

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



Francis Nuni, long-time Special Court District Outreach Officer, passed away this morning at Choithram Hospital after a short illness. May his soul rest in peace.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Thursday, 20 June 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

Police Nab Notorious RUF Agent / <i>The New Storm</i>	Page 3
RUF's Balde in Police Net / <i>Torchlight</i>	Pages 4-5
Rebels Identified in Freetown / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Pages 6-7
Calls To Try RUF Arms Dealer / <i>The Politico</i>	Page 8

International News

Top Gun Runner for Charles Taylor Arrested in Freetown / <i>Macleans News</i>	Pages 9-10
Top Taylor Ally Found in Sierra Leone / <i>SAPA</i>	Page 11
Failed Gambia Coup Leader Dies in Mali: Amnesty / <i>Africa Review</i>	Pages 12-13
The Dirty Politics of Genocide Justice / <i>eTN</i>	Pages 14-15

New Storm

Thursday, 20 June 2013

Police Nab Notorious RUF Agent

By Razrok Wurie
Sierra Leone Police
(SLP) on Tuesday
18th June confirmed the
arrest and detention of

former agent of the former
National Patriotic Front of
Liberia (NPFL) and
Revolutionary United
Front (RUF) rebels,

Senegalese-born Ibrahim
Balde Bah.
Making the disclosure in
a press briefing at the
SLP Headquarters on

George Street, Freetown,
Assistant Inspector
General, Desmond Buck
See page 2



IGP Francis Muntu

Police Nab Notorious RUF Agent

said the fugitive Senegalese was on the United Nations travel ban list for participating in the ten-year long civil conflict.

According to the AIG, during the rebel war, Ibrahim Balde Bah procured satellite phones, computers and other relevant equipment for the erstwhile RUF in exchange for blood diamonds that largely benefitted him.

AIG Buck also disclosed that while they are currently interrogating the arrested fugitive, they have officially written to the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) for a legal advice that will help them in their investigation of the former rebel agent.

In another related development, the

head of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Chief Superintendent Ibrahim Koroma, also confirmed the dismissal and trial of OSD personnel Constable Christopher Kamara, who on Monday 10th June, this year, shot and killed another OSD personnel, Constable Alie Sayanday Koroma, a former close protection bodyguard to erstwhile Minister of Information and Communications, around the vicinity of Casino Leone at Aberdeen, Freetown.

The CID boss also said they are still investigating the breaking of an airplane door at the Lungi International Airport and that one suspect is in custody helping the police investigation.

Torchlight

Thursday, 20 June 2013

RUF's Balde In Police Net



CID sources in Freetown have confirmed that a Senegalese citizen, Ibrahim Bah also known as Ibrahim Balde, who was placed on UN travel ban for his role in the RUF war in Sierra Leone, was arrested two weeks ago and has been reporting to them on a daily basis after he was granted bail. According to the police, Balde was picked up at his Aberdeen residence and detained for a few days after taking statements from him. "He at first denied that he was the wanted Ibrahim Bah, but when we cross-checked with Interpol after his pictures and fingerprints were taken, it was confirmed that he was the fugitive. We are working with Interpol and other international organizations in deciding his fate. But his passport is in our hands and has been reporting as ordered." The sources further stated that Ibrahim eventually confessed that he was instrumental during the RUF war, but did not

Contd. Page 5

Balde or Bah: end of the road

RUF's Balde In Police Net

From Front Page

participate in the war. "I was only there to support the peace efforts. I worked hard to ensure that the Lome Peace Accord was signed," he was reported to have stated in his statement to the police.

However the Special Court had discovered that Bah was a very close associate of former Liberian President Charles Taylor who was convicted in 2012 for his role in providing arms and other assistance to the RUF.

"Ibrahim Bah was allegedly involved in arming and supporting Sierra Leone's rebels..." said Corinne Dufka, senior West Africa researcher at Human Rights watch in a press release issued by her organization yesterday.

Human Rights Watch has called on the Sierra Leone Government to open a criminal investigation against Bah and to prosecute him accordingly.

Below is the full information put out by Interpol for Balde:

BAH, IBRAHIM

Identity particulars

Family name:

BAH

Forename:

IBRAHIM

Sex:

Male

Date of birth:
(old)

1950 (62 years)

Place of birth, country of birth:

Senegal

Nationality:

Senegal

Aliases

Also Known as: BALDE f/n IBRAHIM; BA f/n IBRAHIM; BALDE f/n IBRAHIMA; IBRAHIMA f/n BALDE

Details

Spoken languages:

English, French

UN Sanctions

The subject of this notice has been designated by the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia as subject to the following sanctions:

The subject has the following permanent reference number on the list maintained by the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia which appears in the Special Notice for this subject: LIBERIA SANCTIONS -

The full content of resolution(s) as well as the Sanctions List and the Narrative Summary of Reasons for Listing are available on the webpage of the Committee at: <http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1521/>

Photos

Narrative summary of reasons for listing

Date of listing: 16/03/2004

Arms dealer in contravention of UNSC resolution 1343.


Supported former President Taylor's regime in effort to destabilize Sierra Leone and gain illicit access to diamonds; involved in illicit diamond sales.

If you have any information please contact

Your national or local police.

The Exclusive
Thursday, 20 June 2013

Alleged RUF Arms Supplier...



Rebels Identified In Freetown

The Sierra Leone authorities are being urged by Human Rights Watch to open a criminal investigation of a suspected arms supplier for his alleged involvement in international crimes during Sierra Leone's civil war. This would be Sierra Leone's first purely domestic prosecution in relation to war crimes or crimes against humanity committed during its 11-year armed conflict, which ended in 2002.

Ibrahim Bah, also known as Ibrahim Balde, is a Senegalese national who allegedly provided arms and materiel to the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF), according to a United Nations panel of experts and the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. The RUF committed widespread and systematic abuses against civilians characterized

Continued page 2

Rebels Identified In Freetown

From front page

by murder, mutilation, amputation, torture, rape, and forced abductions during the war.

"Ibrahim Bah was allegedly involved in arming and supporting Sierra Leone's rebels, who committed massive atrocities during the country's 11-year civil conflict," said Corinne Dufka, senior West Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch. "Now that Bah has been located in Freetown, Sierra Leone authorities should promptly open a criminal investigation."

Bah has been subject to a UN-imposed travel ban since 2004 for his alleged role in illegal arms and diamond dealing and for supporting former Liberian President Charles Taylor's effort to destabilize Sierra Leone. He was believed to be living in Burkina Faso, but a new report issued by a UN panel of experts on May 31, 2013, found that Bah has been living in Sierra Leone since 2008.

The UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone found that Bah was a close associate of Taylor, who was convicted by the court in 2012 for his role in providing arms and other assistance to the rebels. Taylor's conviction is on appeal. From 2002 to 2009, the Special Court tried and convicted three former leaders of the RUF rebels, three former leaders of the rebel Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, and two former members of a pro-government civil defense militia, in addition to Taylor.

The Sierra Leone government and the UN established the hybrid international-national court, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in 2002 to prosecute those "bearing the greatest responsibility" for crimes committed during the conflict. However, the tribunal is winding down operations. One of the hoped-for legacies of the Special Court is that it has helped build capacity in Sierra Leone to prosecute international crimes domestically, including those committed during Sierra Leone's armed conflict. Numerous Sierra Leoneans have worked as investigators, prosecutors, and defense counsel at the court.

"The Special Court has made a vital contribution, but its work should not be the end of the road," Dufka said. "Domestic cases are also needed to more fully ensure justice for the gravest crimes committed during Sierra Leone's war."

Sierra Leone's domestic criminal code lacks some definitions of serious crimes in violation of international law, and laws incorporating these crimes should be adopted. However, ordinary crimes such as rape and murder that underlie such crimes are available under the domestic code. "Sierra Leone has taken major steps over the past decade to promote justice for serious crimes committed during its horrific civil war and to build respect for the rule of law," Dufka said. "Investigating Bah for possible criminal prosecution would be an important way to build on this progress."

The Politico

Thursday, 20 June 2013

Calls to try 'RUF arms dealer'

The international campaign group, Human Rights Watch has called on the authorities in Sierra Leone to start criminal investigations against an alleged former RUF arms supplier and aide to war criminal Charles Taylor.

Ibrahim Bah who also goes by the name Ibrahim Baldeh is a Senegalese national who has been on a United Nations travel ban since 2004.

Assistant Inspector General of Sierra Leone Police for Crime Services confirmed to Politico that someone with the name Ibrahim Baldeh was in their custody. Morie Lengor would not confirm when or how he was taken in, saying only

that he had denied being the man on the UN watch list. He said they had contacted the international police agency, INTERPOL, to provide them with a photo of the fugitive to match with the man in their custody.

A local campaign group, Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL) who had first called for Ibrahim to be tried, expressed shock that the Sierra Leone Police would wait this long to confirm whether the man being held is indeed the man that was wanted.

CARL Executive Director, Ibrahim Tommy said the photo of the fugitive was so clear on the INTERPOL website that the police only needed

to go online to verify whether the man being held was the same person being sought by the UN.

Human Rights Watch says that if prosecutions are opened, Ibrahim would be "Sierra Leone's first purely domestic prosecution in relation to war crimes or crimes against humanity committed during its 11-year armed conflict, which ended in 2002". Ibrahim allegedly provided arms and materiel to the rebel RUF, according to a United Nations panel of experts who reported to the Security Council in May this year.

The fugitive had been thought to be living in Burkina Faso, but the UN panel reported that he had in fact been living in Sierra Leone since 2008 at 31 Herbert Street in Aberdeen with a Senegalese passport No. A00349903. He was believed to have attempted to recruit mercenaries to fight in Cote D'Ivoire and illicit minerals trafficking.

Macleans News

Wednesday, 19 June 2013

Top gun runner for Charles Taylor arrested in Freetown

Ibrahim Bah, who acted as a liaison between former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor and a rebel army of child soldiers in neighbouring Sierra Leone, has been arrested in Freetown, according to a reliable and well-placed source.

For years, Bah managed the pipeline that fed weapons and other materiel such as satellite phones to the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone in exchange for diamonds sent back to Liberia.

Child soldiers filled the RUF's ranks. Enslaved Sierra Leonean civilians mined the diamonds.



Charles Taylor. (Peter Dejong/Reuters)

Last year the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone found Charles Taylor guilty of aiding and abetting war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, terrorism, and conscripting child soldiers.

The Special Court concluded that Bah was a “trusted emissary” for both Taylor and the RUF.

Bah has been the subject of a United Nations travel ban since 2004, accused of being an arms dealer in contravention of a UN Security Council resolution demanding that Liberia cease its support for rebels in Sierra Leone.

Originally from Senegal, Bah fought with the mujahideen in Afghanistan during the 1980s, and briefly with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, according to Douglas Farah, author of *Blood From Stones: The Secret Financial Network of Terror*. He also trained in terror camps run by former Libyan dictator Muammar Gadhafi — for whom he served as bodyguard.

Charles Taylor first met Bah in Libya in 1988. The following year, with Gadhafi's support and fighters from his camps, Taylor launched a rebellion against the Liberian government of Samuel Doe. The subsequent civil war lasted seven years and killed some 200,000 people. There was a brief lull during which Taylor was elected president, and then another four-year phase of the war began in 1999, killing tens of thousands more.

Shortly after beginning the Liberian civil war, Taylor helped create the RUF, which triggered a bloody civil war in Sierra Leone that lasted until 2002.

Ibrahim Bah's role running diamonds and weapons made him rich. Farah says Taylor pocketed about a third of what international dealers paid for the RUF-mined diamonds. Bah got half of that. The weapons they sent in exchange were worth far less than the diamonds.

Bah disappeared about a decade ago and was thought to be in Burkina Faso. This year a UN panel of experts report placed him in Sierra Leone. Today Human Rights Watch urged Sierra Leone to open an investigation into Bah's alleged crimes.

There are conflicting reports out of Sierra Leone concerning Bah's status. Today a police official said a man sharing Bah's name had been arrested but was released after he claimed he was a victim of mistaken identity. The Maclean's source says the Ibrahim Bah who was arrested is in fact Taylor's former associate, and he suspects the man is still in custody.

SAPA

Wednesday, 19 June 2013

Top Taylor ally found in Sierra Leone

By SAPA



REUTERS

File - Former Liberian President Charles Taylor appears in court at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Leidschendam, western Netherlands.

Freetown, Sierra Leone - United Nations experts say a notorious arms supplier and top associate of former Liberian President Charles Taylor has been living freely in Sierra Leone's capital city.

A Sierra Leone police official said Wednesday that a man going by the same name as the suspect, Ibrahim Bah, was detained after the U.N. experts' allegations were published on May 31.

But the official, Morie Lengor, said the man was released on bail after denying he was the same man fingered in the report.

Human Rights Watch on Wednesday urged the government to launch criminal proceedings against Bah, accused of supporting rebel groups involved in killings and amputations during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war that ended in 2002.

U.N. experts say Bah also tried to organize mercenaries for Ivory Coast's 2010-11 postelection conflict. - Sapa-AP

Africa Review

Thursday, 20 June 2013

Failed Gambia coup leader dies in Mali: Amnesty

The leader of a failed coup in the Gambia who spent his last years in exile has died in Mali, Amnesty International said on Wednesday.

And the Senegalese branch of Amnesty International is accusing the Senegalese government of being responsible for the death of Koukoye Samba Sanyang, who the Dakar authorities deported to Mali in April over "dissident activities."

The late Sanyang was born of a Senegalese mother in neighbouring Gambia and subsequently naturalised in Senegal.

"There is no government in the world that is known for deporting its citizens for whatever reason," said Mr Seydy Gassama of the Amnesty Senegal branch..

He claimed that the Senegalese government knew of Sanyang's illness at the time of his "expulsion" well before the deportation.

But a senior Senegalese government official who wished anonymity told Africa Review that the late Sanyang was expelled because of his links with dissident activities.

"Given the prevailing security threats against Senegal by rebels in the southern Casamance (where Sagna allegedly has roots) as well as from Islamist jihadists in neighbouring Mali, he posed a threat as well," the official insisted.

Warlord friends

Sanyang, whose age was not known, staged an unsuccessful 1981 coup attempt against the elected government of Gambia's first president Sir Dawda Jawara, who managed to hang onto power when Senegalese troops defeated the rebel forces.

He subsequently joined Charles Taylor, the jailed former Liberian warlord as well as the late Sierra Leonean rebel leader Foday Sankor in the hope of gaining support to succeed in unseating Jawara.

But with time, the current Gambian president Yahya Jammeh succeeded in overthrowing Jawara in 1994 and snubbed Sanyang.

Insiders say Sanyang remained in the fold of the late Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor throughout the twin civil wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia that ended in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

Sanyang took refuge in a number of nearby west African nations before moving to Senegal.

Koukoye Samba Sanyang died in the Malian capital Bamako on Tuesday as the result of an unknown illness.

"He was sick and was said to have been suffering from the effects of poisoning by the Gambian regime, about which we have no evidence. But he was no longer a danger for the Gambian and Senegalese regimes," said Mr Gassama.

eTN

Wednesday, 19 June 2013

<http://www.eturbonews.com/35583/dirty-politics-genocide-justice>

The dirty politics of Genocide Justice

By Dr. Wolfgang H. Thome

For those who followed the trials in Arusha at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, some mindboggling decisions on appeal may come back to the forefront of their memories, when news confirmed overnight broke that the President of the Appeals Chamber, one Theodor Meron, found himself accused of bias and for having pressurized fellow judges into acquitting key genocide suspects in cases before him. Some, including at least one who had actually confessed his crimes, the notorious Jean Kambanda, found themselves released beyond their wildest hopes while in other cases Meron was responsible to substantially cut sentences in favour of the genocidaires

It was a fellow Danish judge who last week exposed the charade Meron's chambers had become, where justice was not only NOT served but the concept of justice massively perverted and besmirched

Meron stands accused of 'Persistent and Intense' activities, aimed to pervert the cause of justice and denying the million victims to rest in peace.

While common decency demands, that Meron too is treated as 'innocent until proven guilty', a principle he himself clearly turned on its head, probably in his twisted mind reading 'guilty only if I can avoid it', there can be no doubt that the unfolding investigation, should indeed firm evidence come to light that his sentence reductions and overturned convictions were based on bias and not on fact, must be conducted in an environment free of his presence. No one knows what steps the UN will now take, but Meron must immediately step aside to make way for a full and complete investigation into all those cases he handled, and by the look of it influenced.

What is also clear is that he himself, if enough evidence is unearthed, must be charged in a court of law, perhaps in a Rwandan Court of Law, and that all those cases must be reinstated for a fresh appeal hearing without fail.

A million victims demand and deserve justice, and it can only be speculated what motives Meron brought with him and what twisted sense of justice unfolded in his head, to have acted like the Danish judge described it.

The UN Security Council, which confirmed Meron in his position, must now act swiftly and comprehensively to prevent more damage to the UN's already dubious reputation, over the conduct past conduct of their troops in Eastern Congo, their constant biased 'draft reports' on Eastern Congo affairs blaming Rwanda for all and sundry and for this latest scandal falling under their jurisdiction.

It is not clear at this time, if Rwanda will demand that the suspicious cases be restored and heard again, either in Arusha or else in Kigali, but it is expected that when President Kagame is back from his state visit to Israel, that the cabinet will discuss this case, which has rattled Rwandan society like few issues over the past few years.

As to Meron, perhaps he should come to Rwanda and visit the national Genocide Memorial in Kigali, or as I have done over the years, visit some of the dozen more sites where the most gruesome of mass murders were committed, at times, like at the Nyamata Church, with over 10.000 who had sought refuge inside, at a go.

Perhaps then he might build up some justified bias, bias FOR the victims and AGAINST the perpetrators, initiators and inciters of those days, after seeing what really happened and not what his obviously clouded mind made it out to be. NEVER AGAIN, this time it must be NEVER AGAIN but justice has to be served first for the engineers of the 1994 genocide and for those who whipped up hatred and frenzy across the country back then. Performing this journey NOW would be good, as the commemorative period of the 19th anniversary of the 1994 Genocide is still ongoing, during which Rwanda observes a 100 day period of reflection and memorials, mainly to remind individuals like Meron of the reality and truth of what happened 19 years ago.

A country, which has through the Gacaca court system managed to clear a caseload, conventional justice administration might have taken 200 years to cope with, a country where perpetrators and survivors live side by side in reconciliation villages, a country which has forgiven those who confessed but not forgotten, simply deserves better than what Meron gave, and justice, if it is to serve as a deterrent, must be seen to be done and felt. All I can feel after I heard of this sordid saga, is cold anger and I add my own voice, as I am in Rwanda right now for the annual Festival of the Gorillas, aka Kwita Izina, to those of my Rwandan brothers and sisters who seek justice for the million lost in 1994.