful carnal knowledge.

Halloran, who was employed as a war crimes investigator by the Special Court was charged in August last year for alleged sexual assault of a teenage schoolgirl.

Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer said last week that Australia is summoning the support of the British government in pressuring President Kabbah to help accelerate Halloran's trial process.

He says Britain had earlier made representations to Sierra Leone on Australia's behalf and a meeting has been conveyed with leaders of Victoria's Police Association to discuss the case.

"This is going to be a real test for the Sierra Leone judicial system and we are doing everything we can to ensure that the judicial system passes that test," Downer said, adding that the aim of the Australian government's involvement in the matter isn't to assert guilt or innocence.

"Our job is to say that all people should be presumed innocent until proven guilty, and we'll just keep the pressure on the Sierra Leone authorities," he stated.

Concord Times

Thursday January 13, 2005