

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



A mechanic at his garage in Murray Town consults with a customer while his apprentices look on.

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office**

**as at:**

Friday, 2 March 2007

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

Friday, 2 March 2007

# Issa Arrives

By Kelvin Lewis

**4** 3 days after he left the shores of Sierra Leone for medical treatment in a military hospital in Dakar Senegal, former Interim leader of the rebel Revolutionary United Front and now Special court Indictee Issa Sesay arrived home yesterday 1<sup>st</sup> March looking hale and hearty.

Issa arrived onboard a UN mission airplane which

is stationed in Abidjan, and a few minutes later he boarded the UNIOSIL helicopter – UN-029 – which flew him and security officials to the Special Court detention center where they arrived approximately around 12.45 in the afternoon.

At the helipad inside the detention center Issa was given the option to ride in a vehicle but he reportedly offered to walk the short distance from the helicopter

to the detention facility.

He was greeted on arrival by Registrar Lovemore Munlo with whom he chatted on the short stroll to the detention facility.

According to Registrar Munlo he greeted Issa and asked him “How are you feeling now?” and Issa replied “much better thank you very much – much better – thank you for organizing this for me – I’m feeling much better.”

Issa Sesay and Chief Sam Hinga Norman were both flown out on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January to receive medical treatment in a military hospital in Dakar Senegal.

On Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup> the Registrar said he was told that the two operations had been done “successfully when I got the information it was Hinga Norman first – it went on well and then the Sesay procedures went and they took a bit longer but it finished successfully also and then we were getting reports that both of them were recuperating very well and the doctor told me he was talking to them and they were in high spirits.”

Questioned on whether the doctor traveled with

Issa Sesay Mr Munlo said “Dr Harding did not travel with him because of the unfortunate demise of Sam Hinga Norman.

It is crucial - as we are discussing with the family, the process should be seen to be transparent and as credible as possible. So there are doctors who are going to conduct the postmortem – pathologists from the hospital – we have agreed with the Norman family that they should get their own pathologist to be present there – we need our doctor also to be present there so that we have in house information as to how the whole process is being conducted, after that he would be coming back together with everybody, when everything is done.”

On the question of how he feels about two people going and only one returning, the registrar said “Well it is unfortunate that is how life is, its only God who knows about our lives, so as I said it is with deep regret and with shock that this has happened because that is not what we were aiming at we were aiming at having their medical situation improved, but as fate would have it after a successful medical procedure and after 14 days suddenly we lost one of our detainees.”

The Registrar refused to comment on the particular medical condition of Issa Sesay saying it is confidential, although Awoko has reliably learnt that he had a bullet lodged in his body which was extracted.

Issa returned exactly 21 days after his operation was performed.



## Opinion Poll

*Who would you blame for Norman's death?*

**Text: “S” for Special Court - “G” for Government or “H” for Hospital**

**To numbers 076-444444 or 030-445566**

**Your phone calls will not be answered text only please**

*Texts close Friday 2nd March. 2007*

## Results

**Government - 100%**

**Special Court - 0%**

**Hospital - 0%**

Awoko  
Friday, 2 March 2007



## Awoko

Friday, 2 March 2007

# You Said It

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was established in 2002 to try people who bear the greatest responsibilities during the eleven years mayhem in the country. But is this court really necessary? And is it a success story? During the course of the court's proceedings, it has recorded few deaths of its indictees. And these are people citizens of this country believe had the information with regards to the causes of the war. First it was the RUF leader Foday Sankoh and Sam Bockarie, and recently Chief Samuel Hinga Norman passed away in a hospital in Senegal. Betty Milton, as usual, went out to sound people's views on the timeliness of this court.

**Susan Vonu** "for me the Special Court is not necessary as the money they are spending on it should have been spent on the people of this country. But because of the greed of the politicians and there are few people like Chief Norman whom they want to remove from scene they decided to come with the court when the people of the country are suffering. The court for me is a waste of resources."

**Alusine Jabbate** "the court should not have been brought to the country as I am totally against it. I can say authoritatively that it's a contributing factor to the death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman. They had assured the people of this nation that they would be taking him to Senegal for medical treatment and that they would ensure that he's back healthy and now he is dead after all their assurances. The court is not an independent court but a political one, and therefore it is not a success story because there is a lot of room for improvement if they want to achieve their goal."



**Alusine Jabbate**



**Anita Ghenda**



**Sia Koroma**



**Siaka Sillah**



**Susan Vonu**

**Anita Ghenda** "if they would have given the people of Sierra Leone the money that they have used to establish and keep the court running it would have been much more better, as it would have helped in the development of the country as we are just from war. The court has not done anything for the country; it only came to this country so that some white people will mine our diamonds to develop their own countries leaving us completely undeveloped."

**Sia Ngadie Koroma** "the court is not a genuine one as it is working in close relation with the Kabbah government which gave the orders that Chief Norman be arrested and detained. What we are really afraid of is those that are currently in detention, especially Issa Sesay who is also in Senegal maybe he too may have been given something so that he will die when he comes back."

**Siaka Sillah** "for me the court is not necessary because they have said we should forgive and forget and then reconcile. So I do not see why the court is necessary. I don't think the court is a success story as it is not doing anything beneficial to the country and its people."

**Joseph Kai Banya** "the court is really necessary because they are trying people who were very active in the war. The deaths of the three indictees were not in anyway connected with the court and they should not be blamed for the work of God. The Special Court should continue to do its work and to fulfill its mandate by ensuring that they try the greatest responsibilities."

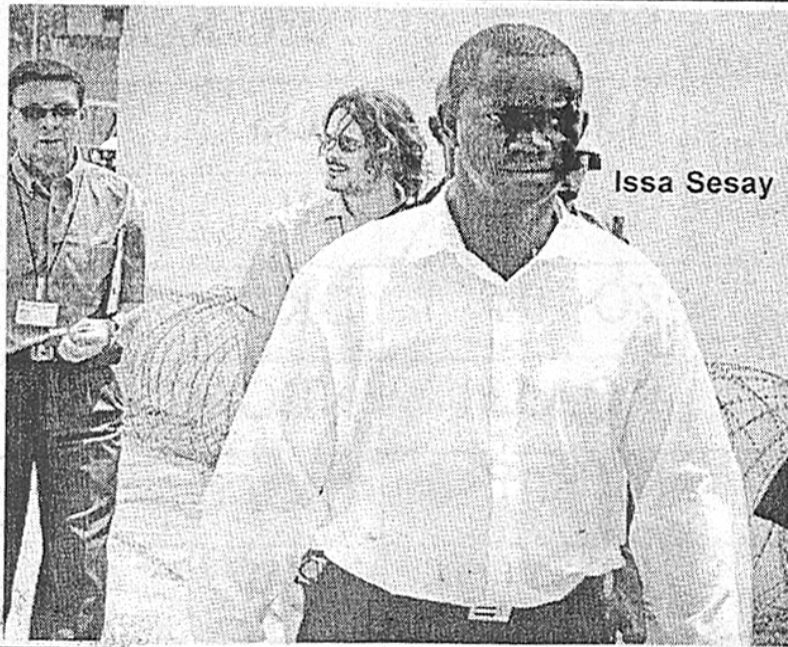
The New Citizen  
Friday, 2 March 2007

# Issa Sesay Returns Home Alive

Former RUF Leader, Issa Sesay who alongside Sam Hinga Norman travelled to the Senegalese capital of Dakar for medical treatment in a military hospital yesterday returned to Freetown after successfully undergoing medical treatment.

Special Court authorities were yesterday quite anxious to publicise the return of Issa Sesay for purposes of assuring members of the public that the RUF

*Contd. back page*



*From page 1*

Leader has not met the fate of the CDF Leader, Sam Hinga Norman.

The authorities also wanted to make it clear

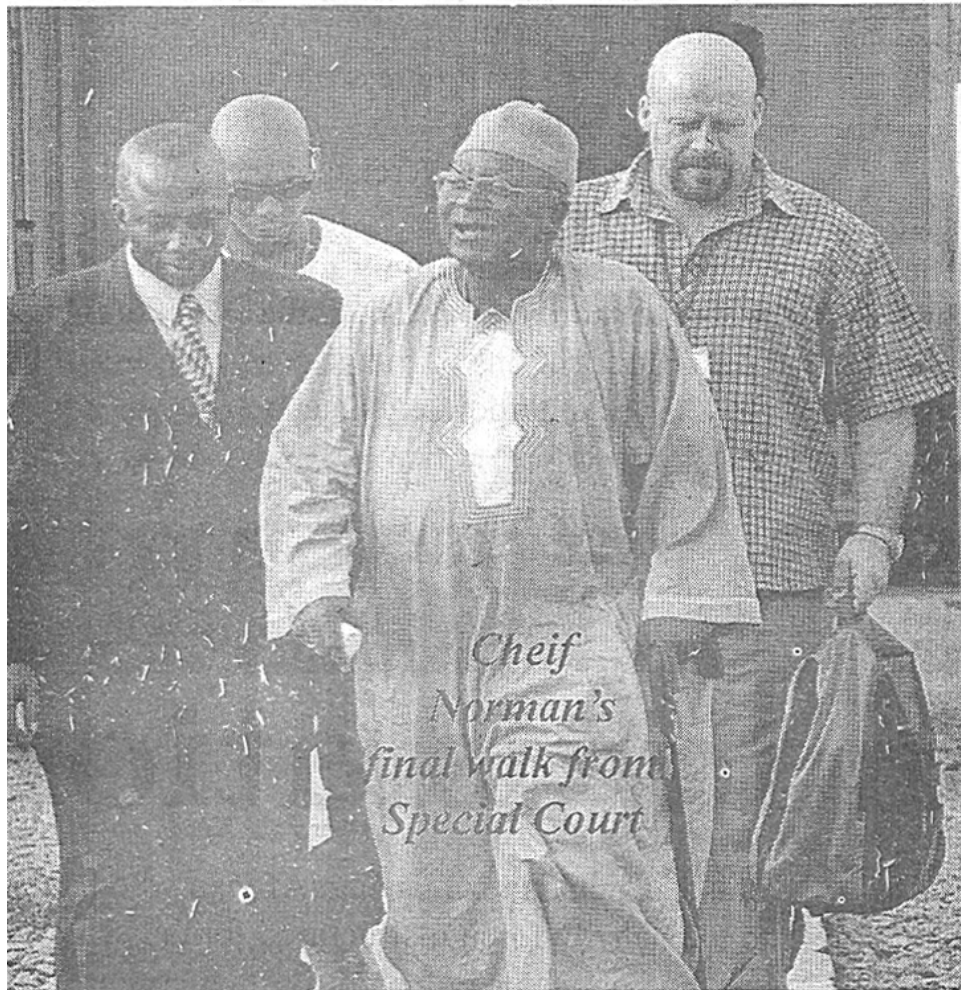
## Issa Sesay

that they were speaking the truth when they said that Hinga Norman and Issa

Sesay had been taken to Senegal for medical treatment.

Concord Times  
Friday, 2 March 2007

### Special Court Pressure: Family Wants Norman's Verdict Released



Family members and friends of the late Hinga Norman, led by former Vice President Albert Joe Demby and former UK High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, met officials of the UN-Sierra Leone Special Court Tuesday and demanded that they release the verdict relating to Norman's case. Norman died mysteriously in the custody of the Special Court while undergoing treatment after a hip operation in Senegal last week.

He had been in the custody of the Court for four years. Norman, considered a hero

*Cont. page 5*

# Family Wants Norman's Verdict Released

*From page 1*

by many in Sierra Leone for leading the resistance against anti-democratic rebels, was charged by the Court for crimes against humanity.

Sources say that Court officials are resisting the demand. Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo released a statement shortly after Norman's death declaring that a verdict in the case will not be announced. Munlo regretted that once again "the people of Sierra Leone" had been deprived of "justice." Court officials have been citing an ambiguous clause in the statute setting up the Special Court about rules of procedures in respect of an indictee who dies. The procedure applied in the case of Foday Saybanah Sankoh, another Court indictee and the leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, who died in the custody of the Court before his trial commenced. In the case of Norman, however, the trial had been completed, and everyone was awaiting his verdict before he was taken to Senegal for treatment for an infection he had been suffering from since his detention

four years ago. Sources say that Norman incurred the hip problem in the course of his arrest and detention by the Court. He was forcefully arrested in his office, handcuffed and flung into a waiting van. Norman was a senior minister in the current government at the time of his arrest, and this humiliation sparked outrage in many quarters.

Penfold, a former British High Commissioner who worked with Norman and others to reinstate the elected government of Tejan Kabbah after its bloody overthrow by soldiers and rebels, has been one of the most prominent voices against the treatment of Norman, and he arrived Monday from the UK to "respect the memory of Norman, a man I consider a hero in this country." Penfold was crowned as a senior traditional chief in the Northern Province for his singular role in helping Sierra Leone at a time of great need. On the Court's verdict, Penfold told this newspaper yesterday that the Norman family, with whom he is working to organize Nor-

man's funeral, is asking for it to be made public. "That is the family's position and it has been communicated to the Court. However, we have not received any response from them [the Court]," he said.

The Sierra Leone Special Court was set up in 2002 to try those responsible for heinous offences during the country's decade of bloody internal warfare. It has spent nearly \$150 million since then but has since not convicted anyone. Some critics say that the highly paid staff at the Court, whose administrative incompetence is well known, is in no hurry to conclude the Court's tenure. It was originally set up for three years. Judges earn \$250,000 per annum tax free plus allowances, more than that of the President of the United States. Prosecutors earn about the same.

The Court last year had a fillip when Charles Taylor, a former Liberian President and the man generally acknowledged to have been responsible for Sierra Leone's war, was released into its custody. Taylor is now at The Hague awaiting trial.

Before then, Norman was its most prominent detainee.

Interviewed by this newspaper, author Lans Gberie, a critic of the Court, said he sees no reason why the Court should not release the Norman verdict. "I don't know why they should even attempt to stall this one," Gberie said. "It's being a pretty squalid affair, this Special Court thing. I have always maintained that the Court had no business indicting Norman, and now that they seem so clearly implicated in his untimely death, they should hasten to come clean..." Gberie is the author of "A Dirty War in West Africa: The RUF and the Destruction of Sierra Leone," published by Indiana University Press. "Either they really are bunch idiots, or they think everyone in Sierra Leone is an idiot, which amounts to the same thing. There is no time for legalese."

Court Spokesman Peter Anderson declined to say whether the Court will change tack and release the verdict. He referred this paper to the release issued last week by the Court.



New Vision

Friday, 2 March 2007

## Commentary

### Hinga Norman: A National Hero

*The untimely death of the former Civil Defense Force (CDF) Kamajor leader, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, would have serious repercussions on this country's political scene for a long time. It is bound to leave many unanswered questions on the way and manner in which the Kamajor Chief was detained by the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone with the full complicity of the Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.*

*Indeed the most startling of this would be the personal relationship between Chief Norman and President Kabbah as speculated around the country by gossipers. Some people believe that Chief Hinga Norman was at a point in time during the Interregnum that set in as a result of the Johnny Paul Koroma coup, attempted to seize power from President Kabbah presumably with the backing of other disgruntled officials of the government.*

*As the speculations would have it, little was known about the behind the scene interactions between the deposed President Kabbah, who was at the time taking refuge in Guinea, and the Chief Coordinator of the Kamajor/CDF Chief Hinga Norman who stayed in the country at the time of the coup. What is evident to the general public is that such rumours that has the tendency to sow seeds of disunity within the SLPP were easily diffused through the mediation of some SLPP elders at the time including the late Teacher R.E.S. Lagawo, so that harmony should prevail within the party. Whatever the case may be the popularity of Chief Norman at the time was so high in the country that many people gave credence to such rumours. To many people in the Southern and Eastern parts of the country, Norman and the Kamajor were dual symbols of hope and survival at a time when several evidences pointed to the fact that the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) were conniving with the rebels to overthrow the government and at a time when the rebels were making significant military gains to overrun the entire country.*

*Essentially the presumed soldier-rebel complicity was only a matter of time it was fully exposed after the Johnny Paul Koroma coup when the military junta announced a rebel-soldier coalition government headed by Major Johnny Paul Koroma which paved the way for RUF rebels to invade Freetown and unleash a reign of terror.*

*This signal was enough to convince pessimists that at that particular point in time the army was not to be trusted. The mistrust between the Army and the SLPP government was effectively highlighted in Parliament, when a motion was passed for government to render financial support to the Kamajor movement including the composition of a leadership chain of command, and the appointment of a National Coordinator, which was a tacit legal recognition of the Kamajors.*

*On the other hand people must be very careful in passing judgment as to whether President Kabbah's government was right in inviting the intervention of the UN-backed Special Court to Sierra Leone. What critics should realize is that there would never have been peace in this country, at least eleven years after the rebel war started had it not been due to the involvement of the United Nations and the International Community as a whole to end the carnage*

*If the UN had not intervened, there would never have been a UN-backed Special Court, to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the exceeds and atrocities committed during the war, nor would it have been possible to achieve peace due to the intransigence of the rebels to negotiate peace*

*It was the UN that financially sponsored the disarmament and demobilization programmes, especially the cash for gun project which served as an incentive to convince ex-fighters to disarm and demobilize in the interest of peace.*

*The argument is that the peaceful negotiation of the conflict through international conferences alone would never have achieved peace as the protagonists in the conflict moved from one ECOWAS sponsored conflict to the other in Abidjan, Ivory Coast and Lome, Togo without achieving anything concrete. The RUF rebel group of Corporal Foday Sankoh of Sierra Leone as well as the National Patriotic Front government of Charles Taylor in Liberia had all relied on diplomatic deception at the conference table as a strategy to prolong the war and continue the brutal exploitation of the country's natural resources.*

*Even if Charles Taylor or Foday Sankoh were to be chased out of their bastions through armed struggle, they would still have resorted to guerilla tactics by going back to the bush to intensify the blood diamonds deals, by recruiting child and youth soldiers and purchasing arms on the international market. But in the face of the UN-backed Special Court arrest warrant, Charles Taylor became like a 2-foot rat that can not run or hide.*

*It is indeed regrettable that with the demise of Chief Hinga Norman, Foday Sankoh and Sam 'Maskita' Bockarie without final verdicts being handed down, (or without being tried), the full history of the war will forever remain hidden. It would have been better for a full verdict to be handed down after the trials of those who bear the greatest responsibility for the war, so that the world should know what actually went wrong.*

New Vision  
Friday, 2 March 2007

With Sheikh M. Bawoh Cell:033-312-691

## Norman's Demise Vs National Issues

To many Sierra Leoneans particularly in the Southeast, the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman was a hero, a redeemer and a valiant who stood stoutly in the defence of the rural community.

Chief Norman passed away on the 22 February 2007 in a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal following a hip replacement.

Before his death, Chief Norman, a former National Coordinator of Civil Defence Force (CDF), and Cabinet Minister in the SLPP government was indicted on eight count charge of war crimes and crimes against humanity in 2003 by the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

His demise has since sparked up intense acrimonious political debate in the country.

As a former politician and a Cabinet Minister for that matter, no sane mind will question the political undercurrent that is associated with his death. What perhaps needs to be explained better is the political development that led to the establishment of the court in whose custody he died.

The Special Court came into existence first as a result of an agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations. The UN had insisted that the best way to deter war crimes and human right violation is by bringing to justice those who bore the greatest responsibility. (Command Responsibility). Those who qualified under this category were those who were in position to have stopped human rights violations but could not and not necessarily those who committed atrocities themselves.

Based on that agreement,

a bill was drafted and tabled in Parliament for ratification.

After ratification in Parliament, it became the legitimate voice of every Sierra Leoneans. In other words, by sanctioning the bill, a collective political decision was effected by the people of Sierra Leone. I am saying this with the firm conviction that an elected Parliament represents the people.

Following the establishment of the court, Chief Norman and others who in the estimation of the Special Court were in position to have stopped atrocities but did not, ended up being charged to court.

By the independent and credible nature of the court, I have no modicum of hesitation in my mind that Mr. Norman's indictment was based on the evidences gathered by the Special Court, rather than on the recommendation of some highly placed people as it is rumoured around.

Without any attempt to demean the solemn death of a national hero, it is however outrageous and absurd for any one to amplify the incident and allow it to suddenly over take other critical national issues in an election year.

The point should be emphasised that although there are Sierra Leoneans who can swallow hook, line and sinker those despicable stories and propaganda relating to the demise of some one whose fate was nationally sanctioned, there are others like myself who



hold a contrary view.

Four Months or so to elections, it is imperative to note that political parties should focus more on the state of affairs at the country instead of dwelling on matters that are completely unrelated with burning issues of the day.

Politicians can do justice to themselves and the people if for instance they provide alternatives to the widely acclaimed Food Security. The people need to be told, based on facts and figures where we are and what to expect.

The same can be said of education in the country; the challenges and the way forward.

Other issues like health care delivery, social security and youth employment are issues that are all relevant and difficult to wither in any country and in any election.

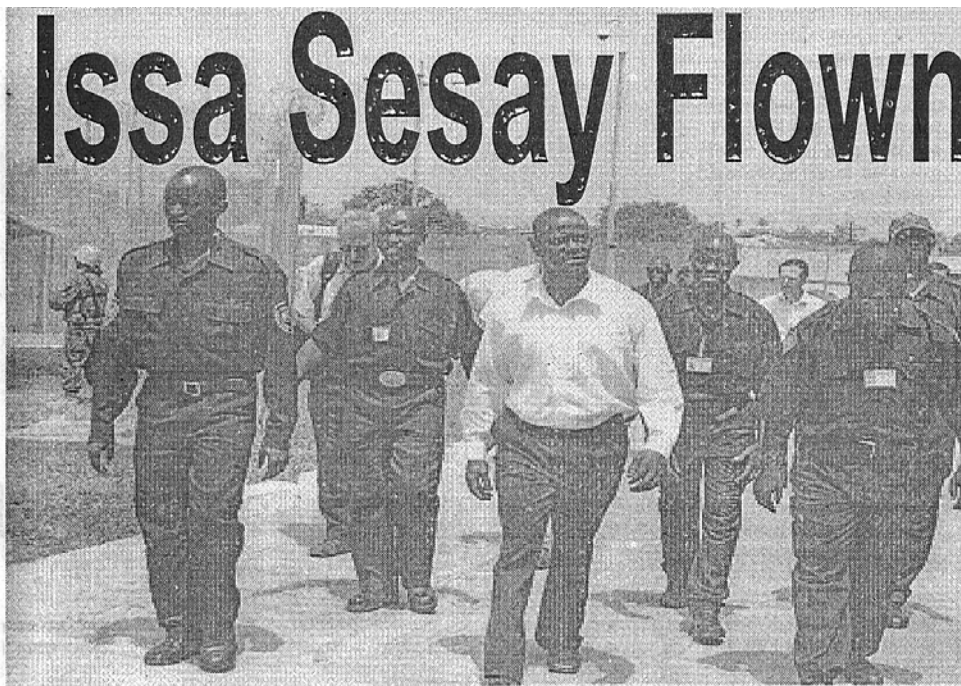
The perennial black out and the state of the multi million Dollar Bumbuna Hydro Project can also be topical and worthy of discussion.

Incase our politicians think they have exhausted all these topics; they may even talk about the Komkanda II Bridge linking Freetown to Lungi or the Railway.

It is only when they would have discussed these and many other concerns that we will have time for trivialities.

The bottom line is Chief Norman's issue is belated and should have been championed long time ago when the court was at its formative stage, not this time. Nevertheless Chief Norman, even in death remains a Sierra Leonean Hero. *May his soul Rest in Peace*

Independent Observer  
Friday, 2 March 2007



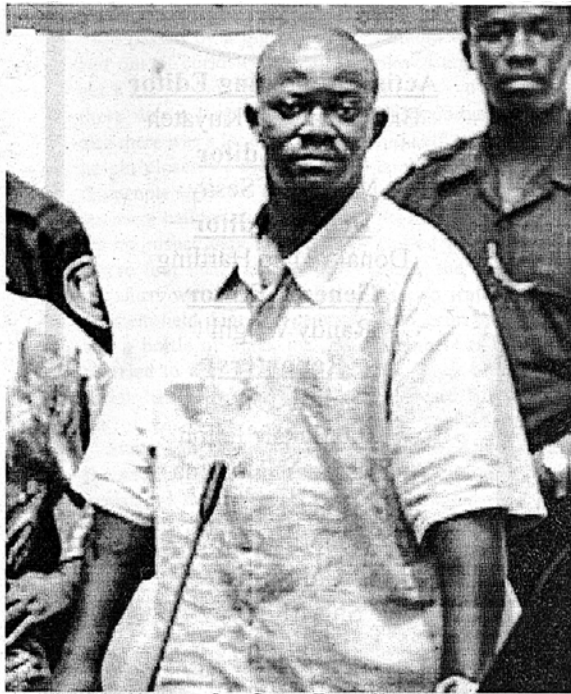
*Issa Sesay on arrival yesterday at the Special Court detention facility in Freetown*

# Issa Sesay Flown Back To Freetown

Issa Sesay was flown back to Freetown yesterday morning onboard a chartered UN plane from Senegal looking hale and hearty after almost a month stay in Senegal where he underwent surgical operation to dislodge two bullets in his leg.

He was taken there together with Chief Sam Hinga Norman, but sadly though he had to return alone as Norman passed away from cardiac arrest a few days after the operation on his hip. His body is still in Senegal awaiting an independent investigation into the cause of death and an autopsy examination at which his relatives had volunteered to be present.

The Special Court in Sierra Leone did not make any formal statement yesterday on the arrival of Issa Sesay in Freetown but made available several pictures of him in the company of guards and relatives on arrival at the Special Court detention facility on Jomo Kenyatta Road.



*Issa Sesay: Treated?*

Issa Sesay, the Revolutionary United Front strongman who finally gave assent to down arms and usher in the much needed

## ***Special Court Dilemma...***

# Issa Sesay Back 'Home!'

peace in the country, is back at his cell at the Special Court, New England in Freetown.

Issa, who together with the Late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, were bundled off to a Senegalese Military Hospital cum cell, were said to have gone for medical treatment in January this year. Unfortunately, under circumstances still not ascertained, Chief Norman could not bear the ordeal further and succumbed to death on the 22nd of February this year.

Yesterday, the United Nation's

helicopter carrying the late man's colleague and fellow indictee, Issa Sesay touched the tarmac and under the Special Court security, guided him to his cell, apparently a dejected man following the death of his mentor.

Issa is facing charges of crime against humanity and is said to be among those who 'bear the greatest responsibility of perpetrating crimes against humanity during the decade old war in the country.

When the so-called trial of the

handful of surviving indictees will commence cannot be ascertained as we go to press.

Meanwhile the mortal remains of the Late Chief Hinga Norman is expected some time next week after the independent autopsy would have been completed. His friend and loyalist, Peter Komrabai Penfold is in town helping Norman's family, relatives and thousands of sympathisers and admirers ensure that the late redeemer of the nation gets a befitting funeral.

## The Spark

Friday, 2 March 2007

### ***Hinga Norman's Death;***

## **A Lesson For All Governments In Africa**

Governments in Africa and Sierra Leone in particular must take seriously the saying that global powers have interests and not friends. The arm twisting that may have taken place in establishing the Special Court of Sierra Leone did not have the country's interest at heart. I hope we as Sierra Leoneans have learnt a lesson.

This may be another instance in which someone has to be a sacrificial lamb for us to see that the Special Court is divisive and should be shut down. When Chief Norman was fighting to rid the towns, villages, cities and country of rebels, the countries now supporting the Special Court evacuated their citizens. The same thing happened in Rwanda.

However, African leaders being dependent on donor funds accept almost anything presented to them. The countries that evacuated their citizens are the ones in whose custody a hero met his tragic death.

Now that they have no big fish to use in their quest to keep their jobs, may be they should all just go home and leave us alone. Let us resolve once more that never again should we allow this to happen. In 1787, Naimbana received gifts and signed what he considered a treaty of friendship only to be told the land belongs to Britain. Treaties of friendship and cooperation were signed all over Sierra Leone by Chiefs only to be told later that they had given up their sovereignty to Britain.

Beware what treaties you sign with some Western institutions. If we had never learnt anything before, this should be a wake up call that you do not give a blank check to certain Western institutions because they will divide your country and then evacuate their citizens when things go wrong.

Rest in Peace, Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Rest in peace, OUR HERO.

The Spectator  
Friday, 2 March 2007

# Issa Sesay returns home

The Revolutionary United Front field commander, Gen Issa Sesay and now indictee of the Special court of Sierra Leone, who was flown together with the late Kamajor Godfather, Chief Hinga Norman, has returned home after a successful medical treatment in Senegal.

see page 2



## Issa Sesay returns home

*from front page*

General Issa Sesay was indicted on 2003 by the Special Court and charged with crimes against humanity. Gen Sesay, about a month ago, was flown together with Hinga Norman to Senegal and has now returned to his cell at New England. Hinga Norman could not come back with Gen. Issa owing to his death.

Gen Issa will now meet with Allieu Kondowa and Moinina Fofana. Sources say when Allieu Kondowa and Moinina Fofana saw General Issa alone, tears filled their eyes. It is reported that ever since the death of their master (Chief Norman) life at the Special Court prison yard has not been the same as it was.

General Issa Sesay, according to reports was having a good time with the man he fought against for over ten years. Hinga Norman was against the RUF insurgency. Because of this, Hinga Norman together with other colleagues formed the Kamajor movement purely to stop the RUF rebels. They were all arrested for crimes against humanity.

With the death of Chief Norman, the Special Court now has the war crimes suspects presently in detention.

PEEP!

Friday, 2 March 2007

## Between Chief Norman, The Special Court, The SLPP and The Opposition

*By Ibrahim labor Fofana*

Chief Norman's indictment by the Special Court left Sierra Leoneans with more questions than answers...

His death, rather than rest the case, has created more controversy and casted more aspersion, on the Kabbah administration to the point that the PMDC and other disgruntled former SLPP members are making political capital of the Kamajoh Chieftain's demise.

### *political capital*

This must be expected. In an election year, even the most untoward and politically remote occurrence is wont to be misinterpreted for vote gains.

The PMDC and other SLPP detractors are merely playing to the gallery. But no matter what political shade - green, red, orange or whatever, we owe it to posterity to at least put things in perspective so that our national history will not be badly stewed and politically

distorted, to the extent that *lies* become *truths*.

### *all in Cabinet*

When the idea of the establishment of the Special Court was bandied around, Chief Norman was deputy Defence Minister, Charles Margai was in cabinet and so was Solomon Berewa and of course President Kabbah.

There was also a Parliament comprising members of APC, SLPP and Johnny Paul's Peoples Liberation Party.

In our type of governance set up, it is expected that such a creation should have gone through all legal and democratic processes.

### *Lome Accord*

At that time, though there was the Lome Peace Accord which, in a way provided blanket amnesty to the warring factions, especially the RUF.

Majority of Sierra Leoneans, including me, were opposed to such an arrangement because it was thought that government had sold out.



*fiery article*

I recalled writing a fiery article in the *New Tablet* newspaper titled "*Den Die For Natin*"-in which I highlighted the atrocities the RUF/AFRC caused our people and how the government cannot justify the execution of the 24 military officers if the same government is not only blanket-amnestying the RUF and AFRC, but offering them positions in the newly constituted governance arrangement.

*'greatest responsibility'*

What we did not know then was how the whole scenario would play out. So when talk of the establishment of the Special Court came up, I am sure, my countrymen and women saw in it a way by which "those who bore greatest responsibility" could be brought to answer for their crimes.

We were so happy that we, as a people and government, didn't realize extent to which this development could go.

As should be expected, the international community, particularly the United Nations and the United States pushed very hard for the Kabbah administration to buy into this scheme.

*issue of survival*

At the time, our country was almost bankrupt and government was at sea as to what it should do in order to move the nation forward.

Therefore, though the Special Court issue was discussed at Cabinet and Parliament, the issue of the survival of our nation state was more paramount to the people than what the Special Court hoped to achieve.

And given that we had our fingers in the mouth of the international community, the government and the people swallowed the whole Special Court idea.

*indict the resistance*

Little did President Kabbah, Attorney General Berewa, deputy Defence Minister Chief Norman or Internal Affairs Minister Charles Margai know that the arrangement government had signed for the establishment of the Special Court could indict the Kamajors. It was believed that only the RUF and AFRC would be roped in, so government issued a blank cheque to the United Nations to set up the Court.

By the time it became apparent that the Kamajors, which fought so well to oust the AFRC/RUF elements and help reinstate the legitimate government, had also committed atrocities, government was beside itself.

*promise*

As President Kabbah noted in his welcome address at University of Njala Convocation in Coronation Field, Bo, last Saturday, he had already promised the international community that his government would not only cooperate with the Court, but will also give it a free hand.

The President kept his government's promise to the point that when charges were levied against his deputy Defence Minister who doubled as Kamajoh Chieftain, he could not go back on his word.

*sleepless nights*

I could only image the number of sleepless nights and troubled days the President had during those first shocking days of revelations.

Could our government renege and ask the Special Court not to indict Chief Norman? Could it ask that

the Special Court rethink its mandate? No! No serious government, in such tight shoes as ours was, would risk antagonizing the UN or the USA. Therefore, though confused, government had to play ball. The rest is now history.

*who is to blame*

Chief Norman was indicted, he testified, witness gave evidences for and against him. His case was rested but a verdict not pronounced before he got seriously ill and died. So who's to blame? Some will say the government - because it failed to protect him.

But was the government able to do so and refused? I don't think so. Infact what will either the President or his government bad benefit from Norman's indictment?

*bad name*

*Bad Name nor mor* as it is getting now. Which government would crave bad press if it can avoid it? None. Therefore it stands to reason that the Kabbah administration was caught between the devil and the deep blue sea as far as the Chief Norman indictment is concerned.

Either way government was going to lose face. So Kabbah's best option was to stay clear of the proceedings and let the Court operate as it was established to do.

If that was Kabbah's crime, then he is wrongly charged.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



The Exclusive  
Friday, 2 March 2007

# Issa Sesay Back Home

*By Alhassan Deen Kamara*

**S**pecial Court indictee, Issa Sesay, is back in Freetown feeling hale and hearty.

Issa Sesay left Dakar yesterday morning onboard a United Nations airplane, arriving at the Lungi International Airport just before noon.

He was transferred to a United Nations helicopter in Lungi, from where he was flown to the Special Court premises, New England at 12:39.

On arrival at the court, he was met and accompanied by a high profiled delegation comprising the Registrar of the court, Lovemore Munlo.

It would be recalled that Issa Sesay and the late Chief Hinga Norman were whisked-off to Dakar; Senegal, for what the Special Court described as, 'routine medical check up.' Unfortunately however, Chief Sam Hinga Norman passed away few days, after surgery for the replacement of a defective hip bone.

The remains of the late Hinga Norman are expected to be flown in very soon for a fitting burial by the PMDC and family members.

His son Sam Hinga Norman Jr. has said the SLPP are not invited to the funeral, for what many see as a betrayal of trust and confidence by the government, on the late hero.

The African Champion  
Friday, 2 March 2007

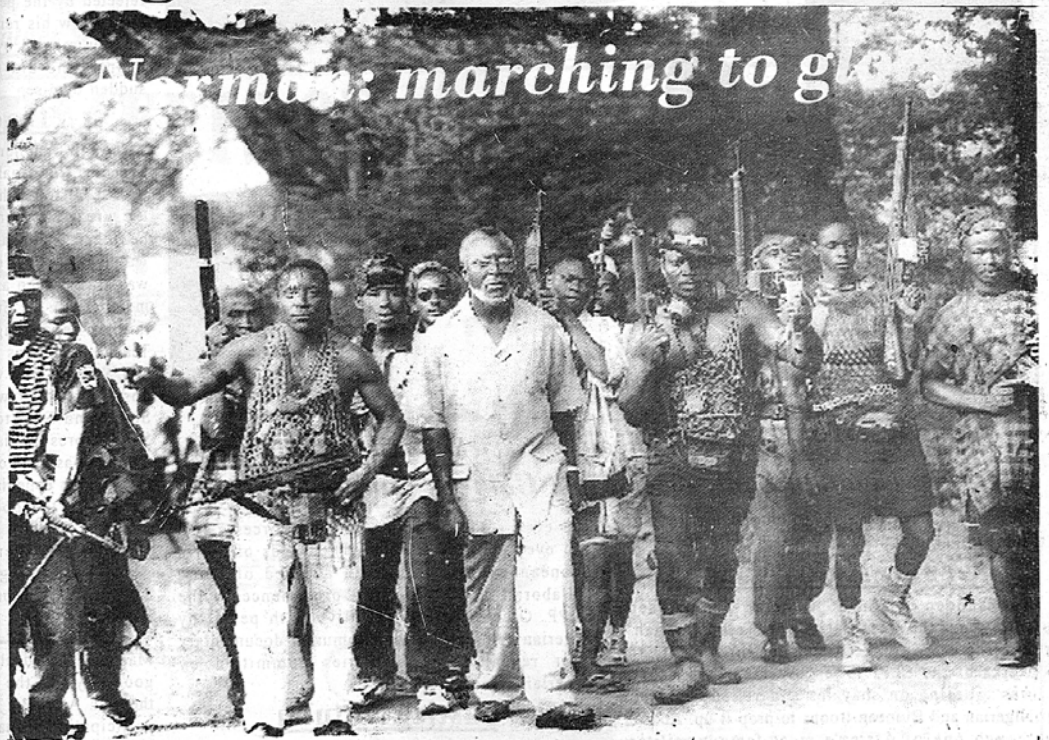
...And Hinga Norman Died of Shame

Steven Jusu, a Sierra Leonean journalist resident in London, has informed *The African Champion* in a telephone interview that Chief Hinga Norman died as a result of shame and embarrassment. According to Jusu, Norman died because of the treatment he received from his own government especially from President Tejan-Kabbah whom he said did not lift a single finger to help his own minister when he was indicted and detained.

Initially Norman was said to have been in a high spirit of confidence when he was taken to the Bonthe Island detention cell together with Foday Sankoh. "Norman even when he was in jail in Bonthe was confident of great expectation that the Kabbah administration will free him from the trouble but as time went on he became discouraged.

Jusu further said that Norman had shown signs of discouragement while in the detention and had been suffering from sleeplessness and as a result his health had deteriorated seriously. "Those of us in London who had an interest in the life of the great man knew that something was wrong when it was announced that Chief Norman had been flown to Senegal for hip replacement surgery," Jusu said and disclosed that Senegal has one of the worst hospitals in Sub-Saharan Africa. "Senegalese who cannot afford to go to

## Hinga Norman Died Of Shame



*Late Chief Sam Hinga Norman, during his hey days with the Kamajors in the jungle suffering to bring Kabbah back to power*

France for treatment usually go to Ghana or The Gambia so why should a senior government functionary undergoing such a trial be taken to a third world military hospital which cannot even afford 24 hours electricity do?" he asked.

According to Special Court sources, Norman had given away all his belongings on the day of

his departure from Freetown and even he even gave his towel to one of the cleaners who asked if he was not going to come back to the court to which he replied that only God knows. The former SLPP minister is also said to have kissed the ground before embarking onboard the helicopter and that he behaved like someone destined not to return. Jusu, also said that

Norman was not limping when he was on his way to Senegal although it was claimed he was going for a hip replacement surgery. Steven Jusu also condemned president Kabbah as a national hypocrite for his statement in calling Norman "one of my best ministers."

"Kabbah's treatment of his own minister caused headaches and

Norman knew everything even though he was in prison," Jusu said and narrated how the Norman family went through embarrassing periods while raising money for legal aid. "We have to know that Norman was never sacked or moved out as a result of a cabinet reshuffle so we know the man was still hoping all these years that his government

will not abandon him, but as elections approached and the time for Kabbah's time to leave office drew nearer, he realized that Berewa, who was responsible for bringing the Special Court was now planning to be the next president. That was the final straw that broke the late man's back."


**United Nations**      **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 1 March 2007

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

**BBC** Last Updated: Wednesday, 28 February 2007, 11:39 GMT

#### **Liberia's ex-leader 'stole \$1m'**

Liberia's ex-President Gyude Bryant has been charged with embezzling more than \$1m while in office. Mr Bryant headed the country during a transitional phase after the end of the 14-year civil war in 2003. His government is accused by regional body the Economic Community Of West African States, which oversaw the peace process, of stealing state funds. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf came to power just over a year ago promising to crack down on corruption.

**VOA** 28 February 2007

#### **Life Improves for Liberians but Uncertainty Persists**

By Darren Taylor, Washington

In January last year, Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became Africa's first elected female head of state, and a wave of optimism swept the West African country after almost 25 years of civil strife. The President and her key officials have embarked on a strategy to develop the tiny but mineral-rich Liberia into one of the most powerful economies on the continent.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

*There were no relevant stories on West Africa in the international media today.*

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **President Johnson Sirleaf UN Envoy Launch Sports Event**

*(The Informer New Vision and National Chronicle)*

- According to a press release issued in Monrovia yesterday, the United Nations Mission in Liberia said that the visiting United Nations Under Secretary-General and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, Mr. Adolf Ogi arrived in the Country and will tomorrow, together with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf launch the sports for peace program jointly organized by the Government, the International Olympic Committee and UNMIL. The 5-week nationwide campaign will bring together Liberians and to foster peace and reconciliation after years of civil war.

#### **Attorney-General Justifies Closure of Newspaper's Office**

*(The News, The Informer, The Inquirer, Daily Observer National Chronicle, Heritage and Liberian Express)*

- Speaking to reporters yesterday following the re-opening of the offices of *The Independent* newspaper, Justice Minister Frances Johnson-Morris said that its action to close the newspaper office was lawful.

- Minister Johnson-Morris said the action was based on the decision of the Information Ministry to revoke the license of the paper and said the Ministry does not have to wait for a writ of arrest before acting when it sees a crime being committed.
- She dismissed claims that the Ministry opened the offices of *The Independent* because of pressure or criticisms from the Press Union of Liberia and other groups and warned that the Police would not hesitate to close the offices of the paper if it publishes the obscene material again.

### **Newspaper Says UN Food Agency “Re-bags” Rotten Relief Items**

*(The Inquirer)*

- One of Liberia’s popular dailies, *The Inquirer* said that its investigation has found that the World Food Programme’s (WFP) warehouses at the Freeport of Monrovia contain contaminated food items were being distributed to schools after repackaging them.
- Sources at the WFP confided to the paper that food items which were meant to be stored for only three months, had been kept in the warehouses between 6 to 7 months and were being sieved and re-bagged for distribution under the agency’s school-feeding programme. But WFP Senior Logistic Officer Daniel Nowack denounced the report of supplying the rotten food.

### **GRC Submits to President Draft of Security Sector Reform Policy**

*(The Inquirer)*

- The Governance Reform Commission says it has submitted a draft National Security Sector Policy Statement to government for consideration and said the statement was formulated by the GRC in consultation with national stakeholders and international partners after the completion of a Security Sector Reform Assessment Study across the country.

**Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

### **GRC Submits to President Draft of Security Sector Reform Policy**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Government and UN Launch Sports Event**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Attorney General Justifies Closure of Newspaper's Office**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Deputies Extend Hearings into Mittal Steel Deal**

- The joint house committee reviewing the Mittal Steel agreement has been given one month extension to carefully study the agreement and call public hearings.
- The head of the judiciary committee, Representative Armah Sarnor earlier told plenary, a public hearing was needed so citizens can have an input in the passage of the Mittal Steel Act.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Peacekeepers Undertake Clean-Up Exercise**

- Ghanaian soldiers serving in UNMIL have carried out a massive clean up campaign of the Waterside Market and the slum community of West Point outside Monrovia.

### **Star Radio** *(News monitored today at 8:35 am)*

### **Government Moves to Address Domestic Debt**

- In an interview, Finance Minister Antoinette Sayeh stated that the Government was drafting a resolution to address circumstances surrounding domestic debts the Country owes.

- According to Minister Sayeh, the debt which covers the period 1982 to 2005 amounted to US\$1 billion and was accrued as a result of the failures of successive regimes to honour their obligations to the entities concerned. She noted that the Ministry believes that a lot of the debts were “bogus” and that the Government unprepared to service them.
- Meanwhile, the former Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, Mr. Raleigh Seekie confirmed that most of the domestic debts were fake as they were accrued through fraudulent means.

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at [karpeh@un.org](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*