

**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 Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Monday 17-Friday 21 March, 2003

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

Local News

Special Court Prosecutor Speaks / <i>New People</i>	Page 3
Government Statement / <i>New Vision</i>	Page 4
How It Happened In Bonthe / <i>Awoko</i>	Pages 5-6
Government's Position on The Special Court Arrests / <i>New Citizen</i>	Page 7
Don't Panick About The Special Court / <i>New Citizen</i>	Page 8
International Warrant of Arrest for 20 / <i>The Policy</i>	Page 9
Press Statement / <i>The New Storm</i>	Page 10
Omrie Golley Doesn't Fear Special Court / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 11
Where Is The Line, Mr. Prosecutor? / <i>Standard Times</i>	Page 12
No Hiding Place for Maskita, JP / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 13
The Special Court Starting Indictments / <i>The Pool</i>	Page 14
Opposition Mounts on Special Court / <i>Christian Monitor</i>	Page 15
Will Norman Indict Kabbah? / <i>PEEP!</i>	Page 16
Special Court Officials Warned / <i>African Champion</i>	Page 17
No Where To Hide / <i>African Champion</i>	Page 18
...SLPP Ten Man Committee Vanished / <i>African Champion</i>	Page 19
Gibrill Massaquoi Sold Out AFRC/RUF / <i>New Storm</i>	Page 20
...Kabbah Change Security at State Lodge / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Page 21
Special Court: For Foreign Audience Only / <i>The News</i>	Page 22
No One Is Above The Law / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 23
SLPeePee Talks on Special Court / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 24
Omrie Golley Afraid of Special Court / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Page 25
Vice President Berewa Judicial Reform / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Page 26
Special Indictment / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 27
The Special Court Arrests:Text & Context / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 28
Special Court David Crane Explodes / <i>Independent Observer</i>	Page 29
Eldred Collins Say... / <i>The African Champion</i>	Page 30
Special Court Must Be Transparent / <i>Standard Times</i>	Page 31
The Special Court: A Review of Ibrahim Bangura's Article / <i>Rokel Times</i>	Page 32
Blood Diamond Dealers to Face Special Court / <i>The Focus</i>	Page 33
Special Court Hunts for Foreign Collaborators / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 34
...RUF Commanders Flee Freetown / <i>The New Storm</i>	Page 35

New People
Monday, 17 March 2003

New People

Monday March 17th, 2003

SPECIAL COURT PROSECUTOR SPEAKS

Today the people of Sierra Leone took back control of their lives and of their future. They have spoken as one voice, a voice that shouts "no more," a voice that declares to the world "never again".

The dark days of the rule of the gun are over. The bright shining light of the law burns back the shadows of impunity in this ravaged country.

As the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone, today I announce the following approved indictments against

Foday Saybanah Sankoh, aka Popay, aka Papa aka Pa, Johnny Paul Koroma, aka JPK,

Sam Bockarie, aka Mosquito, aka Maskita, Issa Hassan Sesay, aka Issa Sesay, Alex Tamba Brima, aka Tamba Alex Brima, aka Gullit, Morris Kallon, aka Bilai Karim, and Sam Hinga Norman; for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of international humanitarian law.

Specifically the crimes alleged within the indictments include murder, rape, extermination, acts of terror, enslavement, looting and burning, sexual slavery, conscription of children into an armed force, and attacks on UNAMSIL peacekeepers and humanitarian assistance workers, among others

Indicatees Sankoh, Sesay, Brima, Kallon, and Norman currently are in our custody. I call upon the people of Sierra Leone and

West Africa to turn over indictees Koroma and Bockarie. They are indicted war criminals with outstanding warrants for their arrest.

This is an historic day for Sierra Leone and West Africa. A just and sustainable peace looms on the horizon for all who move towards this new dawn.

The international criminal case continues. Further indictments will follow.

I will leave you with a quote by Robert Jackson, the Prosecutor at Nuremberg, quoting from his opening statement on 21 November 1945:

"We are able to do way with domestic tyranny and violence and aggression by

those in power against the rights of their own people when we make all men answerable to the law."

Thank you.

**Special Court
launches website**
The special Court has launched an official website.
The address is www.sc-sl.org.
The information on the site includes press releases, photos, basic facts and official documents. As the work of the Court continues, the site will grow considerably.

Special Court Judges. (from left): Hassan B. Jallow, Pierre Boutet, Emmanuel J. Ayoola, Geoffrey Robertson, Rosalind John Bankole Thompson, George Galaga King, Renate Winter, Benjamin M. Itoe.



New Vision
Monday, 17 March 2003

New Vision Monday March 17, 2003

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

Since the arrests effected by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on Monday the 10th March 2003, views have been expressed by some people, more particularly, in respect of a Cabinet Minister, Sam Hinga Norman.

It is therefore useful for a statement to be made for the purpose of clarifying issues relevant to the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone which effected those arrests.

It will be recalled that after due sensitisation of the citizenry for the need to bring to an end the culture of impunity, the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations concluded an agreement in 2001 under which a Special Court for Sierra Leone established with powers to try persons who bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed in this country during the civil war for the period commencing 30th November 1996.

That Agreement was ratified and enacted by the Sierra Leone Parliament and it thus became law in this country. After the passage of that Act, the sensitisation continued throughout the country for a period.

The Special Court has commenced the performance of its functions and it now appears that it has investigated a number of persons in respect of the offences falling within its mandate. It is as a result of those investigations that the Special Court had ordered the arrest and detention of Mr. Sam Hinga Norman and others.

It must be stated that the Special Court as established by law is required to act independently of Government or of any person or authority and it is not subject to the direction or control of Government or any person or authority. It acts on its own deliberate judgement.

It needs to be emphasized that the purpose for which the Special Court for Sierra Leone was established was to eradicate the culture of impunity and to implant the supremacy of the rule of law in this country. In doing so, the court must not only act indiscriminately but must also appear manifestly to be doing so. The other purpose for the establishment of this court is to ensure that peace prevails in this country permanently and this can happen only if, in a passage quoted by the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, "we are able to do away with domestic tyranny and violence and aggression by those in power against the rights of their own people and only when we make all men answerable to the law."

Finally, it should be stated that the Special Court would have served its intended objective if any by the manner in which it carries out its mandate it is able to ensure that peace prevails in this country and that no individual or authority can ever again commit gross human rights violation against any citizen with impunity, whatever his/her status.

The Special Court must also be seen not to be administering selective justice.

Although Government is not aware of the factual basis for the arrests of the individuals in question, however, the public is entreated to have confidence in the Special Court and its ability to dispense justice in a fair and objective manner.

Awoko
Monday, 17 March 2003

THOMAS SANKARA

VOL. 01 NO. 047 MARCH 17, 2003

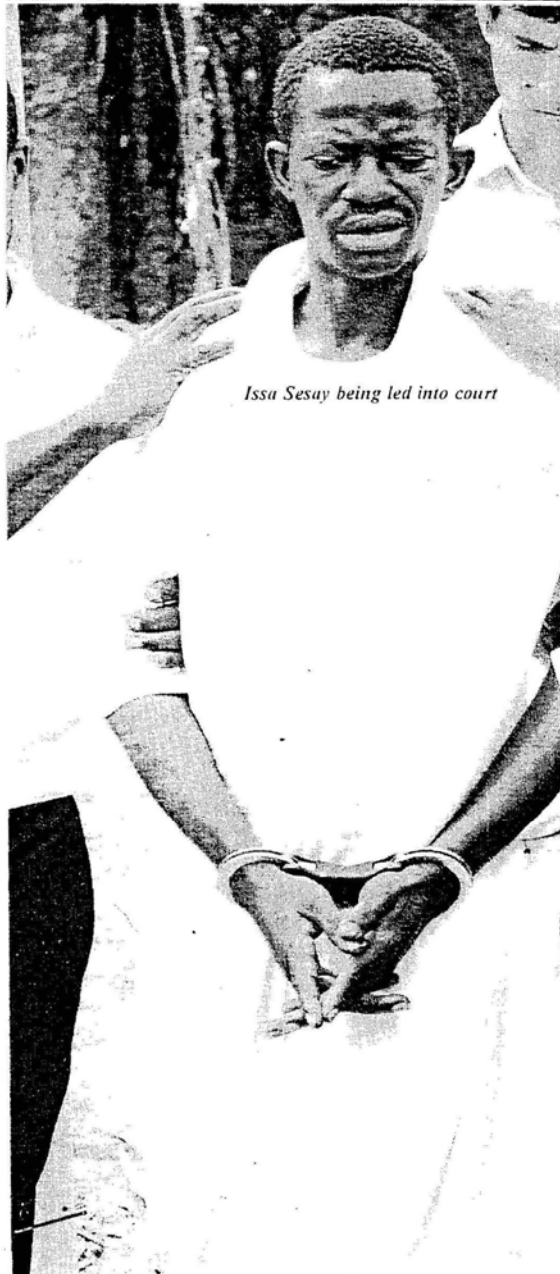
INDEPENDENT

Price: Le 200

Special Court Special



*Foday Sankoh
being carried
into Court
in a Wheel Chair*



Issa Sesay being led into court

How it happened in Bonthe Island

By Kelvin Lewis
At 10:35am Foday Sankoh was carried in a wheel chair by three security personnel from the Prison next door into the refurbished Colonial Court room. Dressed in his faded green gown with the greyish mop on his head - which had earned him the name Baska Sankoh by the

Sierra Leonean press - looking more dirtier than ever - Sankoh seemed to almost deliberately bow his head as soon as he sighted the court room. Slumped to his right emphasising in a rather exaggerated manner his apparent paralysis of the left side, Sankoh stubbornly continued to bow his head as the

sittings were announced and the Prosecution and Defence counsels announced their representations. There was one Sierra Leonean on the Prosecution team along with an American born Senior Trial Attorney James Johnson. On the Defense bench were three West African
Contd. Page 2

How it happened March 15 in Bonthé

From Front Page

lawyers: Two Sierra Leoneans and one Gambian) who made it clear that they were temporarily holding brief for the accused persons to ensure that justice is served, but that they were as yet not the substantive lawyers for the accused persons. The trial Judge Cameroonian born Justice Benjamin Itoe then addressed the court warning all concerned that he would be dealing strictly according to the rules and the agreement signed between the United Nations and the Sierra Leonean government. He stated that they were here "to do justice". He appealed for "the rights of the accused" to be respected. According to their rules he said "the guilt lies in the hands of the prosecution to prove," noting that the fundamental principle in law is that the accused is deemed innocent until proven guilty. Justice Itoe called on the registrar to call the first case. The Judge informed the court that the sitting was only a pre-trial according to rule 61. The Judge then asked, "Is the accused in court?" The registrar answered "Yes Please". Justice Itoe again asked, "Can I talk to him?" All during this Sankoh bowed his head fixing his steady gaze on the ground, as if in a different world. The Judge looked at him again and called out "Mr Sankoh? You are Mr Foday Sankoh? Are you Mr Foday Sankoh also known as Papay aka Papa aka Pa?" Hearing no response Justice Itoe said "let me put the question for the third time. Can you look up and face me this way can you look up?" When Sankoh continued to look downwards Judge Itoe said "The court is we are wondering whether he is hearing the court at all." He continued "Are you the Foday Sankoh also known as Papay also known as Papa, also known as Pa this is the third time I am putting this question are you not Mr Foday Sankoh. At this point Sankoh very lamely and slowly raised his left hand and scratched his dirty grey mop of Rastafarian curls on his head. Seeing this movement Judge Itoe was encouraged and he said "I see you raising your finger yes I'm listening to you." When he saw that infact Sankoh only wanted to scratch his head. Justice Itoe turned to the defence counsel and said to her "Well your client does not want his identity clarified by the court?" The Gambian born lawyer then rose up and told the Judge that she was requesting an adjournment and that there was a letter to the effect because even when she went to the prison Sankoh seemed to have difficulty understanding the indictments. After hearing from the Prosecution who did not object. Judge Itoe agreed that there seems to be a consensus on both sides for a medical examination. He then asked the Defence what type of examination they are requesting. Sankoh's temporary counsel then said that she was requesting a Physiological and Psychiatric examination. Judge Itoe then stood down the matter indicating that the prosecution defence and the registry consult with the experts to agree on a time frame within which the examination should be carried out. The next person was Issa Sesay who was brought in handcuffed,

wearing a white jumper which seemed like his jailer clothes. As he approached the court he could be seen mumbling, which he stopped on entering the court room. His face looked rumpled like someone who had been starved off sleep for a long time. Several times he seemed to take a deep breath and slowly exhale it as if in resignation and torment on his situation. Justice Itoe explained to him that it was only a pre-trial. Issa Sesay stated that he needed an interpreter, and one was provided. Before taking the oath Judge Itoe shared a joke with the crowded court, which he said they have in Cameroun. He told the interpreter that "you should interpret faithfully, not like the Sierra Leonean interprets to the Colonial master." After the brief amusement the interpreter a Christian took the oath and stopped short of saying "so help me God." Justice Itoe apparently a stickler for detail thundered "you should end by saying so help me God. You better take it again, that is the



Justice Benjamin Itoe

way the Christian oath is taken" he ordered. After this Issa was asked his name and where he was born. He said he was born in Central Freetown at Sackville Street. And that he is 32 years old. Asked whether he wanted a lawyer to defend him or if he wants to conduct his defence himself, Issa said he wanted to hear the charges first. Questioned whether the indictment had been served on him and whether he had read them Issa Sesay stated that he has "not, been able to do so because where we are we do not have light so I have not read the documents yet." Justice Itoe ordered Issa to sit down and listen to the charges being read. Sitting between two Special Court security personnel who wore black pants and white shirts and who continuously fixed their eyes on the accused, Issa stretched out in the middle and took a bottle of water and drank a little. Issa Sesay faces 17 count charges. After hearing all of them Justice Itoe told Issa that in law he is free to plead guilty or not guilty. Issa replied that "some charges in terms of diamonds I would say I am guilty but amputations cutting of peoples hands I am not guilty. Infact a man like me tried to minimise the atrocities you can ask the civilian population behind the lines..." At this point his lawyer intervened and asked the court for the charges to be put to Issa individually because he seems not to understand the process." Issa continued saying For a man like me I am innocent of January 6 and in the Bo district... I am not guilty of all these charges but talk of atrocities, burning of towns, I am not guilty." On count one, 'acts of terrorism' he pleaded not guilty. Count two 'collective punishment' he said not guilty. Count three 'extermination' he pleaded not guilty count four 'murder' he pleaded not guilty; count five 'violence to life, health and physical well being' he pleaded not guilty, emphasising "I don't do so." Count 6 'sexual violence' he said "not guilty and I will tell you that there are people in Magburaka and Makeni who can attest

that I take action against people who do so." On count 7 he said not guilty and on count 8 he waited a few seconds to consider then said not guilty. Count 9 'physical violence he asked the interpreter "Beat person bone to bone in which way" then he said not guilty. Count 10 he said not guilty. Count 11 'use of child soldiers' Issa Sesay said 'I've never been a training instructor... never been a training commandant. I did not train anybody who is a small boy, I'm not guilty.'" On count 12 'enslavement' he asked for the charges to be read again and his lawyer intervened that the interpreter did not explain it well. When it was explained the second time he said not guilty. There was a slight confusion when on count 13 which is 'pillaging, pilfering, taking' Issa then bowed his head contemplating and answered "yes sir I usually use vehicles that does not belong to me." His lawyer then jumped to his defence again and said that "this is a very crucial stage" and that he does not know whether the accused fully understand, "because he has been making reference to vehicles which is quite different from pillaging as in the context of the charge" Issa grumbled that he did not even know where Karina is. He pleaded not guilty On count 14 attacks on UNAMSIL Issa explained that "the time the UN was attacked I was not the leader... by then I was not the leader of the RUF. When the leader Foday Sankoh came to Makeni he bring up the idea and I told him it would not be in our interest." He pleaded not guilty. On count 15 'unlawful killings' Issa asked the interpreter whether "if person kill somebody which is not the appropriate way and if I hold him and kill him?" His lawyer again intervened saying that he seems not to fully understand the charge. The Sierra Leonean prosecutor then stood up and addressed the Judge saying Issa Sesay was responding to the charge and not the particulars. He said "he is referring to people and the reference should be to UNAMSIL peacekeepers". He asked that the particulars be put to him. When count 16 was read again, and he was asked to plead, Issa asked "that I am responsible for attacks on UNAMSIL?" Justice Itoe answered "That is what the charges seem to say". Issa then said "Please Sir I was not in Makeni neither Magburaka. I was in Kono before I can get into Makeni there was serious fighting there, so I am not the one who ordered anything. I am not guilty." When count 17 was read he asked is this the last one? He then explained further saying "Me I am not the one who attacked UNAMSIL. When they attacked UNAMSIL on the next day we arrived in Makeni. The other men said to take them (UN) to the bush and I said no, I took them to Kono to a safe place. When Charles Taylor contacted me and asked me to release them I released them. Charles Taylor sent for me, he sent a helicopter for me in Pendembu and I went to Liberia. He instructed me to release them (UN) and I came back released them." Justice Itoe added "So you were more generous to the UNAMSIL than others" Issa answered "Yes Sir" He continued his explanation, "I was in Makeni as the field commander, by then Makeni was our Headquarters, when the leader said to attack the UN I said no so he transferred me to Kono to take care of the diamond mining, and when I came to Makeni there was fighting there... During my own days as interim leader I mined and I have some explaining about that." Issa Sesay pleaded not guilty of all the 17 count charges. He requested to have a lawyer represent him. The cases for Morris Kallon and Alex Tamba Brima alias Gullit were adjourned to today after both of them requested the services of an interpreter. The trial continues today.



Rasta Sankoh bows his head in Court

MONDAY 17TH MARCH 2003

NEW CITIZEN

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE SPECIAL COURT ARRESTS

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has emphasised that the arrest of individuals by the Special Court is outside his domain, furthermore it is not proper for people in authority to meddle with the operations of courts.

On the issue of Hinga Norman, one of the arrested people by the Special Court, President Kabba said that the Vice President and himself had earlier held discussions with Chief Hinga Norman to look at the possibility that a member of the C.D.F could be implicated in the operations of the Special Court. But Chief Hinga Norman, the head of the Kamajors, had assured both President Kabbah and Vice President Berawa that nobody in the CDF committed deliberate and serious atrocities.

President Kabba said both Vice President Berewa and himself assured Chief Hinga Norman that if for some reason any member of the CDF who fought to restore democracy was implicated, the President and the Vice President would provide a first class lawyer to defend such an accused.

The President said Chief Hinga Norman went home very satisfied that the President and Vice President had not abandoned the CDF.

In any case, according to the rules of the Special Court, each accused would be provided with an excellent lawyer. "The rumours circulating about the plight of the arrested people, including Chief Hinga Norman are based on emotions and the government can easily ruin the relationship between Sierra Leone and the International Community if it is discovered that the Government is meddling with the judicial process. I feel sad for the arrest of Chief Hinga Norman and that of Issa Sesay who

cooperated in helping to disarm the RUF rebels, but the law is the law."

The following is the statement made by the Sierra Leone Government.

Since the arrests effected by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on Monday the 10th of March, 2003, views have been expressed by some people, more particularly, in respect of a Cabinet Minister, Sam Hinga Norman.

It is therefore useful for a statement to be made for the purpose of clarifying issues relevant to the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone which effected those arrests.

It will be recalled that after due sensitisation of the citizenry for the need to bring to an end the culture of impunity, the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations concluded an agreement in 2001 under which a Special Court for Sierra Leone was established with powers to try persons who bear the greatest responsibility, for the atrocities committed in this country during the civil war for the period commencing 30th November 1996.

That Agreement was ratified and enacted by the Sierra Leone Parliament and it thus became law in this country. After the passage of that Act, the sensitisation continued throughout the country for a long period. The Special Court has commenced the performance of its functions and it now appears that it has investigated a number of persons in respect of the offences falling within its mandate. It is as a result of those investigations that the Special Court had ordered the arrest and detention of Mr. Sam Hinga Norman and others.

It must be stated that the Special Court as established

by law is required to act independently of Government or of any person of authority and it is not subject to the direction or control of Government or any person or authority. It acts on its own deliberate judgement.

It needs to be emphasized that the purpose for which the Special Court for Sierra Leone was established was to eradicate the culture of impunity and to implant the supremacy of the rule of law in this country. In doing so, the court must not only act indiscriminately but must also appear manifestly to be doing so. The other purpose for the establishment of this court is to ensure that peace prevails in this country permanently and this can happen only if, in a passage quoted by the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, "we are able to do away with domestic tyranny and violence and aggression by those in power against the right of their own people and only when we make all men answerable to the law."

Finally, it should be stated that the Special Court would have served its intended objective if by the manner in which it carries out its mandate it is able to ensure that peace prevails in this country and that no individual or authority can ever again commit gross human rights violation against any citizen with impunity, whatever his/her status.

The Special Court must also be seen not to be administering selective justice.

Although Government is not aware of the factual basis for the arrests of the individuals in question, however, the public is entreated to have confidence in the Special Court and in its ability to dispense justice in a fair and objective manner.

New Citizen
Monday, 17 March 2003

New Citizen

Monday March 17, 2003

"DON'T PANIC ABOUT SPECIAL COURT" - FILLIE FABOE

By Saffa Moriba
The arrest of the high profile Government Minister Hinga Norman, and top RUF leaders on Monday, sent waves of fear to the provincial towns of Bo, Kenema and Makeni.

The tension that started to gather momentum caused the Resident Minister East to address a crowd of ex-

combatants from Kenema, Kono and Kailahun.

Our Eastern Province reporter, Saffa Moriba reported that the Resident Minister East, Sahr Randolph Fillie Faboe on Wednesday admonished all stakeholders in the peace process not to panic in the wake of the arrest of Sam Hinga Norman, Foday S.



FILLIE FABOE

Sankoh and others.

Mr. Fillie Faboe explained that the Monday's arrests were effected by the Special Court and that the SLPP was democratic enough to protect innocent citizens.

Mr. Fillie Faboe also said to the gathering drawn from residents in Kenema, Kono and Kailahun, that the government would continue to

seek the welfare of the people.

The Resident Minister commended the Regional Police Commander, East, Mr. V.A.L. Bangura for explaining police administration as his community policing has beefed up the security of the region.

Mr. Fillie Faboe said that the people of the East

should continue to take into consideration Government's concern and that the majority of the people in the East support the Government and the Special Court.

Mr. Fillie Faboe reiterated that the people should not panic about the on going Special Court arrests, as the Government continue to seek the welfare of innocent people.

International Warrant of Arrest For 20

By The
Policy's
Investigative
Team

As the Special Court of Sierra Leone sorts out individuals who are responsible for the commission of serious war crimes in Sierra Leone during the course of the 10-year fratricidal war, it is in the process of preparing international warrants of arrest for suspects that are currently out of touch. Those fingered for prosecution by the Special Court for the atrocious roles they played during the war in Sierra Leone are President Charles Taylor of Liberia, President Blaise Campaore of Burkina Faso, President Muamar Gadaffi of Libya, Vice-President Abu Salam Ahmed Jaicud of Libya, General Ibrahima Bah (BUF's

rebel leader, Sidikie Sillah (Liberia) and Colonel Joseph Pierre Gbantimou (Burkina Faso), G b a g o Zourmaningi and his allies -Sanan Junta Military Coulibally, Miriam See Back Page

The Policy
Monday March 17, 2003

Adviser Sir Ousseini Bana (Burkina Faso), Alexis Zvezoin (Ukraine), Igor Tarasyule (Ukraine), Omri Golley (Cruatia), former junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma (Sierra Leone), Mike Lamin (Senegal), Paul Thomas (Belgium), Eddie Kanneh (Liberia), Sam Bockarie (Liberia), and Dennis Mingo (Liberia). Presidents Charles Taylor, Blaise Campaore and Muamar Gadaffi provided training, personnel, arms and ammunition for the Revolutionary United Front. Charles Taylor and Campaore also received blood diamonds from the RUF in return for men and arms. Between 1994 and 1998 Liberia exported six million carats of diamonds every year. They were all Sierra Leonean diamonds! Gadaffi provided the initial training for RUF rebels in 1998. In August of that year, many disgruntled Sierra Leoneans, led by Cpl. Foday Sankoh, were trained in the Libyan town of Benga. Eddie Kanneh and Sam Bockarie (of the AFRC and RUF) are currently organizing international terrorism for President Charles Taylor of Liberia. Rupah Sajivarjero used to supply Ukrainian arms to the RUF in Sierra Leone. General Ibrahima Bah of Burkina Faso, Omri Golley of Croatia and Colonel Konoh Francis of the Gambia were doing the international liaison work for the RUF. Alexis Zvezoin and Igor Tarasyule of Ukraine were AFRC mercenaries. 33

The New Storm
Monday, 17 March 2003

Monday March 17, 2003

THE NEW STORM

Press Statement

Wednesday, 12th March 2003

Since the arrest effected by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on Monday the 10th of March 2003, views have been expressed by some people, more particularly, in respect of a Cabinet Minister, Sam Hinga Norman.

It is therefore useful for a statement to be made for the purpose of clarifying issues relevant to the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone which effected those arrests.

It will be recalled that after due sensitisation of the citizenry for the need to bring to an end the culture of impunity, the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations concluded an agreement in 2001 under which a Special Court for Sierra Leone was established with powers to try persons who bear the greatest responsibility, for the atrocities committed in this country during the civil war for the period commencing 30th November 1996.

That Agreement was ratified and enacted by the Sierra Leone Parliament and it thus became law in this country. After the passage of that Act, the sensitisation continued throughout the country for a long period.

The Special Court has commenced the performance of its functions and it now appears that it has investigated a number of persons in respect of the offences falling within its mandate. It is as a result of those investigations that the Special Court had ordered the arrest and detention of Mr. Sam Hinga Norman and others.

It must be stated that the Special Court as established by law is required to act independently of Government, or of any person or authority and it is not subject to the direction or control of Government or any person or authority. It acts on its own deliberate judgement.

It needs to be emphasized that the purpose for which the Special Court for Sierra Leone was established was to eradicate the culture of impunity and to implant the supremacy of the rule of law in this country. In doing so, the court must not only act indiscriminately but must also appear manifestly to be doing so. The other purpose for the establishment of this court is to ensure that peace prevails in this country permanently and this can happen only if, in a passage quoted by the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court, "we are able to do away with domestic tyranny and violence and aggression by those in power against the rights of their own people and only when we make all men answerable to the law."

Finally, it should be stated that the Special Court would have served its intended objectives if by the manner in which it carries out its mandate it is able to ensure that peace prevails in this country and that no individual or authority can ever again commit gross human rights violation against any citizen with impunity, whatever his/her status.

The Special Court must also be seen not to be administering selective justice.

Although Government is not aware of the factual basis for the arrest of the individuals in question, however, the public is entitled to have confidence in the Special Court and in its ability to dispense justice in a fair and objective manner.

Concord Times
Monday, 17 March 2003

Concord Times

Monday March 17, 2003

Omrie Golley doesn't fear Special Court

Former Political and Peace Council chairman of the Revolutionary United Front, Omrie Golley has for the first time publicly hinted that he nurses no fear of being indicted by the Special Court.

Speaking to Concord Times three days after he arrived in town, he said, "My conscience is clear and I will continue to help my people to have lasting peace and development."

A lawyer by profession, Golley stressed, "It is incumbent upon all of

us to support the Special Court," and continued, "I continue to be most interested in having my people learn the real truth of this war and the Special Court will assist in achieving this objective."

For him, "those who

genuinely have not committed war crimes and crimes against humanity have nothing to fear."

Golley who says he is in town to formally launch his National Reconstruction Foundation came in exactly the same day when the Special

Court Prosecutor, David Crane was handing in his first list of indictments.

He maintained that during the past ten years, he devoted himself to achieving peace and the people supported the role he played.

Golley already has three

pilot programmes in Freetown, Makeni and Kefema for his project

"For a start, two hundred people, mainly jobless youths, ex-combatants of RUF and Civil Defence Force will benefit from the programme," Golley said.

Standard Times
Tuesday, 18 March 2003

Standard Times Tuesday March 18, 2003

Special Commentary

Where is the line, Mr. Prosecutor?

BY AUGUSTINE BEECHER

The Prosecutor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone, David Crane has until now been doing a very good job, trying to understand our war and identify those responsible for grievous crimes committed during our decade-long civil conflict.

The indictments and subsequent arrests last week of alleged prominent suspects, including the former Deputy Defence Minister and currently Minister of Internal Affairs, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, however came as a big surprise to almost all who have been following the court's progress since its inception.

Even the court's premises have not yet been completed, along with the prisons for those who may be found guilty and must serve a prison term, despite the Prosecutor's conviction that all his indictees "will never see the light of freedom again."

The indictments of almost all those now in custody and also those still at large, especially of the Revolutionary United Front leader, Foday Sankoh and members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC)/RUF junta were very much expected, if not even overdue.

However, that of Chief Sam Hinga Norman certainly gives cause for a second thought, and it brings to the fore the question of clearly identifying the victims and perpetrators in a war that was characterized by a level of brutality and impunity never seen in the history of mankind.

There have certainly been atrocities before in history, like the Second World War, Rwanda, and Liberia, but that committed here, especially to children, the aged and women is beyond comparison and requires the special attention accorded it by the United Nations.

Many of us were however of the view that with the accumulated knowledge and experience of the Prosecutor and his team of investigators, they would have come up with a clean and clear line between the victims and perpetrators of our war in his choice of indictees.

What we have seen thus far is a complete mockery of the values of the majority of the people of this beloved country, in particular those who stood up against the very atrocities that the Prosecutor claims to be seeking to prosecute.

The indictments so far are like Mr. Crane is trying to appeal to everyone, with very little regard for the facts or realities of the matter.

My duty here, Mr. Crane, is to redirect you, like every other national or international official, whenever you tend to be going astray on issues that have to do with our lives.

A clear line between victims and perpetrators is indeed hard to draw, but when it is a matter of life and death every effort should be made by the Prosecutor to ensure that victims are not further victimized by him, turning them into perpetrators.

How did Mr. Crane come about his conclusion that Chief Hinga Norman, former leader of the pro-government Kamajor militia was in fact a perpetrator of war crimes and hence indictable, when the entire nation knows that the Kamajor militia which he led was legally constituted and established by the victims of the RUF and others fighting for sovereignty of the state and its democratic institutions.

In other words how did Mr. Crane arrive at the point where Chief Norman became a perpetrator and not a victim?

All through the war, Kamajors never tried to take power for themselves, like the RUF and AFRC were determined to, and which they still secretly desire, but the maintenance of the legitimate government, democratically elected, and the defence of the innocent and defenceless people of this country.

The Chief has always had enemies, especially since the establishment of the militia, which became the only stumbling block in the way of the rebels and renegade soldiers' desire to overrun the country.

But his enemies are those who are bent on disrupting the peaceful democratic system that we are all currently enjoying, and he is determined to defend his people with the last drop of his blood.

Does Mr. Crane know that without the sacrifices and determination of people like Chief Hinga Norman to stop the RUF in their tracks, there would have been no Special Court to talk about?

And does the Prosecutor know that the Kamajor which he led were in fact aligned to the current President and government, and were also a party to the many deliberations during the war?

Does he know whether the militia has actually disbanded, or whether the President has also actually severed all relations with them?

The fact of the matter is that Kamajors are a traditional fighting and hunting force that is loosely organized and lack any special character, except the general determination to defend themselves and their people from attacks by the rebels and renegade soldiers.

There is no reasonable way in which the Chief could be found guilty of war crimes without implicating the President, who has always been at the head of all operations and deliberations. The only consolation is that they did what they did in defence of the state, legitimate government, and innocent people of this country, the stuff of which patriots are made.

Mr. Crane must be very careful not to kill off our patriots and leave us with role model to look up to.

60

Concord Times
Tuesday, 18 March 2003

Concord Times
Tuesday March 18, 2003

Special Court



At the trial on Saturday: Morris Kallon, Gen. Issa Sesay and Foday Sankoh on wheel chair

Crane: No hiding place for Maskita, JP

Special Court Chief Prosecutor David Crane says the arraignments of Foday Sankoh and Issa Sesay for war crimes hearings "should show the Sierra Leonean people that no one is above the law."

Crane has also renewed calls for fugitive ex-AFRC junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma and

former RUF field commander Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie to turn themselves in. "There is nowhere to hide," he warns, adding: "Warrants have been put out for their arrests. Koroma and Bockarie should surrender and face the numerous serious charges against them."

The arraignments of Morris Kallon and Alex Tamba Brima also took place Monday, yesterday in Bonthé. Their charges were read in Krio. Crane has rejected allegations that Interior minister Hinga Norman was mal-

reated. He says Norman was treated in accordance with international standards.

Foday Sankoh, in Saturday's trial did not look sane and healthy. Sankoh's Gambian defence lawyer had to ask that the rebel leader be given a full psychiatric and medical examination. Judge Itoe agreed. "The court is taken aback and wonders whether he is hearing the court at all," Itoe was quoted as saying.

On Saturday also, Issa Hassan Sesay was arraigned before Judge Itoe

on 17 charges including murder, rape, extermination, acts of terror, sexual slavery, conscription of children into an armed force and attacks on U.N. peacekeepers, pleaded not guilty on all counts. "I do understand all the charges read against me" Issa Sesay told the judge.

According to a court statement, the hearings will continue at Bonthé while a permanent court building in Freetown is under construction. The court is expected to be ready for trials by September.



Gullit Tamba Brima. says a prayer

COMMENTARY

By Savoh Kamara

When the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone was making his announcement on his first approved indictments, Monday, March 10, he started by stating, "Today the people of Sierra Leone took control of their lives and of their future. They have spoken as one voice that shouts 'no more.' a voice that declares to the world 'never again.' The dark days of the rule of the gun are over. The bright shining light of the rule of the law burns back the shadows of impunity in this ravaged country."

These words which Sierra Leoneans will have to watch the court's action with symbolises the very aspirations of the Sierra Leonean people. This is second of its kind in the history of Africa for such international intervention in the dispensation of justice over domestic violence and tyranny of some people over against others. In Rwanda after the 1994 genocide the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established to address the issue of proven genocide. One million Tutsis had been murdered by their Hutu compatriots. Justice needed to be dispensed that should appear free and fair, in order to ensure peace and the consolidation co-existence. This is what we require in this country. Though unfortunately an exact figure cannot be pinned as those that were killed, maimed, raped etc. there are visible indicators that it happened.

Unlike Rwanda where the acts were closely identified with a known group of people, ours in Sierra Leone merely cuts across the board, with members of the security forces even committing worse of these crimes. This is where the actual objective of the the Special Court for Sierra Leone will be put to test by the people who through their government

Rwanda, the ICTR ensured it investigated and tracked down all those that were responsible for the crimes much to the expectation of Rwandans, although in the course of the trials some were freed and some given sentences which the government of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) took exceptions to. These did not however put to question the selectiveness of the court nor its fairness.

As the case in Sierra Leone is a conglomeration of several people with diverse ethnic and political backgrounds, some that are now indicted may have fallen foul in their cause perhaps inadvertently, and may not therefore be directly be liable especially when it was such a cause that was aimed at ensuring constitutionality and law and order in a country already ripped by disorder and violence.

Among the indicted, was Chief Sam Hinga Norman who until then was Minister of government responsible for Internal Affairs and National Security. His name among this starting indictment indeed sent a wave of shock to a wider section of the Sierra Leonean population. This was apparently so because in view of his status in society and in govern-

ment, his role in the struggle for the restoration of constitutional order, it was thought that he would have been at least protected by government.

Indeed if for anything but for his role in restoring constitutional order and indeed the SLPP to power, his role was unchallenged. He demonstrated patriotism and commitment to national stability by ensuring the removal from power an unconstitutional and violent regime that was largely condemned within and outside the country and by the wider international community.

That notwithstanding however, the Chief perhaps in the discharge of this solemn duty to this nation might have fallen foul of the subject matter jurisdiction as stated in the statutes of the Special Court which are referred to as the "planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances", to qualify him under the category of "those who bear the greatest responsibility".

The people of this country will find it proper if the long arms of the prosecutor will drag these to the court to answer for their actions.

Most of these acted independently of the various forces and their actions were not precipitated by any political reasons. Most in this category did so for financial gains and returns from of these finances to a greater extent was used for the preparation of the violence that characterised the war. Impunity goes against the norms of modern civilisation. This is moreso if it revolves around the purpose of attaining political power.

In such a circumstance as had prevailed in this country and with the wider scope of jurisdiction given the court to operate within Sierra Leonean and International Laws, this sacrilegded crimes against humanity must be stopped. This is aimed at establishing permanent peace and the prevalence of the rule of law. That is why no stone should be left unturned. It should not be prejudiced or seen to be selective and it should reflect the desires and aspirations of the Sierra Leonean people who have indeed cried loud and clear that they have had enough and demand no more to impunity.

The Special Court's starting indictments

This, in the meantime is left with the prosecutor to substantiate its veracity and for the defence to prove beyond reasonable doubts his innocence of the indictments.

What however is of remarkable interest about this starting indictment is that the Prosecutor has started on a clean slate to disway the assumption of skeptics that no matter the international flavour of the court, it would be selective in the discharge of its jurisdictions.

Whether Chief Norman would be found culpable or not is for the prosecutor to establish. But as far as the issue of selective justice is concerned, it has been so far proved that it will have no place in the codes of conduct of the Special Court. It is the avowed determination of the judges to demonstrate this as was indicated by Cameroonian born Benjamine Itoe as he opened the first preliminary hearing of Foday Sankoh, "I am going strictly by the agreement signed between the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations". I however wish and hope this principle and clarity

of purpose is maintained. When the issue of the Special Court was first introduced in this country opponents of the government were quick to jump into conclusions that it was a ploy by the government to silence the opposition by way of exerting influence over the court. Rumours started making the rounds that only RUF and AFRC Senior cadres would be indicted and infact a list had already been prepared and presented in that respect. This assumption however has now been laid to rest as David Crane's signal manifests that there are going to be several surprises in his list of indicted in the future.

This being the signal as it is, the prosecutor is expected to have widened his scope of investigations on areas of indictment to include persons outside and fighting forces whom it is believed contributed greatly by aiding and abetting which in its self is a criminal offence under Sierra Leonean law, perpetrators of impunity in this country. It is gansaying here that ordinary Si-

erra Leoneans as well as aliens from far and near in a way collaborated in the perpetration of these heinous crimes now under the jurisdiction of the Special Court. The people of this country will find it proper if the long arms of the prosecutor will drag these to the court to answer for their actions. Most of these acted independently of the various forces and their actions were not precipitated by any political reasons. Most in this category did so for financial gains and returns from of these finances to a greater extent was used for the preparation of the violence that characterised the war. Impunity goes against the norms of modern civilisation. This is moreso if it revolves around the purpose of attaining political power.

In such a circumstance as had prevailed in this country and with the wider scope of jurisdiction given the court to operate within Sierra Leonean and International Laws, this sacrilegded crimes against humanity must be stopped. This is aimed at establishing permanent peace and the prevalence of the rule of law. That is why no stone should be left unturned. It should not be prejudiced or seen to be selective and it should reflect the desires and aspirations of the Sierra Leonean people who have indeed cried loud and clear that they have had enough and demand no more to impunity. In the final analysis we and

our success with the loud and clear message to would-be perpetrators of impunity, that we as a people and the wider international community that indeed the dark days of the rule of the barrel of the gun are over and over for good. This should be the understanding on this Special Court's starting indictments.

Court jittery over trial... Opposition mounts on Special Court

More than 100 Liberians have gathered in the town of Bonthe to watch the holding of the first trial of alleged war criminals at Bonthe by the recently established Special Court for Sierra Leone. Some of the huge future prospects to the suspects are journalists and some close relatives of the suspects to the court. Many here argue the island is too remote

and is over 200 miles away from the capital Freetown. And that it denies several other relatives of the suspects and the general public access to hear the proceedings. This they believe might later create suspicions and scepticisms about the verdicts of the trials. The civil society activist, Charles Mamba, who was former public relations officer of the pro-government

Kamajor militia, said on the popular FM 98.1 radio that the trials at Bonthe in the southern region would tend to destroy the credibility of the court and its verdicts. He called for 'transparency' and 'accountability' in the conduct of the trials. This is why he appealed to the Special Court panel to hold its sittings in Freetown and also for it to be open and transparent in order for it not to be cried down like

other war crimes tribunals elsewhere in Africa. There are fears that the court might suppress evidence linking

some big guns to war crimes. The four accused persons who have already ap-

peared before the court are: Foday Sankoh, Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Tamba Brima alias Gullit



Oh how do 'big men fall' - Sankoh

Christian Monitor

Tuesday March 18, 2003

PEEP!

Tuesday, 18 March 2003

Tuesday March 18, 2003

PEEP! MAGAZINE

OPINION

Will Norman Indict Kabbah?

By David Tam-Baryoh

Editor and Human rights activist Paul Kamara left the Pademba Road prisons on Tuesday March 11, 2003. Barely twenty four hours before that the Special Court of Sierra Leone had indicted and arrested Kabbah's Interior Minister, retired captain Sam Hinga Norman.

exchange positions

The two men did not meet at the gates of the Pademba road prisons, but they definitely exchanged positions. Twenty four hours later, considering the security nature of Hinga Norman's arrest, the government issued a press release, restating its quasi support for the Special Court. Government's release has been carefully studied by the Special Court, amidst suspicion that this can be a government that might leave the Court mid-stream if more government functionaries are picked up for their alleged role in the just concluded war of attrition.

While Paul the journalist was being welcomed by his colleagues at the Stop Press restaurant on George street, friends and well-wishers of Hinga Norman (*as far as in Bo*) were reeling from the shock that the Special Court could be more powerful than Kabbah. To subsume and contain both Paul Kamara's release and Hinga Norman's arrest, the powers that be, through directives from State Lodge in Freetown, ordered that no news of either Paul's release or Norman's arrest be carried out on the state radio and television.

While this state censorship was being ordered by the Kabbah

censorship fails

TV and radio, it was on every independent web site that one could browse on Sierra Leone. It is not yet known whether FM 98.1 has been queried for carrying the news of Paul's release.

FM 103.7 Citizen Radio in Kissy sang the release of Paul for three days, explaining the role played by an unjust judge backed by a jittery and paranoid government that thinks that everybody is against them.

The Anti Corruption Commission could arrest, but when David Crane's court orders arrests, even Kabbah marvels. Sources on Liverpool street, where Norman was picked up, said when he was shown the indictment/arrest order, he is quoted to have dialed a CELTEL number, presumably the President's.

"I must talk to the President, this cannot be true" the source Claimed Norman said.

But unfortunately, his call could not go through for three reasons: Usually, CELTEL is not in a haste to help you make urgent calls. No wonder I am switching over to MLLICOM where there is less congestion. Secondly, Kabbah probably saw it coming and so had put off his phone at that material moment. Lastly, the arresting team was desperate, impatient and unfriendly. He was hand-cuffed in an American way (*hands in front*) and told to double-up in a grand military style. "You have right to keep quiet and anything you say may be used against you during trial" the arresting officer told Norman.

The arresting team was comprised of two Europeans because they did not want a repeat of the Johnny Paul saga. The good thing though about the indictment and arrests is that they were swift, and professionally done.

At the Special Court, the office of the Prosecution seems to be way ahead of the other arms of the same court. There are no other arms of the court don't even seem to know what David Crane is thinking. That is excellent, in a society where trials can be costly.

Two years ago, Norman said in Kenema that all independent journalists in Sierra Leone were rebels. The Frank Rossowa led SLAJ executive then had to issue a press statement calling the pronouncement "unfortunate, inciting and highly inflammable."

In no uncertain terms, yours truly condemned the Norman allegation and copied many international free expression organizations. Hinga had to call an SLPP media conference to defend himself. What I would like though to draw the Special Court prosecutor's attention to is TRIAL/DEFENSE BY THE SLPP MEDIA. It happened in the Anti Corruption/Momoh Pujeh case, and considering the government's interest in that case, judgment will hardly ever be delivered. So the Special Court prosecutor must not be surprised if government sponsored articles begin to make case for any big fish in the net.

Objectively too, David Crane should neither be surprised if certain sections of the paid-up media begin to go on a shoot-to-kill media campaign against indictees, especially government functionaries. The reason for this is that for certain power hungry Sierra Leoneans, one man's demise is their political graduation. Already, visits are being made to Kabbah for Hinga Norman's office.

Most of us have extreme confidence in the Special Court and less confidence in the intrigues of the powers that be, in their quest to stall the effort of the Court.

What they have made of their own civil courts and the Anti Corruption Commission in Sierra Leone; eroding all their powers and respect, must not be allowed to work against David Crane's court. David Crane's court is the People's Court and the only hope for this country. I am not yet too sure if same can be said of the TRC.

But out on the streets and in wine bars, a different discussion has emerged. People are asking if Norman can be indicted alone without our honourable President Tejan Kabbah being roped in too. Some argue that Norman was the deputy defense minister and that whatever directives he carried out were given by his supreme boss, Tejan Kabbah.

This argument is advanced by those who think that all Norman was doing was in the interest, if not under the purview and command of his master. Though those who have followed the history of the Kamajohs believe that Kabbah never trusted and approved of their existence, it is on record that while in Guinea, the authorities in exile did know that the Kamajoh group existed and was fighting against the rebels and renegade soldiers, though their excesses were tolerably ignored. The rumours of Kamajohs eating people were downplayed by democrats who believed that a few rebels could be eaten to establish sanity.

Now that the chips are down, did Norman do what he did alone? Has Norman documents to prove that state mandated exterminations/atrocities were sanctioned by the SLPP exiled government between 1997 and 1999? Does Norman have documents to prove the sources of weaponry supplied to the Kamajohs? Who paid for such weapons and were payments done with the knowledge of the exiled Kabbah government?

Mind you the mandate of the Special Courts includes those **most responsible**...including those who provided weapons (*through sales of diamonds, making diamond concessions to huge mining companies to supply weapons etc*) to destroy lives.

However, this argument is flawed because Kabbah could say that all what he did was to avert a greater danger by trying to re-capture power from the Johnny Paul AFRC/RUF coupists in 1997/98. And mind you, though he abandoned his constitutional duty by running away twice, he could argue that he was defending the constitution; a right given him by our votes.

One clear way of defending this constitution (*this is a Kabbah argument*) is by sending in Nigerian Alpha Jets to bomb Kissy. And fair enough, from his hide out in Villa 48 in Belle Vue, Conakry, Kabbah could not have ordered any atrocity. But let's see what Norman says in court.

cont. page 6

On the issue of Norman's mandate from his boss, an excellent witness is unfortunately dead. Late BBC journalist Prince Brima, who served on Norman's trials, could have aided Crane's case against the state. But there are other witnesses too. Where is Kondo Wai? Where is Kamor Salu? Where are all the Kamajoh high priests? Has the disgraced SLPP minister, Momoh Pujeh got anything to say in Norman's defence?

Waw! this Special Court...

African Champion
Wednesday, 19 March 2003

African Champion

Wednesday March 19, 2003

Special Court Officials Warned

A spokesman for Sierra Leone's fractured former RUF rebel movement said past Thursday that the group had no official statement on the indictment of four of its senior members for war crimes because its leaders had not yet met. RUF leader Foday

Sankoh and interim leader Issa Sesay, together with ex-military Commander Morris Kallon, were arrested, taken into custody and forced to appear before the Special Court. The spokesman also confirmed that former battlefield

commander Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie fled the country in December 1999 and is being sought under an international arrest warrant. "I have not seen the others as yet," RUF Party Public Relations Officer Eldred Collins told the Sierra Leone Web. "The arrests were surprising to everybody."

African Champion
 Wednesday, 19 March 2003

African Champion

Wednesday March 19, 2003

Special Commentary

NO WHERE TO HIDE

As Special Court Drops first bomb

It is now crystal clear that the purpose and intentions of Special Court is not something anybody should underestimate after it took the whole nation by surprise in arresting key players who are responsible for the worst atrocities committed in the decade long war.

It would be recalled that, while the special court was putting its house in order, many were of the view that the special court is not going to succeed as its integrity by then was totally doubtful, even though when Prosecutor Crane had been reiterating that the special court is completely independent and will have to prosecute whosoever happens to be a victim.

What is more interesting in this arrest is that the RUF had long been agitating for neutral court because they felt that the apportion of crimes against atrocities should not squarely shifted to them and that the Civil Defense Force must also share equal responsibilities as far as the decade long war is concerned. About some months ago the special court brought in the service of Biologist who were able to perform some DNA test country wide as they did in other part of the world. In that test they were able to disclose that most mass graves consists persons buried as a result of bombs and other related killings by either CDF, Rebel or Armed Forces.

New Storm
Wednesday, 19 March 2003

New Storm

Wednesday March 19, 2003

Revealed

Gibril Massaquoi Sold Out RUF/AFRC

Gibril Massaquoi, former spokesperson for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) sold out the RUF and the AFRC to a top government official.

According to sources the RUF self styled Brig. Gibril Massaquoi was deceived by a highly placed individual close to the seat of power to supply relevant information to government on the atrocities committed by the RUF and the AFRC. The source further revealed that Gibril Massaquoi was offered a huge sum of money to write a book on the RUF. The book according to sources was to chronicle the atrocities of the RUF including the in-fighting within the organisation.

Cash strapped and finding it difficult to survive, Massaquoi accepted the offer, and went ahead to write the book and

later gave it to the official in question who is believed to have handed the manuscript to the Special Court. Massaquoi who was expecting a lump sum from government was only fortunate to receive some cash.



The Exclusive
 Wednesday, 19 March 2003

The Exclusive
 Wednesday March 19, 2003

Aftermath of Special Arrest, Kabbah Change Security at State Lodge



Following the arrest and detention of Internal Affairs Minister, Chief Hinga Norman, and four others a week ago by Special Court Prosecutor David Crane, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, has with immediate effect, changed the entire security team at State Lodge, save for the Chief Security Officer (CSO).

According to a State Lodge source, the president has also vetoed unofficial visits of ministers and party stalwarts to State Lodge, with the exception of the CSO and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Momodu Koroma.

Our source maintained that this latest Presidential order could not be unrelated to persistent calls from mostly Cabinet Ministers and party stalwarts, in the wake of the Special Court indictments and arrest of five persons, especially the Interior Minister, Chief Hinga Norman. The source went on to state that the arrest of the government minister has left a psychological blow on the psyche of President Kabbah, who, the source continued, has been bombarded with questions of betrayal ever since the Special Court's arrest.

Cont'd Page

The News
 Wednesday, 19 March 2003

The News
 Wednesday March 19,
 2003

SPECIAL COURT:
FOR FOREIGN
AUDIENCE ONLY

The Special Court prosecutor David "Krain"
 Krain", fooled our people when he went to

solicit their assistance by referring to them as his clients. Count Motuba out!

How could Sierra Leoneans be your client when you don't listen, interact or even afford them the opportunity to see the transparent side of your work? •

The UN referred to the court as "Special", because the vice president of the court is to be a Sierra Leonean and that besides, the court is mandated to sit in this country.

When you barr local journalists from covering the proceedings, how then would you want our people to know exactly what is happening, behind those thick cement walls.

It is unfortunate the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists failed to step in this matter, to call on its members to give a complete news blackout to the court's proceedings.

Motuba believes the whole process of keeping local journalists out is utter nonsense. In fact, those in the diaspora would prefer to rely on the local newspaper reports than the vetted propaganda stuff the court would put out there on its website.

You better move the Special Court from here if our people are not going to be afforded the opportunity to know exactly what is happening. Lonta!

Motuba Is Always In His Corner To
Whip Our Appetite.

Awoko

Wednesday, 19 March 2003

Awoko

Wednesday March 19, 2003

"No one is above the Law" - Crane

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court David Crane has said in Freetown that Chief Norman was not treated badly contrary to reports. Speaking at a press conference Tuesday David Crane said "the indictee Norman ... was treated with respect, and

arrested in accordance with International standards." He



went on "there was no mistreatment or abuse of that gentleman." The Special Court prosecutor reiterated that "all of these arrests demonstrate that no one is above the law, regardless of their power, stature, or wealth." It must be seen he said "that justice is open, impartial and fair." On the

question of why Hinga Norman's trial was held behind closed doors, the Registrar Robin Vincent said "in the Sierra Leonean society he (Norman) is a high profile man distinguished and respectable man who has a huge following." He

Contd. Page 2

From Front Page

went on "it was largely for those reasons that we felt that in the interest of all concerned, not least his fair trial, that we did'nt allow the possibility that any well meaning but otherwise misguided followers felt that they should try and shorten the trial process."

Independent Observer
Thursday, 20 March 2003

Independent Observer

Kitchen Talk

SLPeePee Talks On Special Court

A release from the totally useless and alaki SLPeePee gofment has said it really regrets the setting up of the Special Court to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the senseless rebel war. The totally useless and good-for-nothing Tokpoi party has said that although it now regrets the establishment of the Special Court, it has found it almost impossible and of course ashamed to condemn it now, considering the fact that the Court was established on the invitation of the president and people of this country.

The Tokpoi party wants it to be known that they never knew the nature of the Special Court. They never knew that it will have anything to do with gofment officials but only the RUF and that is why they were unable to come out with a clear position on the arrest and subsequent detention of Hinga Norman.

"Nar dat mek we press release pan dat issue dae nor able say natin pass bigful business", the release went on adding: "not that although some of us within the SLPeePee are happy about Norman's arrest considering the fact that he didn't support Agba Kabbay in the Tokpoi convention, we are worried because this was the man who sacrificed a lot to defend this nation only to be paid back in bad coin".

Meanwhile, an official of the alaki Tokpoi party has strongly reacted to yesterday's report in the local press in which the wife of Hinga Norman accused both the president and his party as ungrateful.

The official said: "dis wuman nor understand, ee want mek dem see we, supposein da man dae go call we name nar di Special Court. Bo duya mek ar nor see truble ein go buy yam".

The Exclusive
Thursday, 20 March 2003

The Exclusive
Thursday March 20, 2003

RUF Legal Spokesman... Omrie Golley Afraid of Special Court



Omrie Golley: Beware
illegal constructions on either government or private lands. The drastic nature of the demolition exercise has taught Sierra Leoneans to respect law and procedures. This cannot be more underscored. After the demolition
Cont'd Page 3

Omrie Golley, who carried various titles whilst working for the disbanded Revolutionary United Front - RUF in the 1990s, has recently arrived Freetown and is reported to be afraid of standing trial before the Special Court, despite press reports of the contrary. Golley portrayed his current liteness, when on

Tuesday 18th March 2003, he showed up at UNAMSIL headquarters Mammy Yoko, uninvited, determined to see David Crane, who was busy speaking to the press. Chauffeured in a Mercedes Benz with registration number AA1 199, Golley is reported to have forced his way into UNAMSIL headquarters,

thus attracting media attention.

The vigilance of the Mount Everest Security Agency

personnel at the gate robustly checked Golley's blatant display of lawlessness. According to sources, Golley went berserk when a MESA Guard enquired
Cont'd Page 2

From Front Page
if he was there to hand himself over to Crane, in an apparent display of his apprehension of being indicted. Legal experts in Freetown are of the opinion that the bewigged Golley will be definitely indicted, particularly for his role in the January 6th 1999 invasion of Freetown. It could be recalled a day after the rebel came to Freetown, Golley, in a BBC interview, told the whole world that the RUF was fighting for power and therefore would not accept any ceasefire until they have achieved their aim. According to experts, the AFRC/

RUF invasion of Freetown and its macabre consequences could be attributed to Golley's tacit command of no ceasefire. In what observers have referred to as "divine intervention", Omrie Golley's return to town last week coincided with the first Special Court indictments. In a show of false bravado and commitment to the peace process, he cautioned RUF fighters "not to take up arms again, because their leaders have been arrested by the Special Court". Golley has been allegedly linked with blood diamond sales for the AFRC/RUF and the trafficking of arms

for the defunct rebel outfit whilst working in Eastern Europe 1998/99. Though not a Battlefield Commander, he played a significant role for the RUF in the disarmament process, during the tripartite talks that preceded the disarmament, underling his position in the rebel hierarchy. One Freetown resident this press spoke to, said that since Golley is in town, his arrest by the Special Court cannot be difficult in spite of his "vain bluff". He added, "the man needs to be placed in special custody, lest he escapes indictment"

The Exclusive
Thursday, 20 March 2003

The Exclusive
Thursday March 20, 2003

Special Commentary

Vice President

Berewa, Judicial

Reforms!

One thing the Special Court for Sierra Leone has indelibly imprinted in the minds of Sierra Leoneans, particularly with the arrest of Internal Affairs Minister, Sam Hinga Norman, is that of impartiality of the law and equality before it.

The apparent uninfluenced relationship between the Special Court and this government should be a hallmark for our judiciary and that of our government. That the culture of fettered dispensation of justice in the Sierra Leone justice system continues into the advanced stages of our democracy is not pleasing at all.

What we expect from government, as often pronounced by Vice President Solomon Berewa that the age of impunity is over, is the actualization of the rule of law for the benefit of all. Our democracy should develop alongside with its democratic institutions. The judiciary is the bulwark of this democracy; this cannot be over emphasised.

For the time being sweet is peace, which we believe we should enjoy with justice.

At a recent conference in Botswana, Vice President Berewa explained his government's adherence to the rule of law and the inalienable right of all to enjoy from it. This position, this medium believes has not changed since.

One thing we can still not understand is how the Master Registrar's office can hold on an appellant's court verdict transcript for six months, whilst that convicted person finishes his jail term in prison. If this is not miscarriage of justice, then we wonder what is more. Cases of such judicial hold-ups of pertinent files up to today in Sierra Leone have irreversibly hindered our justice delivery system.

It is hoped that Vice President Berewa, himself, a former trial lawyer and Attorney General, should now embark on a Judicial Reform, in a way akin to what the Special Court for Sierra Leone has mapped out for us.

Dove News

By Ibrahim Sate Koroma

For ten years the 'Big Guns' ruined our nation with military posture from commands and orders from above. Those were the days when only the heavier guns ruled and the civilian populace subjected to all sorts of violations of human rights. Now, just on Monday 10th March a little above one year since the guns were silenced, the United Nations sponsored Special Court for Sierra Leone has blamed its first Indictment of seven suspects for trial. They say they are the big names that command the 'big guns' against innocent civilians including women and children. Over five hundred thousand people were unmercifully killed by the command crew, others subjected to various forms of inhuman conditions. Certainly, the crimes abound and it has unequivocally been re-echoed that this United Nations war crime tribunal shall be a Special Court "with a judicial mandate to try only those most responsible" as the UN Secretary General put it.

Most people claim that the issue of the Indictment by the Special Court Chief Prosecutor David Crane came as a surprise. No lively mind should ever think that the office of the prosecutor had not began working until now. The office informed us on several occasions that the work of the Court was already on a joint footing determined to help

Special Indictment

The ramifications which developed thereby brought in new and essentially dangerous players whom the Special Court should call for investigations

the people of Sierra Leone feel justice done to them. Let us now examine the indictment issued and the arrests made thereby and what it means to arrest those already behind bars.

A multi sectoral war was fought in the last ten years. But the rebel leader who started the war formerly claimed that it was a national crusade against an unjust regime in the name of the APC.

The ramifications which developed thereby brought in new and essentially dangerous players whom the Special Court should call for investigations. Today

Sankoh and some of his generals have been arrested save for his war director Sam Mosquito Bockarie.

Sam Hinga Norman, until his arrest was the Minister of Internal Affairs and formerly deputy Defence Minister during the war is also one of the indicted big names. Norman who was regarded by SLPP supporters as the hero of the war was the head of a pro government militia group.

Literally, the war has finished and the guns burnt but another war is certainly uphill the war against impunity. What does this mean?

During the war, the nation was convulsed with violations of international humanitarian law war crimes and crimes against humanity.

By Article IX of the Lome Peace Ratification Act 1999, a pardon was provided which granted a blanket amnesty for everything done by everyone during the war. However, in spite of this provision and following a United Nations resolution the Special Court for Sierra Leone was born upon which duty the Australian Geoffrey Robinson presided. International law does not make any provision for amnesty for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. The duty is to dispense justice and this Sierra Leoneans must accept.

DEMOCRACY ALERT!

Forum For Democratic Initiatives (FORDI)

12 Ecowas Street, Freetown. Tel 221089

By Mohamed Gibril Sesay

The Law is Great

One comment that struck my mind during the cathartic conversations following the first Special Court arrests came from an omolankay pusher. I saw him stare in wonderment, 'ah, the law is great!' Mark his words; he did not say 'the government is great,' he said 'the law is great.'

Jurists say there are two types of jurisprudence or systems of laws and how the courts interpret them. There is what is called the jurisprudence of dictatorship. This is the jurisprudence that is made, interpreted and implemented according to the wishes of the big men and kakanaa; it is the jurisprudence of 'u know udut na me?' the jurisprudence of the magical net that catches the mina but let the kuta pass through. It is the jurisprudence that favors the guy with the big name and bigger deeds.

The other jurisprudence is that of constitutionalism. This is the jurisprudence that enhances the norms and values of a democratic order; it is one that animates the law with the spirit of democratic constitutionalism, that is not afraid of the big name; that would make an agent of the law, for example, go wherever the evidence leads. It is the type of jurisprudence yearned for by the omolankay pusher who hollered in wonderment, 'the law is great!'

The Arrest of Chief Hinga Norman:

Text and Context

Chief Norman is definitely a hero of the Kamajor resistance to the degenerate tactics of sobels and rebels. But the chief was not the founder of the movement. The militia had its origins in the Eastern Region Defense Committee set up by the late Fourth Bay College History Lecturer, Dr Alpha Lavalie. He was murdered on the Bo-Kenema highway by sobels who loathed his heroic organizing of his people for self defense. Sobels were also responsible for the massacre at Teliu Bongor where Capt. (rd) Hinga Norman was Regent Chief. He too would have been killed, but, old soldier that he was, he played dead and survived to become a leader in the Kamajor movement. During the AFRC junta he fled to Liberia, met ECOMOG's General Wan Moïssé and coordinated the various Kamajors units in Sierra Leone.

Post 1996, the Kamajors were not only fighting in defense of their communities. They were also fighting an infernal struggle against a motley of people who held up arms against a duly constituted civilian government (the Kamajors) and the majority of Sierra Leoneans overwhelmingly supported.

It was this government that was to later ask the UN to establish a court to try the rebels and their backers. The government was thinking in the context of what the overwhelming majority of Sierra Leoneans thought was the evil writ large - the RUF and the AFRC. That was the context of the trial and execution of Messrs Gborie, AK Sesay and others. The government wanted the strength of the UN to help them bring the RUF to trial. But the UN was mainly thinking according to the texts of the Geneva Conventions and other international instruments. And these texts do not emphasize contexts; violations are violations, whether for or against a government or people.

The Arguments

emphases on texts and contexts. Some guys stress the contexts

Chief Norman was resisting a degenerate rebellion. In that context, whatever else happened should be overlooked. Mr. Issa Sesay was very instrumental in bringing peace to this land, given that situation, whatever else he did should be discounted. Many on the side of this argument blame the government for not putting in place safeguards that would have prevented the arrest of the persons in whose favor they are arguing for. The government has since put out a notice disclaiming responsibility for what is befalling the indictees.

The other guys stress texts, laws. They believe that contexts should not nullify texts. The law is the law is the law. Those who violate the law should be held accountable. The question is whether or not the indictees violated the legal texts and not for or against whom they violated the law.

Sociological Nuances

People are not just articulating texts and contexts out of thin air; their positions in the arguments betray other orientations and identities. People with very little connections to the power structures, especially those who feel like losers in this hollow peace may be shocked, but they are more likely to hold arguments that support the arrests. Persons who were active partisans or supporters of the factions in the war are more likely to stress contexts that exonerate the arrested members of their factions. However, given the broad based nature of the arrests, the fires of their passions are controlled by the lack of substance to any talk of the arrests being particularly targeted at their factions.

There are also regional variations. People from regions who do not have revered figures amongst the arrested have less

agonizing reactions and arguments. They may be afraid of the security implications, but they are likelier to see things as black and white than guys from other regions with revered persons amongst the arrested.

Types of reactions could also be distinguished into those that are mere talk and those that go beyond mere talk. And the type of reactions that go beyond mere words will depend on resources available. People may want to use the resources at their disposal to orient actions towards position they favor. And the use of these resources, especially armed and organizational resources, depends on factors such as optimal access to these resources, and estimations by users that they have nothing to lose if perchance there is a collapse of law and order. For instance, whilst members and supporters of the Kamajor may feel intensely bitter at Chief Norman's arrest, they will not react in ways that jeopardize the survival of a government they overwhelmingly support. This may not be true of other factions, but then they may have to factor in considerations of optimal availability of armed resources when making their decisions. They will not recourse to fighting if they are low on armed resources and know fully well that those ranged against them have greater will and determination to move the nation out of the oubliette of the last decade.

Between Text and Context

The Special Court is special because its mandate and structure (as negotiated) should orient it towards both text and context. In terms of law and personnel, it is a mixture of that which is Sierra Leonean and that which is international. That which is Sierra Leonean should orient it towards the contextual, and that which is international towards the textual. But the agreement setting up the court also makes it clear that that which is international, both in terms of law, personnel or penalty takes precedence over that which is Sierra Leonean. Many more violations of laws that are international are to be investigated than laws that are Sierra Leonean. The judges are overwhelmingly international, as is also the prosecutor and the registrar. The penal code is also international - there will be no death penalty.

The implementation of the agreement has further entrenched the international orientation of the court. The expectation was that the three judges to be nominated by the Sierra Leone Government would be Sierra Leonean, but only two are; the agreement envisaged the deputy prosecutor to be Sierra Leonean - this, however, is not the case. All this points to the weakness of Sierra Leonean agency; it betrays the lack of Sierra Leonean will and backbone that is so evident in all aspects of the post war reconstruction of this bruised nation.

Much Much More Than Diamonds

Of course, Special Court personnel, in exercise of their judicial functions, answer to no other party outside the court's hierarchy. However, the presence of Sierra Leoneans in orientation-determining positions would have aided greater contextualized understanding of actions and reactions during the war. This would have, for example, made it possible to use the international monologue (to all types of audiences) of diamonds as the fuel of our war. For the truth of the pain is that causes of the atrocities changed over time and place. In some places, yes, it was for diamonds, but the renegades were not mining for diamonds when they ripped open the stomachs of pregnant women on the Masingbi - Kono highway. One reason the criminals gave for burning down half of Eastern Freetown was that they were avenging a sheikh murdered for his links with the AFRC. And ancient clientelistic feuds were integral to the atrocities in the Kailahun district. Definitely, there are guys who bear greatest responsibility that were incited by the devil stones, but to reduce motives for the overwhelming number of dastardly acts to the chase for the mocking stones is too straightforward and uncontextualised. And this distracts from any attempt to give substance to the talk of prosecutions being done in the name of the ordinary people of Sierra Leone.

The government wanted the strength of the UN to help them bring the RUF to trial. But the UN was mainly thinking according to the texts of the Geneva Conventions and other international instruments. And these texts do not emphasize contexts; violations are violations, whether for or against a government or people

The Special Court Arrests: Text & Context

What is insulting to ordinary Sierra Leoneans about the atrocities is not the search for diamonds, or revenge, or even power. What is insulting is the 'boff case' that is at the heart of all these atrocities. The renegades did what they did because they thought they would get away with it. That was why they were so vociferous and photo-happy about it. They chased diamonds with the murderous recklessness of impunity; avenged wrongs with excess atavism of impunity; rzzed down communities with the savage fury of impunity. In the course of the war, people developed fear-no-consequence, bound-to-no-rule rogue-god-feelings of unrestrained power over human bodies. Ours was a hobbesian world of infernal vistas, of beasts in Bethlehem, of 666 tattoos, of an anti-legira to the godless licenses of jihiliyya, of a people held hostage by the horrors of the offense and defense, of wretched reactions to a wretched rebellion against a wretched statusquo.

Crime And Punishment

I once heard the prosecutor responding to a question about punishment of persons convicted by the special court. He said there is no capital punishment, and asked what better punishment is there than the convicted sitting in jail and seeing the country he had done so much to destroy prosper. For the Special Court then, punishment is more psychological than physical. But penology in our cultures is more physical than psychological. This explains why alleged 'violators' of the codes and extant during the war were subjected to such gruesome punishing of bodies as amputations, torture, melted plastics on eyes. 'An eye for an eye' penology inheres in every society steeped in the traditional, or swinging between the anachronistic and the surrealism of the postmodern. A traditional culture would react to horrendous acts horrendously. This explains why the CDF, acting on a 'moral plane' higher than sobels and rebels would see nothing wrong in inflicting horrendous body-punishments on their antagonists. Within the contexts of their traditional orientations, they saw themselves as justified; but then according to texts of international law, they are unjustifiably wrong.

The dominant strands in international law and accepted penology are Western. Their penal codes, especially in north Western Europe are such now that the physically punishing aspects have been deprioritized. This is the penology that informs the texts of the Special Court; that makes unjustifiable the atrocious punishing regimes extant during the war; that will make recourse to context relevant only as pleas of mitigation.

Balancing The Scales

Obviously playing with the prosecutor's name, Sierra Leoneans say the Special Court's crane can only lift and haul heavy tons. Smaller tonnages are for the TRC. In essence they are saying the Special Court is not interested in bringing small men and women before it. Definitely, those who bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities are not small men and women.

But in the jurisprudence we have known in this country for a long time, it is the small person or the relatively powerless and moneyless that bears the weight of the power of our courts. Ours is a judiciary that justifies the rights and wrongs of the powerful and punishes both the rights and wrongs of the poor and powerless. Ours are judicial practices that recklessly favor the strong, the dictatorial, the criminal connectocrats. It is a jurisprudence that interprets the law to perpetually put the powerless and challengers of the statusquo in their place.

The special court is emphasizing another type of jurisprudence - one that goes after the powerful, the kuta, the demigods of impunity. It is a jurisprudence that will not harass the omolankay pusher.

But it is also a court, I hope, that will not pamper to our anachronistic penology of physical annihilation or great physical pain and violation of the integrity of the human body. The special court is part of an effort to break a shackling circle of retrogression; it should be, I think, a gratifying counterpoise to horrible moments, a structure of reference to humane values, a library of practical lessons on the jurisprudence that the omolankay pusher will feel at one with.

Special Court's David Crane Explodes...

The indictment of seven people for war crimes, including a government minister and leaders of the former AFRC junta and the Revolutionary United Front, signals "we mean business," said the Special Court's Chief Prosecutor, according to Reuters news agency.

"The fact that victims can see someone humbled before the law, that is justice," David Crane said. He added that the court was still working to identify those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes committed in Sierra Leone, whether inside or outside the country. "As long as it falls within the mandate of the court... I can go anywhere, reach out and get them," he said.

"This case is far bigger than Sierra Leone. There is clear evidence of regional and international involvement - in terms of funding, political backing and military support." While Crane would not comment on individual cases or on future indictments, charges leveled against rebel commanders alleged they acted "in concert with Liberian President Charles Taylor at all relevant times," fueling speculation that the Liberian leader could himself be a target of future indictments. Crane wouldn't say.

"We haven't closed the book on anyone. We are looking at everything and everyone," he said. Crane suggested that the RUF, the AFRC and their international accomplices have come together in what he called a "joint criminal enterprise" to loot Sierra Leone of its diamond resources.

"The whole conflict was about diamonds," he said. "How did the rebels keep the war going for such a long time? They traded guns for diamonds. Without diamonds, they wouldn't have had the guns and there wouldn't have been a decade-long war."

The court is expected to prosecute not more than a handful of those it deems to be most responsible for the most egregious violations of international humanitarian law. Others will be asked to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Crane said that second or third-tier players responsible for atrocities would be turned over to the Sierra Leonean authorities, but he stressed the need to re-integrate ex-combatants back into society. "We have a lost generation

'We Mean Business'

in this country," he said. "I don't condone their crimes, but we have to re-integrate them into society. If we keep hounding them, all we will do is get them right back into the bush."

Independent Observer
Friday March 21, 2003

The African Champion

Friday, 21 March 2002

The African Champion

Friday March 21, 2003

ELDRÉD COLLINS SAYS,- RUF BIG MEN WILL MEET AND REPLY SPECIAL COURT But What About The Killin And Destruction?

A spokesman for Sierra Leone's fractured former RUF rebel movement said past Thursday that the group had no official statement on the indictment of four of its senior members for war crimes because its leaders had not yet met. RUF leader Foday Sankoh and interim leader Issa Sesay, together with ex-military Commander Morris Kallon, were arrested, taken into custody and forced to appear before the Special Court. The spokesman also confirmed that former battlefield commander Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie fled the country in December 1999 and is being sought under an international arrest warrant. "I have not seen the others as yet," RUF Party Public Relations Officer Eldred Collins told the Sierra Leone Web. "The arrests were surprising to everybody. "The RUF Party has been without a leader since the resignation of Palo Bangura as secretary-general last July. Collins said that even before the May 2002 elections there had been leadership problems. "Before the elections there was no convention where these executive positions are supposed to be voted in by delegates," he said. "It was just an interim leadership that was there and we have not had any convention." Among the rank-and-file, too, the former rebel movement had begun to dissolve, with many of the group's combatants supporting other political parties in the election.



Civilians Demonstrating Against Ecomog, against the killing of their colleague on January 5, 2000.



A school going boy shot head smashed by Nigerian Unamsil Troops on July 18, 2002



Civilians Demonstrating Against Ecomog Intervention



Rebel caught at the Cemetery yard by a SLA



Foday Saybanah Sankoh, almost a dead man



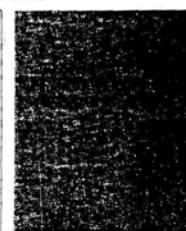
JP Koroma



Maskita



General Issa



Morris Kallon

Standard Times
Friday, 21 March 2002

Special Court must be transparent

THE ATTENTION of this press has repeatedly been drawn to an announcement believed to emanate from the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, according to sources, says the Special Court promises to impose heavy fines to the tune of thousands of dollars or several years' imprisonment on any journalist who reports something contrary to what the Court is doing.

VIEWING SUCH statement critically, we feel morally bound to bring to the attention of those dealing with the issues of Special Court that the press in this country has been doing very well even before the coming of any Special Court.

IT WILL therefore be totally unacceptable, particularly with this press, if the authorities of this so-called Special Court make any attempt to shape the method of handling news in with regards to its proceedings.

WHILE WE cannot say with certainty that the press has been perfect in all its coverage, there is however the established fact that nothing can go right in this country, and many others, without the explicit involvement of the press.

EVEN DURING THE hay days of the AFRC/RUF illegal regime, most of the media institutions stood their grounds and exposed the cruelty of what was then a tyrannical regime.

HOW CAN this Special Court now begin to issue threatening remarks of fines and long-term imprisonments?

PERHAPS WE need to hammer home this message to those concerned authorities that we have a role to report to our people what is happening.

NOTHING VIRTUALLY can stand in our way in our bid and desperate desire to discharge this function.

THIS BESIDE, may we endeavor to inform the authorities of the Special Court that this country is ours, and as such we have the burning desire of ensuring lasting peace reigns?

CERTAINLY WE are aware of the power of the Special Court, even as its power continues to grow by the hour, since our government is like having fits over it.

BUT THERE is the salient question of where were these authorities who today want to impose restrictions on journalists regarding reporting on the activities of this Court.

CERTAINLY WHILE as a press we are prepared to do a professional work of

accurately reporting to our people, we cannot yield to any threat.

SINCE THE first sitting of Special Court on Bonthe Island, this press has been bombarded with calls from several concerned Sierra Leoneans stressing that the activities of this Court cannot be conducted behind close doors.

THERE IS an axiom that justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done, so like the large number of Sierra Leoneans who expressed this same sentiment during the phone-in programme on Sunday "Sa Leone Di day" we believe the proceedings of this Special Court ought to be transparent for all to see.

THAT IS, it ought to be conducted in the full view of Sierra Leoneans and in a place like Freetown, and not somewhere like Bonthe or Accra where the majority of our people cannot reach.

THE PIONEERS of this Court ought to understand that it was the majority of Sierra Leonean that were wronged, and hence the proceedings of this Court must be conducted in Freetown, so that a large number of victims will see and hear the defence of those who wronged them.

THERE IS also the concern raised in some quarters that even those going through the trials ought to be given access to their people.

THIS IS of vital importance, because most of those indicted were literally grabbed away, without allowing them to even talk to their people.

WE ARE sure that though being a Special Court we ought to presume the suspects innocent until they are found guilty of the charges levied against them.

PERHAPS WE are picking on the issues of holding this Court in Bonthe primarily because the Special Court could not endeavour to take local print journalists to that Island for hearings.

IF THIS is the case, how does this Special Court expect the local newspapers to accurately report the proceedings?

WE CANNOT continue to accept mere press releases written by a Special Court press team if we cannot be allowed to witness the Court proceedings for ourselves.

THE SPECIAL Court is after all going on because those involved in it are sure of permanent peace, so why take the Court outside Freetown?

We insist that the Special Court must be open and transparent.

Plain Talk

By NABIE VANDIE (SOK)

Ibrahim Bangoura is a Senior Research Associate (or so he claims) attached to Africa Analysis International, AAI. In the Wednesday 19-20th February 2003 edition of this paper he attempted an analysis of the merits and demerits of the United Nations Special Court in Sierra Leone.

The analysis encourages the reader, the paucity of research disconcerts him and some of the comments hurry the inquisitive reader back to the library.

The article takes off on a rather prosaic note, cataloguing the litany of woes, pillage and plunder which Sierra Leone underwent during the years 1991-2002. This is not a novel contribution. Every intelligent Sierra Leonean is abreast with these

The Special Court: A Review Of Ibrahim Bangoura's Article

gloomy facts. Nor can it be a welcome addition to the hard work and industry of Abdul Kanm Koroma's: Sierra Leone The Agony of a Nation (1996) or Paul Richards: Fighting for the Rainforest (1996). Both works thoroughly highlight the systematic factors that midwifed the Sierra Leonean crisis leading to the intensity of the war in 1997-1999.

Superficially Ibrahim seems to be a convert to the impunity advocacy. He noted:

The creation of the United Nation International special court for Sierra Leone to try individual groups responsible for war vis-à-vis crimes against humanity is not only a noble idea but also an irreversible venture.

An irreversible venture! It is astonishing, however, that his

introduction and conclusion are not mutually re-enforcing. For example:

The existing and pressing enthusiasm for the Special Court should change and be subject to a surgical or sober reflection. Or else, there could be potential to return to the past, which should be more disastrous than the previous.

This undermines the impunity advocacy to which the writer affects to be sedulously committed to.

But why is this article rich in intention, but marred in contents. Some suggestions could be proffered.

Although the subject of the Special Court is not exclusively within the legal domain, one may do better, if the issues are dissected in an open and transparent spirit. Lamentably

the author does not approach the subject with a virgin mind.

The article is indeed impregnated with regional and ideological prejudices and bias. It is less surprising that many of his observations on possible indictees are not entirely free of amateurish blots and blunders. The question of "who goes to the Special Court" (to use his own language) is not an exercise in conjecture, political persuasion, regional affinity or ethnic sympathy - factors that conspired to undo what might otherwise have been a highly polished article.

Here is one notable instance: killed One example... was the brutal killings of Sheik Mujtabah, Chief Abu Black, Musa Kabia... All these men were killed simply because they were perceived as CITIZEN

OF THE NORTHERN REGION.

A further misguided arsenal in Ibrahim's armoury is his over-apprehension for the ex-combatants, who could 'out of fear of instant persecution and misunderstanding about the Special Court, mobilize and fall prey to the influence of anybody to repeat another 'fresh war'. This statement totally negates the impunity campaign/advocacy which the author earlier adopted as the flagship of his article.

But why the fear and over-apprehension?

The Special court is an independent and impartial tribunal. It is not an inquisition planted to witch-hunt ex-combatants. The presumption of innocence, Art 14 (2) ICCRP, in built in the Statute of the



Author

special court is and should be applicable to everyone.

The writer and /or his Organisation prefers the TRC to the Special Court on the footing that, the former facilitates national reconstruction and rehabilitation.

But it should be noted that, there is no simple recipe for promoting truth and reconciliation.

While some countries experiment with one, others have tried both. Examples of countries which have experimented both include

Con't Back Page

South Africa, Argentina and Chile.

There are at least three ways in which criminal trials can assist the TRC process.

a Acknowledging the experience and suffering of the victims.

b Adding to the historical record of events

c Combating impunity by showing that those who commit gross violations of human rights will face punishment, if they are proved guilty.

Recent academic papers on the relative benefits of truth commissions and criminal trials as promoting peace and reconciliation are admirably contained in M.J. OSEH "Why prosecute?" Critics of Punishment for Mass Atrocity (2000) and Hannah Arendt, "Eichmann in Israel". Report on the Banality of Evil (1994).

The TRC is not therefore a substitute for the Special Court. Both may travel in the same train, but certainly in separate

compartments.

Conclusion.

In the particular circumstances of Sierra Leone, the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law will significantly contribute to the process of national reconciliation.

Editor's Note: We are reproducing Ibrahim Bangoura's analysis by popular request from readers to

compare and contrast between the two for the sake of objectivity on page 2 of this edition.

Interested readers are kindly requested to make their educated contributions on relevant issues pertaining to nation building and address them to the Managing Editor, Rokel Times Press, FW International, No. 11 Regent, Freetown, only be brief, but we promise publishing everything we get unedited.

The Focus
Friday, 21 March 2003

Blood Diamond Dealers To Face Special Court

The issue of Blood Diamond Dealers to face Special Court was wholeheartedly welcomed by most Sierra Leoneans since the United Nations call for the ban of the sale and dealings with the Blood diamonds that contributed immensely in fuelling the war in Sierra Leone, Congo, etc. Most diamond dealers flout the U.N. order with impunity, rather, they endeavour to encourage the rebels particularly in the diamond district of Kono and Kenema which was under the control of the murderous R.U.F. rebels for two (2) bloody years and A.F.R.C for nine (9) months respectively.

The U.N. sanction busters too were also believed to be roped in as they all aided and abetted the rebels by financing them in a form of boosting their 'morale' to continue their crimes against humanity and uncivilized acts of barbarism against the armless and poor wishes of civilians. It was an open secret when some



David C. Cain, S.C. Buss
in the above

of these Lebanese and Foreign nationals established their offices in the township of Kono and Kenema even though when President Tejan Kabbah **Cont. back page**

From front page nationals established their offices in the township of Kono and Kenema even though when President Tejan Kabbah vehemently opposed and condemned and

advised residents (both citizens and foreigners) not to have any dealings with the rebels through Radio 98.1 Democracy whilst he was on exile at Conakry-Guinea. However, Radio 98.1 D could be

the best witness in providing details with recorded cassettes of both the U.N. sanction busters and blood diamond dealers most of whom are still with us in Sierra Leone for special court to note

Concord Times
Friday, 21 March 2003

Special Court hunts foreign collaborators

The U.S. prosecutor for Sierra Leone's special war crimes court David Crane has vowed to hunt down any foreigner who played a major role in fuelling one of Africa's most brutal conflicts, be it with money or guns.

It has been widely speculated that Liberia's

President Charles Taylor, who backed Sierra Leone's rebels with arms in return for diamonds, would be among those indicted by the U.N.-backed court. Others also include Asians in the middle-east who suspected of having links with al-qaida.

David Crane, a 52-

year old former Pentagon lawyer says he is still working to find those bearing the greatest responsibility in the conflict, be they inside or outside Sierra Leone.

"As long as it falls within the mandate of the court...I can go anywhere, reach out and get them," Crane told Reuters.

"This case is far bigger than Sierra Leone. There is clear evidence of regional and international involvement — in terms of funding, political backing and military support."

Crane also says Sierra Leone's gems, some of the world's purest, fuelled the creation of what he called a "joint crimi-

nal enterprise" bringing together rebels, members of a former military junta and international accomplices. Their aim was to gain power and take control of diamond mining areas.

"The court is expected to try some 20 ringleaders, although Crane did not give a precise figure.

"We haven't closed the book on anyone. We are looking at everything and everyone," he says.

He says last week's indictment of Interior Minister Sam Hinga Norman, a close ally of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, and six other people has shown that "we mean business."

Concord Times

Friday March 21, 2003

The New Storm
Friday, 21 March 2003

In Fear Of Special Court **RUF Commanders** **Flee Freetown**

Reports reaching *The New Storm* indicate senior members of the Revolutionary United front (RUF) have embarked on escaping secretly from the capital Freetown, following the massive roping of indictees by the hybrid court which was set up to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for crimes committed during the ten years war. The latest top gun who fled the city on Wednesday March 19, is self styled Colonel Kposowa who was the RUF's general commander.

According to reports reaching this press, 'Colonel' Kposowa's escape from the city, came about as a result of a tip off he got from close quarters that by next week he will be indicted by the Special

Court as a consequence of his activities as a senior commander in the rebel outfit's top hierarchy. Kposowa was believed to have discussed the matter with some relatives who advised him to flee to any area



Foday Sankoh, left boys in trouble

of safety. On Wednesday at about 3.30 pm, this former war lord, left the city. According to information gathered Kposowa's first port of call is Makeni. From there, he hopes to travel to Kabala and sneak into Guinea, from where he will make his way to a safer place of domicile.

Kposowa's escape comes in the wake of earlier escapes made by notably former junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma. A local tabloid reported this week that former RUF spokesman Gibril Massaquoi, plans to escape. It is not known what the Special Court officials hope to do, to check the escape of possible indictees, but information gathered indicate that there is no hiding place for any indictee.

The New Storm
Friday March 21 2003