

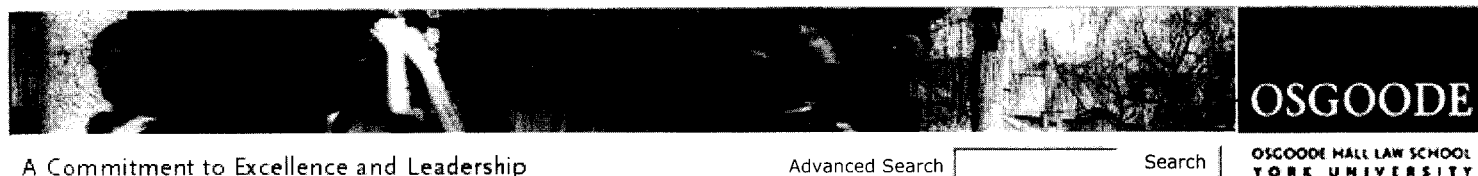
SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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, June 14, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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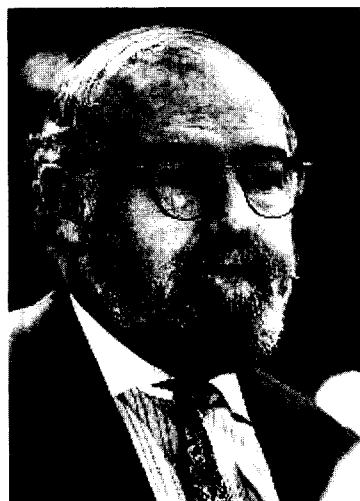
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OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL
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Osgoode Professor will aid Sierra Leone War Crimes Prosecutors



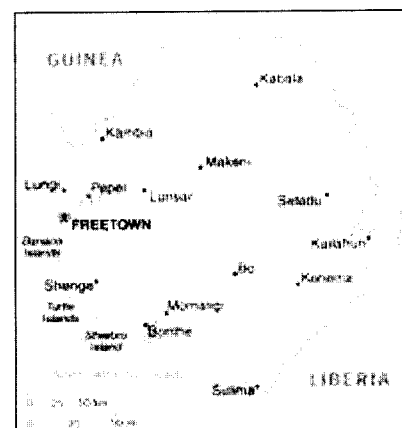
Osgoode Hall Law School Professor Garry Watson (left) has been invited by Luc Côté, chief of prosecutions at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, to take a small group of trial advocacy teachers to Freetown, Sierra Leone from April 16 to 23 to conduct a training session for the team prosecuting war crimes there.

The highly experienced, international group of trial advocacy teachers includes Sheila Block of the Canadian firm Torys LLP; Jim Seckinger, a professor at Notre Dame Law School (University of Notre Dame, Indiana); and Leona Dorrian, QC, of the Faculty of Advocates (Scottish Bar), Edinburgh, Scotland.

"Sheila is one of Canada's leading counsel. Jim is one of the best-known trial advocacy teachers in the US and Leona is a senior Edinburgh counsel," said Watson. "All three teach regularly at Osgoode's annual Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop."

Located in Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Guinea and Liberia, the tiny country of Sierra Leone endured a decade of violent civil war in the 1990s. The conflict between the government and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and the displacement of more than two million people (over one-third of the country's population). The displaced population caused a humanitarian crisis for neighbouring countries. The conflict in Sierra Leone was characterized by deliberate attacks on civilians, including murder, rape, torture and mutilation.

Although the country is now in a state of peace, the road to achieving that peace has been plagued by numerous setbacks, including rogue bands of armed rebels, extreme poverty and disease. Through the support of the United Nations peacekeeping force, the World Bank and the international community, the warring factions have now disarmed and demobilized. National elections held in May 2002 resulted in a government which has slowly been able to reestablish authority and order. Many of the country's citizens still live in poverty and must cope with disfiguring injuries inflicted during the war.



Watson and his team will be working with the Sierra Leone prosecution staff on trial advocacy. "We will be working with the prosecution staff, many of whom are volunteers," said Watson. The staff members come from various parts of Sierra Leone and from other countries. A newly built courthouse located in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone will house the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a legal body established to ensure that prosecutions under international humanitarian law proceed in a fair and judicial manner.



The Special Court for Sierra Leone (left) was set up jointly by the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations. Mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in Sierra Leone since Nov. 30, 1996, the court aims to prosecute top militia leaders from both sides in the war.

Left: The Special Court for Sierra Leone

The court is unique because it is both an international and national court, with international and Sierra Leonean judges. It is also an African court established to try those accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes against Africans.

As of February 2004, 11 individuals associated with each side of the country's former warring factions stand indicted by the special court. They are charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Specifically, the charges include murder, rape, extermination, acts of terror, enslavement, looting and burning, sexual slavery, conscription of children into an armed force, and attacks on United Nations peacekeepers and humanitarian workers, among others.

Right: Some of the results of the torture inflicted on the citizens of Sierra Leone

Indictments against two other persons were withdrawn in December 2003 due to the deaths of the accused.



More about Garry Watson

Watson was recently awarded the prestigious Samuel E. Gates Litigation Award by the American College of Trial Lawyers. The award, which was established in 1980 in memory of Samuel E. Gates of New York, an outstanding lawyer and fellow of the college, honours a lawyer or judge who has made a significant contribution to the improvement of the litigation process.

In making the award, the American College noted that Watson's reputation and record of service in the teaching of advocacy skills and the intricacies of the litigation process to hundreds of law students and lawyers is renowned across North America.

Photographs courtesy of Osgoode Hall Law School, the United Nations and The Special Court for Sierra Leone.

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<http://www.dailynewsinquirer.net/editorial>

12 June 2004

SIERRA LEONE CAUGHT IN THE EYE OF A LEGAL HURRICANE

The Hinga Norman trial is the household word in many Sierra Leonean circles , both in the country itself and the diaspora. In sundry social functions in America, the trial has stirred spirited and fiery debates and this newspaper is not surprised by the passion being generated by the trial. It is the most important judicial proceeding ever in our fatherland.

The trial is bound to stir up something in Sierra Leoneans because such high-profile cases involving one of the country's leaders are rare in the nation. The incidents of Sierra Leonean leaders called to account for their deeds before the legal system are so rare, we cannot even count them on our fingers. Sierra Leone is a country where leaders have gotten away with everything in the past. They have committed murder, genocide , politically-motivated killings, economic treason and other crimes and instead of being arrested , they flourished instead and lived their lives in pomp and material ease until they left power or died.

The idea of justice applied to her leaders is therefore alien to the Sierra Leonean, but it need not be so. No man is above the law. Justice should be meted out not only to the poor but to the high and mighty if they infringe the law. The Special Court is going to blaze a trail previously unknown not only in Sierra Leone but the whole African continent, because, for the first time, impunity is going to be taken on head on by an international court of law.

The nation has been caught in the eye of a legal hurricane. Sierra Leone's Special Court will stir a lot of high winds of tension and emotional storm ; it will uproot and devastate a lot of macabre mores and previously-untouched anomalies and this will be good for our country . And if it prosecutes the cases before it successfully, WITH TRANSPARENT JUSTICE SEEN TO HAVE BEEN DONE TO ALL THE ACCUSED , it will turn out to be a blessing in disguise as it will become a model of an international judicial system that will now be on standby to bring to justice all our criminal leaders who have created a culture of impunity on this continent.

It is very unfortunate that Chief Hinga Norman is among the accused about to be tried in Sierra Leone for war crimes and crimes against humanity. He fought a gallant and fearless battle , risking his life , to save Sierra Leone from being overrun by the wicked RUF/AFRC forces.

However, his supporters must be admonished that the dispensation of fair and transparent justice does not only entail the punishment of wrongdoers but the exoneration of those falsely accused. If Norman's indictment is politically-motivated as his supporters are claiming and if he is innocent of the charges, this is his golden moment to prove and establish his innocence before God and man once and for all. It will even be his moment of triumph as he will for once put to shame those he and supporters perceive as his enemies and his political future may even get a tremendous kick start . But death has to ensue before we approach the portals of Heaven. Man must die to live again. Being dragged to court after what he did for the nation appears grievous to Chief Norman. He believes that he has done no wrong and is innocent of the charges.

However, he has to prove his innocence through legal methods , for in a civilized and decent society it is the only avenue through which people accused of grave crimes exonerate themselves. Would it not be a thing of joy and glory for the family and supporters of Norman for him to prove his

innocence before such an important body as the U.N Sponsored war crimes tribunal ?

This newspaper therefore wants to appeal to all Sierra Leoneans, whether supporters of Hinga Norman or not, to hold back their eccentricities and sensibilities about having their leader put on trial and wait on the wheels of justice. This newspaper believes that the trials will be fairly conducted and the eyes of the international community and humanitarian organizations will be skewed on to the sessions to ensure that every accused person is treated as innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. But the court itself has shown that it is mindful of the legal rights of the accused.

Turning the trial into a circus or a platform that subversive elements will capitalize on to sow seeds of chaos in our beloved country is not the way to go. If some of the accused have the ambition to run for the highest office in the land in future,, this is the right opportunity for them to prove that they respect the rule of law and the administration of transparent justice. It is the only way that Sierra Leoneans will be convinced that when these men come to power, they will respect the rule of law and the tenets of democracy.

Whatever we may say, horrendous crimes were committed against the Sierra Leonean people during the war and only men without conscience or moral values would loath the idea of the accused ring-leaders facing their day before this international tribunal. We have to realize that there are on the other side of the spectrum the thousands upon thousands who suffered beatings, rapes, amputations and cruel death during the war. Their interests have to be sought by the law. Nobody deserves what the people of Sierra Leone went through during the war. And some justice has to be meted out to avoid a recurrence or relapse of our bestial instincts.

Impunity is one thing we do not want to see prevail in our country anymore. After this trial, hopefully, we will learn to conduct our political affairs, and even war, according to prescribed international conventions and the law. We will realise that the days are gone when the world would turn a blind eye to the willful and unnecessary atrocities we commit against innocent people in our midst. Within the vortex of today's global watchfulness for law and order, social justice and democracy, there is a place for the Special Court.

Let us therefore conduct ourselves like truly civilized people and wait on the Special Court to do its work. Those that are guilty will be found culpable and those that have done no wrong will have their innocence proved before the whole world. This is not too much to ask and if we love our nation we will embrace such an impartial international judicial system which has come to bring justice to a situation that saw the most brutal and lawless war ever fought on this continent

<http://www.dailynewsinquirer.net/>

14/06/2004

CHIEF HINGA NORMAN GETS NEW DEFENCE TEAM

Saturday June 12 , 2004

Its really au revoir for J.B Jenkins-Johnston, Sulaiman Banja TejanSie and Adiatu Tejan-Cole , as Chief Hinga Norman surfaced with a new defence team last night , according to a release from the CDF Spokesman in the U.S, Rev. Alfred SamForay .

The new team is now composed of crack U.S defence attorney, John Wesley Hall, who , according to SamForay , is slated to be the next President of the American Criminal Lawyers Association ; Imran Rahman in the UK and Alimamy Sesay of Washington D.C

Hinga Norman's British Lawyer Arrives Today

By
John
Baimba
Sesay

It appears as if the Special Court is going ahead with arrangements to fly in a standby lawyer for Mr. Sam Hinga Norman. And it was disclosed during last Thursday sittings that the lawyer from Britain is expected to fly in today.

The lawyer had never appeared in any war crimes tribunal and when his CV was presented to Mr. Norman for his attention, he

rejected him.

Norman have however come back to his senses and had asked that his initial defence team he sacked on the first day of the trial, be contacted to continue his defence. One of them, Suliaman Banja Tejan-Sie has been ever ready to, despite Mr. Norman's decision, to continue with the matter but was just waiting for the accused to reconsider

his decision, which to many was unfortunate. Leading defence counsel, James Blyden Jenkins-Johnston, was on the other hand not prepared to do any further business with the accused but family members have prevailed upon him to have a change of mind. The trial continues tomorrow.

Independent Observer

Monday June 14, 2004

As Special Court Prepares The Stage...

Norman Set To Throw Bombshell



Norman: determined



Kabbah: worried?

By Joseph Turay
After being accepted by the trial chamber of the Special Court last Thursday

for self-representation on condition that standby counsels be available, former Deputy Defence Minister and Na-

tional Co-ordinator of the Civil Defence Force, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, will today start to represent himself

The leading defence counsel Jenkins Johnston and his team, who were sacked by

the indictée last week, will also have to enquire from the Special Court whether they will be in position to act as

standby counsels for the accused.

After a bitter argument be-

Contd. page 2

Norman Set To Throw Bombshell

From front page

tween the judges and the accused last Thursday over the Special Court's proposal to provide the latter with a standby counsel as stated in the statute of the

court, the court has finally agreed to have his former defence counsels to assist him with the legal proceedings. According to the judges, the decision was taken on the grounds that the accused,

who is not a legally minded person, may not understand the legal tenets and it will be detrimental to the other accused and also jeopardize the whole judicial proceedings.

The Exclusive

Monday June 14, 2004

In Sierra Leone, a new kind of court

Michel Arseneault/IHT IHT

Friday, June 11, 2004

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone First, there was Nuremberg. Then, there were Rwanda and Yugoslavia. Now, there is Sierra Leone.

A new type of international war crimes tribunal has opened in Freetown, the Sierra Leonean capital, to try the men who masterminded the massacres in the final years of the civil war in the West African nation. The Special Court for Sierra Leone, as it is called, is ushering in a new generation of criminal jurisdiction combining international and domestic law.

The tribunal, which opened here on June 3, is seen as a possible model for other African countries recovering from war, even for Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It will not bring justice to every victim," Luc Côté, the Special Court's chief of prosecutions, said in an interview. "But what we're trying to do here is to put an end to the culture of impunity. Leaders have to answer for their actions."

The Special Court has three years to bring so-called "big fish" before the judge. Eleven men have been indicted so far for violations of the Geneva conventions, generally referred to as war crimes. The charges include murder, rape, extermination, acts of terror, enslavement, looting, burning, sexual slavery, attacks on United Nations peacekeepers and the recruitment of children.

The Special Court ruled last week that it would consider the use of child soldiers as a war crime, rejecting defense claims that the conscription of those under 18 was only banned after the formation of the International Criminal Court in 1998. In a statement, Casey Kelso, an official of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, said the decision had "broader implications for others recruiting children into wars elsewhere in the world."

Unlike the international courts for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, respectively based in Tanzania and the Netherlands, the Special Court was not set up by the UN Security Council. It was created under a bilateral treaty signed by the UN and the Sierra Leonean government in 2002.

Since it is based in the country where the atrocities were committed, it is hoped that the Special Court will deliver justice more swiftly and at a lower cost than its counterparts for Rwanda and Yugoslavia.

"The exercise of justice is important for a long and lasting peace," noted Côté, 46, in a series of interviews in Freetown.

Côté, a Canadian national, said that he had seen the best and the worst of Africa in two decades. When he was still a student in the early 1980s, he took a year off from law school to hitchhike across much of West Africa. He remembers the trip as an exhilarating eye-opener.

Côté returned to Africa - to Rwanda - in September 1994, barely two months after the end of the genocide of the Tutsi minority. As a member of a special investigations unit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, his first job was to locate mass graves. There were so many that the pungent odor eventually impregnated his shovel, his Jeep and his clothing. "We smelled of death," he recalled.

The following year, Côté joined the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. As a legal officer, he drafted indictments against Rwandan Army and government officials later convicted of crimes against humanity.

"As a foreigner, you see things, but you cannot say that you understand," he mused.

From 1991 to 2002, when the conflict was officially declared over, tens of thousands of people were killed and countless others wounded, their limbs hacked off by machete-wielding rebels. With fatalities conservatively estimated at 50,000, the war was an unspeakable disaster for a country of 4 million people.

The main leaders of Sierra Leone's rebellion, Foday Sankoh and Sam Bockarie of the Revolutionary United Front, will never stand in the dock. The first died of natural causes last year while in custody in Freetown; the second was killed in May in clashes in neighboring Liberia. The man believed to be their chief, the former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, indicted on 17 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, is in exile in Nigeria.

The Special Court ruled last week that his status as a head of state at the time of the indictment did not give him immunity from prosecution. And Côté still hopes that Taylor, often accused of having armed the front in exchange for diamonds, will one day stand trial.

Critics had expressed fears that the Special Court could mete out a "victors' justice" under which losers are charged while winners get off the hook. But Côté is quick to point out that the first three men to stand trial are members of the Civil Defense Forces, a pro-government militia led by Sam Hinga Norman, who was arrested last year while he was still interior minister. All three have pleaded not guilty.

Leaders of the front and a second rebel group, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, are set to stand trial beginning in early July.

The court is not above criticism. In March, Judge Geoffrey Robertson, a British human rights activist, was embroiled in controversy when it came to light that he was on the record as saying that the Revolutionary United Front had committed "grotesque crimes against humanity."

To avoid any appearance of conflict of interest, the Special Court announced that Robertson would not sit in cases involving revolutionary front rebels.

Human rights groups such as Amnesty International have expressed regret that the Special Court's mandate only covers atrocities committed after November 1996. War crimes committed at an earlier date are unlikely to be tried in Sierra Leonean courts because they are covered by an amnesty that was part of the peace deal signed in Lomé, the capital of Togo, in 1999.

For all its flaws, Côté believes the Special Court is playing an essential role in Sierra Leone, if only because it is bolstering the local judiciary. Eight of the 25 prosecution team lawyers are Sierra Leoneans. Their knowledge of the country and their language skills have allowed the prosecution to proceed more quickly and more efficiently than in Rwanda, Côté said.

The Special Court is part of a two-pronged approach to justice, with the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission playing a key role. Loosely modeled on its South African counterpart, the mandate of the commission is to document the decade-long conflict. Its final report, due this spring, has been delayed.

The Sierra Leonean president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, has described the commission's job as a "therapeutic process."

But some spiritual leaders fear that it cannot address the broad issues. Sheik A.B. Conteh, an imam at Hamdallah Mosque, argues that political instability was a key reason for the war.

He says: "It was due to bad governance that people yielded to Satanic temptations." The Reverend Henry Samuels, of Vine Memorial Baptist Church, says tensions are still rife in a country that has been at the bottom of the UN's Human Development Index for years. "The end of the war is not just the silence of the guns," said Samuels. "We still have an economic war, a social war."

International Herald Tribune

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An African paradise: just don't mention the war

By Claire Soares in Freetown

12 June 2004

Even the most adventurous traveller would probably balk at the idea of a week in Sierra Leone. The vicious civil war left the country synonymous with images of machete-wielding militiamen and child amputees. Two years on, postcards of palm-fringed white-sand beaches, crystal waters and lush tropical mountains are being prepared.

Much of Sierra Leone's infrastructure was destroyed during the 10-year diamond-fuelled conflict, with rebels and pro-government fighters alike slaughtering, mutilating, looting and burning as they went.

But Cecil Williams, the head of the National Tourist Board, is leading a campaign to put Sierra Leone on the map as a tourist destination rather than a war zone. "It's an unspoiled destination, and given the traveller vogue for virgin places, that's our selling point," he says. "We have beautiful virgin beaches, the sea is warm, the landscape pure. Eco-tourism and adventure are our watchwords."

The first adventure for any visitor will be crossing the river-mouth that separates the airport from the capital, Freetown. The choices? An old Russian helicopter with pilots who have a flexible interpretation of maximum passenger limits, or skimming across on a hovercraft but only when there are enough people to justify the trip. It might put off the masses in search of hassle-free fun in the sun, but that does not worry Mr Williams. "We are going for a niche market," he says.

Despite the challenges, it is a niche that is already attracting interest. In March, a local businessman, Wilfred Sam-King, opened Kimbima, a luxury hotel overlooking the Atlantic. And the British airline Astraeus is to start flying twice a week from Gatwick to Freetown. But both ventures admit tourists are not their immediate market.

"We're focusing on the Sierra Leonean expat community in the UK, people who are trying to do business out there, and aid workers and government organisations," says Jonathan Hinkles, the commercial director of Astraeus. "Although in the longer-term we do think Sierra Leone has a great level of tourist potential." Mr Sam-King adds: "Security used to be the primary concern, and that has stabilised. Now the infrastructure needs to be developed."

In Freetown, many buildings are still burnt-out shells. A ceasefire was brokered in 1999, but sporadic violence continued, and British peace-keeping forces were engaged in 2000.

The waterfront market, in all its yellow-brick splendour, is among the few areas rebuilt, but four months after its inauguration, there are no stalls. Travelling outside the capital to see the diamond mines in the south, or

the wildlife in the north, is time-consuming. Many roads are dirt-tracks peppered with potholes. And there are no hospitals of international standard in case of accident.

Of course, enticing tourists is not the motive for fixing things. The people of Sierra Leone, who survived the war but even in peacetime have an average life expectancy below 40, deserve better.

Unemployment is estimated at 70 per cent of the five million people. And while the economy grew 3 per cent last year, billions of dollars in foreign aid and a large expatriate community mask the reality lived by many Sierra Leoneans. Residents say prices are being inflated every day, and the presence of well-paid international workers is aggravating the problem.

From the war crimes trials that opened this week, to the tourist makeover, much is being done to put Sierra Leone's past firmly behind it. But stamping out corruption is a priority. "Corruption is what brought the war to us," Mr Sam-King says. "If it's not addressed, then every investment, human or financial, is wasted."

Also in Africa

Congolese president survives coup attempt while army chases ringleader out of town
Eugene Terre'Blanche, in a black shirt and on a black horse, rides out of jail and into battle again
An African paradise: just don't mention the war
Zimbabwe bans third private newspaper in a year
Congo peace back on track as renegade troops flee

NORMAN FOUND 'INNOCENT'



*The indictee in
better days*

COMMENTARY By Christian Keili

Hinga Norman's trial in the Special Court has just begun. It may be a long while yet before he's pronounced innocent or guilty. But there are hundreds of Sierra Leoneans who'd rather not wait for a verdict. Were it left to their whims, no way would the ex-CDF boss be in a dock. What Norman really deserves, they say, is to be treated as a hero who fought to free his people from barbaric rebels.

The Special Court is not so sure. But the pro-Norman crowd has spared no effort to rubbish the work of the court by seeking to make his trial a matter of politics rather than law.

Take the recent drama over Norman's sacking of his defence team. The indictee made an application for self-defence. The court agreed with him that indeed he has a right to represent himself, but that for the purpose of preserving the court's integrity, the court would have to



SEE BACK PAGE

Kabbah greets Special Court Judges

Salone Times

Monday June 14, 2004

assign to him a standby counsel of his choice for assistance. Such counsel, the court said, would among other things, assist in preparing his case during the trial phase and also to receive on his behalf all court documents presented during the trial.

In short, the court wanted Norman's rights to be fully protected by having the benefit of expertise in legal matters he did not understand. Norman initially balked. But the court's position did eventually make sense to the indicted and he agreed to have his sacked defence team as his standby counsels.

But in the interim, the trial had moved from the New England courtroom to Kamajor Street. Ex-CDF fighters and other Norman supporters with scant understanding of the legal issues at stake were soon accusing the court of playing dirty political games with their man. They made their views known in the press.

Norman family members were reported by *The Exclusive* as claiming that President Kabbah had conspired with the Special Court to deny him the right to self-representation. "The court and the government fear that if our brother is allowed to defend himself, he will make some revelations that will rock the President and other senior officials in the SLPP", one relative is reported as saying.

In yet another press report, *Standard Times* informed its readers that ex-CDF members were planning a demonstration to protest "the denial of the trial chamber of the court to grant Chief Norman's request for self-defence." Mohamed Kamara, a reportedly aggrieved former member of the civil militia is quoted by the newspaper thus: "Our concern is to tell the international community that Chief Norman should be exempted from the trial."

We at SALONE TIMES dare to question why he should be. And we do not demean the efforts of Chief Norman in restoring democracy or in defending his people against rebels by asking why he should be exempted. Rather, we care more that the victims of our war get justice.

The Special Court was set up to ensure that. And it's not a kangaroo court. It cares about seeing justice being done. The court has not found Chief Norman guilty. In fact, it's working on the assumption that he's innocent. It's given him every opportunity to get a lawyer of his choice. Or even not to have a lawyer to defend him at all! Nobody's placed a padlock on Chief Norman's mouth to stop him from making his case to the court or even the wider public.

What matters to us is for him and other indicted to get a fair trial. So far, there's no proof they're not. We thank God for that. And as for Chief Norman's innocence or guilt, how can we know until we've heard the evidence in court?

Monday June 14, 2009

THE TIMES

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The OSWALD HANCILES Column

David Crane's Grandiloquence In "Hypocritical Justice"!! (?)

"...Mankind is once again assembled before an international tribunal to begin the sober and steady climb upwards the towering summit of justice....Horrors beyond the imagination will slide into this hallowed hall....The light of truth, the fresh breeze of justice moves freely about this beaten and broken land....The people have stood firm, shoulder to shoulder, staring down the beast, the beast of impunity....The light of this new day - today - and the many tomorrows ahead a beginning of the end of the life of that beast of impunity....Mankind has stepped back from the brink of chaos several times in the past 59 years. In 1945, civilization gasped in horror at its capacity to cause suffering. Again in the early 1990's, reacting to the horrors of Rwanda and Yugoslavia, the world joined in a further step away from the abyss and now in West Africa, in Sierra Leone, another bold and noble step has been taken away from the grim jaws of the beast....Sierra Leone, among all the nations of the world, has stood up and said there must be justice for the victims of this decade-long brutal internal armed conflict, fuelled by the greed of a joint criminal enterprise that spread across the region....That greed and avarice, set in motion events that pushed an entire nation over the cliff into wanton and malicious destruction...."

—Opening Statement of David M. Crane, The Prosecutor, Special Court of Sierra Leone, 3rd June, 2004, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Read the excerpt above closely. And, if you have been fortunate enough to listen to the erudite resonance of Special Court Prosecutor, David Crane, be awed by the poetic sublime grandiloquence of his verses....; you would be enveloped in his Messianic fervour, losing yourself - especially in you don't have Scientology and Yoga discipline like me - in something momentous happening in Sierra Leone, something profound happening for the human race. I held my breath. Released it slowly. Repeated one of my favourite mantras: "I have been created in the image of God....". Then, I hissed at Crane's words: "b...s...t"!!! Put Crane into perspective: "Beast of Impunity"!! (?). I did not see only the Beast of Impunity that Crane implied Hinga

Norman, Kondowa, Fofanah were...; I saw the "Beasts of Impunity and Hypocrisy and Injustice" that ALL the prosecutors and judges of the Special Court are - the Beasts of Impunity of the U.S./Europe....; the White Races...

The glimpse into the allegations against Hinga Norman and the other Civil Defence Forces chieftains are blood-cuddling. No man would have wanted to be in the place were the alleged victims of these CDF were. I shed tears for those who were so wantonly murdered, so excruciatingly tortured. *Though I treat with spiritual disdain the rank historical hypocrisy of Crane, I support Crane's rigid stance on "legality": "The rule of law marches out of the camps of the downtrodden onward under the banners of 'never again' and 'no more'".* But I boil with indignation at the very injustice unfolding in front of us in the Special Court with such skewed spiritual fanfare. Where are the RUF monsters? Where are the AFRC? Where is Charles Taylor? Where are the diamond merchants from Liberia to Antwerp who were so neatly chronicled in United Nations Reports as being behind our nauseous war? Atrocities anywhere at anytime in human history is unjustified. When in 1945 the Americans dropped the hydrogen bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki when the Japanese had already sent out feelers that they were ready to surrender....; that was not justified. When in the 1970s the United States' President Richard Nixon ordered the dropping of bombs in Northern Vietnam by B-52 bombers, making that country into a 'moon-scape', that was not justified. The horrors meted on native Africans by the British and Portuguese in Rhodesia, Mozambique, and South Africa... *for centuries*, right up to the 20th Century....; no one would justify that. Need we go back far into history and give life to the over *four century horrors of the white man against the black man in the Atlantic Slave Trade?* Who would justify that? No human being would. Excerpt the "Beasts of Impunity", Crane's race, principally. The white race has stubbornly refused justice for those horrendous crimes against the Black race. The present global system, reeking with injustice, is what empowers Crane to come and impose his injustice on us - while putting

himself, themselves, above the Justice they want to mete out to lesser mortals. I cry out, like a human being, for the human race.

Without the godlike Yogic grace of apparently powerless voices of Mahatma Gandhi, the awesome resonance and towering morality of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr, the inflexible stubbornness of Nelson Mandela....I hope my wail for Justice would be echoed, would crescendo, and would drown out the rank hypocrisy of the perverted justice of the David Cranes. Even locally, I am repulsed that decent Sierra Leoneans would not think it reprehensible that while Hinga Norman is facing trial for "crimes against humanity", APC bigwigs are being made ministers in the SLPP government, and the APC is winning a landslide in the capital city of Freetown. Hinga Norman mobilized a people who had to suffer from the hands of foreign-sponsored RUF rebels one of the worst atrocities ever by any group of human beings at anytime in the history of humanity. They were a people who their central government had failed in its cardinal duty to them: to provide protection to them in the face of military assault, reckless pogrom. *The Hero, Hinga Norman, is being made the villain; the APCistic villains - who sowed ALL the conditions that was reaped as a brutal civil war - are being made the 'Democratic Heroes'.* Aaaaaah!!! Tell me this is fiction some one! This can't be for real. A nightmare! George Orwell's "1984"istic fiction.

The amputees who were amputated by the RUF rebels are for real. Some 1,000 of them.

The likes of Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sierra Leone, Rev. Tom Barnett, who established the Amputee Reintegration Trust of Sierra Leone in 1999, and simply stop it functioning, and is now treating the amputees with contempt, and hostility, are moving about the land as respected citizens. Spit!!! And Crane spouts the 'fiction' of "Justice"!!? Like I have written before, the entire Crane debacle gives real decent humanity a wonderful opportunity to transform Sierra Leone into the place where real justice would be given a new lease of life; and justice like the sun would energize and give a new lease of life to humanity.

OP-ED: The Khmer Rouge in the dock —James A Goldston

The Khmer Rouge prosecutions will not be perfect. But they are necessary. Pol Pot died in 1998, but aging senior associates like "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea and ex-Khmer Rouge president Khieu Samphan live freely in Cambodia

These days suspected war criminals — from Rwanda to Serbia to Sierra Leone — are in the dock. Dozens are still on the run, but hope remains that they, too, will face justice. This is not true of the perpetrators of the Cambodian genocide of the 1970's. They remain free, and nobody is looking for them.

A quarter of Cambodia's population of eight million was executed, starved to death, or succumbed to disease during the Khmer Rouge's rule from 1975-79. There has been no real trial, no truth commission and no official acknowledgement of one of the most heinous crimes in human history.

As a result, many Cambodians born since 1979 do not understand the scope and gravity of the atrocities. Meanwhile, the anguish and sorrow of survivors — almost all of whom lost loved ones — have not found redress.

This may be about to change. A year ago, the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia agreed in principle to establish an "Extraordinary Chambers" composed of Cambodian and international prosecutors and judges to investigate and try the "senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea and those who were most responsible for crimes" under Khmer Rouge rule. Ratification of the agreement has been delayed by the stalemate among Cambodia's bickering political parties following last year's elections. But a breakthrough appears close.

The formal decision to create a tribunal for the Khmer Rouge represents a major achievement after a decade of diplomatic effort. To implement it, however, a number of hurdles remain to be overcome.

The first obstacle is cost. Cambodian authorities can help build their credibility by curbing the temptation to pad bills and inflate salaries. But outsiders will inevitably bear the lion's share of the budget for the tribunal. The current estimate — \$50 million over three years — has shocked donor governments. But this compares favourably with the Special Court in Sierra Leone (more than \$70 million over three years), and the \$100 million spent annually on the international courts for Rwanda and Yugoslavia.

The price is appropriate. The United States and other western governments fuelled Cambodia's civil war in the 1970's, then lent the Khmer Rouge legitimacy in the 1980's by insisting that they continue to occupy Cambodia's seat at the UN. If the Khmer Rouge trials are to proceed, donor countries must see the Extraordinary Chambers as a prudent investment toward a stable and productive Cambodia. Given how long it has taken to get this far, donors must act quickly to come up with the necessary funds.

The second hurdle stems from the fact that Cambodia's tribunal will be the first internationalised court in which domestic judges form a majority. This poses a particular challenge in a country where lawyers were among the targets of genocidal violence, where few sitting judges possess formal legal training and which has little tradition of judicial independence. There is thus concern that some in Cambodia's government — which includes officials who once served under the Khmer Rouge — will seek to hijack the trials for political ends.

In order to ensure a credible process, Cambodia and the UN must select judges of the highest calibre, not those that toe a party line. Prosecutors must follow the evidence wherever it leads. The trials should be conducted transparently and with broad public involvement. Non-governmental monitors need to scrutinise the proceedings to ensure that errors are identified early enough to be corrected. The UN must make clear that it will halt the tribunal if it falls short of international standards.

The third hurdle is the danger that the Extraordinary Chambers will be regarded as the end rather than the beginning of a long-term search for accountability and legal reform. Given time and resource constraints, it is unlikely that more than a dozen defendants will be tried. But thousands of others took part in the violence. Their many victims will rightly seek some form of accounting — at a minimum, an official record of the crimes they suffered. Before long, an effort to document and publish the truth will be necessary.

Done properly, the proceedings of the Extraordinary Chambers could have further positive ramifications by contributing to lasting changes in Cambodia's ordinary courts. By highlighting positive models of judging and legal advocacy, the trials may stimulate public demand for domestic tribunals that dispense justice fairly and effectively. Cambodia's government and international donors should respond to this demand by launching reform programs that extend beyond the life of the Extraordinary Chambers.

The Khmer Rouge prosecutions will not be perfect. But they are necessary. Pol Pot died in 1998, but aging senior associates like "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea and ex-Khmer Rouge president Khieu Samphan live freely in Cambodia. With sufficient resources, and a determination not to compromise on quality, the Extraordinary Chambers can provide a measure of justice for the victims and an example of law's power to serve the public good. —DT-PS

James A Goldston is Executive Director of the Open Society Justice Initiative, which pursues rights-based law reform worldwide

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Revealed

Why rebels captured Bomaru in 1991

By Osman Benk
Sankoh just back
from the border

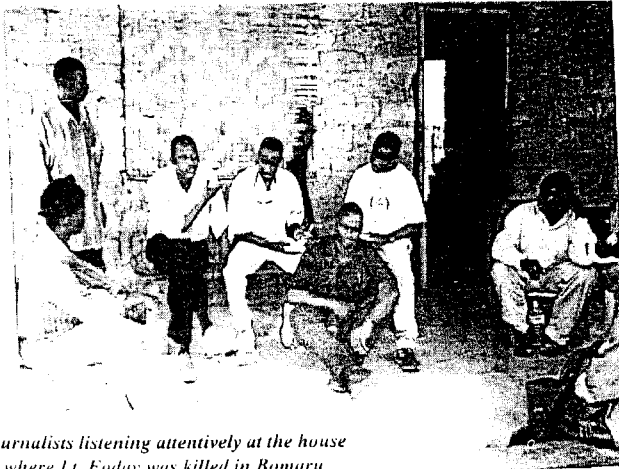
war was as a result of looted items which the then Sierra Leone military seized from rebels operating in Liberia on the pretext of selling for them but in return, failed to do.

Speaking to journalists in the township last Thursday, a survivor, Momoh Sesay said both Lt. Foday and Lt. Kargbo received looted goods including a Toyota Hilux van, a bailing machine, twelve-battery X-Bass tapes and other items from the rebels.

"The first attack in the early hours of Saturday 23rd March 1991 in which Lt. Foday was killed was a desperate move by the rebels to retrieve their loot which was then packed in the house of the Lt.," Sesay said.

Initially, Lt. Foday was said to have turned down a letter sent to him by the rebels for him to transact business with them, "but it was when he returned with an X-Bass tape from Folima that his countenance changed," the

Contd. page 2



Journalists listening attentively at the house where Lt. Foday was killed in Bomaru

Surviving Bomaru residents in the Eastern border town of the country have confirmed that the first shot signaling the start of the decade long

From from page

survivor claimed.

"During that dawn attack, about thirteen people were killed while a military Land Rover was carted away," Sesay further said but maintained that the rebels were however repelled.

"It was exactly a week later that the rebels made a second entry into the town and this time, after heavy fighting from dawn to dusk, it fell to them," he said.

Residents could not give a headcount of how many people the

entire town lost to the war but National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) boss, Kanja Sesay was in the township to officially do the Groundbreaking ceremony of the first Court Barre destroyed by the rebels and where close to sixteen people were gruesomely murdered.

Residents say the town virtually turned into forest for the entire period of the war.

A rebel Commando called Centre was said to have led the troops that captured the town and he also took an Armour vehicle owned by the military to Liberia.

Concord Times
Monday June 14, 2004

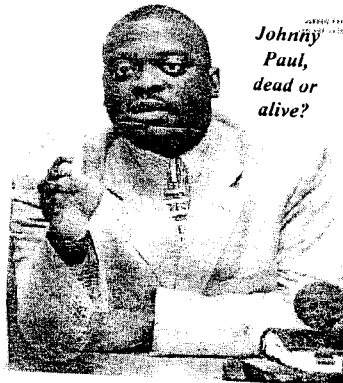
PLP prays for Johnny Paul

By Abdul Karim Koroma

As the whereabouts of indicated war crimes suspect and leader of the Peace and Liberation Party (PLP) Johnny Paul Koroma still remains a mystery, his party has prayed for the Almighty God to open his way and, "if he is alive, let him come out and join us in

the struggle."

The party's National Organising Secretary Amadu Bah recently told Concord Times that the African tradition makes provision for the living to offer prayers for the dead and it was against this backdrop that they were offering prayers for the former junta leader.



Johnny Paul, dead or alive?

As a party, Bah stressed it was difficult to hold a Memoriam Mass for

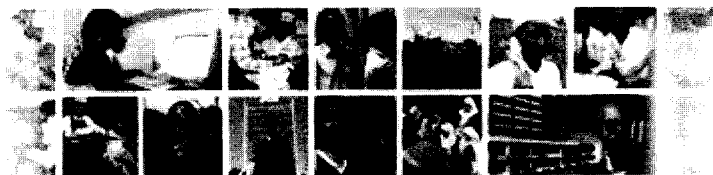
Johnny Paul considering the circumstances his death was announced by the Special Court coupled with the present situation in the country.

"We can not organize a Memoriam Mass for him because it was the responsibility of his family," he said and added that this was why the party was offering prayers for him.

Bah observed that the absence of Johnny Paul has created a vacuum in the party and, "if he were around the PLP would have made tremendous progress."

Concord Times

Monday June 14, 2004



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Issue #50

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- Guns but no bread
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Guns but no bread - how arms exporters are failing developing countries

It is a commonly held belief that developing countries rely primarily on small arms – which, being relatively cheap, should not be a huge financial burden to the country. But in fact, the countries of Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East own 51% of the world's heavy weapons and in 2002 they imported two thirds of all arms deliveries worldwide, at a value of nearly US\$17 billion.

Excessive or inappropriate arms purchases are a drain on social and economic resources which developing countries simply cannot afford. Developing countries across these regions are struggling to meet their Millennium Development Goal targets. In 2001:

- More than a billion people had to live on less than a dollar a day;
- One child out of five did not complete primary school;
- More than 14 million children lost one or both parents to AIDS;
- Nearly 800 million people suffered from chronic hunger;
- Half a million women died in pregnancy or childbirth.

Importing arms may be essential to support a state's legitimate security needs. The right for states to arm for self-defence is enshrined in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. However, this same charter also underlines the responsibility of states 'to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources' (Article 26). As spending by one country on arms often leads to reciprocal spending by its neighbour, it is the responsibility of all states to refuse to export arms to countries and regions where the potential economic and social risks out-weigh any assumed security benefits.

Promises in Pieces

For arms exporters, various export control regimes in multilateral fora already include the requirement to consider the impact on sustainable development, as does the proposed Arms Trade Treaty, which would be an international control on all arms transfers.

For example, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers, agreed in 1993 by 55 member states, including the major arms producers – the USA, Russia, and China – requires states to take into account the nature and cost of the arms to be transferred in relation to the circumstances of the recipient country. This includes taking into consideration a country's legitimate security and defence needs and the objective of the least diversion for armaments of human and economic resources. The EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports (1998) is similar.

However, it is shocking how few governments fully respect these

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commitments. A survey conducted by Oxfam has revealed that:

- Three of the world's top six exporters to countries of Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East – Russia, China and Ukraine – do not incorporate sustainable development into their arms export licensing regimes. Russia alone delivered US\$12.5 billion worth of arms from 1999-2002, exporting major quantities to medium development countries India and China.
- Of 17 countries surveyed who were parties to the EU Code of Conduct and/or the OSCE Principles:
 - Only 10 would consider denying a licence on sustainable development grounds.
 - Only 4 have ever denied an arms export licence on sustainable development grounds.
 - Only 2 – UK and Netherlands – have a policy of consulting the government department for development.
- If the potential impact is considered at all, it is generally in a subjective and random way.

This is clearly unacceptable. Lip service to such commitments leads to the diversion of scarce resources from fighting poverty and people suffer or die as a result. Excepting legitimate security needs, transfers with an adverse impact on sustainable development must not go ahead. Exporting governments must apply an effective, thorough, transparent methodology to assess whether proposed arms transfers will affect sustainable development.

Debbie Hiller
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This article has been taken from an upcoming publication by the Control Arms Campaign 'Guns or Growth - Assessing the impact of arms transfers on sustainable development'. The full report will be published in June 2004, and proposes a detailed methodology to be used in assessing the impact of arms transfers on sustainable development.
www.controlarms.org

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Subject: UN vows to battle arms smuggling

13/06/2004 22:19

UN vows to battle arms smuggling

June 12 2004 at 03:48PM

Monrovia - Military chiefs for neighbouring United Nations missions in troubled west Africa have vowed to step up efforts to thwart cross-border arms smuggling that could threaten the fragile peace in Sierra Leone, Liberia or Ivory Coast.

Fighters and weapons have slipped easily across the borders of the Atlantic coastal neighbours to fuel the wars that have raged since the early 1990s in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Hoping to staunch the flow as well as ease the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of refugees, the three missions have embarked on a new regime of cooperation, holding regular meetings and sharing information as well as establishing joint patrols in the key border areas.

"We the military command, have been tasked to find common approaches to all those problems that affect our missions," General Daniel Opande of Kenya, the force commander for the Liberia mission UNMIL, told reporters Thursday to open the three-day meeting.

**'We must
together find
ways and means
to resolving
those problems'**

"We must together find ways and means to resolving those problems at the borders," he said, flanked by his counterparts Pakistani General Sajjad Akram, force commander for Sierra Leone,

and the deputy force commander of the UN operation in Ivory Coast, Brigadier General Abdul Hafiz of Bangladesh.

A public statement was expected Saturday to wrap up the meeting.

A status report about Liberia's security situation

released last week by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan spoke of "worrying signs" that heavy weapons are not being turned in under the 50 million-dollar disarmament process underway in Liberia but, "in several instances, have been smuggled across the borders."

Their most likely destination is eastern neighbour Ivory Coast, a former beacon of stability for the restive region that has been ensnared by conflict for the past 20 months and is seen as teetering on the verge of war, amid renewed reports of clashes on its western border.

Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo is widely believed to have backed rebels in the war against Liberian president Charles Taylor in exchange for their help in quelling a rebellion in western Ivory Coast.

Taylor is also under indictment by a UN-backed war crimes court for having played a major role in the decade of war in Sierra Leone that ended in 2001. He fled into exile in Nigeria last August, evading the indictment, as a reward for stepping down and ending 14 years of war in Liberia.

Reports from both countries suggest the militant networks crossing the Liberia-Ivory Coast border are activating again. Humanitarian aid officials say a new prefect has been installed by the Gbagbo government in the border town of Guiglo who is sympathetic to the Liberian rebels.

UN officials acknowledge that weapons are almost certainly being stockpiled in Ivory Coast, "returning to where they came from," one told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The slow pace of disarmament and deployment of peacekeepers in the southeastern town of Zwedru, a cypher during the Liberian conflict, is of particular concern as it is a major transit point into Ivory Coast.

Without Zwedru, rights watchdog International Crisis Group warns, the fragile peace in Liberia will unravel, with potentially dangerous consequences for Ivory Coast.

"Even as the level of violence in eastern Liberia is dropping, it seems to be gradually rising in western Ivory Coast, in those seriously forested areas that no one can penetrate," ICG west Africa director Mike McGovern told AFP.

UN officials anticipate that a cantonment site will be built in Zwedru shortly but have confided to AFP privately that they have to wait for peacekeepers from Senegal to arrive before they can really focus on the area.



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Subject: Pakistan, Ghana and Nigeria to assure Sierra Leone security from December

14/06/2004 09:52

Pakistan, Ghana and Nigeria to assure Sierra Leone security from December

FREETOWN: The UN mission in Sierra Leone announced plans on Saturday for a new, smaller security detail for the west African state as part of the draw down of troops that at their peak were the largest peacekeeping force in the world.

Pakistan, Nigeria and Ghana will each contribute one infantry battalion from December this year for a total 3,250 troops on the ground in the impoverished country, where a decade of rebel war was officially declared over in January 2002.

Lieutenant Colonel Abu Abubakar, Nigerian deputy commander of the UNAMSIL troops in the Western district around the capital, made the announcement after a brief visit on Friday by Nigerian Defence Minister Rabieau Wakaso.

UN peacekeepers have been in Sierra Leone since 1999, helping to disarm some 76,000 fighters and rebuild its cratered infrastructure as part of a multi-billion-dollar mission that once numbered more than 17,000 troops.

The mission's mandate has been extended repeatedly, most recently in March when the UN Security Council voted unanimously to continue through June of next year.

UNAMSIL forces currently stand at around 10,500 troops ahead of the departure of contingents from Nigeria and Bangladesh slated for the end of this month, Col Abubakar said.

Under the terms of the draw down, the international troop presence will reduce steadily to some 5,000 troops by December before it takes its new shape. UNAMSIL force commander General Sajjad Akram said recently that key priorities will be training of a more robust Sierra Leone national police and armed forces as well as border security.

Though peace has generally returned to Sierra Leone, continued volatility in eastern neighbour Liberia and Ivory Coast, both under UN mandates, and uncertainty in northern neighbour Guinea have the potential to destabilize the fragile state. Despite a massive outpouring of international aid, Sierra Leone remains among the world's poorest countries, with a majority of its estimated five million people surviving on less than a dollar per day.

The departure of the Bangladeshis could tempt the fate of several agriculture and education projects funded by the south Asian nation and implemented by the peacekeepers.

Using funds provided by UNAMSIL as well as their government, they repaired schools, supplied hospitals with medicine and equipment and set up several religious institutions in the areas under Bangladeshi control, from the southern Bo district to Masingbi and Magburaka in the north. afp



UN Renew Sanctions - Security Council Says Liberia Still Fragile

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

June 11, 2004

Posted to the web June 11, 2004

More than a decade of civil strife has reduced Liberia to naught: basic infrastructure and social services have been damaged leaving a population which international statistics contends is living on less than US\$1.00 per day per family on the average. Restoration of social value remains paramount and Liberians and friends of Liberia are convinced that Liberians should spearhead the nation's reconstruction efforts. But Liberia cannot face the challenges unless a 3-year-running restriction on its timber and trades are lifted to make way for cash flow. Last week, NTGL Chairman Gyude Bryant preached just this well-rehearsed sermon before a 15-man panel of the United Nations Security Council in the hope of winning over influential members of the council. But barely a week on, the Council has come back with an unsympathetic verdict, arguing that the Bryant Administration is asking for what it cannot handle. The Analyst Staff Writer takes up the story.

The President of the Security Council of the United Nations, Lauro Baja of the Philippines, has announced that the peace in Liberia is still fragile and that the conditions for the lifting of the sanctions on timber and diamond trades are yet to be fully met.

President Baja reiterated the Council's verdict in a UNSC release SC/8119 AFR/966 dated June 10, 2004.

Given reasons for its action, the Council noted: "The members of the Council emphasized that continuation of the measures on Liberia was not meant to be punitive on the NTGL and the Liberian people but to ensure that the peace process was irreversible." It did not say how the lifting of the sanction regimes that in the views of the NTGL Chairman would accelerate the return of peace and normalcy would rather mar it.

Members of the Council however indicated that they were ready to monitor the progress reported by Chairman Bryant with the view of the "possible termination, based on further evaluation of the progress made on the benchmarks." The conclusion came upon a backdrop of a midterm review conducted on the sanctions on Liberia in accordance with

resolution 1521 (2003) and in consideration with a briefing from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee (not named) established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003).

According to the Council, Liberia would meet its reconstruction and recovery agendas not by trying to rush the lifting of the sanctions on timber and diamond trades, but by encouraging the international community to provide assistance in a timely manner and in particular, to redeem their pledges made at the Reconstruction Conference held in New York on 5-6 February 2004.

This does not mean that the Council sidestepped the progress reports of Chairman Bryant and SRSG Jacques Paul Klein on June 3 as it noted the "improved situation in Liberia and its positive impact on the enforcement of the sanctions regime." It noted especially that no major violations of the arms embargo and diamond and timber sanctions had been reported since August 2003.

"The members of the Council took note of the views expressed in the Council on 3 June 2004 by H.E. Mr. Gyude Bryant, Chairman, National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Jacques Klein, on the need to lift the diamonds and timber sanctions as soon as possible to enable the NTGL to use Liberia's own resources to its reconstruction and development to the benefit of the Liberia people," the Council noted.

It may be recalled that addressing the Security Council, Chairman Gyude Bryant and SRSG Klein enlisted progress in security across the country and indicated the need for the sanctions to be lifted in order to give the infantile transitional government a level of legitimacy and help accelerate the peace process.

"As part of its mandate, UNMIL has continued to monitor progress made by the transitional government to put in place mechanisms to ensure proper management of two key natural resource industries, mainly diamonds and timber which are both United Nations sanctions," said SRSG Klein.

Bryant concurred with the relevant fact: "Liberia makes a passionate appeals to you today to lift the sanctions on timber and diamonds. We make this appeal after having appreciated the motivations for the intervention of the sanctions and in full cooperation with the international community to address the concerns of the Security Council. We also make this appeal because the sanctions contribute to the perception that Liberia is very unsafe and dangerous. There is a surcharge on everything imported into Liberia thus raising the cost of living for my people. This has adverse implications for and orderly transition from conflict to peace." But the Panel of Experts established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1521 (2003) to, amongst other objectives, conduct follow-up assessment on compliance with sanctions imposed on the trade in weapons, diamonds, timber products, and the travel of those people deemed to constitute a threat to the creation of peace, stability and democracy in Liberia and lasting peace in the subregion, think the reverse is the case.

"[The sanctions created the] possibilities for good governance and sustainable natural resource management in Liberia [and also created an] enabling environment established for reforming the logging industry, allowing broader participation of indigenous Liberians," adding that unless care was taken in lifting the sanctions, all the gains recorded would be lost.

Now that the NTGL lost its much-vaunted battle for the lifting of the sanctions, it is not known what is next.

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