

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Wednesday, October 20, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Awoko

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INDEPENDENT

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Issa Sesay threatens 'Junior Lion' in Court

By Brima Samura

Continuing his testimony at the trials of the Special Court, George Johnson alias 'Junior Lion' has drawn the attention of Judges to threatening remarks made against him by Issa

Sesay of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). He told the Presiding Judge Benjamin Itoe to inform Issa Sesay that he is not apprehensive of testifying, as his intention is to see that

the peace, which has been gained by Sierra Leone holds. He therefore requested the Judge to warn Mr. Sesay to refrain from threatening him. "I am saying what I know, because I was on the ground," he said. When

questioned as to how Issa Sesay became a Brigadier General, Junior Lion stated that when they pulled out of Freetown, the sixteen members of the May 25 coup and some members of the RUF including Issa Sesay,

decided to promote themselves. He disclosed that at one time after the coup, Gibril Massaquoi of the RUF was arrested for an alleged attempt to overthrow Johnny Paul Koroma but that this brought about no rift between the RUF and the AFRC, as the rest of the RUF membership continued to work with the AFRC. He further disclosed that after the fall of the junta in 1998, they retreated to Masiaka

where Issa Sesay and a Major A.F. Kamara who was Commander in Bo before it fell, joined their forces to re-attack Bo. He explained that during this particular attack, Issa Sesay was the High Commander, as he was considered a Brigadier; adding that whenever an attack was executed, the most senior person was considered the leader. He went on to narrate that when Johnny Paul went to Kailahun, Sam Bockarie put him under arrest and started giving orders as

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AWOKO NEWSPAPER

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Issa Sesay threatens 'Junior Lion' in Court

From Front Page

next time he saw Johnny Paul was in Liberia. About the split between the RUF

and AFRC, he stated that this occurred after the fall of Kono which resulted in

the breakdown of the command structure wherein all the SLA's including some mid-level RUF personnel

decided to join SAJ Musa in Krubola (Kabala). He went on to say that the fall of Kono also created a big split in the ranks of the RUF; leading to Issa Sesay been sent to take over Kono while Dennis Mingo aka 'superman' decided to join SAJ Musa in Kabala. He went on explaining that Sam

Bockarie then sent some men from Kailahun to capture SAJ Musa in Krubola but that these men decided to reveal the intent of the mission and joined SAJ Momoh due to the heavy military presence they saw around him. Asked by Defense Counsel Wayne Jordash as to the title ascribed to them after the fall of the

junta, Junior Lion said that they were all regarded as rebels. He also disclosed that orders to attack Freetown was given to them by SAJ Musa at Major Eddie Town during which the command structure was entirely made-up of SLA personnel. "Our intention was for the Army to be reinstated," he disclosed to the Court.

Special Court... **Indictees wives** **demand romance**

BY THEOPHILUS S. GBENDA

Wives of detained indictees of the Special Court for Sierra Leone have called on the authorities concerned for permission to be granted to them to pay conjugal visits to their husbands.

In the real sense of the word, conjugal visits has to do with a special privilege given to indictees in international detention arenas to have sex with their wives on a weekly or monthly basis as the case may be.

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Indictees wives **demand romance**

FROM PAGE 1

The wives say they appreciate the gesture by the authorities of the Special Court, for the opportunity to visit their husbands at regular intervals, but regret that it is often monitored to discourage the intimacy they require.

They are disturbed further by the fact that no provision was made for conjugal visits, to march up with international standards, a situation that they claim has been very difficult for them.

According to a high placed official at the detention center, he is quite aware of such visits in other international detention facilities, but noted however that such a decision has to be taken by the judges following

an official motion on behalf of the indictees by defence counsels.

In another interview with one of the defence lawyers, he acknowledged that the request is in accordance with the rights of the indictees, and that they are now bracing themselves to argue it out with the judges.

Meanwhile, following widespread speculation that the indictees are not treated to adequate food, the public affairs section of the Special Court has given a taste of the food provided to the indictees to a number of Special Court reporters.

By all indications the food is palatable, but needs more improvement to march up with international standards

Standard Times

Wednesday Oct 20th 2004

Special Court police may face sex tourism charges

Australian authorities may soon charge under Australia's child sex tourism laws Victorian Police Superintendent and Special Court Investigator, Peter Halloran currently facing trial for an alleged

sexual assault of a 13-year schoolgirl.

Halloran was charged with child sex offences in Freetown after a Tasmanian officer and fellow UN investigator Mandy Cordwell

allegedly found a 13-year-old girl in his room in June.

Australian Police say they are monitoring Halloran's trial in Freetown and are presently debating on whether Halloran

should be charged under child sex tourism laws.

"We are seeking a legal opinion from the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions on whether Halloran can be charged under Australia's child sex tourism laws," they said, adding "we are keeping a close eye on his trial by Authorities in Sierra Leone."

Australia's child sex tourism laws were introduced in 1994 making it illegal for any Australian citizen or resident to engage in sexual intercourse with children under the age of 16 outside Australia.

Halloran, a decorated detective is also the subject of an Ethical Standards Department investigation into long-term inappropriate relationships with criminals.

He joined the Australian National Crime Authority in 1987 working on undercover operations targeting Australian criminals in



Halloran - double trouble

The Philippines. A spokeswoman for the Australian Crime Commission could not say exactly when Halloran left the country because records were no longer kept. She, however, confirmed that Halloran departed "under a cloud" in the early 1990s.

Concord Times

Wednesday Oct 20th 2004

BACK TALK

PEEP!

HALLORAN IS NOT THE ONLY ONE...



Halloran: in trouble

"Halloran Touched My Breasts!" (tabloid headline).

It's really better than a SOAP OPERA... this ongoing case with Special Court investigator Peter Halloran and his alleged sexual abuse of a 13 year old girl...

You have the JEALOUS, WRONGED WOMAN (Mandy - who was sniffing Peter's sheets! ha! ha!), the young innocent girl (no-one

has asked her whether she's a virgin - yet), two other bit-players who can only be described as pimps... and of course old PETER PIPER himself who's *really* picked himself some *hot* PICKED PEPPERS this time... and who can expect, even if he's cleared, a quick *heave-ho* from the Special Court and a ONE-WAY TICKET back to Ossieland.

But before we rush to judge Peter Halloran, let's consider what some other anonymous teenagers have said about our politicians.

What would have happened if the same stringent standards of morality were applied against politicians dead and living?

S.B MARRAH: "He

Touched My Tutu".

An anonymous 14 year old girl has come forward to claim that the late S.B Marah "touched my tutu on numerous occasions".

The 14 year old said the Koinadugu strongman has bought her lots and lots of ice-cream and while she was slurping it he put his hands (continued page 46).

OKERE-ADAMS: "He Touched My Backside".

Marine minister Okere The Squirrel Adams has been accused of squirrelling his way into the underwear of a 15 year old girl.

The young JSS 3 girl - who wishes to remain anonymous - said the 65 year old Okere has put his hands on her posterior after buying her a mobile phone.



the squirrel: wants nuts

"Ar bin wan charge de phone... wae ar bin butu for plug am, de minister put im hand pan me" (continued page 24).

OH-SAMA BANYA "He Tried To Touch My Fanny".

84 year old Oh-Sama Banya was indicted - but was acquitted yesterday of trying to touch a 17 year old girl's fanny.

"I think he forgot where it was. He kept fumbling around and later said 'Ah the hell with this! I'm going off to write another

article for *Unity* instead". (MORE TOUCHINGS LATER! ha! ha!)

Remember

Sexual Abuse Of Minors Is A Serious Offence. Let The Young Girl Child Grow Up!

What Khorid Isn't Going To Say

Waiting for Big Man Dem

Martin Daly and Gavin Simpson

19 October 2004

The Age

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For Australian policeman Peter Halloran, fighting sex abuse charges in Sierra Leone, the road to justice is torturously slow. Martin Daly and Gavin Simpson report.

It's 10am in High Court No. 2 and we're waiting for Big Man Dem.

It is a long wait. The RUF boys, the Revolutionary United Front, have been herded by soldiers with machine guns to the cells below and, if there was any danger, there's none now.

But there's still no sign of Big Man Dem -- Krio for the Man, or any important and powerful people. In Sierra Leone, the poor and oppressed refer often to Big Man Dem in the way the disadvantaged everywhere talk about political and judicial systems over which they have no control.

There are many definitions of Big Man Dem. They can be holders of minor office in small villages, which can make them pretty big and powerful compared to everybody else, or they can be people who drive around in Mercedes in a country that for the past four years has been named the poorest in the world. The term can also be spoken in praise or fear of an individual, as in "watch out, Big Man Dem".

But in Freetown's Court No. 2 today, Big Man Dem simply refers to those who hold the power: the judge, the police and lawyers from both sides who gather for the ongoing trial of a former head of the Victoria Police homicide squad, Peter Halloran, who is facing three charges relating to sex with a 13-year-old schoolgirl known as Kadi.

Big Man Dem -- the legal teams and the judge are members of the Krio ethnic group, a privileged elite with access to resources such as education vastly superior to that available to the majority -- are supposed to be here at 10am. They never are.

Halloran, 56, is always in the city centre court complex about 9.30am, in case he needs to talk with his lawyer about the charges, which he denies categorically and which have attracted more attention in Freetown than any sex trial for a long time.

He could safely turn up a few hours later and still be ahead of Big Man Dem, but the risk of being late is too great for someone a lot of people think has been framed by the system and who faces at least two years in jail if convicted.

It's hot in the courtroom and it's now 11am but there is still no sign of Big Man Dem, although the few defendants and spectators in the huge public gallery seem unperturbed. They pass the time looking out the windows as heavily armoured prison vans from the notorious Pademba Road Prison, where Halloran has already spent time on remand, disgorge their human cargoes into the cells.

The lawyers for the defence and prosecution filter in about 11.30. They sweat a lot from the heat and humidity but they quickly leave, probably going to a cooler place, when they see nothing is happening in court No. 2. That's one of the privileges of being Big Man Dem: you don't have to wait around.

Several hours after court proceedings were due to start, everybody appears to be in place and it looks as if things will get under way.

Then the lawyers get up and leave.

Within seconds, they're gone. There is no announcement. But word circulates that the case has been adjourned. Halloran looks as if he's the last to know.

The judge, someone said, was ill. A previous adjournment was attributed to his wife's illness. There are also those who ascribe the delays to police and justice department interference.

The Halloran case is such an important item on the news agenda for local media that it vies with the trials of alleged war criminals at the heavily fortified Special Court, a judicial system set up by the Government and the United Nations to track those who committed crimes against humanity during the country's 10 year civil war, and for which Halloran worked as a senior investigator.

His colleague, former Tasmanian detective sergeant Mandy Cordwell, brought the girl, and the allegations Halloran had abused her, to police.

News agencies Reuters, Associated Press and Agence France-Presse, along with local reporters, turn up every day, and then head off to the Special Court when the Halloran trial does not start or adjourns early, which often happens.

The case has given the local media a few stunning headlines on the sex allegations but they sometimes neglect to mention that the girl and her family say Halloran did not sexually assault her and that she was pressured in to making the allegations, first by Cordwell and a Sierra Leonean policewoman, and later by other police and people who would pass for Big Man Dem from the justice department.

Other headlines that have featured in the local press have included: "Who wants Halloran jailed?" and "Did the police torture Special Court rape suspects?" The latter refers to a human rights report about the brother of the alleged victim who is charged with procuring the girl for Halloran, and her uncle, charged with perverting the course of justice. The report says the two men claim they were beaten and threatened unless they supported the abuse allegations against Halloran. They refused.

All this is part of the sideshow to the Halloran case that appeared last week to be edging to a conclusion. But it is now likely that an outcome will be later than expected, largely because of the court agenda and the tactics of Big Man Dem, who like adjournments.

The court hears the Halloran case twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. The Monday session last week was adjourned to Thursday, but nobody turned up on time -- again.

A few hours later, the judge did sit and Halloran and the co-accused went into the dock, where the judge gave an important ruling. Few in court, except the lawyers up close to the bench, knew what he was saying. Halloran found out what had transpired by asking somebody later.

Meanwhile, the case has been adjourned to Thursday, when it may go ahead.

HALLORAN'S GREAT HOPE

Nicholas Browne-Marke is a big man with a sharp mind and an almost insatiable thirst for history and the law. Although he is against the death penalty, he has personally - or as part of prosecution teams -- sent 18 people to death row. He is known around town as an astute lawyer with a talent for making things happen.

Browne-Marke was in London last month -- where he was born, studied law and was called to the bar -- when he received a call from Freetown.

There was a serious case to be handled and the Australian caller wanted the best legal defence for a fellow Australian facing serious sex abuse charges.

Browne-Marke, 47, the son of a leading Supreme Court judge, who has worked for the Director of Public Prosecutions, was about to head back anyway and agreed to take on the defence for former head of the Victoria murder squad, Superintendent Peter Halloran, 56, who is facing three charges in the nation's High Court relating to sex with a minor.

The day after he returned to Freetown, two former colleagues of Halloran's, Tim Corrodus, a risk management consultant and private investigator, and serving Victoria Police officer, Wayne Boston, who had travelled to Sierra Leone to

provide personal support for Halloran, were in Browne-Marke's midtown office with documents relating to the case.

Halloran has already spent time in Freetown's notorious maximum security jail known as Pademba Road Prison, and Browne-Marke's job is to ensure he doesn't go back there.

But Browne-Marke won't talk about his strategy or Halloran's chances of an acquittal, saying only, "I think that he has a very good chance."

He will say little about the case for fear of antagonising the court. Neither does he want to give the prosecution an indication of his thinking.

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Tuesday, October 19, 2004

DISPATCH FROM THE DARK CONTINENT, PART 3

Memorandum to a cannibal

Mercenary leader recalls horrific habits of Sierra Leone enemy

Posted: October 19, 2004
1:00 a.m. Eastern

Editor's note: This is the third and final installment in longtime WorldNetDaily contributor Anthony C. LoBaido's series on the white mercenaries in Africa and the extraordinary fighting services they've provided in African wars.

Part 1 covered the colorful history of white mercenaries in Africa and the attempt by black leaders to make them extinct.

Part 2 told the story of an effective band of mercenaries who turned the tide of a conflict in Sierra Leone.

Today's installment explores the rampant cannibalism in Sierra Leone the mercenaries encountered while waging war there and the international efforts to shape the nation and its neighbors.

By Anthony C. LoBaido

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CAPE TOWN, South Africa – "There is a lot of cannibalism in Sierra Leone," said Bert Sachse, a 34-year veteran of the South African special forces and commander of the mercenary war during the mid-1990s in the troubled West African nation.

"If you capture the enemy, you want to interrogate them. For the Sierra Leone army, they wanted to eat the heart and or other vital organs of their enemies. We would have to fly out the prisoners we wanted to interrogate on the helicopters back to Freetown so they wouldn't be eaten. The MI-17 would fly over and the Sierra Leone soldiers would look up and say, 'There goes dinner.' They would look upset. In certain parts of Sierra Leone cannibalism is rife."

Sandline and Executive Outcomes were the mercenary organizations, located in South Africa and London, for whom Sachse and his men worked.

Another Sandline soldier interviewed by WorldNetDaily commented, "One can only image the Sierra Leone soldiers eating the heart and other organs of an RUF prisoner. I have a mental picture of a soldier holding a heart in his mouth, and another eating a hand and Bert Sachse asking them, 'How many times do we have to tell you not to eat the prisoners before we interrogate them? Didn't you get the memo?'"

Continued Sachse: "When Kabbah came back, he had about 20 of the Sierra Leone army staff executed right in front of us. He said there was some kind of conspiracy. One of those executed was a military commander with whom Sandline/Executive Outcomes had worked quite closely. What could you do? The Nigerian peacekeepers executed them."

It was not Breaker Morant with a cigarette and one round.

"They tied them up to trees and mowed them down. Guys got chopped. They were dead or dying and the Nigerians would call for more magazines of ammo," explained Sachse while waving his arms to show how the Nigerians called for more ammo during the executions.

Sachse lamented the chaos so prevalent in African armed forces, saying, "Some soldiers in Africa were paid with bags of rice. A sergeant major might get five bags of rice, but another soldier with more children might get only one bag of rice and that would lead to bad morale. The Sierra Leone army was a bloody rabble. The SADF was efficient. It all started with the Rhodesian army. Minimum casualties and maximum effect."

Sandline/EO's operations in Sierra Leone turned sour for only one reason – finances, said Sachse.

"We put a lot of effort into stabilizing the situation. If they can't pay us, then we can't work. We can't ship weapons, personnel and our own vehicles for no return," he lamented.

Though the Sierra Leone government ultimately couldn't afford Sandline, soldier-for-hire pay in Africa generally was competitive.

"The salaries were very good," Sachse said. "In some black African countries, the majority of black special forces are used to good wages for good professional services. They were paid in U.S. dollars and the rand was falling. You look at British pounds, U.S. dollars and rands and you see they were good salaries."

Sandline/EO became a political wrangle in the UK as previously mentioned, and this problem festered throughout the operation in Sierra Leone. The whole issue of legalizing PMCs probably got a good boost from the whole affair. After all, who is *against* stopping limb-hacking rebels?

Consider that in 2000, British troops returned to Sierra Leone after United Nations troops were overrun by the same RUF troops Sandline/EO had only recently vanquished. The British army retook the country again, and some 45,000 rebels were disarmed. It was like a cul-de-sac of sorts. Rebels attack. Mercenaries sort them. Mercenaries leave. Rebels take the country again. British army comes in to the former colony and disarms rebels. Rebels capture soldiers. SAS comes in and sorts rebels. There was a certain rhythm to it all, an ebb and flow. Yes, a cul-de-sac of violence. As Plato said, "Only the dead are the end of war."

Says Sachse, "People could see a private military company operating in a theater could be a good thing and beneficial, and be sanctioned by the government. There is the question of why the idea did not catch on. If you use PMCs, you don't need to send in British troops. If the troops are killed, the families are naturally very upset. The government sending in troops could lose votes and support in operations the citizens were not in support of."

In regard to the British government's Green Paper on legalizing PMCs, Sachse said, "I think people have seen the benefits of it. This is a very expensive business. There are political connotations. PMC soldiers go into the field of their own free will. In the British government, a lot of people accepted the fact of using a PMC, but because of their own political careers, they could not openly say this. The broad concept was 'no,' you can't use them, but the Foreign Office saw the need, in Sierra Leone for example, and let things slide – and then they could see the eventual outcome."

After Sandline/EO pulled out, the British army was sent in and trained the Sierra Leone Army.

After the British army was sent to Sierra Leone, things were going reasonably well, until a group of British soldiers were taken hostage by the rebels. However, they were promptly rescued by the SAS.

Speaking of that rescue operation, Sachse said, "You pay the ransom or go in – do or die. The SAS got intel, made a plan to go in – you have to take a chance."

Asked if British soldiers should receive bonuses or stock options from British mining companies operating in Sierra Leone if in fact the soldiers are protecting their diamond mines, Pete Thompson of the RGBW regiment of the British army told WorldNetDaily, "I think you'll find that the British keep a stiff upper lip about that sort of thing."

Stuart Lane, an Australian on loan to the RGBW through the Long Look Exchange program and who was deployed to Sierra Leone told WND, "I'm going to receive a higher rate of pay when I am deployed in the field in Sierra Leone." (Both Lane's father and grandfather served in the British special forces.)

Allies and the U.S. agenda in Sierra Leone

Sachse explained the different groups fighting against the RUF and their roles and relationships:

"Kabbah was taken out in a coup. ECOMOG came in. West Africa is a funny place. If you can control the capitals of those nations, you can control the entire country. We had a very good professional relationship with ECOMOC. There was give and take. We gave advice, we used their artillery and spotted for them. We did *not* fight in battles (along) with them."

Sachse described the roll the Nigerians played and not all of it was military in nature. EO/Sandline had some help in Sierra Leone. First, of course, there were Nigerian troops who wore the uniforms of the West African Peacekeeping Forces (ECOMOG.)

But they weren't alone.

American flags were painted on two helicopters that were sent by International Charter Incorporated, or ICI, of Oregon, which is run by ex-U.S. Special Forces operators. Its founder is Brian Boquist, who has run for the U.S. Congress. He served in the Special Forces as a lieutenant colonel. In the past, Boquist started a private air-freight company called Evergreen International Aviation.

Yet the hard fighting was left to the South African mercenaries.

The Americans were there for transport and casualty evacuation for the Nigerian troops. ICI was fired upon, witnesses claim, and returned fire. ICI uses Russian helicopters and Russian pilots and crewmembers while in the field. It is alleged the Joseph Melrose, then-U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone, knew about ICI's involvement.

In May of 1995, the Sierra Leone government told both the Americans and the British that they had hired Sandline/EO. In fact, ICI's website has noted it was the "1998 U.S. Department of State's small-business contractor of the year."

In the 1990s, America's agenda in Sierra Leone was to contain Charles Taylor's influence and to keep the conflict from interfering with the already volatile situation in Nigeria. In Nigeria, Islamic militants would soon gain power, try to introduce Sharia law and actually go on to drive out the Miss Universe contest by carrying around signs reading "Down With Beauty!"

All of this occurred during the aforementioned RUF's horrendous "No Living Thing" operation, in which the murder and cutting off of the limbs of children was at its height. It lasted four months, and RUF soldiers cut off the ears, arms, hands and feet of thousands. Many children were killed, at least 5,000. Over 150,000 had no homes. About four-fifths of Freetown's buildings were burned to the ground including, hospitals, clinics, schools and churches.

Said Sachse, "The Nigerians wanted to stay around. They stripped the infrastructure of Sierra Leone – everything that wasn't nailed down. Cars, car parts, running businesses – they had many fingers in different pies. Diamonds must have been a part of it. The ships they came in on, well, they weren't going back to Nigeria empty, I can tell you that. The ECOMOG troops weren't very anxious to fight the RUF, but they were happy to loot the country."

In regard to dealing with the Nigerians, Sachse continued, "We had to clear our flights with our helicopters through ECOMOG. They controlled the Sierra Leone airspace. If we wanted a helicopter to fly in from Guinea, we had to clear it with the Nigerians. We had to clear it with the ECOMOG commander, and this cost us a lot of money – about U.S. \$1,000."

This is not surprising, according to the Sandline/EO commander.

"With the United Nations and various international agencies, they are looking to get the most out of the deal, even the World Health Organization. [However], a lot of the workers with these types of international organizations are genuinely decent people," he said.

As the war wound down, Sachse continued to steer a course in Sierra Leone.

"I stayed on after EO left the scene, which was February of 1997. We needed to generate cash with the mining operation. As I said, the government was totally corrupt from top to bottom – they couldn't pay us. The Sierra Leone army was still a joke. We would talk on the beach with embassy staff from America and the UK. They could not really get involved with us, but of course they knew about the situation and the hacking off of limbs of the children," he said.

Sierra Leone's place in modern history

Assessing the war in Sierra Leone is a complicated affair. By May of 2002, the situation was stabilized again and Sankoh was arrested and faced murder charges from a Freetown jail. He died on July 29, 2003.

Arms merchant Leonid Minim, a Ukrainian-Israeli businessman, was arrested in Italy in part for running arms to the RUF. The Ukrainian state arms dealer was involved with Minim and sold grenade launchers, ammo and thermal binoculars to him, which he in turn sold to the RUF. (Victor Bout, a well-known weapons merchant, also armed the RUF via Liberia.)

Charles Taylor was, in recent years, hunted by Liberians United for Reconciliation. A warrant was served for his arrest by a special U.N.-backed Sierra Leone court. President Bush, then an opponent of a world court, had, through his administration, helped to set up a regional court to try those accused of war crimes in Sierra Leone. With the U.S. finally prodded into exerting pressure on her former colony of Liberia, Charles Taylor was eventually deposed in favor of his son Chucky. Sierra Leone received 1 percent of the funds it requested from the United Nations to deal with the crisis. Liberia got a hold of 1.2 percent.

On May 14, 2002, Sierra Leone's citizens, many of whom were burdened with Lassa fever, voted, and

Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was re-elected. Many of the citizens casting ballots did so without hands, which had been cut off by the rebels.

As for Foday Sankoh, the UK Daily Telegraph published a half-page obituary on him in the July 31, 2003, edition. The obituary was entitled, "Foday Sankoh: Guerrilla leader whose followers raped, tortured, amputated and murdered their way through Sierra Leone."

It reads as follows:

Foday Sankoh, who died on Tuesday aged 65, was the leader of one of the world's most brutal guerrilla movements; for 10 years his RUF terrorized the people of Sierra Leone. ... (he) was born on Oct. 17, 1947 into a poor farming family of the Jemme tribe of northern Sierra Leone, then under British rule. In 1956, he joined the Royal West African Forces and trained as a wireless operator and cameraman under British Army instructors, reaching the junior rank of corporal.

He moved to Bo, Sierra Leone's second city and the home of Lebanese diamond dealers. There, in the innocent guise of a wedding photographer and video cameraman, he toured villages, politicizing students and villagers.

Sankoh emerged as a rebel leader in the 1960s. Briefly imprisoned for his political activities in the 1970s, in the early 1980s he joined a group of exiles in Libya, where Col. Gadhafi was sponsoring military training programs for revolutionary movements in West Africa.

Sankoh's route back to Sierra Leone lay through the neighboring republic of Liberia, where he formed an alliance with Charles Taylor, the leader of Liberia's rebel National Patriotic Front, which seized power in 1998 after an eight-year campaign of terror. Sankoh took part in the early stages of Taylor's rebellion, then, sponsored by Taylor, established his own guerrilla movement and returned to Sierra Leone, launching an insurrection movement in 1991.

Sankoh's outwardly gentle demeanor and his rabble-rousing charisma convinced a lot of people of his good intentions, and in its early stages the RUF attracted the support of idealists opposed to the corrupt regime of Joseph Momoh.

But revolutionary fervor soon turned to blood lust and rapacity as, encouraged by Sankoh, the RUF's mostly young leadership sought to enrich themselves by getting their hands on the diamond mines of the east – Sierra Leone's only source of wealth. Sankoh used the money from the gems to buy weapons and fund his rebellion and to support that of his ally Charles Taylor.

The RUF imposed its will on the countryside with systematic barbarity, committing some of the worst atrocities Africa has ever seen in war that cost more than 50,000 lives. They included amputations of arms, legs, buttocks, genitals, ears and lips, the gouging out of eyes; indiscriminate rape; injections with acid; burnings alive and beatings. There were also well-attested stories of ritual cannibalism.

Many of Sankoh's recruits were illiterate "pre-moral" children, some as young as 7, who were kidnapped from their villages, subjected to ritualistic indoctrination, plied with drugs and turned into killing machines. Some were said to believe that "Papa" (as Sankoh described himself) had magical powers that enabled him to appear and disappear at will.

Sankoh's response to criticism was to deny stories of atrocities, although he was fond of quoting the saying, "When a lion and an elephant are fighting, the grass is going to suffer."

In 1992, Momoh was overthrown by junior officers under the leadership of Valentine Strasser, who clung on to power in Freetown with the aid of a motley group of white mercenaries.

In January 1996, Strasser was deposed ... in a bloodless coup and in February Ahmed Kabbah was elected president. ... In November (1996) Kabbah and Sankoh signed a peace accord, but it did not hold. Within months, the Sierra Leone army, led by Johnny Koroma, mutinied, deposed Kabbah and struck their own deal with Sankoh, inaugurating a period of joint Armed Forces Revolutionary Council-RUF rule ... violence only escalated. ... The names of the rebel offensives spoke for themselves: "Operation Burn House" gave way to "Operation Pay Yourself," then "Operation No Living Thing."

In 1998, after a Nigerian-led force intervened to restore Kabbah, Sankoh was captured and placed under arrest in Togo. He was tried for treason and murder in the Sierra Leonean courts and sentenced to death in absentia. But his forces remained loyal and, in January 1999, infiltrated Freetown, killing some 5,000 people and coming close to driving out the Nigerians and sacking the entire city.

The death sentence on Sankoh was not carried out. Instead, the British government exerted pressure on Kabbah to pardon Sankoh and welcome him into government as, in the world of Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, "the only way to bring peace to Sierra Leone." Sankoh was duly pardoned, given immunity from prosecution and appointed minister for natural resources and vice president, in return for a promise to renounce violence. In October 1999, a U.N. Security Council resolution, promoted by Britain and America, agreed to send a deputation of U.N. troops to man "disarmament centers" where Sankoh's rebels would surrender their arms.

Again, Sankoh failed to keep his side of the bargain. In May 2000, seeing the U.N. peacekeepers had no stomach for a fight, he took 500 of them hostage. It was this incident that led to Britain sending troops to Sierra Leone in an operation that effectively ended the war.

Sankoh's later gesture was typically bloody. Later on in May 2000, his bodyguards opened fire on a crowd of protesters outside Sankoh's house in Freetown, killing at least a dozen civilians. Sankoh was forced to flee in the chaos and, after hiding for several days, he emerged dirty and hungry in the company of his witch doctor. The pair were caught and ruffed up before being handed over to SAS soldiers. In March this year (2003), a U.N. war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone charged Sankoh with crimes against humanity and violations of humanitarian law, including murder, rape, sexual slavery and extermination.

Despite his use of witch doctors, Sankoh claimed to be a born-again Christian, albeit of an unorthodox sort. "I'm a god," he announced at a court appearance in June (2002). "I'm the inner god. I'm the leader of Sierra Leone."

Sankoh, who was reputed to have 15 wives, is survived by at least one wife and at least one daughter.

That is the "official" British establishment media story about Sierra Leone. This is their idea of "history." There is no mention of EO and Sandline as an elite force, rather only a "motley group of white mercenaries." (In fact, many of those mercenaries were black Africans.) In the aforementioned obituary

there was also no mention of the summary executions carried out by Kabbah's orders. No mention of the pillaging of the Nigerians peacekeepers, nor of their massive theft of the AK-47s from Eastern Europe.

It is hoped this report will help to bring out more of the truth about the embattled history of Sierra Leone.

Read [Part 1](#) of LoBaido's series, "[White mercenaries in black Africa](#)," and [Part 2](#), "[How private warriors turned tables in war](#)."

Read LoBaido's column about his new Christian adventure novel, "[Our Name is Legion](#)."

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[Anthony C. LoBaido](#) is a longtime contributor to WorldNetDaily.com.

UNMIL Daily Newspaper Summary
Tuesday, 19 Oct 2004

ECOWAS Recognizes Sekou Conneh as Head of Former Rebel Faction

(The Analyst)

- ECOWAS Special Representative Francis Blaine said yesterday that ECOWAS recognizes Mr. Sekou Damate Conneh as the Chairman of the former warring faction Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD).

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEE

Monrovia, 18 October 2004

The International Monitoring Committee (IMC), which is comprised of representatives of the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Commission, Ghana, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, the United States, and UNMIL, met in Monrovia on 13 and 15 October 2004 to take stock of recent developments concerning the peace process in Liberia.

The IMC re-emphasized that the disarmament and demobilization of combatants of the former warring factions will be completed on 31 October 2004. It called on all combatants who have not yet done so, to come forward to disarm without further delay. The IMC also urged the former warring factions to immediately bring to the attention of UNMIL, any information they may have on any remaining concentrations of combatants who are yet to disarm, so that the necessary arrangements can be made for their disarmament and demobilization before 31 October 2004.

The IMC recalled Article VII, paragraph 1 (a) and Article XXI, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between the Government of Liberia (GOL), LURD, MODEL and the Liberian political parties in Accra on 18 August 2003, which stipulate that LURD, MODEL and all irregular forces of the GOL shall cease to exist as military forces upon completion of disarmament, and that there shall be no restriction on their members to engage in national politics through the formation of political parties or otherwise, save and except those restrictions imposed on all parties and associations by the relevant laws of Liberia.

The IMC deplored recent public statements and activities by a number of groups and individuals who seek to disrupt the operations of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), including the removal of the Chairman of the NTGL from office. It unequivocally emphasized that the international community will not allow any change in the leadership of the NTGL nor any unraveling of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which would inevitably set back the peace process. The IMC therefore called on all Liberians to demonstrate their commitment to the peace process by working towards unity and national reconciliation, and to facilitate the functioning of the NTGL as an effective and cohesive administration.

At the same time, the IMC urged the Chairman and the NTGL to address a number of important issues on an urgent basis, including the payment of the salary arrears of the civil servants, putting into place and enforcing measures that ensure transparency and accountability in the management of public funds, and building the necessary confidence that would allow donors to provide funding for reconstruction projects aimed at improving the lives of the people of Liberia. It also stressed the need to enhance consultations, including convening regular meetings of the NTGL Cabinet as agreed at the meeting of the Liberian parties held in Accra on 29 and 30 July 2004.

The IMC reiterated that, in keeping with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, national elections in Liberia must take place as planned, no later than October 2005. It commended the National Elections Commission (NEC) for the steps it has taken so far to prepare for the elections, in particular for developing the draft electoral reform bill, which has been submitted to the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA). The IMC emphasized that the next crucial steps in the preparations for the elections, especially the voter education and voter registration processes, depend on the timely passage of this bill. It therefore called on the NTLA, in the interest of the people of Liberia, to expedite its adoption. The IMC further called on the NTGL to provide the necessary funding to the NEC.

The IMC noted that the international community and many national stakeholders have invested a lot of resources and effort to accomplish the progress made so far in stabilizing Liberia. It reiterated that the peace process was irreversible, and emphasized that the international community will not allow any groups or individuals to place these important gains at risk. In this connection, the IMC recalled that resolutions 1521 (2003) and 1532 (2004) of the United Nations Security Council provide for measures against any individuals engaged in activities aimed at undermining peace and stability in Liberia and the sub-region.

The IMC reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to continue to support the peace process and the reconstruction of Liberia.

Monrovia

18 October 2004.

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Source: Amnesty
Date: 18 Oct 2004

Conflict Diamonds: Jewellers keeping consumers in the dark

AI Index: POL 30/038/2004 (Public)

A survey of diamond retailers by Amnesty International and Global Witness

A survey out today reveals that almost two years after the diamond industry committed itself to a system of self-regulation to prevent the trade in diamonds from regions of conflict, retailers in the US and UK are still failing to live up to their promises.

The survey of leading diamond companies and stores in the US and UK found that fewer than one in five companies that responded in writing provided a meaningful account of their policy and less than half of diamond jewellery retailers visited in stores were able to give consumers meaningful assurances that diamonds are conflict free.

The results, which are part of a wider ongoing survey, show that the diamond industry has failed to adequately implement a system of self regulation launched in January 2003. The industry's commitment required it to issue written warranties and implement a code of conduct to support the international Kimberley Process Certification Scheme preventing the trade in conflict diamonds.

"The continued lack of systematic monitoring throughout the diamond industry suggests that the industry is not taking the issue seriously enough," said Alessandra Masci of Amnesty International. "The trade in conflict diamonds has been at the heart of some of Africa's most protracted and bloody wars. Diamonds have fuelled conflicts in Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone, destroying nations and costing millions of lives."

Amnesty International and Global Witness sent letters to 85 major diamond jewellery retailers and Amnesty International activists visited 579 stores in the US and UK. The main findings, presented to this week's World Diamond Congress (WDC) in New York, include the following:

Despite an industry commitment to educate employees about company diamond regulations, staff in only 42% of stores were aware of their company's policy.

Out of 85 companies that were sent letters requesting written information about their policies, 48 (56%) failed to respond including major diamond jewellery retailers like Asprey, Theo Fennell and Debenhams in the UK, and Costco Whole Sale Corporation, T.J.Maxx and Kmart in the US.

32 out of the 37 companies that responded (86%) are implementing the system of warranties and have a policy to prevent dealing in conflict diamonds. However 30 of the companies responding (81%) did not provide adequate details on how the system of warranties is being implemented and audited.

The World Diamond Council, the industry body responsible for coordinating industry

efforts to tackle conflict diamonds, is still falling far short on adequately monitoring self-regulation implementation on a global level.

Today's results are part of a wider ongoing survey in which more than 800 retailers and suppliers have been contacted in Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Switzerland but so far only 52 have responded with information on their policy.

"As the public face of the industry, diamond jewellery retailers must do more to show their commitment to comply with the self-regulation and actively promote compliance by their suppliers," said Corinna Gilfillan of Global Witness. "The World Diamond Council and other key industry bodies must develop a common standard for verifying compliance, and we hope that trade organizations will follow Jewelers of America's recent initiative to monitor its members."

Global Witness and Amnesty International are calling on governments in the Kimberley Process to ensure that the diamond industry fully implements the code of conduct. The Kimberley Process must require that the participating governments carry out rigorous auditing and inspections of companies to ensure the effectiveness of the self-regulation, to guarantee that diamonds do not fund conflict or human rights abuses, and report back to the Kimberley Process in 2005.

For a full report of the survey results please go to:

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engpol340082004>

or

<http://www.globalwitness.org>

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Date: 19 Oct 2004

Déjà Vu: diamond industry still failing to deliver on promises

SUMMARY OF UK AND US RESULTS OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SURVEY

This report presents the results of Global Witness and Amnesty International's survey into the diamond jewellery retail sector's implementation of self-regulation to support the Kimberley Process, the international diamond certification scheme launched to combat the trade in conflict diamonds. Many members of all sectors of the diamond industry made three commitments in January 2003:

- To implement a code of conduct to prevent buying or selling conflict diamonds
- To implement a system of warranties requiring that all invoices for the sale of diamonds and jewellery containing diamonds must contain a written guarantee that diamonds are conflict free; to keep records of the warranty invoices given and received and for this to be "audited and reconciled on an annual basis by the company's own auditors"
- To inform company employees about the industry's policies and government regulations to combat the trade in conflict diamonds

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While some progress has been made since March 2004 in the US, the results of the survey overall show that some major players in the diamond jewellery retail sector continue to fall short on implementing basic measures of the self-regulation or have failed to inform Global Witness and Amnesty International of efforts to do so. The continued lack of systematic monitoring by the diamond industry means that there is no assessment of whether companies are meeting the basic requirements and that there are no consequences for inaction.

While the self-regulation continues to be voluntary, only those with good intentions will implement it. In order to be effective and to fully support the aims of the Kimberley Process, the self-regulation should move beyond being voluntary. Global Witness and Amnesty International therefore make the following recommendations:

To governments participating in the Kimberley Process:

- Monitor the diamond industry's compliance with the self-regulation and report back to the Kimberley Process about these efforts in 2005.
- Carry out rigorous auditing and inspections of companies' implementation of the self-regulation and compliance with the Kimberley Process, in order to ensure that diamonds do not fund conflict or human rights abuses, and report back to the Kimberley Process about these efforts in 2005.

To the diamond jewellery retail sector:

- Fully implement the self-regulation and system of warranties in a manner that goes far beyond simply requiring a warranty from suppliers. Strict criteria should be applied in the selection of suppliers and third-party auditing procedures should be adopted to ensure that policies are working effectively.
- Provide written assurances to consumers stating that the diamonds they purchase are conflict free so that the system of warranties covers the entire supply chain from point of mine to point of sale to the consumer.
- Carry out education and training on conflict diamonds and the Kimberley Process and require it as a condition of employment so that salespeople are fully informed about policies and communicate this to consumers in a transparent manner.
- Proactively work to promote adoption of the self-regulation throughout the retail sector and the diamond trade as a whole. Major industry leaders have a particular responsibility to exhibit leadership on this issue.

To the World Diamond Council, World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB), International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA) and other trade associations:

- Develop a common standard for verifying whether retailers and suppliers are complying with the self-regulation and develop monitoring mechanisms to ensure that these standards are being met. Jewelers of America's recent initiative to develop a monitoring program that includes self-assessment, mystery shoppers, staff training and policy and procedure reviews, offers some ideas of what can be done in the retail sector in the UK and in other countries. Further work must ensure its adoption by all sectors of the industry.
- The World Diamond Council, WFDB, IDMA should actively monitor implementation of the self-regulation throughout the diamond pipeline and take greater measures to require their member organizations to systematically report on how they are monitoring companies' implementation and auditing of the system of warranties.
- National diamond trade associations should adopt monitoring programs, including self-assessments, spot checks, and policy and procedure reviews to monitor what its members are doing and help ensure that the warranties are backed up by concrete policies and measures.

[Full report](#) (pdf* format - 184 KB)

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