

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:

Monday, September 13, 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

KAMAJORS!



KAMAJOR MILITIA:horrific tales of human butchery and cannibalism has soiled image of invincibility and fighting for true democracy to one of ulterior motives

"They Killed And Ate Palm-Wine Tapper!"

TF2-159 who took the witness box at the Special Court hearing informed the Court how people were killed and their organs eaten by the Kamajors.

by
SU THORONKA
He said he was in
Koribondo when the
soldiers and kamajors

engaged themselves in a
fierce battle in which one
man and two kamajors
were killed. The witness
further explained that the

kamajors captured six
men whom he identified
as palm-wine tappers be-
longing to the limba tribe.
These people he said, the

kamajors accused of col-
laborating with the junta.
Three of them were killed
by firing while the two

Continued Page 5



NORMAN:chieftain blamed for cannibalism et al

Kamajors killed and chop Poyoman!

From Front Page
were beaten with sticks to death and beheaded. The
one head was displayed at a check-point along Blama
road and the other along Sumbuya Road.

Eight people were later captured by the kamajors
this time, three women and five men the witness said.
The witness identified the three women as Jeneba,
Amie and Esther.

He told the court that one of the women was shot
dead while the two were also beaten with sticks to

death. He said he saw sticks forced into the women's
genitals through their mouths and their stomachs were
later split open and internal organs taken out, put into
a bucket which according to the witness the kamajors
told him they were going to eat.

The gut the witness said, was used as a checkpoint.
The witness told the court that the women were treated
this way because the kamajors suspected them of
having an intimate relationship with the junta. My
grand parents were killed and our house set on fire the

witness said. The witness told the court that during
the first week in March 1998, Sam Hinga Norman
made a brief stop at Koribondo enroute to Pujehun
and instructed his battle field commander one Joe
Tamidae, to inform the people of a meeting he pro-
posed to have with them.

The meeting he said, was held in the court barri at
Koribondo where Sam Hinga Norman introduced
Moinina Fofana and Alieu Kondowa as dignitaries.
After which, Chief Sam Hinga Norman blamed the
kamajor fighters for an incomplete job done failing
to burn down the entire township and that those who
suffered loss should neither blame nor swear the
kamajors but he, Norman, that sent them, the wit-
ness concluded.

For all people

Monday 13th September 2004

Witness Accused Of Looting

By Joseph Turay

One of the defence counsels for the 3rd accused Alieu Kondewa of the Civil defence Force (CDF) Yada Williams, has accused the prosecution's 6th witness TF2-159 as one of those who looted the town of Koribondo during the time of the war.

In his cross-examination last Friday of the witness, after he had been examined on Thursday by the Prosecution's Joseph

Kamara, TF2-159 denied most of what was contained in his earlier statements to the prosecution.

Under intense questioning by counsel Williams, about his earlier statement that his relatives had been locked in a house and the house set alight, the witness denied that he had said so to the prosecution. The lawyer also asked him, "Did you say that you

heard Kamajors say they had in their custody kids who were junta collaborators and that they were going to be killed?"

"I did not tell the investigators that," the witness replied. The learned counsel doubting the credibility of the witness went on to put it to him that, "You are one of those who looted the town of Koribondo". The witness replied that he did not loot.

The Exclusive

Monday 13th September 2024

FairfaxDigital

[NEWS](#) | [MYCAREER](#) | [DOMAIN](#) | [DRIVE](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [CITYSEARCH](#)

[members](#) | [login](#) | [register](#)



Australian denies child-sex counts

Freetown

September 12, 2004

An Australian police officer attached to the war crimes court in Sierra Leone has pleaded not guilty to charges that he had sex with a minor.

Peter Halloran, 56, told a court in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, that he was innocent of the four charges related to the procurement and sexual assault of a girl under the age of 14.

Mr Halloran, an investigator (now suspended) with Sierra Leone's UN-backed war crimes tribunal, was initially granted bail but was taken back into custody when prosecutors claimed their witnesses had been followed.

Two Sierra Leone men — including one of the alleged victim's relatives — are charged with procuring the girl for Mr Halloran.

Mr Halloran, who has been in Sierra Leone since January, voluntarily surrendered his passport to police.

The war crimes tribunal had earlier investigated the allegations against Mr Halloran and had found "insufficient evidence" to support them.

If convicted, Mr Halloran would face up to 15 years' imprisonment.

- AP

More news

- [Premiers admit they were wrong about pokies](#)
- [Child, 9, kept in aged-care home](#)
- [Files go in laptop theft](#)

[Home](#) > [National](#) > Article

Copyright © 2004. The Age Company Ltd.

No Bail For Special Court Investigator

By Ismael Bayoh

The presiding judge of High Court No. 2, Honourable Justice S.A Ademosu, last Friday denied bail to the

Special Court Investigations Commander, Australian-born Peter

Contd. page 3

No Bail For Special Court Investigator

From front page

Halloran, and two others. Justice Ademosu denied them bail on the grounds that there was a communication between the 1st accused Peter Halloran and the alleged victim. This means that Peter and the two others will remain remanded at Pademba Road Prisons till the next session of the High Court, September 21.

Prior to the judge's ruling on either granting bail or not, State Counsel Gladipo Vivian Mason made an application to Justice Ademosu that there was before him

under the hand of the Director of Public Prosecution an application made pursuant to the Provisions under Section 144 (2) of the Criminal Procedures Act (32) 1965 as repealed and replaced by Section 3 of the Criminal Procedures Amendment Act 1981, Act No. 11, that the matter before him be tried by judge alone instead of by a jury. This was certified by the DPP. In the interest of justice, the application was granted by Justice Ademosu.

Friday being the last day of the present session of the High Court, Robin Mason

respectfully applied for an adjournment for commencement of trial to the next session.

Lawyer Nicholas Colin Brown-Markie standing for Peter Halloran renewed an application for bail on the grounds that no affidavit or viva voce evidence was adduced in court to support the prosecution's objection to earlier bail granted at the Magistrate Court.

Peter Halloran, Sheka Fofana and Abdul Fofana were charged on four counts. If found guilty, Peter will have to serve a two years jail term.

File E-LC 8/11/04

Monday 13th September 2004

At Special Court **Defence Calls For Original Statements**

By Joseph Turay
The defence team for the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) indictees has re-

quested the prosecution to surrender all hand written interview notes to all coun-

Contd. page 2

Defence Calls For Original Statements

From front page

sels of the defence team in order for the defence to ascertain the credibility of some of the witnesses who had testified.

Asking this request last Friday in court on behalf of the defence team, the learned counsel, Mrs. Quincy Whittaker for the 1st accused Samuel Hinga Norman complained to the judges that since the defence requested the prosecution to surrender all hand written interview notes to the defence team, they have been very reluc-

tant to adhere to their request.

Whittaker explained that a recent ruling that was passed by the judges stated that all documents and interview notes should be tendered to the defence and that they are entitled to them.

She added that if those documents had been destroyed by the prosecution they would like the prosecution to explain to the court. The lawyer also complained to the judges that prosecution counsel Mr. Johnson had told her that the defence is not en-

itled to those documents. In a letter submitted to the judges dated 27th September by counsel Michael Peetman for the second accused Melina Fofana which showed that the defence had requested for these documents. Lawyer Johnson argued that he was not sure whether these notes do exist.

In his reply to the prosecution, judge Bankole Thompson said that as a leading prosecution counsel, he should be aware whether these notes do

exist or not.

In conclusion to the argument, Whittaker noted that in the Rwanda Tribunal, investigators were brought before the court to explain when they realised that hand-written notes had been destroyed.

She went on to suggest that the prosecution should bring to court those that made the statements to the judges. Judge Bankole Thompson said that the court will be looking on this matter in due time.

The Exclusive

Monday 13 September 2004

Sunday Herald Sun

[Print this page](#)

Aussie cop denies sex with minor

From correspondents in Freetown, Sierra Leone
11sep04

AN Australian police officer who worked for the UN war crimes court in Sierra Leone pleaded not guilty today to charges that he had sex with a minor.

Peter Halloran, 56, told a court in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, that he was innocent of four charges related to the procurement and sexual assault of a girl under the age of 14. If convicted, he could face up to 15 years imprisonment.

Mr Halloran, an investigator for Sierra Leone's UN-backed war-crimes tribunal, had initially been freed on bail, but was taken into custody again after prosecutors said their witnesses had been followed.

Judge Samuel Ademosu upheld that decision today, saying "somebody has monitored the movement of the prosecution's witnesses and I am obliged to take judicial notice of that".

Two Sierra Leone men - including one of the alleged victim's relatives - are charged with helping find the girl for Mr Halloran in Freetown.

Mr Halloran, in Sierra Leone since January, voluntarily surrendered his passport to police.

The war crimes court held its own investigation into the allegations, but found "insufficient evidence" to support them.

The tribunal has suspended Mr Halloran from his work.

The UN tribunal is trying both rebels and government-allied fighters for abuses committed in late 1996 in Sierra Leone's 1991-2002 insurgency. Thousands of civilians were killed, raped, kidnapped and hacked to pieces in the fight over Sierra Leone's rich diamond fields.

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

Nigeria to surrender Taylor to Special Court

Ambassador Aminu Wali, Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the UN, has indicated his country's

willingness to surrender erstwhile Liberian president, Charles Taylor to the Special Court if requested by



a democratically elected government in Liberia, The Guardian reports.

He made this disclosure in an interview in Nigeria last week. Wali observed that Nigeria accepted to take in Taylor on asylum with the full knowledge of the international community, stressing that this was "agreed to by all." He said that Nigeria offered the asylum as that was seen as the only solution then.

This decision, has however, not gone down well with many Nigerians, some of who have gone to court to challenge Taylor's stay in the country. Said the envoy: "From our own perspective, when there is democracy in Liberia, Nigeria will handover Taylor to an elected government of Liberia.

Nigeria got him out and it is only Liberia that can demand him - a democratically elected government of Liberia, which is yet to happen." The current government of Liberia is a transitional government, which was not elected but appointed to steer the country away from the

chaos that compelled the exit of Taylor.

The United Nations Tribunal in Sierra Leone and the United States (U.S.) government have since demanded that Nigeria should handover Taylor to the tribunal so that Taylor can answer charges of war crimes pending against him.

Some have even linked Taylor with the Al Qaida and terrorist group, in the ensuing effort to get him to pay for his several alleged human right violations while he was a warlord and president of Liberia. Nigeria got support both from the UN and U.S. when it offered to take Taylor in at a time the threat of another long-drawn civil war was already hung over Liberia.

Concord Times

Monday 13th September 2004

Feature Article

Friday, 10 September 2004

World: What Constitutes Genocide Under International Law, And How Are Prosecutions Evolving?

By Irina Lagunina

The U.S. government yesterday called what is happening in Sudan's western region of Darfur "genocide" for the first time. "When we reviewed the evidence compiled by our team and then put it beside other information available to the State Department and widely known throughout the international community -- widely reported upon by the media and by others -- we concluded, I concluded, that genocide has been committed in Darfur and that the government of Sudan and the Janjawid [pro-government Arab militias] bear responsibility and that genocide may still be occurring," U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. But what constitutes genocide under international law, and how is the process of prosecuting such crimes changing?

Prague, 10 September 2004 (RFE/RL) -- First came the crime.

On 24 August 1941, two months after Germany invaded the Soviet Union, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivered a radio broadcast. Describing the barbarity of German police troops, as he called the SS, he said, "We are in the presence of a crime without a name."

Two years later, Raphael Lemkin, a Polish legal scholar in the United States, came up with a name. Lemkin, a Jew, had managed to escape the Polish occupation and had been studying German policies and tactics ever since.

Lemkin had heard Churchill's speech. In his 1943 book, "Axis Rule in Occupied Europe," Lemkin first used the word "genocide" -- a parallel to homicide -- to describe the extermination of large groups of people.

In 1948, the fledgling UN General Assembly adopted an international Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which came into force in 1951. That convention defines genocide as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national ethnic, racial or religious group," including inflicting conditions calculated to lead to a group's destruction.

After the horrors of the Holocaust were revealed, the mantra of the time became "never again." But it would take four decades, with the creation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in 1994, before the international community would finally come together to prosecute the crime of genocide again.

Why did it take so long, after the Holocaust, for the international community to prosecute the crime of genocide again despite atrocities and mass killings in Cambodia, East Timor, and elsewhere?

Why did it take so long, despite atrocities and mass killings in Cambodia, East Timor, and elsewhere?

"I think there is more political will," said Ben Kiernan, director of the Cambodian genocide program at Yale University. "I think one major development -- the first, in fact -- was the Bosnia tribunal. The concept that genocide had occurred again in Europe in the 1990s was a spur to take action against the perpetrators of the Bosnian genocide. And that, of course, opened the door to other cases -- Rwanda immediately following. And then more recently special tribunals have been established of a mixed national and international nature in Sierra Leone, in Kosovo, and in East Timor."

The definition of genocide as stated in the UN convention includes killing members of a group of

people; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of this group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Kiernan said the law is evolving, now that the convention is finally being implemented and tested in court. He said he believes it is more likely that cases of genocide will be prosecuted today than ever before.

But the original UN convention was adopted more than 50 years ago. Is the definition of genocide still valid? Is that definition still strong enough to stand up in court?

"Well, I would not say that it's more than enough, but it is certainly enough," Kiernan said. "It's certainly the case that many genocidal perpetrators can be prosecuted under the definition of genocide of 1948."

Kiernan noted that recent prosecutions in Yugoslavia and Rwanda have brought certain developments in international law: "For instance, one development that has occurred is the judgment of the international criminal tribunals that rape death camps and other crimes against women can be considered as a form of genocide against a particular group, by singling out women to persecute as a group."

Several former civilian and military leaders, including ex-Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, former Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic, and Rwandan Colonel Theoneste Bagosora, have been accused of genocide. Plavsic pleaded guilty to lesser crimes, while the trials of Milosevic and Bagosora are ongoing.

Kiernan said it is a difficult process: "Genocide is the most heinous crime against humanity. It is a category of crimes against humanity. It's called an aggravated crime against humanity because to prove it you need to prove not only that the actions were taken but that these actions were carried out with a criminal intent to destroy a group in whole or in part as such. And so that makes it very difficult to prove. But it's also true that these acts would be crimes against humanity even if the intent cannot be proven."

As Kiernan pointed out, several international human rights organizations warned about possible genocide occurring in Rwanda more than 10 years ago. Their voices were not heard at that time.

The same thing, he said, might be happening now in Darfur.

Related Stories About World:

- Taliban and Al-Qaeda -- Provincial vs. Global
- Muslims In West Urged To Get Political To Improve Islam's Image
- Non-Aligned Nations Meet In South Africa --- But Does The World Care?
- Oil Prices Fall Slightly, But Experts Worry It's Short-Lived
- U.S., Pakistani Authorities Hail Antiterrorism 'Breakthroughs'
- U.S. Diplomat Leads Charge Against Human Trafficking

Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty © 2004 RFE/RL, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Presidential Aspirant Wants UN's Political Intervention in Liberia

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

September 10, 2004

Posted to the web September 10, 2004

-Says CPA Is Inadequate; Proposes 20-man UN-backed Ombudsman Commission

-Believes Elections Postponement Will Perpetuate 'Warlordism'

When the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Liberia was sealed in Accra, Ghana, more than a year ago, Liberians and international peace-brokers described it as "the best framework for peace in Liberia under the circumstances." The agreement called for coalition political arrangement based on factional and interest group representation that will oversee a transition to civil rule in two years under the security protection of the international community.

The agreement has been in practice since August 18, 2003 and throughout this period, many blamed problems associated with its implementation on insatiable faction leaders and political Nicodemuses. But a Liberian resident in the US, T. Q. Harris, is convinced that the problems is more than self-seeking individuals putting road blocks in the way of the smooth implementation of the CPA and that the problems is structural and fundamental. The Analyst Staff Writer looks at the points he raised.

A vice presidential candidate for LINU in the 1997 post-conflict election, Mr. T. Q. Harris, has call for the intervention of the United Nations in the electoral politics of Liberia in order to ensure a systematic return to civil rule by January 2006.

In a recent article posted on the Internet, Mr. Harris who hopes to head the coalition of patriotic political parties (CPPP) in the 2005 elections as presidential candidate said the problem with the peace process was that the framers of the peace agreement overlooked a fundamental suggestion of a key warring faction and went ahead to concoct a system that was ill-prepared to handle the transitional political caseload.

He therefore called for the revision of the agreement to rescue the peace process from possible collapse.

According to him, it was clear from the numerous problems facing the NTGL that the organizers and the chief mediator made critical errors beginning with the formation of the Ghana conference and the protocol that followed.

As a result of this, he claimed, governance in the transitional period is now fraught with corruption, incompetence and confusion.

"For example, a great opportunity to defuse the crisis, save lives, and identify bona fide leaders was lost when organizers of the Ghana conference failed to capitalize on a major breakthrough which came about on May 17th 2003 with the release of a statement by the LURD military high command. The statement, in essence, called for a negotiated settlement of the conflict," Mr. Harris, who is also head of a group called "Liberia Contemporees United Patriotic and Strong (Contemp UPS)" said.

He said as a result of that "error" the CPA has created a situation where those who shot their way into power are being told to hurry up and step aside without offering them any incentive to do so.

He did not say whether the current call amongst some warring faction leaders for the postponement of the October 2005 general and presidential elections is related to the inadequacy of the CPA in address their incentive needs, but blamed ECOWAS and opposition leaders for continuing to regard the CPA as the best mechanism for ending the crisis in Liberia and restoring stability within West Africa.

He expressed disbelief that things would change for the better given current trends and called on Liberians to harness a new attitude towards the peace process and amongst themselves.

"Those who consider themselves leaders must submit to one another and build trust. A true leader sets good examples for his followers to emulate. Flowery speeches and self-promotion will not deliver our people," he said Describing the current state of affairs in political terms as "dismal" and needing support, Mr. Harris called on Liberians to put aside their pride and allow outside political intervention in order to "extricate Liberians from the prevailing culture of lawlessness, mistrust, rampant corruption and incompetent leadership" which he described as "self-destruct." "Liberians --through their civil, political and religious leaders-- must request, and the international community must oblige, the creation of a special commission whose single purpose shall be to prepare the country for presidential and general elections to be held October 2005," he noted without saying what will become of the National Elections Commission which is mandated under the CPA to reform electoral laws and conduct free and fair elections by the same date.

While he conceded that it would be a difficult decision for Liberia, he said it was a national call for sacrifice.

"It will take character, discipline and the willingness to set aside personal ambition for the common good. Leadership is all about the people. For the sake of our children, we

collectively must appeal to the international community to designate a non-Liberian professional -an expert who will serve as the supreme decision-maker-- in whom power and authority shall be vested to restore order and civility in our country," Mr. Harris pleaded.

On the composition and function of the commission which he expects to have an ombudsman-type authority, he said: "The 15 to 20-member commission comprising of Liberians only shall report to a panel of experts appointed by the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States, and the European Union. This special commission will work closely with the NTGL, but it shall in no way interfere with the day-to-day running of the country. The commission, among other contributions, shall offer remedies to those concerns that have prevented donors from honoring monetary pledges towards the peace/transitional efforts in Liberia." He dismissed suggestions for the postponement of elections as ineffective solutions to the current problems facing the nation.

"Neither an extension of the transitional period, nor postponement of the presidential and general elections will resolve the current crisis facing Liberians. In fact, extending the transitional period (or tenure of the NTGL) will only prolong the existence of warring factions in Liberia," he noted.

According to him, what was needed to remedy the complex prevailing situation in Liberia was for the Liberians to "grant the UN Secretary General Special Representative to Liberia final decision-making authority in any and all circumstances, backed by the resources of the UN peacekeeping force and the corps of international police officers currently stationed in Liberia; 2) develop an action plan for the 2005 elections to be implemented by a special commission while the NTGL handles the day-to-day running of the country; and, 3) there must be a clear and present deterrent, such as, giving law enforcement the authority to arrest, detain and incarcerate persons without exception who attempt to disrupt the peace process." Calling on fellow Liberians to join him in presenting a united front to propagate these views, Mr. Harris concluded: "Because time is of the essence, we must act now so that the international community may approve a workable plan by the 15th of October 2004 (the one-year anniversary of the NTGL) that will end the period of warlordism and begin a new era of lasting peace, civility and prosperity in our nation." Observers are unanimous that Mr. Harris' concerns are genuine, but disagree that he made a good case for the way out of the Liberians political woods.

They think Mr. Harris overlooked a whole lot when he called for extraordinary powers to be vested in a representative of the UN Secretary General in Liberia without appreciating the backlash that would cause Liberia in terms of sovereignty, social-economic development, and the right to self-determination that is the crux of contemporary politics.

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

Terms: **west africa; eyadema kufuor agree on ecowas peace zone** ([Edit Search](#))

 Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery



Africa News September 10, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 AllAfrica, Inc.

Africa News

September 10, 2004 Friday

LENGTH: 845 words

**HEADLINE: West Africa;
Eyadema, Kufuor Agree on Ecowas Peace Zone**

BYLINE: Ghanaian Chronicle

BODY:
Eyadema assures **Kufuor** of support against subversion!

To visit Ghana soon

Ecowas Chairman, President John Agyekum **Kufuor** of Ghana and President Gnassingbe **Eyadema** renewed the political vision of the Founding Fathers when both leaders expressed revulsion for all forms of subversion by reiterating their total commitment to the creation of "an **Ecowas peace zone**" in the sub-region.

Towards this end both leaders renewed their call on all **Ecowas** members not to allow their countries to be used as staging posts for launching acts of subversion including cross-border armed attacks against their respective neighbouring States.

These declarations are contained in a communique released in the northern Togolese town of Kara on Tuesday and made available in Lome on Wednesday, this week after a whistle-stop friendly working-visit by President John Agyekum **Kufuor** to Kara at the invitation of his Togolese counter-part, General Gnassingbe **Eyadema**.

As a result, the two Heads of State emphasised the legal obligation by Member States to strictly respect the existing **Ecowas** mechanism for the prevention, management resolution of conflicts as the only preferable recipe for preserving, sustaining and maintaining **peace** in **West Africa**.

Furthermore, the two leaders appealed to their fellow Heads of State to religiously adhere to the Quadripartite Agreement signed between Togo, Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria in 1984, which enjoins these four, neighbours to fight a common war together against the proliferation of illegal arms, subversion and various cross-border crimes including the most recurrent dangerous pestilence of terrorism.

The renewed **peace** declarations come in the wake of disturbing and alarming reports of various secret acts of destabilisation being prepared against some member countries in **Ecowas**, especially the Republic of Ghana.

Even though the final communique was silent on the special case of Ghana, independent observers say that the Kara meeting offered the Togolese President Gnassingbe **Eyadema** the much-needed opportunity to provide reassurances to his Ghanaian counter-part that "Togo will never be part of any conspiracy to destabilise the government of President John Agyekum **Kufuor** of Ghana."

It will be recalled that recent alarming reports circulating in the sub-region have created the impression that agents of former Ghanaian Head of State Jerry John Rawlings were going round **West Africa** to solicit for moral, material, and human resource assistance to attack and torpedo the **Kufuor** administration before the up-coming democratic Presidential and legislative elections in Ghana come December 2004.

In the midst of the confusion, the former Ghanaian Head of State, Flt. Lt. John Jerry Rawlings made an unannounced sudden appearance in the Togolese capital on August 17, this year on his way from Congo Brazzaville.

The sudden appearance in Lome of Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings who was alleged to have been accorded full diplomatic courtesies by the Togolese authorities in the absence of President **Eyadema** caused disquiet and the raising of eyebrows in Ghana.

There was little doubt that the visit to Kara was timely as the Ghanaian Head of State, President **Kufuor** later told reporters "I feel reassured. I came to Kara for fraternal and cordial discussions and consultations with my brother, friend, and colleague President Gnassingbe **Eyadema**."

He confirmed that soon a Joint Commission of both Ghana and Togo will soon meet to thrash out all areas of doubts and reinforce security, political, and economic cooperation.

Large colonies of Ghanaians and Togolese sang and danced in front of the Palace of Congress in Kara as Presidents **Eyadema and Kufuor** embraced, shook hands, and back-slapped in true brotherly fashion during a cultural explosion.

President **Eyadema** seemed to say, "Brother **Kufuor**, rest assured, Togo is firmly behind your government. Togo means no harm."

Significantly, the two leaders also took a general review of the security situation in **West Africa**, the slow, cumbersome reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire, and the disarmament and **peace** process in Liberia.

The communique was specific in its commendation of President **Kufuor** in his remarkable role in helping to bring about **peace** to strife-torn areas in the sub-region.

Recent allegations of destabilisation made by Mauritania against Burkina Faso are understood to have featured in the Kara discussions.

But in the communique President **Kufuor** also called on the EU Commission to react favourably and positively to the various satisfactory measures so far taken by Togo to merit the normalisation and resumption of bilateral economic relations with the EU.

President **Kufuor** later laid a wreath at the tomb of Maman N'danidaha, mother of the Togolese Head of State, at Pya, the native village of President Gnassingbe **Eyadema**.

President **Kufuor** left Togo for Ghana later in the evening.

The Ghanaian Head of State later extended an invitation to President **Eyadema** to pay an official visit to Ghana very soon.

LOAD-DATE: September 10, 2004

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

Terms: **west africa; eyadema kufuor agree on ecowas peace zone** ([Edit Search](#))

Mandatory Terms: **date from 09/07/2004**

View: Full

Date/Time: Monday, September 13, 2004 - 6:30 AM EDT

IOL Breaking News - (printer friendly version)		
PRINT PAGE	SIZE> small medium large	CLOSE WINDOW

Mercenary leader jailed for seven years
10/09/2004 - 12:56:38

British mercenary leader Simon Mann, a neighbour of Mark Thatcher, was jailed for seven years in Zimbabwe today for conspiring to buy weapons of war.

The Eton- and Sandhurst-educated former SAS captain was arrested in Harare as he allegedly prepared to launch a coup against oil rich Equatorial Guinea’s dictatorial president.

The two pilots of a cargo plane that landed in Zimbabwe carrying dozens of suspected mercenaries in March were jailed for 16 months.

The 65 men who were on the plane, convicted of immigration offences, were given 12-month sentences.

Magistrate Mishrod Guvamombe sentenced Mann, 51, in the makeshift court inside the Chikurubi maximum security prison near Harare.

Mann showed no emotion as the sentence was read out.

From special forces commander to soldier of fortune, Simon Mann’s colourful career reads like a thriller.

Born to a world of wealth and privilege, he made his own fortune in some of Africa’s bloodiest wars – and even enjoyed a stint in the movies.

He was jailed today for his connection with a bizarre plot to overthrow a dictator in a tiny African backwater – a case that has also ensnared Mark Thatcher, son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

For Mann, it has been a stunning downfall.

The alleged plot against Equatorial Guinea’s President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, a despot with reputed cannibalistic tendencies, appeared to carry the promise of vast riches - access to the offshore oil of Africa’s third-biggest oil producer.

Instead, Mann – suspected of masterminding the coup attempt – faces the prospect of prison in a country known for horrific human rights abuses.

Mann appeared bespectacled and bedraggled, dressed in prison-issue khaki shirt and shorts – a far cry from the debonair adventurer described by acquaintances.

His lawyers claimed he had been denied adequate food and clothing, and some of Mann’s 69 co-accused have allegedly been beaten at the maximum security Chikurubi prison, where he is likely to serve out his sentence for trying to buy arms from Zimbabwe’s state arms manufacturer.

Mann, the son of former England cricket captain George Mann and heir to the Watney brewing fortune, graduated from elite Eton College and Sandhurst military academy.

The 51-year-old father of six went on to a distinguished military career which reportedly included service in Cyprus, Central America, Germany and Northern Ireland.

He left the military in the 1980s, returning only briefly to work with British commander General Peter de la Billiere during the Gulf War.

From there, Mann drifted into security work, providing bodyguards to wealthy clients.

In the early 1990s, he helped set up Executive Outcomes and later Sandline International, two security consultancies that recruited among former South African military forces who found themselves out of work after apartheid ended in 1994.

Executive Outcomes earned millions from the Angolan government by guarding oil installations against rebel attacks, while Sandline is believed to have participated in Sierra Leone's bloody civil war.

Mann also had a detour in the limelight, taking a small role as a British officer in the 2002 film Bloody Sunday about the conflict in Northern Ireland.

During this period, Mann took up residence in the plush Cape Town suburb of Constantia, where his neighbours include Mark Thatcher, and Earl Spencer, brother of the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

Last month, South African authorities arrested Thatcher and charged him with helping to finance the botched Equatorial Guinea plot, an accusation he denies.

One of Mann's former associates at Executive Outcomes, Nick du Toit, is now on trial for his life in the west African nation, where he has admitted plotting to overthrow Nguema, who seized power himself in a 1979 coup.

Mann and his co-accused, most of whom were arrested when their ageing Boeing 727 landed at Harare International Airport on March 7, denied they were preparing to launch a coup.

They claimed they were headed to security jobs at a mining installation in eastern Congo.

Mann admitted trying to buy assault rifles, grenades, anti-tank rocket launchers and other weapons from Zimbabwe Defence Industries – an offense punishable by up to 10 years in prison.