

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Andrew Collingwood, "Chief" of General Services, at his 'send-off' at the Special Fork on Friday, 12 May.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Tuesday, 16 May 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion please contact
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Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 15 May 2006

New President for the Special Court for Sierra Leone

Justice George Gelaga King of Sierra Leone has been elected Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber, a post which makes him President of the Special Court for a period of one year.

Justice King will succeed as President Justice Raja Fernando of Sri Lanka, whose term ends on 26 May.

Justice George Gelaga King has been President of the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal and of Court of Appeal of the Gambia. He served as Sierra Leone's Ambassador to France, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland from 1974 to 1978, and was at the same time Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to UNESCO. Between 1978 and 1980 he served as Sierra Leone's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations.



Justice King taught law at the Sierra Leone Law School from 1990 to 2005. He is Chairman of both the Sierra Leone Law Journal and the Gambian National Council for Law Reporting, and was a member of the Sierra Leone Council of Legal Education. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

He has been a Judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone since December 2002.

The Appeals Court Judges also selected Justice Emmanuel Ayoola of Nigeria as Vice-President. He will succeed Justice Renate Winter of Austria.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996. To date, the Prosecutor has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.

Awoko

Tuesday, 16 May 2006

Alleged Special Court spy discharged

His pale face became red as Magistrate Adrian Fisher dismissed espionage charges preferred

against former U.S Marine, Michael Chemidliu, and three other Sierra Leonean accused.

Reading a marathon judgement, which started at precisely 11am yesterday,

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Alleged Special Court spy discharged

From Page 2

Magistrate Fisher highlighted both Prosecution and Defence Counsels' submissions and cited relevant material with regards to charges preferred.

Magistrate Fisher noted that, "conspiracy by its very nature is an unlawful offence",

adding that the prosecution failed to prove that the purpose of the inspection was prejudicial to the interest of Sierra Leone.

The Magistrate also cited that the Special Court ought to be a prohibited place for the purpose of law, but the prosecution failed to prove its prohibition.

In an application, Defence Counsel P. Fofanah applied that the first accused's passport and digital camera, which were held by the police, be returned to him.

He also asked that cost be levied on the prosecution because the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) prior to the accused's arraignment was unlawfully

detailed.

However, the issue of cost was waved off by the Magistrate who stated that any responsible government which was concerned about the security of its country would have acted in like manner.

Felix Rogers, Damasco Kamara and Collins Kamara were arraigned on a three-count charge of conspiracy with the engaging in a purpose prejudicial to the interest of Sierra Leone contrary to law.

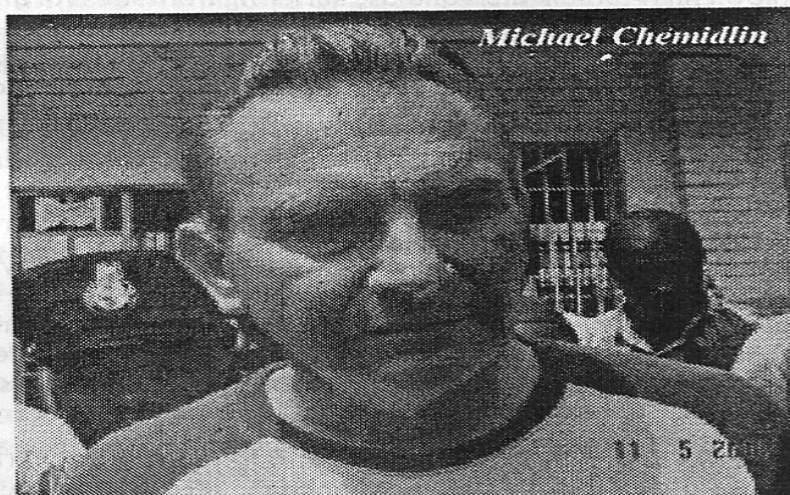
In an interview with the first accused about the purposed of his visit he said, "I came

here to visit some acquaintances I had and to share the gospel word with them."

Asked about his relations with the other Sierra Leoneans he was accused together with, he said, "they were just fellow Christians."

The former U.S Marine also disclosed that he met the other accused in Iraq and their activities were not with religious undertone.

Michael pointed out that, "I was taking the picture of the Special Court for no contrary reasons it was a request by Sierra Leoneans to take the pictures."



Concord Times
Tuesday, 16 May 2006

Suspected Special Court spy, 3 others discharged

Story: Mohamed Massaquoi

Magistrate Adrian Fisher of Court No. 1A Monday discharged American citizen Michael Chemidline who was indicted for unlawfully taking photographs at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The accused was discharged together with three others Felix

Rogers, Dawson Kamara and Collins Kamara.

Magistrate Fisher pointed out that the constitutional responsibility of the court is to interpret the law and maintained the defense counsel submitted the Special Court is not a prohibited place by law.

After reading some sections of the
Cont. page 3

Suspected Special Court spy, 3 others discharged

From page 1

constitution that deal with treasonable offences, the Magistrate discharged the accused persons.

Defense counsel Momoh Fofanah submitted that the passport of the first accused was impounded by the police, his digital camera seized and detained for more than 72 hours

before been charged to court by police.

He asked for compensation for his clients for unlawful detention.

Chemidline told Concord Times that he is happy that he has been discharged, as he had no evil intension of photographing the court.

He states that the three

Sierra Leoneans, charged with him, are just his friends.

Chimildine was arrested on the 29th April outside the precincts of the Special Court for Sierra Leone taking photographs. He was charged with conspiracy and spying together with the three others.

Exclusive

Tuesday, 16 May 2006

1 American, 3 Sa. Leoneans Released

By Ibrahim Foday

American born Michael Chemidlin and three Sierra Leoneans, Felix Rogers,

Damasco Kamara and Collins Kamara who were arrested and detained at the Pademba Road Prisons last

Friday for alleged unauthorized inspection of the precincts of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in a bid to

take photographs, were discharged yesterday by the take no-nonsense Magistrate Adrian Fisher.

It would be recalled that the four accused persons were charged with conspiracy, inspecting a prohib-

ited area in a bid to take photographs. But the prosecution woefully failed to prove

Contd. page 2

1 American, 3 Sa. Leoneans Released

From front page

the charges beyond doubts.

Representing the accused persons, defense lawyer Momoh P. Fofanah said the prosecution has not been fair with his clients because, they were over detained for more than seventy two hours as stipulated by the laws of this land and only in the end, for them to be discharged for want of

sufficient evidence. He however applied that the court must order the state to pay cost to his clients which will serve as compensation to the abuse of the basic rights.

In his usual wise words, Magistrate Fisher, who is known for uprightness over ruled the defense counsel's application and ordered that, the American's pass-

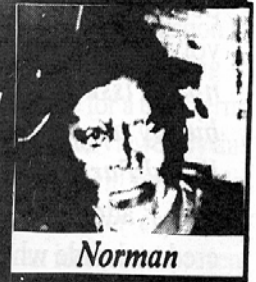
port and digital camera which was impounded by the police be returned to him.

Responding, lawyer Fofanah thanked the magistrate for displaying fairness especially for the speedy trial for the matter.

Principal state counsel Gerald Soyei represented the state while the U.S Embassy representatives witnessed the trial.

The Pool
Tuesday, 16 May 2006

Hinga Norman Is Dying Slowly



Chief Sam Hinga Norman, the former Deputy Defence Minister and Chief Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF), otherwise known as the Kamajor militia and erstwhile Internal Affairs Minister is reported to be seriously sick at his present detention at the Special Court for Sierra Leone at New England in Freetown. The Special Court indictee, our Special

Court sources who prefer to remain anonymous, said Chief Hinga Norman is suffering from swollen legs which do not allow him to walk on his own and neither can he wear

shoes. "He can only move using a wheel chair," our source disclosed. Our source added that, "even the slippers he is using can no longer

accommodate his swollen feet." Norman's lawyer, Dr. Bubuakei

Jabbie confirmed the deteriorating health condition of **See Page 3**

Hinga Norman Is Dying Slowly

his client to this press yesterday and added that a letter of protest has been sent to the Special Court Chief Prosecutor, the UN Secretary General and President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. The Special Court Public Affairs Officer could not comment on the issue when contacted on phone but rather stated that the rules of engagement prohibits him from commenting on such issues.

For di People
Tuesday, 16 May 2006

Norman's Health Getting Worse!

THE HEALTH of Kamajor chieftain and former cabinet minister under the Kabbah government, Chief Sam Hinga Norman is slowly deteriorating.

Special Court medical sources are still si-
from diabetes and
other internal disloca-
tions. He finds it dif-
ficult to walk and
looks emaciated like a
child suffering from
kwarshiyorkor.

His pain has kept
him from his usual
friends although he
continues to receive
treatment from the
Special Court medico,
Harding.

lent about it but Norman is
believed to be suffering



NORMAN: not well

For di People
Tuesday, 16 May 2006

Varsity calls for Taylor's trial in Sierra Leone

STUDENTS AT Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone have called on the international community, through the Special Court here in Sierra Leone to ensure that, former Liberian President, Charles Taylor presently in the hands of officials at the Special Court for crimes against humanity, be tried in Sierra Leone to see that Sierra Leoneans have the chance of viewing the trials.

This call was made at the Mary Kingsley Auditorium during a symposium organized by the Fourah Bay College Human Rights Clinic to look at the justice and human rights implication of the indictments and arrest of Taylor.

With the theme "International Justice System in Africa – Sierra Leone as a case study" students drawn from different faculties were also concerned as to why people like Libyan President, Col Mohammed Al-Gadaffi, Blaise Campore and even president Kabbah

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Varsity Call For Taylor Trial In Salone

From Page 6

in his then capacity as minister of defence were not indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, instead of Taylor and others and that there is enough evidence to show that these people are all greatly responsible for the trouble the country went through.

In his statement, the Deputy Prosecutor for the Special Court, Dr Christopher J Stajer said, the court was established after an agreement between the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone and that the decision to try Taylor in whatever place is with the president of the Court but cautioned that, there is the possibility for the trial to be held in the Hague.

Deputy Chief of Public Affairs of the Special Court, Peter Anderson said, there are different views over Taylor's trial. "The president of the court has to listen to other voices for him to be tried here. We also have to listen to the views of Sierra Leoneans. "Taylor and others have a case to answer as they are facing a panel of independent judges"he said.

Anderson further said that, they want to leave a legacy in the country when they would leave in 2007, especially in the area of restoration of the rule of law.

Charles Jalloh, legal adviser to the principal defender said if Taylor is taken to the Hague, his right to a fair trial would be compromised and wonders how Taylor could be assured of visit by family members.

Taylor's lawyers, Jalloh said, have submitted an appeal to the Appeals Chamber that his transfer to the Hague is "premature."

On the issue of indictment, the Deputy Prosecutor said, their office is guided by evidence and that the position of an individual at the time of the conflict was not enough to indict him but rather, the evidence against him and that the criminal justice process is based on evidence collected by the prosecution and presented to judges.

President of the Human Rights Clinic, Musa Mewa said their position on the issue is that, the solution to Africa's problem is to have a standardized justice system and that, it is but necessary to see Taylor tried in Sierra Leone.

The News

Tuesday, 16 May 2006

Magistrate frees ex-American Soldier, 3 others

By Zainab Kanu

An American national Michael Chemidlin who was nabbed by special court security officers in Freetown early last week for subversion yesterday walked out of the court room a free man.

He was freed together with three Sierra Leoneans

Felix Rogers, Damasco Kanu and Collins Kamara.

Chemidlin and others were charged with conspiracy in accordance with section 61

(B) of the treason Act of 1963, which if they were found guilty would face a jail sentence of 15 years.

The defence team told the court that the special

court vicinity is open to the general public and not a prohibited area adding that the Special Court has failed to provide substantial evidence for

the matter to be prosecuted. Based on the defense's submission that the accused persons were acquitted and discharged by Magistrate Adrian Fischer.

Norman to be freed, jailed?

Chief Hinga Norman testified to the Special Court as hearing started recently in the defense of those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes.

JOSEPH TURAY reports.

Unlike the International Tribunals for war crimes in ex-Yugoslavia and Rwanda set up under the 1998 statute of Rome, the Special Court for Sierra Leone continues with the trial of accused persons who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes. The Special Court was established based on agreement that, "whereas the Security Council, in its resolution 1315 (2000) of August 2000, expressed deep concern at the very serious crimes committed within the territory of Sierra Leone against the people of Sierra Leone and United Nations and associated personnel and at the prevailing situation of impunity." Since the advent of the SPC, its ardour continues to heat up except that controversies still swirl around the issue of former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, who now faces the court but critics say his trial should take place at the Hague.

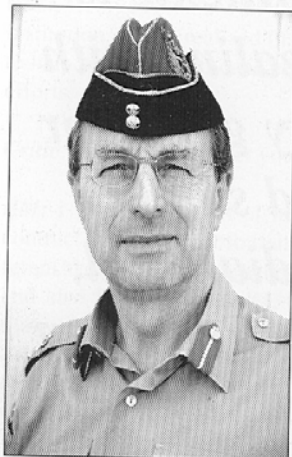
On March 10th, 2003, the former CDF National Coordinator, Chief Hinga Norman, and other war crimes indictees were arrested and detained by the UN backed war crimes tribunal (special court) in Sierra Leone.

In so far two key witnesses from Britain in the persons of Peter Penfold and General Richards have given testimony on behalf of Chief Hinga Norman as the prosecution prepares to wrap up the trial of the accused persons.

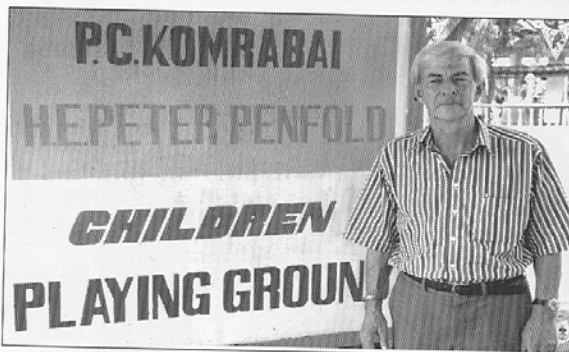
Giving testimony against the background of the role he played as national coordinator of the CDF (Kamajors), Chief Hinga Norman made startling revelations, among other things, that he came back to Sierra Leone in 1989, after his sojourn in Liberia as an asylum seeker. In 1994, however, he was sworn in as Chief of Jima Gbonsor

Chiefdom at a time when the military junta, NPRC, needed his stark support to consolidate the regime's political gains.

Explaining further to the court, the accused said he lived in Tellu, the chiefdom headquarters. He and other chiefs thought about the burgeoning commitment to find long lasting solution to help end the creeping conflict or rebel war. They, therefore, decided to form chiefs committee, which inspired the logic of mobilizing young men and train-



Witness: General Richards



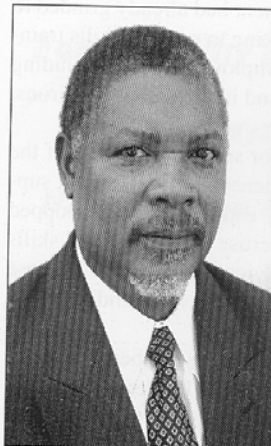
Witness: P.C. Komrabai Peter Penfold

ing them to shield off rebel attacks on their towns and villages. Chief Norman narrated to the Prosecutor that on the agreement on recommendation by the NPRC government each chiefdom selected 75 young men to be trained at a military training base at Konbondo: that the recruitment and training was a voluntarily exercise pursued, without recourse to age limit. According to him, the first batch of 75 young men trained under his banner was attacked on 30th June 1995 in Tellu by the RUF and, about 50 of them murdered together with civilians and displaced persons who, by then, sought refuge in the town. "As the battle intensified, I took to my heels, moving from one village to the other and finally surfaced in Bo," Norman told the court.

He also made mentioning of having been invited by Brigadier Kelly Conteh to leave Bo for Freetown. While in Freetown, he said, Brigadier Kelly Conteh introduced him to the head of state and chairman of the NPRC, Captain V.E.M Strasser. Chief Norman recalled his meeting with captain Strasser and subsequent instruction given by the then head of state for him to be accompanied by 25 armed men assigned as his personal body guards. "These

men were even referred to as Kamajors in the Mende dialect and in the other dialect as Donsos, Tamaboros, Kapras, Gbetis and the organized body of the Hunting Society (OBHS) that was based in Freetown." Chief Norman said to the court.

A startling revelation made by the accused was how the Kamajors was in existence even before the rebel war, pointing to the fact that Kamajors were the preferred name given to the hunters in the villages within the Mende enclave.



Registrar Special Court

the villages within the Mende enclave.

Norman to be freed, jailed?

Affiliation with SLPP

The war suspect said he became the Deputy Minister of Defense in the ruling SLPP government in 1996 and also doubled as Internal Affairs Minister: his arduous task was



*War Crimes Indictee
Chief Hinga Norman*

to make sure that soldiers served as servants of the civilian population. "I had my small office at Cockeril. But I felt unsafe at the time because a civilian government had just taken over the reins of power, and directions were supposed to come from President Kabbah to his deputy and to the army officers who were not willing, at the time, to take orders or instructions from the government," the accused pointed out.

As the evidence adduced by the accused unfolded, he said in 1997 there were widespread rumors about a coup plot. By then, though, Norman said he had his office moved from Cockeril barracks, adding that as "a soldier I put a lot of premium on intelligence, using senior intelligent military officers to monitor the situation."

Intelligent report

Chief Norman told the court that all the intelligent reports he received on account of what was happening in the country proved to be true, and equally reported back to President Kabbah, advising him to take control of the arms and other accoutrements. "This is why I feel aggrieved now that I am being prosecuted for war crimes," Chief Norman narrated. It appeared, however, that Norman at that point was testifying to his messianic exuberant role played to safeguard Sierra Leoneans and the country from the abyss of destruction by the RUF/AFRC cohorts. Earlier, in the beginning of his testi-

mony, Norman alluded to the sincerity of the genuine course he undertook to make sure democracy thrived and solemnly declared to the Chief Prosecutor: "I solemnly swear at the Bible that I speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth". In short it appeared, though, that the accused was portraying his prelapsarian innocence for the task he was delegated to by the ruling SLPP government. Infact, Norman's supporters portrayed him as that devout if disputatious disciple of peace whose determination to restore democracy landed him into trouble.

In April 1997, Chief Norman said he engaged parliament and had talks with the speaker of parliament and briefed him on the security threats that was permeating the country, recommending that there was the need for a protection unit to be put in place for legitimizing the use of fire arms, suggesting that it was reasonable for anybody to be armed for protection. "It was parliament after my meeting with the speaker that it became legitimate for the use of fire arms at the time," Norman said.

The CDF indictee said he informed the President about such developments, adding that he received a bag of "parts" of dangerous weapons from one of his intelligent officers, and even deposited the weapons to the President while he left for Ivory Coast to attend a conference.

On his return, however, he explained to the court that President Kabbah told him that he had handed over the weapons to the Army Chief of staff, Brigadier Hassan Conteh, and his deputy Max Kanja. "I was surprised at the president and made it crystal clear that the coup could not be reversed, attesting to the fact that he had already been informed about imminent coup on 15th May 1997," the accused told the court.

He further explained that on the 19th May 1997, when the coup took place he was the person who facilitated the air-lifting of President Kabbah from his residence to a safe location outside the capital. "I managed to escape days after the coup and finally landed in Conakry, Guinea, where I realized that President Kabbah and most of the Ministers have sought refuge", Norman stressed. Again, he said it was the President who told him that ECOWAS and the international community were prepared to support his government in a bid to flush out the junta regime from their grip on power.

Chief Norman testified that he had a meeting with 150 "Kamajor" fighters at Bo Jayla very close to the Liberia-Sierra Leone border, saying that the meeting ended successfully as the hunters were pleased and determined to support the restoration of democracy.

Eddie Massalay, recalling that there was a hiding place called "Sorkwehun" in Mende language, headed the group comprising local hunters, according to Norman. This hide-out, he further explained, was a safe haven for the local fighters where civilians also took cover at a time of

Norman to be freed, jailed?

sporadic rebel attacks. The accused told the court that the civil defense unit was formed mainly to resist the AFRC/RUF junta regime.

However, he said, he had no official knowledge as to who formed the CDU, but confirmed that he knew a prominent member, an SLPP member of parliament, M S. Kallon, who joined the CDF in Liberia. He went on to say that before his relocation from Liberia to Base Zero, there were groups like student union, and housewives who were being taken care of by ECOMOG based in Liberia, with the supply of food and medicines.

Continuing his testimony, the first accused said after all arrangements had been put in place how arms and ammunition could be supplied to them by ECOMOG, the Kamajors and ECOMOG had captured the Bo water side bridge from their enemies, and CDF fighters were reinforced to protect the terrain especially the Atlantic Solima and Fairo onto Bombahun. "All these operations took place between July and August 1997," Norman told the court.

Norman said the decision for his transfer to Base Zero (Talkie) was as a result of what he called "traditional selection" and, this was an issue of a veil of secrecy. He further said, when he first arrived in the town he was given a hearty welcome by PC Joe Jamgba and also met with CDF commander, Rufus Collier, and discussed how the area would be protected. In his defense, he quoted from the Holy Bible in Deuteronomy 23:9-11 to support the hunters initiative.

Norman disclosed to the court that the formation of the war council came about when he met with Chief Quee at Malayhun in October 1997 and it was the chief who told him that George Jambayie mooted the idea: Prior to the meeting with Jambayie, I had been informed about arms and ammunition, which he said President Kabbah had given him", the accused told the court.

The war council, Norman said, was given a code name as "walayhun one", that was for security reasons and that the council was to support him at Base Zero.

Chief Norman said he had always told his fighters and people that he was receiving logistics from ECOMOG on behalf of the President and never said at any point in time that when he had fought and captured the country, he would rule for 3 years. "I never said chiefs who did not support the CDF should be killed", Norman denied the prosecution's allegations. The accused denied many allegations of killings, looting civilians' property. "I will only say that may God forgive him (Nallo)", that was Norman's statement after Nallo had alleged that Norman was like a God, while the co-accused persons were the son and Holy Spirit.

General Richards' Testimony

Lt. General David Julian Richards, 53 years, has served in the British Army for 35 years. As cross-examined by Dr. Bubuaki Jabbie, the defendant of Chief Hinga Norman, Lt. General Richards told the court that he is the commander of Nato's allied rapid reaction force presently deployed in Germany.

Recalling his vast military experience, Richards testified that he had served in many parts of the world in his military assignments including Northern Ireland, Germany, Canada, Central America, and recently was in Eastimo, Indonesia and Albania as operational officer.

In 1999, served as the British commander of the British forces under UN in Eastimo, Afghanistan, Iraq and Mozambique. Finally, in 1999 he was assigned a special operation on behalf of the British Army to monitor the situation that was going on in Sierra Leone, where he spent 8 days in the month of January and another 8 days in the month of February the same year.

The General testified that he came back from the UK to Freetown in April 2000, and spent 5 days in the country, six and half weeks in May and June the same year, adding that he spent 7 weeks between September and October the same year. "My job all these while was a "military trouble shooter", the General said, noting that he had the sole responsibility of monitoring "unstable" situations all over the world "one of which was Sierra Leone". General Richards testified that on his arrival in Sierra Leone, he knew there was a conflict in the country: that a group was opposed to the democratic elected government of Kabbah, noting that before 1999 President Kabbah had been forced to flee the country together with the diplomatic community. Richard disclosed that there had been an undemocratic government (AFRC/RUF), and that there was lots of fighting going on in the country.

The General told the court that communications during the time appeared to be "doomed." The situation, General Richards said prompted his mission to Sierra Leone, as he had been asked by the British government to monitor the situation and see whether there could be of any help the British government could offer to salvage the situation. The General revealed that he traveled from London to Dakar (Senegal) with a "team of staff officers". The general said they have been picked up in Dakar by a British Royal Navy ship, which had been diverted from another military assignment and, "I was sailed to Freetown"

General Richards disclosed that on his arrival, he eventually paid a snap visit to president Conteh in Guinea, after the president had extended invitation to him. In furtherance of his testimony, he told the court that he had enquired from Conteh his view with regard the fighting that was going in

Norman to be freed, jailed?

the Sierra Leone, complaining that he had difficulty communicating with president Conteh and was compelled to recur to Sierra Leone from Conakry.

The general said his understanding at the time was that, while AFRC/RUF forces were the other side, ECOMOG forces as the principal defender of the government had the loyal forces (SLA's) and CDF fighters all in a bid to push the junta force from the capital, Freetown. "Corpses were on the water as we approached the high seas, General Richards recalled. The General explained that he had seen the Nigerian Alpha Jet dropping bombs, and the bombardment had given them difficulty sailing to the seashores, but sailed smoothly to the shores once we had established communication with ECOMOG. Continuing, he noted that after he had landed in Cockeril military headquarter there was excitement as ecstasy of admiration rocked the entire residents of the area. He pointed out that he stayed on top of the ship completely for 8 days and came out on daily basis to sent reports back to London.

Richard told the court that on his arrival he first met with the ECOMOG commander at the time, General Timothy Shelpide who took him to Hinga Norman and General Khobe at a command post in Cockeril. "I had a spell of time with them before meeting with President Kabbah," the General said, adding that he had been earlier introduced to Norman but did not know his role at the time. The general noted that due to his task at the time had the opportunity to talk to all major heads in the country. "It was as a result that I knew Sierra Leone needed to be rescued at hands of the rebels," Richard told the court. The General explained that it reached at a time when General Khobe had been in control of the government forces, took him to observe fighting between government forces and the rebels at Congo cross bridge in Freetown, where he hid himself to observe the RUF force advancing beyond the bridge on a daily basis and sent reports back to London.

The General told the court that his main assignment had been to observe and find a way by which the UK government could support the government forces. This, he said, paved the way for the British government to approve of 10 million pounds sterling for the government.

The British General revealed that before his government provided the fund he had advised that such help be granted to the Sierra Leone government, this was due to the confidence I had in president Kabbah and Norman" Richard told he judges.

General said he had gone to inform the president about the said "package" (amount) and that it was his responsibility to monitor the package for it to be utilized for its intended purpose. When president Kabbah returned from Conakry in 1999, the General revealed that he came along with the then British High Commissioner, Peter Penfold, who gave him confidence that the situation in the country had

calmed down a bit.

He went on to say that after he had held three meetings with General Khobe and Norman, he had proposed to them the types of arms they should purchase and other logistical support needed for the government fighters. "But how the equipment arms were to be used was dealt with privately with Khobe as a "colleague," the General said.

The General described Norman as a very determined minister, with his "effective and dynamic military knowledge who took decision with the "courage" as a minister.

"He kept at the right level and position and left the military to go ahead with its decision," Richard told the judges. The general explained that he saw younger people being involved in the fighting, particularly on the side of the RUF. Again, he said there was "strings attached" to the package, as children who had been in any of the factions in the government side would sort of put the "package at risk".

Peter Penfold's Testimony

Peter Alfred Penfold has testified that he lives in Abington, England. He said before he took up appointment as British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, he had served as British diplomat in Africa for the past 10 years and also served as British representative in the O.A.U in the Africa Affairs section.

Penfold told the court that he had also visited Sierra Leone prior to his assignment to the country in 1997, and arrived in Sierra Leone to take up appointment in March 1997, when the RUF rebels started to "renegade" on the peace accord. Though he said, that did not pose any threats to his person, but the rebels had confined him to "three areas of the country".

The British diplomat said his task at the time was to oversee various British support projects, which included the judiciary, parliament, the police, the media, public service, the civil society, and to provide military training for the Sierra Leone Army along side the Nigerian government. Penfold disclosed that the training exercise was targeted for two sets in the army, while the British government provided a substantial but small amount to the tune of one hundred and forty thousand pounds. The army he said, at the time, had claimed to have fifteen thousand strong forces. This Penfold said was seen as a "burden" on the government of President Kabbah, which was supposed to provide 60% of the fund.

Penfold testified that he had a meeting with the Army Chief of Staff at the time, Brigadier Hassan Conteh, in April 1997, and the Brigadier told him that there were only 8000 serving soldiers: that the Army would not be able to be part of the training program. That development, Penfold said he

Norman to be freed, jailed?

had reported to the defense Minister, Chief Norman, who had expressed "regretful annoyance" over the behavior of the chief of staff.

Penfold revealed that he had tried to know the actual number of the army, and that the following day he had a meeting with the President, vice-president Dr. Joe Demby together with Norman, Brigadier Hassan Conteh and Col. Max Kanga. According to Penfold, Brig Hassan Conteh "slightly changed his view", stating that he had not said he could not involve in the programme due to the number of men in the army but rather it was as a result of lack of resources.

Peter Penfold told the court that at the conclusion at the meeting, Brigadier Conteh had agreed to provide 300 men to be deployed in Benguma, where he said the British training team had already been deployed for the project. Penfold further revealed that he had realized that the president who had expressed grave concerns over the number in the army, had also asked Brig Conteh to reduce the rice ration in the army as ration had been obtained "illegally". "At that point, Conteh remained dumbfounded: he neither denied nor confirmed the actual figure in the army" the British diplomat said.

Penfold also testified that he had been informed that Conteh, who had summoned a meeting with his top ranking officers at defense office for the reduction of the rice issue, had only proposed to reduce private and NCOs ranks, thereby skipping aside the senior officers. "I mention this because I believe this contributed to the unrest within the army at the time," Penfold told the court, adding that he (Penfold) together with his colleagues U.S Ambassador John Hirsh, the UNDP Special Representative, Dinka had a meeting with the president at Juba Hill residence on 17 May 97. Penfold said they had advised the president about the "unrest" they had been hearing within the army. "We warned him of a possible coup" Peter said, noting that the president in his response had also confirmed the rumor and that he (Kabbah) had promised that he would have to summon a meeting with the army, unfortunately it was a week later that the coup took place", Penfold asserted.

Recalling the unfolding events at the time, Penfold said: "I was woken up that morning around 5:30 and could hear loud bangs around the city", and said that was what he had observed that Sunday morning, explaining that he had gone to enquire from his 'guards' at the gate of his residence. Penfold testified that he went again inside his house to telephone his deputy, after he did not receive any confirmed sources from his guards who had told him that "it has been going on and on for hours."

Penfold said he did not get any response from this deputy who had been asleep.

To make assurance doubly sure of the situation, he started

telephoning people all over the place and that it seemed to him the gunshots were coming from state house as one of his staff had later confirmed to him that soldiers had been around state house vicinity.

"It was clear that soldiers were shooting." Penfold testified that at about 9 am he heard on the radio one Coporal Gborie announced that the army had taken over power and that president Kabbah had fled the country.

Penfold disclosed that the event took a twist as he continued to hear about soldiers looting, raping and pillaging as no body was spared the wanton destruction at the time. "Young and old Sierra Leoneans" became victims of the wanton wreckers, citing that a British expatriate's wife had also been raped and the IMF Representative's house was also looted five (5) times. That he had advised British citizens about 5000 of them in the country to stay in their homes, while they listen to radio BBC. The British diplomat said 17 soldiers had broken into an ordinance depot and stolen large arms and ammunition while some had gone to the Pademba road prisons and released prisoners from their cells. - **Additional writing by NANA KOFI SARPONG**

Profile of Chief Hinga Norman

Testifying to the court, the accused said he was born in 1940 in a small village in Valuna Chiefdom in the Southern Bo district. Being the last child of a large extended family, his mother died in 1958 when he was approaching his adolescence. He schooled at the native British administrative school between 1946-1949, and later diverted his course to the capital, Freetown, through the help of one of his elder brothers. In Freetown, he gained entrance into the same British military administrative school, where he was enlisted and trained as the first West African child soldier at age 14, before he was elevated to the rank of boys' platoon when he had reached the age of 18 years. Thus, according to Norman, the then British colonial masters trained future fighters for what was referred to as the "African Army".

After he was 18 and went through military training at the military academy he became a full-fledged soldier and was posted to work at some of the military garrisons in the country. Norman explained that he proceeded to Britain. However, in 1960 he joined the British forces in Germany, after he was told of a "short term journey". Afterwards, he then returned to his home country, in 1961, when he was later promoted to Corporal. With all his military experiences he was the first military man in the UN peacekeeping operations in Congo, and after his return went through major military courses as he gained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. In 1966, he became the ADC to the then governor General in Sierra Leone.

Norman to be freed, jailed?

Norman narrated to the court that he survived many coups and counters coups in Sierra Leone, spanning 1967 that eventually led to the formation of the NRC regime, when he was later arrested on the allegations of a coup plot. As the youngest among those arrested at the time, the new Special Court Chief Prosecutor, Desmond De Silva, was one of the defense counsels who defended him. Chief Norman told the court that he was sentenced to death in that treason trial, spent one year in prisons before released in 1972 and informed that he has been “compulsory” dismissed from the army. Norman testified that after he had been released, he sought refuge in neighboring Liberia where he became a businessman on the streets of Monrovia. Norman said he returned to the country in 1974, after he heard about another coup attempt in Freetown, and was again picked up by CID personnel who later detained him at the Maximum Pademba Road Prisons, after spending weeks in detention at the CID headquarters in Freetown. “I spent 13 months in prisons without taking bath”, Norman told the judges that he had only one blanket to sleep on and a rubber of water he used for drinking, adding: “I was released after they found no case against me.”

Norman explained that he later joined the youth of the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) in 1975 “political campaigning trail” and that they competed with the All People Congress (APC) party, stressing that such political campaigns led to the death of most of his colleagues. “I feared for my life, at the time, and sought asylum in neighboring Liberia, where I set up a poultry farm and employed many people,” Norman said.- *The Critic*

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 15 May 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

The Boston Globe 15 May 2006

PRESSURE BUILDS ON LIBERIA'S PIONEER; 'IRON LADY' TRIES TO RESTORE NATION

John Donnelly, Globe Staff

HARBEL, Liberia - The country's celebrated new president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, faced a crowd of rubber tree tappers, who at first cheered heartily. Under a broiling sun, the first democratically elected female president in Africa told the several thousand workers at a Firestone Plantation site earlier this month that she would deliver better education for their children and improve living conditions for their families. But she also said that after negotiating with US-based Firestone, she could not force the company to pay millions of dollars in a pay dispute dating to 1994.

Just four months into her six-year term, Johnson Sirleaf, a 66-year-old Harvard-educated economist, is winning acclaim abroad: She's been to see President Bush at the White House and last week traveled to Chicago to appear on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." But in her West African homeland, she is learning that turning around one of the most devastated countries in the world will be much tougher, and make her more unpopular, than she imagined. "It's easy when you are outside looking in than when you get in and face the reality," she said in an interview in her sparsely decorated executive office a day before the Firestone appearance. Emblematic of the challenges facing Johnson Sirleaf is her pledge to restore electricity to Monrovia within six months of taking office. But she acknowledged in the interview that just two areas in the capital, covering less than 15 percent of the population, will have power by the end of June.

Chicago Tribune 15 May 2006

Window of opportunity is narrow for Sirleaf

A reporter asked Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf why she had come to America. She responded with five words that open doors, launch jetliners

and move motorcades almost everywhere on the planet: "I was invited by Oprah."

International Clips on West Africa

Voter registration to begin in Ivory Coast, warring sides divided

Source: Dpa English Date: May 15, 2006

Abidjan_(dpa) _ Ivory Coast Prime Minister Konan Banny announced a voter registration drive and disarmament process will start May 18 that many hope will pave the way for planned October elections expected to end a three-year civil war. In a speech broadcast on state-run television Sunday night, Banny said the pilot programme will last one week, and will be carried out in seven locations throughout the west African country split into a rebel-held north and government-controlled south.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

President Signs Book of Condolence for Fallen Lawmaker

- An Executive Mansion press statement said that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will join members of the Legislature and the diplomatic corps to sign the book of condolence for the late Margibi County Representative Ansu Lackey at the Capitol Building Tuesday.
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

ECOWAS Foreign Ministers Hold Summit in Monrovia Today

- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia yesterday, Gambian Foreign Minister Lamin Kabba Bajo said that West African foreign ministers were in Liberia for a summit on issues of security, politics and free movement of goods and services in the sub-region.
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Unity Party Candidate Leads in Rivercess County By-Election

- Provisional results from the Rivercess County by-election put ruling Unity Party candidate Elizabeth Williams in the lead. A National Elections Commission press release said that Ms. Williams accumulated 736 votes amounting to 38 percent of the total followed by New Deal Movement candidate Charles Bartee who won 23.5 percent of the vote and National Patriotic Party candidate William Knowlden (22.7 percent).
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Government to Renovate Teachers Training Institutes in Rural Liberia

- In an interview, Deputy Education Minister for Planning Emmanuel Roberts said that plans were underway to begin the renovation of the Kakata, Webbo and Zorzor Teachers Training Institutes with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Transport Ministry Says Twenty International Airlines Apply for Liberia Routes

- Briefing journalists over the weekend, Assistant Transport Minister for Administration Mariam Forsom said that the Ministry has received 20 applications from international airlines wanting to fly Liberia routes. She added that major renovation work has commenced on the Roberts International Airport and James Spriggs Payne Airport to upgrade them for the increase in flights.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Telecommunications Regulators Draft Requirements for Cell Phone License

- Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) board member Professor Lamini Waritay said that the group has drafted requirements which potential cell phone operators and other service providers should meet to be granted license to operate in the country.
- Professor Waritay told a news conference over the weekend that the board will confer with mobile phone operators in June to negotiate the requirements. The LTA was established in 2005 to regulate the activities of the telecommunications industry.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

Clergyman Calls for Reconciliation in Liberia's Recovery

- Liberia Council of Churches President United Methodist Bishop Sumowood Harris told ELBS Radio that reconciliation was critical to the recovery process and urged the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Religious Community to work together to achieve reconciliation among the people. The clergyman also called for more training programs for ex-combatants.