

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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Friday, June 18, 2004

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Terms: **war crimes must be met with swift and decisive justice // international special court in sierra leone may provide a model that will be useful** ([Edit Search](#))

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Chicago Sun-Times June 11, 2004 Friday

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June 11, 2004 Friday

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HEADLINE: War crimes must be met with swift and decisive justice // International Special Court in Sierra Leone may provide a model that will be useful

BYLINE: Richard S. Williamson

BODY:

War has become too familiar. In recent years there have been armed conflicts in Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo, Liberia, the Central African Republic, East Timor and Iraq, to name just a few. Sometimes the fighting has been over border disputes. Often the wars are internal struggles with irregular forces and guerrilla tactics. The human horrors have been devastating. For example, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, about 3 million people have died in the last five years because of warfare and its consequences. And the danger of failed states becoming breeding grounds for terrorists is real and threatening.

To end the suffering and create stability that benefits the victims of war and makes the world safer and more secure, the work must not end when one side is defeated.

The world is relearning an important lesson in Iraq. Post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation take time, are expensive and, to be sustainable, must deal with the injustices of the past.

In Iraq the injustices came from a long reign of terror where brutal torture and murder were the everyday practices used by Saddam Hussein to stay in power. Elsewhere the atrocities have occurred during conflict such as the genocide in Rwanda and the killings and mutilations in **Sierra Leone**.

For a society to move forward from a dark past, **justice** must be served. The worst criminals must be held to account to heal torn societies. Reconciliation must be achieved.

This month in **Sierra Leone** an important step in restorative **justice** is taking place. If it is successful, it may provide a **model that will be useful** in post-conflict situations.

With strong political and financial support from the United States and the United Kingdom, an **International Special Court** has been set up to address the worst crimes against humanity committed during **Sierra Leone's** bloody civil war.

Unlike the **international** tribunals created to deal with the **war crimes** in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the **Sierra Leone** court has been established in the country where the atrocities took place -- not some distant land. The victims **will** see firsthand the worst

criminals tried for the cruelty inflicted during the war. They **will** see **justice** prevail.

The court has been given a life-span of only three years. Therefore, **justice will** be done in a timely manner. In contrast, it has been 10 years since the genocide in Rwanda, and that **war crimes** tribunal has years of litigation still ahead of it.

The tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda are outlandishly expensive, more than \$100 million a year for each. The **Sierra Leone** court's budget is a fraction of that.

And the **Sierra Leone Special Court** is seeking to show that there can be no impunity if there is to be transitional **justice**. The court **will** try a government minister, a member of the "winning" side, for **war crimes** as well as several members of the losing rebel groups.

The **special court** has even indicted Charles Taylor, the former president of neighboring Liberia, for **war crimes** because of his active support with guns, money and recruitment for rebel groups in **Sierra Leone**. After his indictment, Taylor fled his country and is living in exile in Nigeria. The **Sierra Leone** court is seeking to make him stand trial.

Trials where the crimes occurred and where the victims can see it take place. **Justice** in a timely manner. No impunity. These are building blocks of restorative **justice**.

So events over the next few months in Freetown, **Sierra Leone**, may provide an example that can help people victimized by brutal regimes and wartime atrocities. That **special court** may demonstrate how to bring **justice** after the killing stops. And to heal the wounds of societies torn by bloody war or brutal regimes, **justice** is required.

Richard S. Williamson is the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

LOAD-DATE: June 18, 2004

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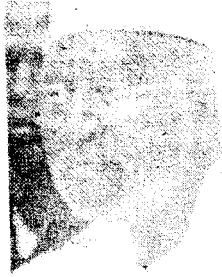
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Norman demands computer, telephone from Special Court

By Athassan Spear

Kamara

When one of the Presiding Judges in the ongoing trials at the Special Court in Freetown, Cameroonian-born Benjamin Itoe, yesterday asked the 1st accused, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, to comment on the numerous allegations levied against him by the second



Mr. Hinga Norman

witness TF2 157, one thing he (Norman) first did was to demand a computer and telephone system so that he can effectively carry on his work and communicate with his team both within and without Sierra Leone.

"I am also appealing to the Special Court, through you my lord, to provide me with stationery and modify my time spending in my

cell" he said, adding, "I am always locked up in my cell at 10 p.m. and take out at 7 a.m."

Norman told the court that since he has been granted self-representation and a standby team, it is incumbent upon the court to provide him with the items he has demanded and reduce his lock up time so that he may have enough

See back page

Norman demands computer, telephone from Special Court

From page 1

time to prepare for his defence

"I have not much time to clean my toilet in the cell,

not much time to take breakfast and lunch," Norman disclosed.

Responding to the Presiding Judge,

Benjamin Itoe said the demands made by Mr. Norman will be addressed by the court in the near future.

Sierra News

Friday June 18, 2004

Special Court Under Fire



Hinga Norman

By Joseph Turay

The first CDF accused has described his condition in detention as unfavourable. Chief Sam Hinga Norman

... As Norman Complains Of Maltreatment In Prison

made the disclosure to the trial chamber yesterday when he appeared before the court.

Making the complaint to the trial chamber of three judges, Chief Norman said

his right as an accused has been hampered by the long detention in the cells.

According to the accused, he is always locked in the cells from 10 pm on to 7am which he said does not permit him

much time to clean his toiletries or to get his breakfast. Chief Norman also disclosed that only a few times is given him to talk with his defence counsel before he prepares for

court, adding that he does not get his evening meal on time.

The former Minister of Internal Affairs said he is locked in the cells immediately after his evening meal instead of

allowing him to have a leisure time within the prison yard.

He described the situation as a violation of Article 17 of the Statute of the Special

Contd. page 2

Special Court Under Fire

From front page

Court and Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure which guarantees his right.

In another development, Chief Norman has requested the court to provide him with a complete computer set, a modern

telephone quite different from the one he is at present using.

He added that he needs a modern telephone to communicate with his family members, friends and relatives at home and abroad.

The accused also requested

the court to provide him with stationeries on a regular basis.

Responding to the complaints and request, the trial chamber noted his concern even though the prosecution made an objection that they might have one or two things to state.

The Exclusive

Friday June 18, 2004

FAIR TRIAL FOR NORMAN, SPECIAL COURT ASSURES

The hiccups that have caused inevitable delays in the trial of Special Court indictee, Sam Hinga Norman and other former

CDF leaders have become a matter of concern of the Trial Chamber, which has caused the Special Court to issue a statement in Freetown

to explain the proceedings in the trial of the CDF group of indictees. The statement circulated in Freetown yesterday ex-

plained the factors that have created the delays that marked the beginning of Hinga Norman's trial and at the same time the same Spe-



SAM HINGA NORMAN

cial Court stated that for purposes of records, it wanted the public to understand that it gives premium to the rights of all accused persons to be tried impartially, without delay.

The Special Court statement emphasised that Sam Hinga Norman, the first accused of the CDF group, was arrested on the 10th of March 2003 with a defense team comprising Freetown Lawyer,

CONT. BACK PAGE

Blyden Jenkins Johnston, Sulaiman Banja Tejan-Sei, Quincy Whittaker and Mr. Tim Owen.

The statement further revealed that on the 25th of November 2003, Mr. Blyden Jenkins Johnston entered into a Legal Services Contract with the Special Court and actually did execute a "statement of availability" wherein he undertook to ensure that himself and the defense team "will represent Mr. Norman to the finality of the case at the trial"

On the 3rd of June 2004, the first day of the trial proper, first accused, Hinga Norman suddenly informed the court that he no longer needed the services of his lawyers and was opting for a self-representation.

This decision by indictee Hinga Norman, inevitably necessitated an adjournment of the trial to the 8th of June 2004 so that a reasoned decision of the court could be delivered on the first accused's application to represent himself.

On the 8th of June 2004, the Trial Chamber ruled that Sam Hinga Norman had a right to self-representation as stipulated in Article 7 (4) (d) of the Statute but such a right was not absolute and could only be exercised with the assistance of a Stand-by Counsel.

The delay was further protracted when the first accused immediately objected to the idea of Stand-by

Counsel and threatened to boycott Court attendances if his application to defend himself was not granted.

Again, the Trial Chamber had to adjourn proceedings to the 10th of June 2004 in order to identify Stand-by Counsel for Hinga Norman. On the issue of Stand-by Counsel, Mr. Tejan-Sei responded in writing in a letter dated 8th June 2004 (exhibit 4) to the Special Court confirming that he would continue to represent Mr. Norman.

The first accused, after the delays, finally accepted the Trial Chamber's decision on representation by Stand-by Counsel made up of his previous legal team and comprising national and international counsel.

There was yet another hiccup when on the 10th of June 2004, Mr. Blyden Jenkins Johnston notified the Registrar of the Special Court, in a letter dated 10th June (Exhibit 5) indicating that he and Mr. Tejan-Sei unanimously accepted that they would not represent Hinga Norman in any capacity.

The Special Court assured the public yesterday that notwithstanding the event of 3rd of June 2004, which had delayed the proceedings of the Trial Chamber, the Chamber very confidently affirms that no time spent in ensuring that the rights of the defense are fully protected should be considered as time wasted or lost or that

it constitutes a delay in the judicial process.

The Special Court also assured yesterday, "in order therefore to ensure the rights of all three accused persons to a fair and expeditious trial without further delay, and following the decision of the Trial Chamber on the 8th of June 2004 and the consequential order of this Chamber of today, 14th of June 2004 on this issue, the Trial Chamber has been in-

formed by the Registrar that the first accused's Stand-by Counsel team shall comprise the following Stand-by Counsel, Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbi of Sierra Leone, John Wesley Hall of the United States, Mrs. Quincy Whittaker, Mr. T. Owen QC of England. In the interim, Mr. Ibrahim Yilla, counsel in the office of the principal defender, shall serve in Mr. Norman's Stand-by Counsel team."

The Special Court emphasized in its statement that it is clear that neither the Special Court nor the Prosecution, nor the Registrar nor the Registry bears any responsibility in whatsoever for the delay that occurred in the commencing of the proceedings in this case and would hope that all parties concerned would work in concert to ensure a fair and expeditious trial of Hinga Norman and the other CDF indictees.

The New Citizen

Friday, June 18, 2004

Independent Observer

Friday June 18, 2004

Hinga Norman wants detention order

By
John
Baimba
Sesay

**made request for provision of a computer*

At yesterday's sittings of the Special Court, 1st accused in the trial of members of the CDF, Sam Hinga Norman appealed for a modification of his detention condition. And also made an application pursuant to Article 17 of the Special Court Statute and also under Rule 64 of the rules of procedures for him to be provided with a computer, a telephone with international connection.

Before all this, Counsel for the 2nd accused Aileu Kondewa, Mr. Charles Margai cross examined the second prosecution witness, referred to as T.F 2157. He asked him to recite the Kamajor song which he did in Mende and translated into English.

He said he was not a Kamajor, but his brother was. The prosecution on security grounds objected to the witness disclosing the name of his brother when asked to do so by the lawyer. Instead it was suggested that he gave the name in camera. Hinga Norman was also asked to cross examine the lawyer.

"Chief Norman urges us to support Kamajors' witness tells Special Court

*By Alhassan Spear
Kamara*

The second prosecution witness against the indicted former Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, last Wednesday. He told the Special Court that Chief Maada Norman urged the people of Koribondo in the Jaiama Bongor Chiefdom to wholeheartedly support the Kamajors in their bid to fight and re-instate the elected government of President Tejan Kabbah

who was toppled on May 25th 1997 by members of the junta.

The Prosecution witness who was speaking through an interpreter said he was born in Koribondo and spent most of his time as a farmer.

He said immediately after Chief Norman had prevailed on them to support the Kamajors, a big fight erupted between the Kamajors and their junta counterparts for what he described as their illegal

occupation of Koribondo town and its surroundings. "I was in Koribondo when Kamajors attacked on four occasions".

Witness TF2 157 also told the court that during one of the meetings called by Chief Norman with the Koribondo people, he (Norman) said to them, there has been rumours around that my Kamajors are killing people rampantly in Koribondo, I instructed them to do so and not to spare any human being

including houses and properties the people of Koribondo are all junta collaborators".

He said Chief Norman only told his Kamajors to spare the Court barrie, Mosques and Churches.

"The Kamajors, rebels and soldiers have come and killed, burnt and looted properties what is wrong if the Kamajors do the same" said the second prosecution witness.

He said when the Kamajors initially

attacked Koribondo on February 18th 1998, after initiation one thing they first assured the people was that "we are here to protect and defend you from the hands of the juntas."

The witness recalled a faithful Friday afternoon round at about 1:30, while most of them were in a mosque for prayers when the first gunshot came from Blama Road which disrupted the prayers and people ran to the bushes and their houses.

He said, one Sara Lamina was the first civilian that was killed followed by Sara Binkolo later.

The witness also disclosed that the Kamajors captured and mutilated one Chief Kelfala whom they also accused as a junta collaborator.

"After killing Chief Kelfala, the Kamajors returned to their base singing songs with guns and cutlasses around their bodies."

He also revealed how one Pa Lahai Bassie was captured and beheading by the Kamajors for discovering a photograph alleged to be a junta member.

Trial continues

Serra News

Friday June 18, 2004



Osman Lahai
<olahai@yahoo.com>
Sent by:
owner-leonenet@listproc.umbc.edu

To: leonenet@listproc.umbc.edu
cc:
Subject: US Lawyer John Hall To Advise Hinga Norman

17/06/2004 15:29

06/17/2004 05:26:55

LR attorney to advise former official in Sierra Leone

BC-AR--War Crimes-Arkansan, Ark Bjt,0731
LR attorney to advise former official in **Sierra Leone**
tplidfls

LITTLE ROCK (AP) _ When Samuel Hinga Norman stands up in court

in Freetown, **Sierra Leone**, to defend himself against war-crimes charges, he'll have a well-known Little Rock defense attorney waiting to provide advice if Norman decides he needs it.

John Wesley Hall of Little Rock left Wednesday on a trip by air that was to end Thursday in the west African nation where Norman _ the country's former interior minister _ is the most prominent of 11 men on trial in the first United Nations-backed war crimes trial.

``I'm thinking about the irony," Hall said in a telephone interview during a layover in Atlanta. ``Here I was in Little Rock District Court on Tuesday (representing an accused flasher), and I'll be in a war-crimes tribunal on Thursday."

The trial began June 3, when Norman read a letter in court outlining his plan to represent himself. The three judges presiding over the trial announced June 8 that they would allow Norman to act as his own lawyer, but only with the assistance of standby attorneys.

Two of his original four defense attorneys declined to continue with the case. That's when Hall, who graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville in 1973, got a call from a lawyer he knew when he practiced law in New York, Simone Monasebian, now the principal defender for the Special Court in **Sierra Leone**.

``I hadn't heard from her for years," Hall said. ``I was kind of shocked when she ... called."

Ken Gallant, a professor at the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, didn't sound surprised that Hall was chosen for the task in **Sierra Leone**.

``John is an internationally known guy," said Gallant, who along with Hall helped draft rules of ethics for the newly created International Criminal Court. ``He's probably the most prominent Arkansas lawyer in capital defense cases."

Norman and two other commanders of a popular pro-government militia _ Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa _ are being tried together. All have pleaded innocent to charges including allegations that they employed child soldiers and committed atrocities in their campaign against the insurgents during the diamond-rich nation's vicious

internal conflict from 1991 to 2002.

Norman said Tuesday in an opening statement to the court that the hybrid U.N.-**Sierra Leone** tribunal had no jurisdiction over him.

The special court indicted Norman on March 7, 2003, on eight counts of crimes against humanity, violations of the Geneva Conventions and other violations of international humanitarian law.

Hall expects to meet Norman and the other lawyers on the Norman's advisory team for the first time. But he said he'd been researching the case since Monasebian called and doesn't expect to have any problems, despite joining the team late in the process.

The Little Rock lawyer plans to be in **Sierra Leone** through next Thursday, when the trial will recess until September.

The United States, an opponent of the standing International Criminal Court at the Hague, is providing the largest share of funding for this court. Peace returned to **Sierra Leone** in 2002 only after forceful armed intervention by former ruler Britain and West African forces crushed the rebels.

Hall is not the first Arkansas to have a role in a war-crimes trial. The late James McHaney of Little Rock was the chief prosecutor for the United States for two years at the Nuremberg war-crimes trial in Germany after World War II. (PROFILE (COUNTRY:Germany; ISOCOUNTRY3:DEU; UNTOP:150; UN2ND:155; APGROUP:Europe;) (COUNTRY:**Sierra Leone**; ISOCOUNTRY3:SLE; UNTOP:002; UN2ND:011; APGROUP:Africa;) (COUNTRY:United Kingdom; ISOCOUNTRY3:GBR; UNTOP:150; UN2ND:154; APGROUP:Europe;) (COUNTRY:United States; ISOCOUNTRY3:USA; UNTOP:021; APGROUP:NorthAmerica;) (CAT:Crime;) (CAT:Municipal;) (CAT:Defense;) (CAT:Labor;) (CAT:Legal;) (SRC:AP; ST:AR;))
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COMMENTARY ON THE SPECIAL COURT

THE KORIBONDO 'FINAL SOLUTION'

the mask of sanctity around the kamajors is finally beginning to drop...

*OUR Advocate -
Gordon*

After last week's article, when chief Sam Hinga Norman dismissed his defence attorneys - only to himself beg time to find new ones - his troubles deepened on Wednesday when a witness gave evidence on the atrocities allegedly committed by the kamajors in Norman's home town, Koribondo.

proof

I have been one who has consistently argued that Chief Norman is innocent until proven guilty.

At the same time the

committed against civilians by the CDF. If truth be told, we are getting a little tired of this Mende exclusionism - a relentless drive to hold power, by whatever means necessary, total contempt for the view of other regions and other groups, ruthless and cynical manipulation of the organs of state in the interests of 'One Party (SLPP), One People (The Mendes)'.

opening address

Prosecutor Crane's powerful opening address described Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana, Alieu Kondewa as "war-offenders... who committed crimes in their own self interest".

Crane argued that most of the war-crimes and atrocities

CDF - so-called heroes of democracy - reportedly did in Norman's own home town of Koribondo in February, 1998.

Let's get one fact clear: by February, 1998, ECOMOG had dislodged the AFRC from Freetown and was in preparation to clear them out from the other major population centres.

co-ordination

Therefore there was no pressing military necessity for the CDF to attack Koribondo.

There was no co-ordination with ECOMOG. I can distinctly remember the late Brigadier General Maxwell Khobe telling me that the CDF could not control territory it took from the rebels.

along Blama Road.

"The kamajors sang songs as they carried out their inhuman acts" according to the *Salone Times* - itself an apostle of negative Mende 'nationalism' (Mendes are not, and have never been a nation, whatever Oswald Hanchiles and the like may say...).

According to the witness, the *modus operandi* of the CDF differed little from that of the AFRC-RUF rebels. Both Bassie and the chief (a so-called sacred figure in the bogus SLPP - Mende religion) were horribly tortured before they died.

cannibalism

We have not heard of CDF mutilations yet - though we've heard rumours of ritual cannibalism (a tried

and tested Mende ritual). We await evidence of this in court.

Last year we ran a story in which an underage CDF combatant insisted that Norman made him partake of human flesh.

What eating people has to do with warfare is a total mystery to me - as it would be to most civilised people in the world.

If proven, it will add a surrealistic twist to what was undoubtedly one of the most horrific episodes of a barbaric war.

final solution

Witness TFZ-157 also told the Special Court that Chief Sam Hinga Norman addressed the people of Koribondo a few days later, lamenting that kamajors had not carried out his orders in full.

"I told them not to leave even an ant living... and to burn all structures except the mosque, church and one house I could live in" the witness quoted.

Even Hitler, in his Final Solution against the Jewish and Gypsy people never went that far.

(TO BE CONCLUDED)



the Special Court judges to decide guilt or innocence

Peep

Friday June 18, 2009

'halo' bestowed on the CDF war-lord does not exclude him from facing justice for war-crimes.

war-lord

Let us put this as succinctly and plainly as possible: Hinga Norman's status as a Mende war-lord does not absolve him from complicity in crimes

allegedly committed by the CDF were actually done, out of frustration, against their very own Mende people during the junta period.

witness

And a secret witness - dubbed TFZ-157, on Tuesday stepped forward to shatter the Mende war chieftain's aura of sanctity and to expose what his

"They don't make provisions for patrols, sentries or static defence", the late General Khobe told me, adding "their level of indiscipline also alienates the population."

Well here was the CDF in Koribondo, not 'enemy' territory - but their own Mende heartland.

brutality

According to witness TFZ-157, they displayed a level of brutality which was contrary to the laws of war. We have seen civil militias before - but even the Sudanese *Jangawild* in Darfur would be hard-pressed to match the level of atrocities committed against their own clans and their own people.

"Sarah Binkolo, Sarah Lamina, chief Keifala and Lahai Bassie were also massacred by the CDF", our anonymous witness recounted.

mutilated

The bodies of the two women were mutilated by cutlasses before their bodies were dumped.

Chief Keifala and Lahai Bassie were buried in a small hole near the bridge



Norman's speech at Koribondo recounted by witness

Special Court: Rules Of Evidence And Procedure

the protection of witnesses

Rule 75: Measures for the Protection of Victims and Witnesses

A. A judge or a Chamber may, at the request of either party, or of the victim or witness concerned, or of the Victims and Witnesses Unit, order appropriate measures to safeguard the privacy and security of victims and witnesses, provided that the measures are consistent with the rights of the accused.

B. A Chamber may hold an *in camera* proceeding to determine whether to order notably:

i. Measures to prevent disclosure to the public or the media of the identity or whereabouts of a victim or a witness, or of persons related to or associated with him by such means as:

a. Expunging names and identifying information from the Special Court's public records;

b. Non-disclosure to the public of any records identifying the victim;

c. Giving of testimony through image or voice altering devices or closed circuit television; and

d. Assignment of a pseudonym;

ii. Appropriate measures to facilitate the testimony of vulnerable victims and witnesses, such as one-way closed circuit television.

C. A Chamber shall control the manner of questioning to avoid any harassment or intimidation.

Rule 79: Closed Sessions

A. The Trial Chamber may order that the press and the public be excluded from all or part of the proceedings for reasons of:

i. Public order or morality;

ii. Safety, security or non-disclosure of the identity of a victim or witness as provided in Rule 75; or

iii. The protection of the interests of justice.

B. The Trial Chamber shall make public the reasons for its order.

Peep

Friday June 18, 2004

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Suppose Norman Indicts Kabbah?

By David Tam-Baryoh

Punch

Editor and Human rights activist Paul Kamara left the Pademba Road prisons on Tuesday March 11. 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.

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, re-stating 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 breasting themselves from the shock that the Special Court could be more powerful than any Kabbah element. 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 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 quarried for carrying the news of Paul's release. FM 103.7 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, except they themselves, is against them.

The Anti Corruption Commission could arrest, but when David Crane's court orders arrest, 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 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 Millicom 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 it was swift, least expected 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 times other arms of the court don't even seem to know what David Crane is thinking. That is excellent, in a society where leaks can be costly.

Two years ago, Norman said in Kenema that all independent journalists in Sierra Leone were rebels. The Frank

Kposowa 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 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 down-played 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 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 Conakry, Kabbah could not have ordered any atrocity. But let’s see what Norman says in court.

On the issue of Norman’s mandate from his boss, a better witness is dead. Late BBC journalist Prince Brima; who served on Norman’s trails, 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 on Norman’s defence/conviction?

Waw, this Special Court is going to be too sweet for a Sierra Leonean taste!

I love David Crane, but I fear that some state crooks will want to make an Anti Corruption Commission of his court. Can he weather the storm?

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Source: UN Children's Fund
Date: 17 Jun 2004

Sierra Leone: UNICEF welcomes special court ruling establishing child recruitment a 'war crime'

NEW YORK/FREETOWN, 17 June 2004 - The Special Court for Sierra Leone recently ruled that the recruitment or use of children under age 15 in hostilities is a war crime under customary international law. This landmark ruling may result in the first ever conviction for the recruitment of child soldiers. UNICEF welcomes the Court's decision as a bold effort to hold perpetrators accountable for serious crimes against children.

The decision by the Appeals Chamber came in response to an assertion by one of the accused that he was immune from prosecution because the recruitment or use of children under 15 in hostilities was not established as a war crime during the period of the Special Court's authority, dating back to 1996. The Appeals Chamber dismissed the motion by a majority of 3 - 1.

Responding to the Court's decision UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said, "This ruling is an important milestone because it holds perpetrators criminally responsible. It should set off alarm bells to armed groups around the world and act as a deterrent to future recruitment and use of children in hostilities."

The Court's ruling comes at a critical time when both girls and boys continue to be recruited to fight as soldiers in adult wars. Tens of thousands of child soldiers across the globe are forced to commit atrocities or are used as cooks, porters and for sexual purposes. These children are often subjected to extreme brutality - including physical torture, sexual violence and rape. An estimated 6,000 children were demobilized at the end of the civil war in Sierra Leone. It is widely believed that the number of children (especially girls) who served in various capacities in the armed groups is actually much higher.

Eleven persons from all three of Sierra Leone's former warring factions have been indicted by the Special Court. They are charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international law. All of them have been accused of the recruitment or use of children as soldiers.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was jointly created by the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations in January 2002. It is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the country since 30 November 1996.

For further information, please contact:

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For nearly 60 years UNICEF has been the world's leader for children, working on the ground in 158 countries to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for poor countries,

UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

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Sierra News

Friday June 18, 2004

Statement of the Prosecutor David Crane on the Day of the African Child

On this Day of the African Child, we should all pause to think about the many children of this country who suffered during the recent conflict. Whether they were the victims of violence themselves or were forced into combat and made to commit crimes against their fellow citizen, the children of Sierra Leone were among the prime victims of the war.

For too long, children across the continent of Africa have suffered from war, disease hunger, and a

lack of educational opportunity. However, in Sierra Leone there is new cause for hope.

The Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone recently issued a landmark decision in allowing the prosecution of forcible recruitment of child soldiers as a crime against humanity. There can now be justice for Sierra Leone's children living with the horror of what they were forced to do to others.

Children across Africa must be nurtured and provided with books, not

guns. On this Day of the African Child, we can all celebrate one step toward achieving that goal.

In 1991, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union, initiated the Day of the African Child to commemorate the courage of children killed in 1976 while protesting for better educational opportunities under the Apartheid regime in Soweto,

"When we are talking about adult literacy or

illiteracy, we are looking at 15 years and above which makes a predicament or the more serious cases of 10 year olds who could have started schools at age 6 but did not have the opportunity and are now aged 16 coming into adulthood as illiterates".

Speaking at an international roundtable conference on adult literacy in Freetown, Ms. Thorpe said the government should adopt a special curriculum for literacy which is radical, fast and thorough in its approach.

Before the war, say in 1990



Mayor gets 30 years for genocide

A former Rwandan mayor has been sentenced to 30 years in prison for organising the slaughter of 20,000 people during the 1994 genocide.

Sylvestre Gacumbitsi led the massacre of thousands of people sheltering in Nyarubuye Church, which was one of the worst events in the genocide.

He distributed weapons and urged ethnic Hutus to kill and rape their Tutsi neighbours.

Some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in 100 days in 1994.

'Megaphone'

One girl told the court in the Tanzanian town of Arusha that Gacumbitsi, 57, had personally raped her.

According to the official indictment, the former mayor drove around his district "announcing by megaphone that Tutsi women should be raped and sexually degraded."

NYARUBUYE CHURCH MASSACRE

Gacumbitsi, former mayor of Rusamo, told Tutsis they would be safe in Nyarubuye church but then led militias there to kill those inside.

After the genocide, he fled to a refugee camp in Tanzania, where he was found by a BBC television crew. He denied all knowledge of the killings.

He said he was not in the area when the massacres were committed. He was arrested in June 2001 in Tanzania.

Gacumbitsi was found guilty of genocide, extermination and rape. But he was cleared of conspiracy to commit genocide and murder.

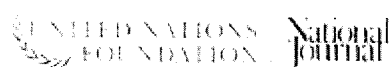
He showed no emotion when the sentence was announced, reports Reuters news agency.

The genocide ended when the then rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front came to power.

Eight years after being set up, the ICTR has convicted 20 people of genocide - six of whom are serving their sentences in Mali.

Twenty suspects are on trial, while another 22 are in detention, waiting for their trials to start.

Story from BBC NEWS:

U.N. WIRE

ICTY Says Genocide Charges Against Milosevic Justified

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The U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague yesterday threw out a motion to drop charges of genocide against former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, saying there was sufficient evidence to warrant them.

In a motion filed in March, lawyers appointed to ensure that Milosevic — who is representing himself — receives a fair trial had argued that there was no evidence to support the genocide claim. The charges stem from the 1992-1995 Bosnia war, in which thousands of Muslims perished in the Srebrenica massacre and other events (Paul Gallagher, *Reuters/Washington Post*, June 16).

The attorneys filing on behalf of Milosevic argued that evidence was lacking for three key components to the genocide charge — that there was a joint criminal enterprise to destroy part of Bosnia's Muslims as a group, that Milosevic was part of the enterprise and that the enterprise committed genocide (U.N. release, June 16).

"There is no evidence that the accused possessed the requisite 'special intent' required to commit the crime of genocide ... (or) knowingly aided or abetted one or more persons to commit genocide," the Friends of the Court said in their motion.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, however, responded that Milosevic "had knowledge of the joint criminal enterprise ... being aware that its aim and intention was the destruction of a part of the Bosnian Muslims as a group."

Proving genocide is seen as a test of the tribunal's prosecutors and a determinant of how the case will go down in history. Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte has acknowledged the difficulty of the task (Gallagher, *Reuters/Washington Post*).

The decision by the ICTY judges was not unanimous. South Korea's O-Gon Kwon gave a dissenting opinion on some of the questions. Patrick Robinson of Jamaica and Iain Bonomy of the United Kingdom outvoted him.

The court also threw out a motion that some charges regarding Croatia should be dismissed because it was not independent before 1992, and that the conflict prior to that was therefore not international.

It did, however, concede that some charges relating to Bosnia and Croatia could not be sustained (U.N. release).

The prosecution rested its case against Milosevic in March. The ousted leader begins his defense on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity, breaches of the Geneva Conventions and violations of the laws or customs of war on July 5 (Gallagher, *Reuters/Washington Post*).

Milosevic wants to call a total of 1,400 witnesses to the stand in his defense, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former U.S. President Bill Clinton. The judges set no limit on the number of witnesses he may call but said his court time would be limited to 150 working days (Gallagher, *Reuters*, June 17).

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Annan rebukes U.S. on global court

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) -- U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has rebuked the United States for trying to get another exemption from prosecution by the new International Criminal Court and urged the Security Council to oppose the measure.

He is expected to press his case at a luncheon with council ambassadors on Friday. And next week more than 40 nations are scheduled to debate the measure in a public meeting, at which time U.S. abuse of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan is bound to be mentioned.

"The blanket exemption is wrong. It is of dubious judicial value and I don't think it should be encouraged by the council," Annan told reporters on Thursday.

Annan has opposed the measure in past years but used particularly harsh language this time, noting the human rights scandal in U.S.-run prisons in Iraq.

"I think it would be unfortunate for one to press for such an exemption, given the prisoner abuse in Iraq," he said. "I think in this circumstance it would be unwise to press for an exemption, and it would be even more unwise on the part of the Security Council to grant it."

The United States is investigating abuse of prisoners by the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Bush administration, for the third year, is seeking to renew a Security Council resolution that would exempt from the court's prosecution military and civilian personnel "related to a UN-authorized operation" such as that in Iraq.

The immunity is extended to all nations not among the 94 countries that have ratified a treaty establishing the court, based in The Hague, Netherlands. The resolution expires by the end of the month.

So far Washington does not have enough support or will barely reach the required nine "yes" votes needed for the resolution to pass in the 15-nation body.

Among the 15 council members, Germany, France, Spain, Brazil, Chile, Benin and Romania, are expected to abstain. But some, like Romania, are reluctant to be responsible for failure of the resolution, if it dies by one vote.

Crucial is whether China abstains. China has criticized the resolution as sending the wrong signal to the world. But diplomats say Beijing is seeking U.S. concessions on Taiwan, although China denies this.

Expected to vote in favor are Russia, Algeria, the Philippines, Pakistan, Angola as well as Britain, one of 94 countries to have ratified the treaty. Its vote is based on Washington's past threat to veto U.N.

peacekeeping missions one by one as it did in 2002, British officials say.

The Bush administration argues that the tribunal, based in The Hague, Netherlands, could be used for politically motivated law suits against American soldiers. Supporters say the court's statutes exclude countries with a proper judicial system, like the United States, from prosecution.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the resolution "should be renewed the way the council said it would."

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Pressing for immunity from war crime prosecutions 'unwise', Annan says

17 June 2004 – Secretary-General Kofi Annan today said that continuing to grant peacekeepers participating in United Nations operations immunity from potential prosecution by the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal had the potential to hurt the credibility of both the Security Council and the UN itself.

"[The] blanket exemption is wrong. It is of dubious judicial value, and I don't think it should be encouraged by the Council," Mr. Annan said in reply to questions by reporters at UN Headquarters in New York on the renewal of a resolution set to expire on 30 June.

First adopted by the Council in July 2002 and renewed last year, the resolution effectively shields members of UN peacekeeping missions from nations that have not ratified the Rome Statute – the treaty that established the Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) – from investigation or prosecution.

The United States, which originally signed the Rome treaty but did not ratify it, introduced a text last month seeking to renew the exemption for a third consecutive year.

"For the past two years, I have spoken quite strongly against the exemption, and I think it would be unfortunate for one to press for such an exemption, given the prisoner abuse in Iraq," Mr. Annan said. "I think in this circumstance it would be unwise to press for an exemption, and it would be even more unwise on the part of the Security Council to grant it."

Such a move "would discredit the Council and the United Nations that stands for rule of law and the primacy of rule of law," he said.



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UN council extends sanctions on Liberia for six months

www.chinaview.cn 2004-06-18 12:25:18

UNITED NATIONS, June 17 (Xinhuanet) -- The United Nations Security Council voted on Thursday to keep sanctions on Liberia's diamond and timber exports in place for six more months until the year-end.

Unanimously adopting a resolution, the council asked UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to appoint a five-member expert team to monitor the impact of the sanctions on Liberians and report back by Dec 10 on whether it is time to lift the measures.

The 15-nation body also encouraged the Liberian transitional government to take necessary steps to ensure that revenues from the diamond and timber industries would be used to benefit the people and not be diverted to buy arms.

The resolution was passed despite Chairman of Liberia's interim government Gyude Bryant pleading for the removal of the embargoes at a council open meeting last week.

The Security Council imposed an arms embargo and a diamond exports ban on the Liberian government led by then President Charles Taylor in 2001 in a bid to curb the long-running conflict in the West African country.

A ban on Liberia's timber exports was added in 2003 to force Liberia's warring parties to go back to the negotiating table.

Taylor was forced to step down and go into exile in Nigeria in August 2003 after the rebel forces entered the capital of Monrovia. His departure was followed by a peace deal among the warring parties.

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11/06/2004 18:55

It is always sad and regrettable when people resort to such measures that took the life of John Auffrey. It is becoming imperative that humans should work towards implementing the consciousness that will guarantee safety and respect to each individual and to all groups regardless of how the group is defined. We have fought wars for ages and the world is yet not safe enough to protect each and every individual. We have conducted kangaroo and gorilla trials with national and international flair only to find out that we have to yet conduct another experimental special court trial system to veil our past injustices and open up future avenues for more injustice against our fellow humans.

There will be no peace if justice is not perceived as being just in the eyes and minds of the society within which it is applied. We, the common folks know nothing about Plato. We know only one world and that is the world that we see, feel, hear, and touch. Every other world is non-existent. We do not even accept possible world constructs. Dat na for belle-full mind.

Alleged Killer's Background Reveals Links to Benjamin Yeaten and Cocoo Dennis

29 May 04

Although the Americans have concluded that the motive behind killing of a civilian worker attached to the US Defence Department, John Auffrey, 44, was robbery, the background and connections of the main suspect, Emmanuel Mulbah, still at large, is revealing.

1. He was a ranking member of Charles Taylor's militia, therefore a trusted one. He served as bodyguard to Benjamin Yeaten, the infamous commander of Taylor's Anti-Terrorist Unit who escaped UN Sierra Leone Special Court arrest in Togo some months ago and is now said to be under house arrest in that country. Yeaten is linked to many murders in Liberia and was reportedly one of the expeditionary commanders in the Sierra Leone war.
2. Mulbah, according to reports, rendered services to another Taylor General, Cocoo Dennis. Cocoo Dennis is one of the most notorious of Taylor commanders. He was living at the Mamba Point Hotel at the time of the murder, reports say. Reports say Cocoo Dennis is now being questioned.
3. Mulbah, according to reports, visited Cocoo Dennis regularly at the hotel.
4. Reports further say the prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes, Court David Crane, was living at the hotel and that he may have been the target of the murder.

Police have refused to comment on these reports, fearing this may prejudice the investigation. But the fact that all the suspects are Charles Taylor's ex-members of Charles Taylor's militias raises more questions.

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Xinhua June 17, 2004 Thursday

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ABUJA, June 17 (Xinhua) -- Economic Community of **West** African States (ECOWAS) Deputy Executive Secretary for Defense Cheick Oumar Diarra on Thursday expressed his satisfaction at the **overall security situation** in the sub-region.

"The **overall situation** in the sub-region can be described as stable," said Diarra at the ninth meeting of the 15-member ECOWAS Defense and **Security** Commission (DSC) in the Nigerian capital of Abuja.

He described the reconciliation process in Liberia as a tremendous success and noted that the country's electoral commission had commenced sensitization towards next year's election.

Concerns raised by some parties in the 14-year-long Liberian conflict, he added, had been promptly addressed by the mediator Abdulsalam Abubakar, a former Nigerian military leader, who stepped down for elected President Olusegun Obasanjo in 1999.

Diarra also said that the period of the UN mission in Sierra Leone had been extended while the mission for peace in Cote d' Ivoire was on course despite "the unfortunate incident" of last week, in which seven people died and two French soldiers was wounded by unidentified gunmen at a military post.

The three-day DSC meeting, which will end on Saturday, is being attended by members from the ECOWAS as well as UN peacekeeping force commanders in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

JOURNAL-CODE: m90

SECURITY THREAT

...as combat uniforms found at MMCET Campus

Reports from the MMCET Goderich Campus have confirmed to this press that students are persistently terrified by a group of unknown men in full military combat uniforms who

suddenly appear in the corridors or study rooms at midnight.

According to one Koroma, a final year B.ED student, men in full military gear, (not UNAMSIL) were last

week spotted at midnight in a straight line, marching through the main street of the campus from Harry Sawyerr male hostel to Elizabeth Hirst a female hostel. Three final year ladies (names withheld)

also reported to have been terrified by a bout four men dressed in military fatigue at about 11:45pm. They were

CONTINUED PAGE 2

FROM PAGE 1

threatened to leave the Business and Technical Studies (Bus-Tech) department where they were reading for their exams, or face the music. These incidents, according to our Goderich correspondent, have been reported to the administration but things seem to be taken with a pinch of salt and the students therefore remain in great fear.

Meanwhile, a senior lecturer (name withheld) told our correspondent that there is a student club on the Goderich campus which is fond of giving military ranks to their elders - colonel, generals etc. "They

are fond of wearing soja uniforms in broad daylight even though they are not soldiers" adding that they often forcefully drag their colleagues from their rooms, especially women, to unknown destinations for initiations, preferably in preparations for students union elections.

The attention of Military Headquarters at Cokeril must be drawn to that ugly situation at Goderich campus and put a halt to it. Otherwise its a threat to our security.

A source in the administration also confirmed that these practices are very common before, during and after student union elections which

is already in the pipeline.

In a separate incident on Tuesday 1st June 2004, a lecturer called Mohamed 'Tabitha' Kamara reportedly incited students of the Goderich campus to mercilessly beat and 'kill' students from Congo Cross campus - Alie Badara and Kondovoh, the Governor. These students were saved by neighbours with cuts/wounds all over their bodies. The case is currently being investigated by the Lumley Police, while 'Tabitha' boastfully moves around saying that he is doing things in defence of the Principal Dr. Denis Kargbo.

Forth Forum

Friday June 18, 2004