

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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 of:

Friday, 17 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Joe Demby



*Kabbah ordered
Demby to investigate*

Investigated

Kamajors Brutality

By Joseph Turay

The Former Vice President Dr. Albert Joe Demby sitting in a relaxed and confident mood, while testifying yesterday at the Special Court, who clearly admitted that, he did investigate many crimes alleged to have

been committed by Kamajor fighters during the Civil War. Dr. Demby who was under cross-examination yesterday by the prosecution in the ongoing C.D.F trials testified that he was assigned on several occasions by President Kabbah to carry on certain

investigation into certain alleged brutality said to have been perpetrated by the kamajor militia.

The Former VP said when he was appointed by the President, he later assigned other Ministers and top Security Officials who also joined the

team in conducting the investigations. Dr. Demby revealed that most of these allegations that were conducted, most times came from civilians and other security officials like ECOMOG who at times

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Demby Investigated

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directly complained to him or President Kabbah. This in turn led to the appointment of senior Government officials to carry out the investigation. Highlighting some of the alleged crimes he had been investigating, were the killing of Police Officers, commandeering of NGOs and civilian vehicles, killing of civilians at check points, ambushing of vehicles travelling with Soldiers salaries and other minor offences against civilians.

Dr. Joe Demby told the court that while he was conducting some of these investigations; his team would usually tour different Towns and Chiefdoms conducting interviews with civilians, displaced persons in the camps and even visited places

where Kamajor fighters were deployed. Dr. Demby testified that when he visits the Kamajors in their different deployment posts, they ended denying most of these allegations.

He told the Judges that most times he refer some of these allegations to the P.R.O of the Kamajors Charles Moiwo or Chief Norman who in turn submitted their findings to him. According to Dr. Demby his findings were that most of the alleged killings of Police officers by Kamajors were as a result of cross fire fighting between the kamajors and the rebel fighters.

Dr. Albert Joe Demby said after he had investigated most of these complaints, he would then prepare his report in summary and send it to President Kabbah.

Demby accused of telling lies

Story: Tanu Jalloh

Prosecuting counsel at the Special Court, Kevin Taverner Thursday accused former Vice President Albert Joe Demby of telling lies while being cross-examined.

Demby testified as the third witness for Hinga Norman in the ongoing Civil Defense Forces (CDF) trial at the Special Court trial Chamber 1.

The prosecutor has dismissed as

a lie, Demby's interpretation of Kamajor initiators' loyalty to their initiators to mean respect and not taking orders and commands from the latter.

"Mr. witness you are telling lies. Point 9 of exhibit 127 as a decision of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) of the CDF to which Demby was Chairman in 1999, states that the loyalty of the CDF is to the initiators," argued

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Demby Investigated

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President Kabbah Named at Special Court

*By Tom E. Tommy
& Saffia S. Kabbah*

As the ongoing trial of Chief Sam Hinga and two other former senior operatives of the Civil Defence Force (CDF)

continue to gain steam, more and more witnesses called by Hinga Norman are naming H.E. President Tejan Kabbah in their testimonies as being the grand facilitator of the

operations of the CDF movement. The latest of such witnesses is 75 year old Pa Mohamed Turay-Collier, a native born of Talia Yobenko and a former staunch operative

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President Kabbah Named At Special Court

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of the movement. In his testimony, the witness stated that President Kabbah used to send quantum of arms and ammunition and food for the Kamajor fighters who were based in Talia and other bases where Kamajors were operating. He informed the Court that the main purpose for the formation of the movement was to assist ECOMOG forces in their bid to reinstate President Kabbah's government.

The elderly witness testified that a grand meeting comprising of representatives from Bonthe, Bo and Pujehun districts was summoned following the overthrow of the SLPP Government, in which decisions were made as to how to reverse the coup through a counter military operation. He said at the end of the meeting, four men were dispatched to Liberia to go and state their position to Chief Hinga Norman, who was by then based in Liberia. A week after that, Chief Norman according to the witness arrived in Talia onboard a helicopter.

Chief Norman, the witness went on, informed the elders of Talia that he was sent by President Kabbah to encourage them to join the ECOMOG forces in the fight to reinstate his government back to power. According to him, it was at that point that Chief Norman took them to the field and showed them the Arms that the President had sent to enhance their operation. From that point a number of local dignitaries including PC. Quee, P.C Charles Coker of Moyamba District, P.C. Gbampi of Nongo Bullom Chiefdom, Alhaji Daramy Rogers from Bo, converged in Talia where a decision was taken to form a war council that will spearhead the operations of the movement. He said the War Council was initially headed by PC Quee. While in Talia, the witness informed that Chief Hinga Norman was only acting as a middle man between them and the President. The witness testified that children were never recruited into the movement.

Revelations

"Kabbah Sent Norman With Arms To Talia..."

By Mohamed Kai

Paramount Chief Mohamed Collier of Talia Yorbeke Chiefdom Bonthe District, has disclosed that following the military coup on

25 May 1997, Paramount Chiefs and chiefdom authorities in various chiefdoms conveyed a meeting in Talia. Paramount Chief Collier inti-

-P.C. Collier Revealed

mated the court that after that meeting, they agreed to send four people to in-

form Chief Sam Hinga Norman that they did not

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"Kabbah Sent Norman With Arms To Talia..."

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recognize the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council Regime (AFRC), and that they would like to put up stiff resistance to the AFRC regime.

According to Paramount Chief Collier, few days after Chief Sam Hinga Norman flew to Talia on board a military helicopter with a consignment of arms and ammunition including some bags of rice, noting that on that day, thousands of people including Paramount Chiefs and local authorities converged at a field in Talia to welcome Mr. Norman.

On his arrival, PC Collier went on, Chief Norman addressed the gathering and told them he was in Talia on the invitation of Paramount Chief Charles Caulker, PC Queen of Njama Kowa, P.C Nongoba-bullum including himself

P.C Collier also revealed that at the end of Chief Norman's address, he told the gathering that President Kabbah has sent him with arms and ammunitions including bags of rice for kamajors to fight the rebel outfit and AFRC soldiers.

He narrated that Chief Norman handed over the arms and ammunitions to them and they were subsequently handed over to Mr. Jajah Kamara for safe custody in the presence of Daramy Rogers.

He said he was prevailed upon by his colleague Paramount Chiefs to provide accommodation for Chief Norman and Daramy Rogers and further explained that he is seventy five years old and have eight wives with forty seven children.

The trial continues today.

African News Dimension

[http://www.andnetwork.com/app?service=direct/1/Home/\\$StorySummary\\$0.\\$DirectLink\\$1&sp=118775](http://www.andnetwork.com/app?service=direct/1/Home/$StorySummary$0.$DirectLink$1&sp=118775)

RICE SAYS LIBERIA'S EX-PRESIDENT TAYLOR SHOULD BE TRIED ON WAR

Friday, 17 February 2006, 3 hours, 28 minutes and 0 seconds ago.

By ANDnetwork .com

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says there is a danger that former Liberian President Charles Taylor could return to his homeland unless he is taken into custody and sent to a U.N. war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone for trial.

"We believe very strongly that he ought to be brought to justice, and that he ought to be brought to justice as soon as possible," Rice said. Taylor, who has lived in exile in Nigeria since 2003, also should be tried "for reasons of reconciliation and justice," Rice said.

The former president has been indicted on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his activities in Sierra Leone.

Rice discussed the issue during a hearing of the House of Representatives International Relations Committee.

Source : Sapa-AP /dg

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 16 Feb 2006**

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

International Clips on Liberia

BBC 16/02/2006

Adjustment of UN presence in Liberia would be minor-UN official

The head of a UN assessment mission to Liberia says any adjustment of UN presence on the ground would be minor. Mr. Dimitry Titov however said the UN would readjust its priorities in the new consolidation phase of Liberia. Mr. Titov recommended that road rehabilitation could be a major area of activity for donors and UNMIL troops. The team also recommended that the capture of state revenue is absolutely indispensable if Liberia is to undertake roads rehabilitation. Mr. Titov said the UN would concentrate, in the coming months, on what he called more flexible application of troops and military observers.

International Clips on West Africa

16/02/2006

UN envoy warns Ivorian government

By James Copnall, BBC News, Abidjan

A senior United Nations official has begun a visit to the Ivory Coast by speaking out about what he sees as the worsening humanitarian crisis there. Jan Egeland warned the authorities against attacks on civilians and NGOs, and said that the UN was watching.

There is a worsening humanitarian situation in Ivory Coast, which is divided by civil war. Last month, supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo demonstrated against the UN, saying it sided with the rebels.

Local Media – Newspapers**Catholic Archbishop Returns Home Following Health Trip**

(Daily Observer, The News and The Inquirer)

- Catholic Archbishop and human rights activist Michael Francis returned home yesterday from the United States and Europe where he had been referred undergoing treatment after he suffered a stroke three years ago. Archbishop Francis is widely respected in Liberia for being vocal on issues affecting the common people.
- In her inaugural speech in January, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf described the Catholic prelate as the "conscience of the nation."

UN Assessment Mission Calls for Adjustment of UNMIL's Mandate

(The News, Liberian Express and The Vanguard)

- Addressing a news conference in Monrovia yesterday, the head of the UN Assessment Mission to Liberia, Dmitry Titov, said that UNMIL needed to adjust its mandate and priorities to consolidate the peace attained.

IMF Delegation Arrives in Liberia

(The Inquirer and The Analyst)

- A Finance Ministry press release said yesterday that a 10-member International Monetary Fund delegation had arrived in Liberia to hold important discussions with relevant ministries including the Finance Ministry, Budget Bureau and Central Bank of Liberia.

Rights Groups Reject President's Nomination of Nigerian to Lead Army

(The Inquirer and The Analyst)

- A consortium of local human rights organizations under the banner of the National Human Rights Center of Liberia yesterday sent a letter of protest to the Senate against President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's nomination of Nigerian General Luka Nyeh Yusuf to head the Armed Forces of Liberia (NHRCL) during its restructuring program. The NHRCL said that President Johnson-Sirleaf overlooked the professional capacities of Liberians, especially those within the military.

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

President Says Ex-Combatants' Occupation of Rubber Plantation is Problematic

- Meeting with the visiting United Nations Assessment Mission in Monrovia recently, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said that the issue of ex-combatants' continuous occupation of the Guthrie Rubber Plantation was one of the most problematic situations in the country and entreated the Mission to adequately address it.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

President Welcomes Rubber Workers Decision to End Industrial Strike Action

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday described as a positive development the decision of workers of the Firestone Rubber Plantations Company to end their industrial action and called on them to continue to cooperate with the government as it finds solution to their grievances.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

President Entreats University Graduates to be Serviceable

- Thanking representatives of the graduating class of the University of Liberia that bestowed upon her the title of "Class Mother", President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf entreated university products to be ready to positively serve Liberia.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Catholic Archbishop Returns Home Following Health Trip

(Also reported on Star Radio)

UN Assessment Mission Calls for Adjustment of UNMIL's Mandate

(Also reported on Star Radio)

UN Envoy Imposition of Ban on Private Ownership of Firearm

- Speaking at UNMIL weekly press briefing yesterday, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss suggested the need to ban private ownership of firearm because private possession of firearm could jeopardize public security.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Information Minister-Designate Promises to Lead an Information Revolution

- Speaking yesterday at his confirmation hearing, Information Minister-designate Johnny McClain called for adequate support to revolutionize the information management sector.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

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

Pro-Democracy Group Wants Nominee Confirmation Hearings Stopped

- According to a press statement, the Liberia Democratic Institute has called on the Senate to halt the ongoing confirmation hearings for Presidential nominees until they declare their assets through the print media. The group also urged the Senate to make all other aspects of the hearings public and transparent.

STAR RADIO (*News culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

Rivercess County Legislative Caucus Warns against Illicit Mining in the Area

- Rivercess County Legislative Caucus Chairman Senator Jonathan Banny said that the Caucus was warning illegal miners to refrain from illicit mining because it is the source of conflict in the County. The warning was in response to numerous complaints that unauthorized miners were flooding towns and villages of the county.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.

Patriotic Vanguard website

http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/article.php3?id_article=395

"Golley Warned Us Against Looting"---Witness

- Friday 17 February 2006.

By Alpha Jalloh, Freetown

The trial of Omrie Golley continues at the High Court No.1 presided over by justice Ademosu and one witness has claimed that Golley warned them not to loot after the success of the coup.



Golley was associated with the Revolutionary United Front sometimes as legal adviser and sometimes as peace mediator during the war.

On February 13 a prosecution witness who called himself Hassan Bangura, and claimed to be a retired sergeant of the Sierra Leone Army, and now working as an engineer at the Government Training Center Kissy, told the court that he recalled receiving a call on his mobile phone. He said the number was strange and he enquired who was calling. He said the caller identified himself as Omrie Golley. He alleged that Omrie Golley then connected him via phone with Mohamed Alpha Bah. According to him, Mohamed Alpha Bah requested that they meet somewhere in Freetown. Hassan claimed that he told Mohamed Alpha Bah to meet him at NP Filling Station at King Harman Road west of Freetown.

Mohamed Alpha Bah, driven by a chauffeur turned up at NP filling station in a jeep and they were driven to Bintumani Hotel where Omrie lodged.

He claimed that Golley hugged him when they arrived and that on the following day Golley called and asked him to join in overthrowing Kabbah's government. Hassan alleged that Golley gave him some money out of which he gave Le 1Milion to David Kai Tongay and Mohamed Alpha Bah, the 1st and 2nd accused persons. He alleged that part of the money was to be used to buy arms. He said later Golley gave him \$100 as "transport fare" plus a mobile phone for communication.

Hassan said he later revealed the plans to captain Kposowa. He said they acquired the arms and they decided that the arms should be kept in Hassan's house but it was suggested that they were kept at Aberdeen, west of Freetown. He claimed that Golley responded it would "not be safe" to keep them there.

They finally agreed that the first mission was to overthrow the SLPP government, second, "kill" VP Solomon Berewa and identify the strength of IMATT. He alleged that Golley said if IMATT resisted they would manipulate some neighboring countries to sympathize with the coup or they use force on IMATT, but warned them not to loot after the success of the coup. He gave then gave them mobile phones.

The trial continues

Photo: Omrie Golley