

**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 at:

Friday 17 January, 2003

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact

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Concord Times
Tuesday, 4 February 2003

Tongo want ex-RUFs to vacate occupied houses

The decade-old war may have been over but for the people of Tongo in the eastern part of the country, their major worry is how to evict two hundred ex-fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) who are yet to vacate houses they have occupied

since the war years. Concord Times gathered that about 200 ex-RUF combatants, together with their families, are in control of 26 houses at Labour Camp in Tongo. The community has asked the former combatants to give up the houses and return to their

areas of origin. This is not yet feasible as sources say the former rebels are highly involved in diamond mining. Villagers say, the presence of such number in one locality is a cause for concern. However, the locals also reported that the National

Commission for Social Action (NacSA) and the National Commission for Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (NCDDR) should make efforts to completely reintegrate the former fighters.

*Concord Times
Tuesday February 4 2003*

Sierra Leone News

Tuesday, 4 February 2003

SIERRA LEONE NEWS from www.sierra-leone.org



4 February: Police have made no progress in their search for fugitive former junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma (pictured left) and others being sought for questioning in connection with last month's armed attack on a military supply warehouse in Wellington, Acting Deputy Inspector-General of Police Brima Acha Kamara said on Tuesday. In telephone interviews with the media shortly after he disappeared last month, Koroma expressed fears for his safety, and he accused the government of mounting a "witch hunt" to discredit him. In an interview with the Sierra Leone Web, Kamara insisted that police would treat the AFRC chairman turned parliamentarian as "an innocent person," but he added: "He has to explain. If he gives himself up we have to pose certain questions to him." Kamara described the police investigation into last month's attack as "very transparent." "We have the human rights people coming in questioning," he said. "It's not a secretive investigation." Kamara said Tuesday he did not know how many people had been arrested in connection with what the authorities have called "a conspiracy to destabilize the security situation of the country," but one source in Freetown put the number at over 70. Kamara said police were currently turning over evidence to the Law Officers Department to build a case against some of those detained, while others not deemed to be directly involved would soon be released. Meanwhile, police are continuing to urge Koroma to surrender to the authorities. "We have appealed for him to give himself up," he said. "He will be treated fairly. This is a different police force we are having now. We do respect the human rights of people. That is why it's better for him to give up than being caught by civilians or other people. It will be in his own best interest to give himself up to the authorities." Koroma has not yet been charged with any crime, and Kamara said the fact that police are offering a ten million leones reward (about \$5,000) for his capture did not mean a presumption of guilt. "He's a very important person we want to question," he said. "We are not only seeking him – we are seeking others equally. But he is a public figure. He's very important and we need him."

LURD rebels have captured two key towns northwest of the Liberian capital, uprooting Sierra Leonean refugees and displaced Liberians and causing residents to flee toward the city, news services reported on Tuesday. The Reuters news agency quoted sources who said the fighting had reached the town of Cheesmanburg, eleven miles north of Monrovia, while the Associated



Press said government forces were rushing to reinforce their positions at the Po River Bridge, twelve miles from the outskirts of town. Security forces were quoted as saying that fighting was going on only a few miles beyond the bridge. The Armed Forces of Liberia has ordered all soldiers to report for duty on Wednesday, the news service said. According to the BBC, Defence Minister Daniel Chea (pictured left) acknowledged that the towns of Bopolu and Tubmanburg had fallen to LURD, but he insisted his forces were massing for a counter-attack. Tubmanburg, the nearer of the two towns, is 60 miles from Monrovia. News services reported seeing jeeps loaded with armed men heading towards the area. A number of refugee youths have been abducted from camps in recent weeks, reportedly recruited as combatants. Chea insisted, however, that there was no cause for panic in the refugee camps.



American-born film actor and producer Michael Douglas is in Sierra Leone this week to narrate a U.N.-sponsored documentary on child soldiers. Douglas arrived in Freetown on Friday and flew to Kono the following day, UNAMSIL spokesman Yousef Hamdan told the Sierra Leone Web. The Sierra Leone documentary is the second in a ten-film collaboration between the U.N. Department of Public Information and RCN Entertainment. The 58-year old actor is a vocal proponent of

nuclear disarmament and, through his non-profit Michael Douglas Foundation, has supported some 90 charities and advocacy groups since its inception in 1991. In 1998, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan named him a "Messenger of Peace." Douglas will continue his advocacy work during his five-day visit to Sierra Leone. "Tomorrow we are going to take him to Hastings in order to do a public service announcement against arms, and the background for this will be the destruction of arms," Hamdan said. Since 1969, Douglas has appeared in or produced some 40 motion pictures, including the films *Basic Instinct* and *Fatal Attraction*.

The United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, has expressed concern about the continued destruction of shantytowns in Ivory Coast's commercial capital of Abidjan. "Over the past week, we have received reports of armed men bursting into at least two poor districts at night, threatening residents and setting houses on fire," a spokesperson for the agency said on Tuesday. So far, she added, this had not caused additional refugees to turn to the UNHCR for assistance, but it has created displacement among local people and foreign nationals. "In Abidjan, UNHCR already cares for over 1,000 refugees of mostly Liberian and Sierra Leonean origin who lost their homes during earlier razing of shantytowns," she said.

The U.N.'s Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict has urged countries affected by war to take inspiration from Sierra Leone, where a peace agreement between the government and rebel forces paved the way for a programme to demobilise and reintegrate about 7,000 former child soldiers, the U.N. Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) reported on Tuesday. Olara Otunnu spoke on Friday to West African leaders who gathered for the ECOWAS summit in Dakar on children and conflict in the sub-region. As a result of Sierra Leone's programme, Otunnu said, a national commission on war-affected children was set up. He added that the Special Court for Sierra Leone, set up to prosecute those guilty of war crimes in the country, would pay special attention to crimes committed against children.



Investigators for Sierra Leone's Special Court will complete their work by June, Chief Prosecutor David Crane told residents of Port Loko on Tuesday. Since last August, Crane and his staff have held town meetings in 11 of Sierra Leone's 12 districts to explain the court's mandate and to solicit the views of Sierra Leoneans on how he should proceed in prosecuting those deemed to bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes. Later this week, Crane will leave for Europe and North America for talks with senior government officials and human rights leaders regarding cooperation and coordination with his office, the court said in a statement. He is planning additional diplomatic missions for late February and mid-March.

Salone Times
 Wednesday, 5 February 2003

SALONE TIMES BACKPAGE

Wednesday February 5, 2003

Ex-Fighters Under Pressure To Quit NDMC Quarters In Tongo

By Joseph Vandi

Former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) fighters in the diamond rich town of Tongo are under pressure from residents to vacate the NDMC quarters they continue to occupy though asked to do several times earlier.

Speaking to SALONE TIMES recently in Tongo Field, the town chief, Lansana Charles said that the RUF ex-combatants have had enough time to quit the quarters.

He described the NDMC quarters occupation as "inhuman and treacherous." He accused the ex-combatants of not being sincere and nationalistic. And further accused them of not having the country at heart.

Commenting on the condition of the buildings at the NDMC compound, Chief Lansana said that most of the buildings had been undermined for diamonds. He also said that the airstrip in Tongo Field is littered with holes adding that it requires rehabilitation if it is to

be of any use.

Asked why the ex-fighters are reluctant to quit the quarters, Chief Lansana replied that he could not tell. He said however that almost all the ex-combatants had received rehabilitation packages to enable them return to their respective homes.

"October 10, last year was the official date agreed for all ex-combatants to leave the quarters, but they still refuse to do so," Chief Lansana told SALONE TIMES.

It should be recalled that sometime last year, a committee comprising UNAMSH, the Police, NGOs, and Traditional Elders failed in their attempt to prevail upon the NDMC occupants to quit the said quarters.

Independent Observer
Wednesday, 5 February 2003

Mandereh Arrested

By
Abdul
Samad
Kamara

One of the notorious trouble makers and activists during the AFRC junta days, Abu Bakarr Kamara alias Mandereh has been arrested by a crack squad of OSD personnel. Mandereh has been in hiding in the wake of the recent political insecurity which led to the arrest of about forty eight civilians as police declared Johnny Paul Koroma and ten others wanted. Although Mandereh

is not on the Wanted List police sources intimate that Mandereh has been in the company of those declared wanted.

Mandereh was identified by civilians along Spur Road, who raised alarm, where he was subsequently nabbed and taken to the Vice President's residence and later taken to CID.

This is not the first time Mandereh has been in trouble with the authorities. He was

linked to a Coup attempt during the NPRC days and was also declared wanted by government after the restoration of

democracy in 1998. Meanwhile, one of the persons declared wanted Sello has also been arrested. Head of the

Police Media Unit Fanela Khella told *Independent Observer* that he was arrested after a tip-off from civilians. She advised

civilians and members of the press to pass on any intelligence information which will be treated with confidentiality.



Independent Observer
Wednesday February 5th 2003

Concord Times
Friday, 17 January 2003

Report implicates Ecomog, Kamajors, AFRC

Human Rights Watch released a report on Thursday which implicated Ecomog, Kamajors (CDF) and the Armed Forces Ruling Council.

According to Sierra Leone Web, the 75-page report, "We'll Kill You If You Cry: Sexual Violence in the Sierra Leone Conflict," is based on hundreds of interviews with victims, witnesses and officials. Horrifying crimes such as murder, rape, mutilation, abduction and degradation suffered by thousands of women and girls from all

over Sierra Leone, of all ages, and from every socio-economic group are documented in the report. RUF, renegade soldiers loyal to the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, known as the West Side Boys and the AFRC itself, were reported to be the main perpetrators of most of the war crimes. Human Rights Watch also looks at gender violence committed by members of pro-government forces and militias, like the Kamajors of the Civil Defence Force and even by

international peacekeepers like Ecomog. "The war in Sierra Leone became infamous for the amputation of hands and arms," says Peter Takirambudde, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch's Africa Division. "Rape may not be visible in the same way, but it is every bit as devastating", he adds. "The lack of attention to conflict-related sexual violence means that few assistance programs have been established for women and girls who were subjected to sexual violence, including sexual slavery," the report says. "Survivors not only live with the severe physical and mental health consequences of the abuses suffered, but also fear ongoing non-conflict-related sexual violence, largely perpetrated with impunity."



Kamajors: also committed atrocities

Concord Times
Friday 17th January, 2003

Independent Observer
Friday, 17 January 2003

Independent Observer
Friday 17th January, 2003

A 75-page report, "We'll Kill You If You Cry: Sexual Violence in the Sierra Leone Conflict," has been released by Human Rights Watch based in the USA.

It contains some of the most horrific atrocities committed against civilians during years of violence when the most targeted were women and girls.

The new report, released yesterday, is based on interviews with hundreds of men, women, children, victims, witnesses and officials. It relates in horrifying detail the murder, rape, mutilation, abduction and degradation suffered by thousands of women and girls in Sierra Leone, or who fled from every corner of the

'We'll Kill You, If You Cry'

country. Most of the atrocities detailed in the report were committed by the country's various rebel forces: the RUF, the rebel soldiers of the AFRC, and later by the AFRC splinter group known as the West Side Boys. Human Rights Watch also

looks at gender violence committed by members of pro-government forces and militias, and even by international peacekeepers. "The war in Sierra Leone became infamous for the amputation of hands and arms,"

said Peter Tkirambidde, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch's Africa Division. "Rape may not be visible in the same way, but it is every bit as devastating." It may also be among the hardest crimes for the victims to report.

The News
Friday, 17 January 2003

arrests
The former manager of 1970s pop band The Bay City Rollers, Tam Paton, has been arrested in connection with the

Some of the most horrific atrocities committed against civilians during Sierra Leone's decade of violence were the crimes which targeted women and girls, Human Rights Watch said in a new report released on Thursday.

The 75-page report, "We'll Kill You If You Cry: Sexual Violence in the Sierra Leone Conflict," is based on hundreds of interviews with victims, witnesses and officials. It relates in horrifying detail the murder, rape, mutilation, abduction and

accusations in late production of Peter... a spokesman for... a police spokesman...

As Special Court Draws Near

Kamajors, Ecomog Named In Rape

Cases

degradation suffered by thousands of women and girls from all over Sierra Leone, of all ages, and from every socio-economic group. Most of the atrocities detailed in the report were committed by the country's various rebel forces: the RUF, the rebel soldiers of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, and the AFRC splinter group known as the West Side Boys. Most, that is, but not all. Human Rights

Watch also looks at gender violence committed by members of pro-government forces and militias, and even by international peacekeepers. And while a war crimes tribunal and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission have been set up to address the issue of impunity for such

Peter Takirambudde, Executive Director of



School children and young girls - victims of sexual violence during the civil conflict

crimes, to date, no one has been held accountable for crimes against women or for any other human rights abuses committed during the war in Sierra Leone. "The war in Sierra Leone became infamous for the amputation of hands and arms," said Human Rights Watch's Africa Division. "Rape may not be visible in the same way, but it is every bit as devastating." It may also be among the hardest crimes for the victims to report. With limited resources, and with inadequate attention given to the victims of sexual

will be questioned on Thursday. "A number of addresses are being searched in connection with the arrests."

Credit BBC website

violence, women and girls may not get the help they need to put their own personal horrors from the war behind them. "The lack of attention to conflict-related sexual violence means that few assistance programs have been established for women and girls who were subjected to sexual violence, including sexual slavery," the report said. "Survivors not only live with the severe physical and mental health consequences of the abuses suffered, but also fear ongoing non-conflict-related sexual violence, largely perpetrated with impunity." *Si Leone Wen*

The News
Friday January 17th, 2003