

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:

Friday, October 15, 2004

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THE EXCLUSIVE

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Friday October 15, 2004

Revealed!

How Lebanese Supplied AFRC/RUF Junta Arms & Ammunition



Johnny Paul Koroma

By Joseph Turay

One of the star prosecution witnesses against the Revo-

lutionary United Front (RUF) code name TF 1-067, yesterday testified at the Special Court that during the AFRC/RUF regime between

May 1997 and February 1998, a Ukrainian ship slammed at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay in Cline Town, Freetown, and off-loaded large

quantities of rice, arms and ammunition that were imported by a Lebanese businessman, Tarek Markie. Though the voice of the wit-

ness was distorted by the public address system in the court, inside sources claimed that the star witness was a former AFRC/Westside Boys

Commander popularly known as Junior Lion.

The witness further testified that the arms and ammuni-

Contd. page 2

How Lebanese Supplied AFRC/RUF Junta

From front page

tion that were off-loaded in the Ukrainian ship were transported to the Spur Road residence of the former AFRC Chairman and Head of State, Major Johnny Paul Koroma.

The witness explained that the Lebanese imported arms and ammunition that were later distributed to the junta high commands included AK 47 (rounds .7.6 millimetre), RPG bombs, 60 millimetre commando weapons, anti-aircraft guns and 2 GPMG guns.

The witness testified that the distribution was done by one Colonel S. O. Williams.

TF 1-067 earlier testified that he witnessed the May 25, 1997 coup and that sixteen people staged the coup, including the late SLA Abu Sankoh aka Zagalo, Alex Tamba Brima aka Gullit, Lance Corporal Tamba Gborie, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara, Idrissa Kamara aka Leather Boot, Hassan Bangura aka Bomb Blast, Santigue Kanu aka 55, Abdul Sesay, Mohamed Gbeh, SLA Sesay, George Adams, SLA Wohyo, Sullay Falaba and Samuel Kargbo,

adding that he could not remember the names of the others.

The witness further narrated that a few days after the May 25, 1997 coup, he heard Johnny Paul Koroma communicating with the RUF commander, Sam Bockarie aka Maskita, asking the rebel outfit to join the AFRC in Freetown and operate with the junta.

TF 1-067 said the RUF adhered to the call and the following day, one of its commanders, Dennis Mingo aka Superman, arrived in Freetown from up-country, and later the top RUF high commanders like Morris Kallon, Gibril Massaquoi, Issa Sesay, Eldred Collins, Mike Lamin and others followed suit.

The witness also testified that several meetings were held at Johnny Paul Koroma's residence and the Military Headquarters at Cockerill, adding that most of the arms and ammunition that were used by the junta in the attack on

the ECOMOG troops at Mammy Yoko Hotel on 2nd June, 1997 were collected at the Army Ordinance, Murray Town Barracks, Freetown. The witness said when they finally pulled out of Freetown during the military intervention on 12 February, 1998, a meeting was held in Masiaka before the attack on Bo under the command of one Major A.F. Kamara.

The witness also testified that Johnny Paul Koroma sought refuge in his village Mabonkane, and later Dennis Mingo escorted him to Kailahun to Sam Bockarie's base.

The witness narrated that before this development there was a disagreement between the late Solomon Anthony James Musa and Dennis Mingo over where they should first deploy.

Consequently, the witness explained, the group was divided when S.A.J. Musa refused to be subjected to the RUF, which he described as a civilian group.

S.A.J. was prompted by the situation to move his troops to Kabala for deployment whilst Dennis Mingo and his RUF fighters attacked the Kamajors that were deployed in Kono district and overran the district headquarters, Koidu.

The witness testified that during that period the troops embarked on massive looting in the towns and villages they occupied

SPECIAL COURT WITNESS REVEALS

LEBANESE TYCOON IN ARMS DEAL WITH RUF

By Mohamed Manasaray
Special Court prosecution witness, TF1-355 has revealed that a Lebanese businessman in Freetown Tarek Mackie, imported weapons for the AFRC/RUF forces after the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was overthrown in May 1997.

The witness made this disclosure during his examination-in-chief at Court Room No.1, New England in Freetown yesterday. He was led in evidence by a prosecution lawyer Peter Harrison.

The witness testified that the weapons were brought to Sierra Leone onboard a Ukrainian ship which carried a consignment of rice. He told the court that the rice was packed on top of the weapons and that the ship berthed at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay in Freetown. The witness mentioned 7.6 AK rounds, RPG bombs, 60mm mortars, 6 anti-aircraft

SEE BACK PAGE

Army Top Brass Named In RUF Arms Deal

guns and Z GPMGs as some of the weapons that were onboard the ship.

The witness went on to tell the court that the weapons were then off-loaded and transferred to the Spur Road residence of the AFRC chairman, Johnny Paul Koroma on board two trucks.

"The distribution of the weapons to RUF commanders was done by the then Army Chief of Staff, Col. S.O. Williams", he told the court and mentioned Gibril Massaquoi, RUF's 'Rambo', Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, Alex Tamba Brima alias Gullit among others as RUF commanders who received the weapons.

"The RUF was getting weapons from the SLAs from army ordnance at Murray Town", he testified and recalled a meeting held in Freetown after the coup at which Johnny Paul Koroma told them (SLAs) to see themselves as

members of the RUF.

Describing himself as a man who was attached to a senior AFRC commander, the witness recalled another meeting held at Cockerill military barracks during that period, at which plans were hatched to attack ECOMOG based at Jui in the outskirts of Freetown and to attack Nigerian ECOMOG troops who were based at Mammy Yoko Hotel.

He further testified that it was Johnny Paul Koroma who communicated with the RUF Field Commander Sam 'Mosquito' Bockarie who was based in Kailahun for his rebels to join the army in the interest of peace.

"When the communication message was sent to Sam Bockarie, I saw Dennis Mingo alias Superman at Cockerill the following day", the witness said, adding that other senior RUF

commanders also followed Mr. Mingo to Freetown.

The witness informed the court that there were clashes during that period between ECOMOG and AFRC/RUF forces at various locations in Freetown including Hill Station and New Wellington Highway. He further testified that as a result of certain problems between the two allies (AFRC/RUF) forces, the RUF Field Commander Sam Bockarie decided to return to Kenema to take care of the diamond rich areas.

The witness went on to say that the allied forces finally pulled out of Freetown on February 12, 1998, because of what the witness described as "lack of arms and ammunition". He added that junta collaborators equally pulled out for fear of being killed.

The witness testified in English.

CONCORD TIMES

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Halloran played with my breasts

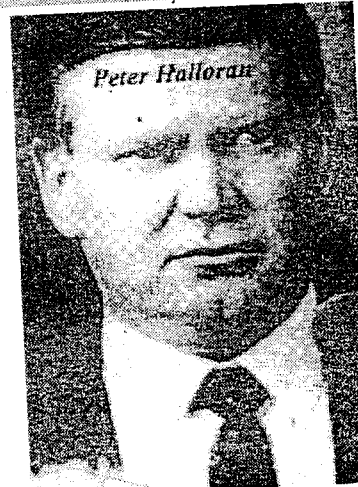
... Victim tells police

Police detective Vandy attached to the Ross Road Family Support Unit Thursday read the statement of the victim in the matter, the State vs Peter Halloran and two others at High Court no2 which stated that Peter Halloran, the 1st accused, played with her breasts the two night she slept with him.

The witness, recalled by the prosecuting counsel, Robinson-Mason, said that he obtained statement from the victim on the 16th July.

In a question and answer to the police, the victim reportedly told the witness that she was at the police station due to what Peter did to her.

The witness said the victim explained that she was



introduced to a man named Peter by Shaka, the second accused, and that they went into the room of the 1st accused where she took her bath and the 1st accused instructed her to write a composition about herself, which she did.

Awoko

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'Peter played with my breasts'- Police witness

By Ophaniel Gooding
Detective Police Constable 1540 J.S. Vandt has testified at the Freetown High Court No. 2 that in an interview with the alleged 13-year-old victim of sexual assault on the 16th July, at Ross Road Police Family Support Unit (FSU), the alleged victim stated, "Peter played with my breasts throughout the night."



Special Court Investigator- Peter Halloran

Reading the interview further, which was tendered as exhibit 'G', Constable Vandt also stated that the alleged sexually assaulted girl explained that she was

introduced to the Special Court Investigator- Peter Halloran by her brother- Siaka Fonnah who is the second accused. She said his brother- Siaka had told her that Peter needed a

literate nanny. At Peter's residence, she further explained, "Peter gave me a pen and paper to write a composition about myself," but that she was later told to

Contd. Page 2

Peter played with my breasts

From Front Page

discontinue after writing few lines. She also disclosed to DPC Vandt in the interview that she was instructed by Peter to go and take bath and that when she finished, she wanted to sleep on the floor of Peter's room, but Peter asked her to lie on the bed instead. Late that night, she explained that she woke up only to find Peter playing with her breasts, which made her feel bad. The alleged assaulted victim also stated that Mandy Codwell told her that she was going to buy her clothes at the supermarket. She continued further to explain that she was questioned by Mandy as to where she was sleeping in

the house and whether she has ever had sexual intercourse with Peter or had touch her private part and so on. She explained that she usually lay in front of the bed while Peter lies behind. She emphasised that Peter had removed her blouse and played with her breasts. Defense Counsel Nicolas Browne-Marke during cross-examination said that the investigation was done six weeks after the alleged incident and that while interviewing the alleged victim with her parent in absentia, her brothers were in Police custody. DPC Vandt told Defense Counsel- E. Kargbo that it is not the procedure for the parent to be around while doing an interview. Asked by

Defense Counsel- E. Kargbo whether he went to the parent of the alleged victim, he replied yes and added that they were running away. Police Constable 1278 Ibrahim Kargbo also recalled sometime in June while on duty at the Ross Road Police Station when he was handed certain items in his capacity as exhibit clerk, which he recorded. The exhibits that were produced and tendered, were objected to by Defense Counsel Nicholas Browne-Marke, stating, "it has no nexus in the case of the Prosecution..." quoting sections -9, 3, 31 and 34 of the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) of 1965. State Counsel- Robin O.V. Mason asked for an adjournment date in order to reply to Defense Counsel- Browne-Marke's objection.

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Lebanese named in AFRC arms importation

By Brima Samura

Special Court witness TFI355 in his testimony yesterday named a local Lebanese businessman-Tarik Mackie regarding the importation of weapons to Sierra Leone for use by the former AFRC junta. He disclosed

this while being cross-examined by Special Court Prosecutor Harrison. He stated that at a particular time during the AFRC reign, a Ukrainian vessel whose name he cannot remember arrived in Sierra Leone with a

consignment of rice and a large quantity of arms and ammunition onboard. The witness said that upon arrival at the Quay, the former AFRC Chairman, Johnny Paul Koroma was informed and he dispatched some of his men to offload the

Contd. Page 2

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Contd. Page 2



DURHAM - SAN RAMÓN
SISTER COMMUNITIES

UNAMSIL Force Commander Bids Farewell to Nibatt 17

Concord Times (Freetown)

NEWS

October 14, 2004

Posted to the web October 14, 2004

By Rachael Horner
Freetown

As the Nigerian Battalion 17 winds up its assignment with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the Force Commander Major General Sajjad Akram has assured its troops that their sacrifice in the war torn country is not in vain.

Speaking when he paid his farewell visit to the Battalion Headquarters, 34 Spur road, Freetown, General Akram pointed out that the United Nations and indeed UNAMSIL are all proud of their contributions and sacrifice towards the quest for lasting peace in the country.

Recalling the units various activities in the mission area which include provision of security to Special Court and other key points; joint security patrol with the Sierra Leone Police, provision of requisite skill training and to the RSLAF, handing over of the security primacy to Sierra Leone government security agencies and the units various humanitarian projects and assistance. He noted that these legacies, which are part of the success story of UNAMSIL, have gone down the history.

Further more, the two star General extolled the excellent performance of the unit stating that like the previous NIBATTs it has displayed high standard of commitment towards its assigned duty in an honourable and dignified manner.

He said he was delighted and honoured to have commanded such highly professional officers and men of the Nigerian Army.

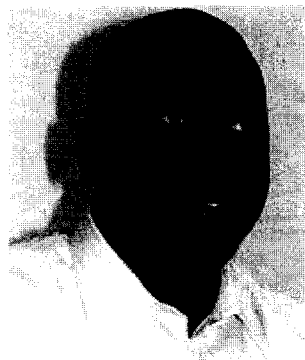
Gen. Akram paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the course of the struggle, describing them as heroes he explained that the success story of the mission is clear indication that their death is not in vain.

The Force Commander who was received earlier on arrival by Brig Gen Nuhu Bamalli Commander NIGCON/Northern Command and Lt. Col. SP Ovadje Commanding Officer NIBATT 17 UNAMSIL also inspected requested to disseminate this information to the general public.

The Battalion is due to leave the mission area in the next few weeks after one year tour of duty. The Force Commander made a similar visit to the Battalion HQ on the 30 Dec 2003 to welcome the unit to the mission area.

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COTE D IVOIRE: Rebel leader says no disarmament before passage of reforms



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**New Forces rebel leader
Guillaume Soro is Minister of
Communications**

BOUAKE, 14 Oct 2004 (IRIN) - Guillaume Soro, the leader of Cote d'Ivoire's rebel movement, has flatly refused to start disarming his forces on Friday, as demanded by his latest pact with President Laurent Gbagbo, saying political reforms which were supposed to have preceded the move have not been enacted.

Soro told IRIN at an interview in his stronghold of Bouake in central Cote d'Ivoire on Tuesday that he would wait "for as long as it takes" for the reforms, agreed in a January 2003 peace agreement to be implemented.

But the rebel leader stressed that he would not order his men to surrender their weapons to UN peacekeepers until these reforms were fully in place.

"Nothing is going to happen on 15 October. We are still armed, the country is divided and parliament hasn't voted through the reforms....So long as there is not a minimum level of confidence, which must exist as a contract between the political actors, we are not going to talk about DDR (disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation)," Soro said.

The 35-year-old former student leader raised the possibility that continuing deadlock in the peace process might undermine plans to hold presidential elections in October 2005.

Should the elections postponed or cancelled, Gbagbo, who was elected in 2000, would lose his legitimacy as head of state, he said.

Soro flatly denied suggestions that his New Forces rebel movement would resume hostilities in view of the latest impasse, breaking a truce that has held firm since May 2003.

"Within the New Forces one thing is clear: there is no question of resuming the war. We will just administer and manage our zones to improve education and health. We have no choice but to relieve the suffering of the people," he said.

"We are prepared to wait for as long as it takes"

"The day the presidential camp wants genuine reconciliation we will be ready for it. We control 60 percent of the territory. We are in no more of a hurry than the presidential camp. Unlike in days gone by, we are prepared to wait for as long as it takes."

But Soro accused the government of preparing to destabilise the rebel-held north of Cote d'Ivoire by sending soldiers and militiamen into neighbouring Guinea to attack rebel positions in the northeast of the country from across the Guinean border.

"Groups of Young Patriots (members of a pro-Gbagbo militia-style youth group) and military personnel have been sent to Guinea," Soro said. "We know that the presidential clan wants to go for the military option. It wants to launch a military offensive from Guinea into our zones very shortly."

Reports of preparations for such an attack have appeared in Abidjan newspapers and have circulated among diplomats in West Africa for several months.

Gbagbo, parliamentary opposition parties and the rebel movement set 15 October as the target date for starting disarmament at a crisis summit in the Ghanaian capital Accra at the end of July. That meeting, which was attended by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and a dozen African heads of state, was designed to put Cote d'Ivoire's crumbling peace agreement back on the rails.

However, so far the only positive outcome of the so-called "Accra Three" summit, has been the resurrection of a broad-based government of national reconciliation.

This is headed by an independent prime minister, Seydou Diarra, and more than half its ministers are members of parliamentary opposition and the New Forces rebel movement. The coalition cabinet had previously been dormant for four months following the security forces' bloody repression of an opposition demonstration in Abidjan on 25 March.

Although the parties agreed in Accra to legislate all the political reforms demanded by the French-brokered Linas-Marcoussis peace agreement by the end of September, Diarra's government was unable to push the measures through parliament as a result of blocking tactics by Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) party.

Most of the reforms are aimed at giving the four million immigrants from other West African countries and their offspring, greater rights to own land and take out Ivorian nationality. Immigrants from neighbouring countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea make up a quarter of Cote d'Ivoire's 16 million population.

Gbagbo was also due to have launched moves to revise the constitution by the end of September to make it easier for Ivorians of immigrant descent to run for the presidency.

Gbagbo defends his record

But the president said in a televised speech on Tuesday that he would only put the constitutional reform process in motion once the rebels had started to disarm.

Meanwhile an ugly indirect message was delivered to the intended beneficiary of the constitutional change, former prime minister Alassane Ouattara. He was banned from standing against Gbagbo in the 2000 presidential election on the disputed grounds that his father was Burkinabe.

According to witnesses, on 4 October four of Ouattara's house staff in Abidjan were detained for questioning by paramilitary gendarmes. Three of them were beaten up and subsequently released, but the body of Ouattara's gardener was found floating in Abidjan's lagoon two days later. Ouattara himself has lived in exile in France since the civil war broke out in September 2002.

The United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI) protested to the government over the incident, which it described as part of "a resurgence of human rights abuse" in the country.

In his speech on Tuesday, Gbagbo defended his record on reform, saying seven of the 16 measures called for by the Linas Marcoussis agreement 21 months ago had been implemented and five others had been approved by the cabinet.

At the same time, he accused the rebels of having stalled on disarmament for more than a year after being granted an amnesty in August 2003.

"Let us move forward to disarmament and the reunification of the country," he said.

But Soro and the six other ministers appointed by the rebel movement failed to turn up for two meetings called by Gbagbo this week to discuss the way forward on disarmament, one in the official capital Yamoussoukro on Monday and another in the commercial capital Abidjan on Wednesday.

The rebel leader told IRIN that he now feared assassination if he ventured back to the government-controlled south of Cote d'Ivoire.

"We have heard talk of death squads targetting the New Forces leadership," Soro told IRIN in the relaxed atmosphere of his house in Bouake, where few guards were in evidence.

"I am careful about my security," said Soro, who is Minister of Communications.

"If I were assured that I was safe I would resume my work in cabinet, but for the time being tension is too high. I am courageous, but not foolhardy."

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HEADLINE: 'Battlegroups' reflect **changing world**

BODY:

UN PEACEKEEPING: The bitter experience of peacekeeping in the Balkans led the UN to reassess its operations, writes Tom Clonan

Kofi Annan's call for highly mobile, rapidly deployable UN '**battlegroups**' reflects a growing requirement worldwide for what are termed 'third generation' peace-enforcement operations. First and second generation operations would typically describe the 'classical' UN peacekeeping mission mounted during the Cold War. Such operations were normally deployed with UN Security Council approval and with the prior consent of the belligerent parties involved. The political manoeuvring necessary to secure such consent allied with the large numbers of peacekeepers deployed normally meant it was several months, even years, before peacekeepers arrived in the zone of conflict.

The bitter experience of UN peacekeepers deployed to the Balkans in the 1990's led the UN to reassess the manner in which future operations would be configured. In particular, the mass-murder of thousands of Muslims at Srebrenica in July 1995, despite the presence of Dutch peacekeepers, forced the UN to conclude that future military interventions would have to be more robustly configured and allowed the adequate mandate and 'operational consistency' necessary to mount sustained, high-tempo combat operations.

This assessment was confirmed in the UN commissioned 2000 Brahimi Report which endorsed rapidly deployed peace-enforcement as a viable mode of military intervention - one that would become increasingly necessary in post Cold War political flux and upheaval. The report provides the blueprint for the UN's multinational battle groups proposed in Dublin yesterday.

It would be a UN aspiration that the new battle groups follow the precedent set by US and French troops in recent years in trouble spots such as Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These forces were deployed at very short notice and in relatively small numbers. At brigade strength, the deployments were remarkably similar to the 1,500 strong groups envisaged by Mr Annan.

Like the UN's proposed battle groups, these forces were equipped with their own self-contained transport, logistics, air and artillery support. These operations were adjudged a success by the French and US Governments.

Such direct and often blunt military interventions are not without risk and would differ from traditional UN operations in that they could be mounted without the consent of all parties involved. Despite these risks, many military commanders with peacekeeping experience believe that rapid intervention is preferable to an international community standing by as genocide is perpetrated - as for example in Rwanda in 1994 and in Darfur today.

Whilst Kofi Annan's appeal for such a rapidly deployable force may be new for the UN, the Irish Defence Forces are already committed to such a set of arrangements under our obligations towards the EU European Rapid Reaction Force (ERRF) and the pre-existing UN Standby Arrangement System (UNSAS). Consistent with these requirements, Ireland is already committed to providing a light infantry battalion along with a number of special forces troops to the ERRF. Such troops, numbering approximately 850, are required to be available for deployment within a short period of time and to be sustained in the field - as part of an EU military operation, either within Europe or up to 2,500 miles beyond its borders - for up to a year. Under the UNSAS system, we are committed to supply a similar number of Irish troops for UN missions.

The Irish Defence Forces are also experienced in the type of high tempo combat operation envisaged by the UN for its battle groups. Irish troops fought a number of conventional battles in the Congo in the 1960's as members of the ONUC UN peace-enforcement mission. Significantly, the Irish - despite being peacekeepers as opposed to peace enforcers - fought a conventional battle in the Lebanese village of At Tiri in 1980, preventing its ethnic cleansing by an Israeli-backed Lebanese militia under the command of Major Saad Haddad. More recently, Irish men and women participated in peace enforcement operations in Somalia in the mid 1990s, in East Timor in 1999 and currently in the Finnish-led Battle Group in Kosovo and in the UN UNMIL peace enforcement mission in Liberia.

Irish Defence Forces are well placed to respond to the challenge posed by Kofi Anan's call for multinational battle groups. The experience gained by Irish troops at home and abroad in peace-keeping and peace-enforcement operations qualify Irish officers to take a leadership role in the manner in which the international community responds to emerging threats and crises.

Dr Tom Clonan is a retired army officer. He is a Fellow of the Inter University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, Loyola University, Chicago.

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