

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH 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 October 2011

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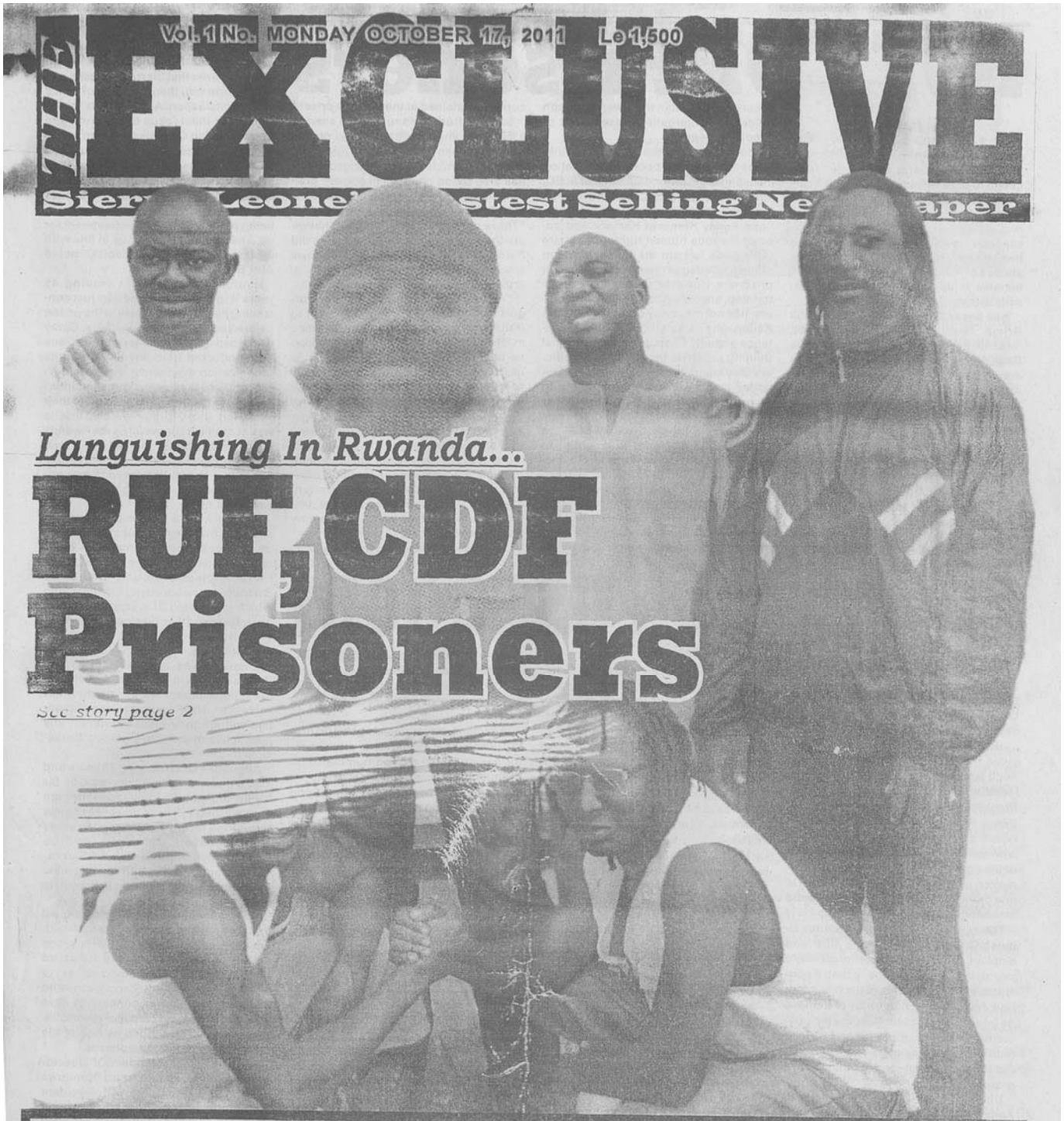
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Exclusive

Monday, 17 October 2011



RUF, CDF Prisoners

By Avodele Deen Cole

The eight Sierra Leonean war crime prisoners in Rwanda are pleading with the government and people of Sierra Leone to save them from inhuman treatments and facilitate their transfer back to Sierra Leone. The prisoners are also requesting the international community, especially human rights organizations to investigate the perpetration of massive abuses of human rights against the 7000 inmates at Mpanga prison detention facility in Rwanda.

Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, Alex Tamba Brima, Santigie Borbor Kanu (555), Ibrahim Bazy Kamara, Mr. Augustine Gboa, Musa Kondowa and Moinina Fofana are all pleading for mercy and forgiveness to President Ernest Bai Koroma and the people of Sierra Leone; calling on them to put politics aside and consider the role they played in ensuring that the country attains peace.

In an exclusive interview with The Exclusive, all eight prisoners expressed terrible feelings about the inhuman treatments they have been receiving from the Rwanda prison administration since they were flown over in 2009. This ugly situation has urged the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) to send relevant prison

experts to enlighten the Rwanda prison officers on international standards of handling prisoners.

The eight detainees informed this press that a Sierra Leonean delegation including Mr. Raymond Cardinal of SLSC, Mrs. Hanciles the SLSC officers in charge of them, one Sierra Leonean Prison Officer, Foday Khmacel Kamara and another Rwanda human rights officer are in Rwanda to train the Rwanda prison officers at Mpanga prison on how to treat prisoners. However, the outcome of the training, according to aggrieved prisoners, has not made any difference. Morris Kallon who is serving a 45 years sentence stated: "Despite the international training provided for the Rwanda officers they keep doing the same thing." He added that the treatment meted out to them is out of human control. The former RUF Chief Commander noted that he will die anytime if the government of Sierra Leone fails to intervene as according to him, he is currently suffering from anemia and he is without the required treatment and drugs. Morris Kallon also said he wanted the international community to know that the Rwanda authorities are carrying out wide spread human rights' abuses of prisoners including even the Rwandese prisoners. 7000 inmates are

currently detained at the Mpanga prison.

Santigie Borbor Kanu aka 555 serving a 50 years imprisonment called on the Sierra Leonean government to take them out of that terrible situation. Brigadier 555 has also called on the civil society, government and other stakeholders to advocate for their transfer to Sierra Leone. "These people should remember that we are the father of peace because if we did not sign the peace agreement who knows where we should have been now?" he argued.

"We want all Sierra Leoneans to forgive us and call on the Special Court to transfer us to serve our prison sentence in Freetown. Our families have abandoned us because they cannot get access to us," Santigie Kanu cries. The former RUF/AFRC war criminals want their defence team which is headed by lawyers Serry Kamal, Melrone Nicol-Wilson and Metzger to inform the Special Court about the kind of maltreatment they are currently facing and at the same time facilitate their transfer. He accused the Rwanda officers of always intimidating and threatening them. "We will kill you all here, you have been banished from your country so we can treat you in whatever way," 555 accused the Rwanda prison guards as saying. "Why should they associate

us with genocide when we are not serving such sentences"? They asked.

Alex Tamba Brima also serving 50 years believes that Sierra Leoneans can sympathize with them because of peace and reconciliation. According to Tamba Brima, the main focus of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is on peace and forgiveness. The 50 years detainee cried about the bad East African food provided to them which they are not accustomed to. "They regularly give us banana and cassava when funds are being provided for a better treatment for us. They are not treating us in line with what international laws depict," noted Alex Brima.

Ibrahim Bazy Kamara serving 45 years is in good health. He was just concluding his fitness exercise at the prison before speaking to The Exclusive. Bazy explained that no monitoring exercises are conducted from any human rights organization even when there are several of them that have expressed interest during the preliminary stage of their detention. Bazy further revealed that he was at one time beaten up by the Rwanda guards because he reported about their faulty television; a role designated to him. According to him, the Rwanda authorities have been maltreating them for over two years now.

"The Rwanda authority always responded that they are not going to give us our prescribed international treatment because according to them, it will incite violence among the other Rwandese inmates at the Mpanga prison which is situated in a very cold forest area. Bazy further disclosed that most of the Rwanda inmates at the facility are malnourished. "Mpanga prison authorities have also advised us not to go near them and even touch them. Just look at the type of prison we are running our sentences. The Rwandan prison authorities will kill their citizens without any question from their government," he disclosed.

Augustine Gboa serving 25 years and also a diabetic patient thanked God for his life after all the tribulations they are going through. "I have no access to low sugar food recently introduced to me as a diabetic patient. Some times I go three or four days without rice," Gboa lamented, adding, "the SLSC is just making mockery of us. All what they want is money."

Issa Sesay serving 52 years disclosed that they have neither been in touch with any contact person, nor the Sierra Leone Ambassador to that country. He called on the government to withdraw them to another country if not Sierra Leone and also called on Sierra Leoneans to have mercy on them and consider reconciliation which he described as one of the core morals of Sierra Leoneans.

Moinina Fofana, former CDF Director serving 15 years and Musa Kondowa serving 20 years pleaded with President Koroma to forget about the past and move Sierra Leone forward. "We want President Koroma to take us back to Freetown to serve our jail terms," they insisted.

Another serious concern the 8 prisoners raised was the lack of access to educational facility which was regularly provided whilst they were in Freetown.

For now they disclosed of only having computer lectures excluding government, English and history lessons.

"Now the Rwandan authorities want us to do carpentry and Masonry but at our age and looking at our sentences how can we become carpenters?" asked Issa Sesay in a frustrated mood. Their families, he complained, are not allowed to visit them. "In Freetown our families visited us regularly on Saturdays. "We are begging everyone to forgive as we agitate for our transfer," said Issa Sesay.

Ariogbo

Monday, 17 October 2011

Human rights report out

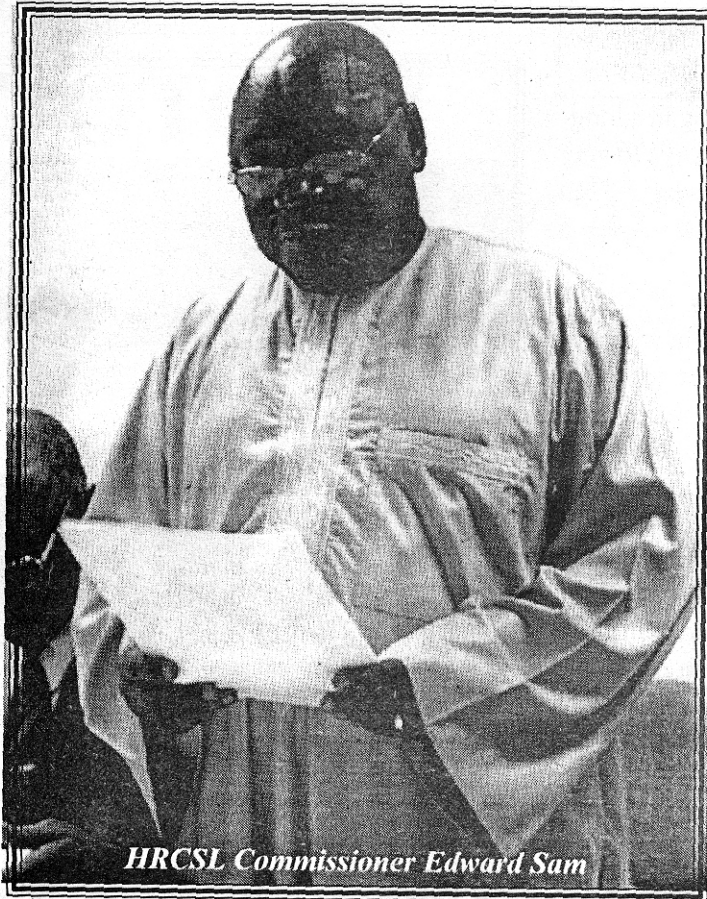
By James Bampia Bundu

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRC-SL) has released its 4th Annual State of Human Rights Report (SOHR) in Sierra Leone 2010.

This took place at the commission's conference room at NEC building, Tower Hill in Freetown on 14th October 2011.

In his statement, the Chairperson of the Commission, Edward Sam noted that the state of Human Rights Report (SOHR) 2010 is symbolic, as it does not only give an inventory of government's compliance or non-compliance with international, regional and domestic human rights instruments, but guarantees the fundamental human rights of all in the country.

He went on to say that human rights are mandatory and that it also highlights the significant contribution of the first set of commissioners, whose first term ends in December this year. He went on to state that the Commission together with its dedicated staff have played critical roles in transforming the commission from a fledging embryonic institution



HRCSL Commissioner Edward Sam

to the full operational and credible 'A' status national Human Rights institution.

He added that the current report had been presented to the President of Sierra Leone in August 2011 and also to Parliamentarians as required by law. Commissioner Sam used the opportunity to state that his Commission has for the third time been able to undertake dissemination and

district level engagement on the SOHR 2009, adding that through these strategic engagements, the Commission was able to ensure that the report reached a wider population and engaged MDAs on the recommendations made to their various institutions by developing strategies for implementation of the recommendations.

Voice of America

Monday, 17 October 2011

Liberian Opposition Calls off Election Boycott



Photo: Reuters

National Elections Commission Chairman James Fromayan (C) delivers the first results of Liberia's presidential election during a news conference in Monrovia, October 13, 2011.

Liberia's presidential race is heading toward a run-off election between incumbent President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former Justice Minister Winston Tubman. Opposition parties had threatened to boycott results over what they said was vote fraud.

Winston Tubman says President Sirleaf's political opponents have made their point and are returning to an electoral process they quit briefly over accusations of fraud.

He told a rally in the capital, Monrovia, that opposition parties want a recount and that they will resume work at the electoral commission to continue a vote that is heading toward a second-round run-off because no candidate has an absolute majority.

With nearly all of the votes counted, President Sirleaf has about 44 percent. Mr. Tubman has a little more than 32 percent. Former rebel leader and current Senator Prince Johnson is running third with less than 12 percent of the vote.

National Electoral Commission Chairman James Fromayan told reporters Sunday that officials do not expect the remaining vote will give any candidate more than 50 percent of the votes cast.

George Weah is Mr. Tubman's running mate. He says President Sirleaf will face a united opposition in a run-off. "We are hoping that we go to the second round, and then we will put our cards on the table. These people you see here will be running

a campaign together to remove this government," he said.

Mr. Tubman and Mr. Johnson were among eight candidates on Saturday who denounced election results as "null and void" and called for a fresh election with a new electoral commission because of what they said was fraud, including stuffing ballot boxes, by Sirleaf supporters.

Election observers from the Carter Center and the Economic Community of West African States say the vote was largely free and fair.

Electoral Commission Chairman Fromayan says opposition complaints have no bearing on what already has been done. "The point where we have reached, one can not say that they are disengaging because all the parties participated in the election. The counting was done. And both the local population and the international observers who came, they all acclaimed the process to be free, fair, and transparent," he said.

The run-off between President Sirleaf and Mr. Tubman is scheduled for November 8.