

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



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:

Wednesday, 21 March 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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For di People
Wednesday, 21 March 2007

Taylor's Trial Will Feel Distant And Less Meaningful

INTERNATIONAL and local civil society organisations have written an Amicus Curiae brief regarding a change of venue of Taylor's trial back to Freetown to Justice George Gelaga King.

The brief dated 9 March 2007, case No SCSL-2003-01-PT, stated that the right of victims to be involved in the reconciliation process is important. "The war was fought in

Says Director Of Human Rights Watch

Sierra Leone and the alleged atrocities were committed mainly against the people of Sierra Leone;" he said Richard Dicker, director of Human Rights Watch's International Justice program.

He said he has a concern about access to the trial for the victims and that, now that Taylor is in the Hague,

there is a risk that his trial will feel distant and less meaningful to the people most affected by the crimes.

The organisations stated "that the conflict had seriously negative impacts on the people of this country and that, even now some are still suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.

"Since the alleged carnage

took place here in Sierra Leone, it would be, but only proper for the trial to take place in the country. That way, victims of the alleged crimes will have the opportunity to be involved in the process of reconciliation," the stated; further adding, that if this is conducted in the name, and on behalf of the

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TAYLOR: majority don't want him back here

Taylor's Trial Zone On Focus

From Page 3

people of Sierra Leone, it should be easily accessible, and that victims should be able to witness the trial live on a daily basis, as it would help relieve the trauma of the conflict.

"These victims have experienced the past and have lived with the memories all these years. Therefore, they should be actively involved in the dispensation of justice for a secure and stable future," they said.

On security concerns and its impact to the forthcoming elections, the organisations send that they are not oblivious of the fact that the issue of security has always been a priority to the operations of the court and that this concern was cited to justify the transfer of Taylor to the Hague following his arrest in March last year. They said it was noted among others that the presence of Taylor in the sub-region would be a threat to the peace in both Sierra Leone and Liberia.

"What is worthy of consideration, however, is that

when Taylor left office as president of Liberia in August 2003, he resided in Nigeria, a country in the sub-region as a 'free man' with no public evidence produced so far to justify his threat to security in West Africa. Besides that, the executive and legislative branches of government in Sierra Leone, as well as civil society groups argued vehemently to have his trial here in Freetown, "they stated. The organisations also stated further that, as far as Sierra Leoneans are concerned, the indicted former Internal Affairs Minister, Late Sam Hinga Norman, who wielded so much power as coordinator of the civil defence forces, posed greater threat to the security of this country than that of Taylor. They argued that, from the time of his arrest up to the time of death, there was no reported evidence linking him with any move to cause instability in any part of the country.

"The same is expected of Taylor if he is incarcerated here in Freetown," they said. The organisations stated that it is their moral responsibility to monitor the trial pro-

cess and also to protect the rights of the accused. They said local monitors have been present throughout the trials of the other nine detainees and have reported faithfully to the Sierra Leonean people.

"We must have the same opportunity for the Taylor trail." The following are the organisations that made the brief: Sierra Leone court monitoring programme, network movement for democracy and human rights, national forum for human rights, useful people Sierra Leone, people's right to education for sustainable self-reliance and justice, network movement for justice and development, promoters of peace and justice and action plus.



NORMAN:gone

Freedom News

Wednesday, 21 March 2007

Civil Society Calls For Change of Venue of Taylor Trial Back To Freetown

From page 1

By Malcolm Rice

Various Civil Society Organizations in Sierra Leone have applied for a change of venue for the trial of Charles Gbankay Taylor to be done in Freetown to Hon. Chief justice, George Gelaga Kijng.

The organizations which involves the Sierra Leone Court monitoring programme; Network Movement for Democracy and Human right; National Forum for Human right; useful people Sierra Leone, People's right to Education for Sustainable Self-Reliance and justice; Promoters of Peace and Justice; and Action plus have all requested permission for the Hon. Justice George Gelaga King to file an amicus curiae brief in response to the pending Defence Motion for Reconsideration of an order for Change of venue of proceedings.

"Since the Indictment and arrest of Mr. Charles Taylor, Civil Society groups have been keenly interested in seeing Mr. Taylor tried in Freetown at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. When the decision to transfer Mr. Taylor to The Hague was initially taken without consulting civil society in any meaningful way, we felt marginalized and disenfranchised from the whole process. Now that the issue is before the court again, we wish to have our voices heard and seriously considered, in the interests of justice," they stated.

Citing Rule 74 of the Special Court Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the organizations stated that, "a

Chamber may, if it considers it desirable for the proper determination of the case, invite or grants leave to any state, organization or person to make submissions on any issue specified by the Chamber."

They stated further that in a prior opinion, the SCSL Appeals Chamber has interpreted the proper determination of the case; as simply meaning that, reaching the decision which most accords with the end of justice.

They said the Appeals Chambers has also stated that Rules 74 should not be interpreted narrowly or technically.

"We believe it is desirable for the proper determination of the Taylor case that the President grant us leave to make submissions on the issue of whether the Taylor trial should be moved back to Freetown. After all, the Special Court was set up primary for the benefit of the people of Sierra Leone and West Africa, and thus it accords with the end of justice, that the people of Sierra Leone be given the change to shares their views.

The organizations stated further that they submitted the following request according to a clause in Article 1 (1) of the practice Direction on filing Amicus Curiae applications adopted 20 October 2004, which states that applications for leave to make written Amicus Curiae submissions may be submitted at the application's own initiative.

"Previously in the Taylor case, the Secretary Gen-

eral of the African Bar Association, on her own initiative, applied and was granted leave to file an Amicus curia on the issue of head of state immunity," they stated.

The groups said their grounds for submitting this applications are numerous; among them, they stated is their interest in ensuring a fair trial for the accused, their de-

sire to physically see justice being done; their wish to closely access and monitor the proceedings and also their need for victims to be involved in the healing process.

"Our sense in that security concerning, cited by the president in his decision to transfer the venue of the proceedings in June 2006, are not valid," they stated.

"Late Chief Norman Was profoundly incarcerated"

From page 1

... Says Mohamed Haji Kailah

By Malcolm Rice

Member of the Charles Margai family, Mohamed Haji Kailah has told journalist at a press conference held at the frontline internet Café last Friday that the late Kamajoh chieftain was incarcerated in a prison.

"I said he was profoundly incarcerated because of the circumstances that led to his death," he said, further adding, that Chief Norman was not given 24 hour nursing care and that he had no night nurse who could have looked after him even though he was bleeding.

The eldest son of the late chief, Sam Hinga Norman Jr. disclosed that he was informed by Special Court authorities that Norman was taken to one of the top military hospitals in Senegal. "When I went to the hospital in Senegal, I met Dad in a low class hospital that I cannot compare to any in Sierra Leone. His bed looked like a baby cot," he said.

Norman Jr. said when he had earlier requested to take snap shots of the theatre, where the late chief was reported to have been treated, he was refused to

do so by the authorities who were manning the area.

He said he could only take snap shots of the late Chief in the ward where he was admitted and that he only did so after he was reluctantly authorized by a colonel.

"The mortuary was stinking. I wept for over half an hour. When I came back to Freetown and met the Registrar and told him that he was a liar."

Further adding that he also told him that the hospital was a prison and not a VIP hospital as they had stated in Freetown.

Talking in a sad mood, daughter of the late Chief Hinga Norman, Juliet Norman said her father told her he had been sleeping on a chair for three months because of the pain in his hip.

She said that while her father was in Senegal, he called and told her that he was finished.

That her father stated in a sad mood that he will not be coming back to Sierra Leone and that he was in prison and not prison hospital.

Juliet said that Peter Anderson of the Special Court went to the UN Radio programme, Agogo, and stated that the late Chief was been treated as a VIP but that, contrary to his statement, Juliet said that the late Chief called and said to her, "Juliet believe me, I am going to die."

She said after the operation Chief Norman called again and informed her that he had started walking. But that on Tuesday, she heard that he was in a coma.

"15 minutes later, Jawara called and told me that Dad

had died," she stated.

Juliet said the Special Court for Sierra Leone did not inform any member of the family when the decision to flew the late chief to Senegal for treatment was decided and that she was only informed about the decision the day Chief Norman was taken out of Sierra Leone on Wednesday.

Kailah also stated that it would have been better for the late Chief to have been treated at the Connaught Hospital or at the Choithrams Hospital where medical facilities are better than where the late chief was taken.

"The family does not consent to the autopsy carried on the late Chief. We have decided to write the SCSL to request for the report of the autopsy result," he said.

The Exclusive
 Wednesday, 21 March 2007

May Hinga Norman's Soul Rests in Peace

Guest Writer

PUAWUI... DR. SAMA BANYA

Another sad chapter has closed in the history of Sierra Leone's widely acknowledged as the most brutal war. I refer to the arrest, indictment and death in custody of Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Much has been said and much more written on this subject, nearly all of it critical of President Tejan Kabbah, his Vice President Solomon Berewa and the membership of the Sierra Leone Peoples party (SLPP). The most vocal and brutal since Norman's death have been the editors of the Awoko and the New Storm newspapers, the latter a registered PMDC Member.

Both papers accuse the President and the SLPP as having betrayed Norman and proved ungrateful to him. Awoko further states that Kabbah should have taken a stand similar to that of President George Bush, or that of the people of Serbia by refusing the establishment of the Special Court. That kind of opinion deceives only the ignorant as both the circumstances and the influencing factors are quite different. Nobody had he Hinga Norman or the Kamajors in mind. These people are not writing from a position of empathy with the Norman family. On the contrary they write out of malevolence, because a little professional investigation would certainly have influenced them differently. It is always naïve to pretend to be wise on hindsight.

The following are a few facts to remind the impartial and fair minded reader about the sequence of events. When the Lome Peace Accord was being drawn up, the government of Sierra Leone decided on a blanket amnesty for all fighters, a proposal which the international community refused to endorse. In the course of time the RUF and its allies began to violate the accord with attacks on towns and villages in the rural areas. When the matter was brought to Foday Sankoh's attention he said he would go round and admonish his men. In fact what he did was to send clandestine messages to inform them to ignore any admonishment from him, as it was just a front.

When the RUF abducted some 500 Unamsil Peace Keepers and marched them as far as Kailahun in the East and Sankoh was confronted, he denied the involvement of his men. He said that the Peacekeepers, being unfamiliar with the country had probably lost their way in the bush, but that he would assist in locating them. It was however left to British Commandos to rescue those people.

When Sankoh's men began to advance on Freetown from Rogbere junction, a group of concerned women set out for his residence to impress on him that they the women who with children suffered most, were tired of war. They had to flee as Sankoh's men threatened either to slash their throats or split their bellies. A few days later, in what Awoko newspaper derides as an SLPP organized march, thousands of citizens from all works of life decided to march peacefully to Sankoh's residence. No sooner had the first batch arrived there than his security opened fire killing and wounding many. Then the government acted; Sankoh and most of his henchmen were apprehended, he about a week later as he had fled. In addition to the arrests, government was no longer bound by Lome and continued negotiations for a war crimes tribunal. The matter was fully discussed in cabinet with Charles Margai participating as Minister of Internal Affairs. When it was agreed to include all combatants, late Hinga Norman and Charles Margai went round the Kamajors to persuade them to endorse the agreement even before it was ratified by Parliament.

Both as Deputy Minister of Defence and later as Minister of Internal Affairs, Norman and President Kabbah were close

MAY HINGA NORMAN'S SOUL REST IN PEACE

and met regularly. I never once heard President Kabbah address the late man with anything other than "chief," or "Norman." Norman was among the few people who would walk into the president's private sitting room without previous appointment or announcement. When the Special Court Act was finally ratified again Norman reassured the President that he had nothing to fear as neither he nor any Kamajor was involved in any acts of atrocity or human rights abuses, neither did they bear the greatest responsibility.

The subsequent news of Norman's arrest came as a bombshell; none of us expected it. Therefore when Awoko writes that President Kabbah should not have allowed it, he is really being hypocritical. A clause in the Special Court agreement is that its functions would be completely independent and free from interference by any person or government. What Awoko is saying is that the President should have said something like, "as you were! You've touched a sacred cow, the agreement is nullified." Was failure to do that the great betrayal?

The President immediately contacted Norman's family in our traditional way and offered government's help in the chief's defence. The Southern caucus of the SLPP was sent to inform Norman that they were arranging legal representation on his behalf. He informed them not to worry as friends were securing a British lawyer. Again it was Charles Margai who was making that arrangement but as the fees he requested were well beyond the chief's means, that was the end of the matter and it was left to Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie to take over the defence to the end. Suddenly the PMDC and its leader would now want us to believe that they are the chief mourners- what nauseating hypocrisy!

But Norman was determined to have his own back on the SLPP. Readers would recall that he took the party to court on two occasions praying for that body to rule that everything we had done was illegal and ultra vires both the national and the Party Constitution. The Party Secretary-General and I were the defendants. While judgement was being considered, he invited me to visit him in his cell; we had a very amicable two hour conversation including a suggestion to map a way forward. I would have kept my silence in respect of Hinga Norman's memory but for the nonsense that's been thrown around by trouble makers in their attempt to discredit us.

The President immediately contacted Norman's family in our traditional way and offered government's help in the chief's defence. The Southern caucus of the SLPP was sent to inform Norman that they were arranging legal representation on his behalf. He informed them not to worry as friends were securing a British lawyer. Again it was Charles Margai who was making that arrangement but as the fees he requested were well beyond the chief's means, that was the end of the matter and it was left to Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie to take over the defence to the end. Suddenly the PMDC and its leader would now want us to believe that they are the chief mourners- what nauseating hypocrisy!

PEEP!

Wednesday, 21 March 2007

Between Chief Norman, The Special Court, The SLPP And The Opposition –A Retort To Labor's Labors

by John Z. Foray

Sierra Leone is drawing ever closer to the most critical elections in its history.

There is an urgent need therefore for greater voter education to enable the electorate to make better informed and enlightened choices July 28, 2007.

spin doctors

This need is made ever more urgent by the flurry of spin-doctored reports and analyses that now inundate our newspapers. This brings me to the article "Between Chief Norman, the Special Court, the SLPP and the Opposition", which appeared in the Friday March 9, 2007 edition of *Peep!* magazine.

The author's evident objective was to absolve the SLPP of any blame in the Sam Hinga Norman saga.

But failing to marshal convincing evidence to buttress this argument, it turns to harangury of the Opposition for trying to make political currency out of Norman's demise, as it is an election year.

But what political party, including the author's SLPP, is not taking advantage of any opportunity fate throws into its lap?

real issues

The author then conveniently sweeps the issue under the carpet. Sad, is that in an Animal Farm grown to the size,

population and diversity of the country Sierra Leone, you can expect a corresponding multiplicity in the member of 'squealers' that would emerge.

character ascertainment

Chief Samuel Hinga Norman was a national hero of no mean stature who, in enlightened societies, make the folklores and inspire the ballads to give a people cultural distinction and national identity.

It was obvious therefore that given the circumstances surrounding his death, the event would excite a national debate.

Such a debate is thankfully ongoing among a concerned electorate and have brought to the fore genuine issues for discussion in an election year, as it gives the electorate an insight into the character of the people leading them or aspiring to lead them from the role they played in the Norman saga.

relevance of the Special Court

The most important issue the Norman debates have spawned are the several questions about the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

These include the following.

- What is the relevance of the Special Court to the "Peace" process in the light of both the Lome Peace Accord and the Abuja Ceasefire Agreement,
- How was the Special Court created and why?
- What were the names of the 3 factions in the war and who were their leaders?

These may seem simple and straight forward questions but they confusing in the present contest.

The Special Court of Sierra Leone was initiated by a request by government that was acted upon by the wider national community.

So contrary; to what the SLPP and its supporters have been peddling, that government is innocent of its creation and powerless over its operations, the Special Court was not imposed on this nation.

To date its relevance to Sierra Leone remains question-



Norman executed the wishes of Kabbah's government

able both internationally and locally.

After over \$170 million has been spent on its operations, what has it achieved and how is it going to impact?

Sankoh is dead. So is Sam Bockarie, and now Hinga Norman. About Johnny Paul Koroma, it's anybody's guess.

So all we have here is Charles Taylor and Issa Kamara, for whom the groundswell of sympathy has started setting in. There is no flavour in revenge anymore.

That a man who sacrificed himself for national stability should die a war criminal is a travesty of morality. This is not justice that this nation needs to adhere to purge us of the various cycle of hate.

Guinea Pigs

The Special Court operates counter - purpose both the letter and spirit of Lome and Abuja, which prescribed a reconciliatory rather than recriminatory approach to peace-building.

By its creation Sierra Leoneans were made guinea pigs for an unprecedented experiment; here a Special Court for recrimination and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (T.R.C) progressed side by side.

It was an explosive experiment that could have reversed or stultified the peace process. T.R.C Commissioner Bishop Humper could not help but voice his frustration over an unfortunate arrangement that tampered the effectiveness of the T.R.C.

Berewa's role in creation

Presidential candidate Solomon Berewa was a major player in the negotiation of both protocols. Can we then deduct from what transpired later? That while as key legal adviser to government, Berewa again must have recommended the request for the Special Court? Does this not make him a character who does not respect agreements together with the SLPP government he serves? Can we afford to trust such a man?

It's interesting and confusing that while the government of Sierra Leone was the third faction in the conflict, it is the *kamajors*; a militia group of government, that were indicted for bearing the 'greatest responsibility for the crimes against humanity' committed during the war!

The *kamajors* were paid from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Government provided weapons and other logistics and the *kamajors* merely served out the directives of

government and their methods, never officially frowned upon, were therefore endorsed by government.

time to indict Kabbah

If that pays the piper calls the time, then it stands to reason that President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, who was, and still is Head of State and government - the third faction to the conflict, should bear the '*greatest responsibility for crimes*' alleged to have been carried out by functionaries of his war apparatus. The Nation waits for answers.

Sama Banya's short sightedness

Dear Sir,

Dr. Sama Banya is a person for whom I have considerable respect.

In some of today's newspapers he has published "may Hinga Norman's soul rest in peace" in which he seeks in vain to exculpate Government and the SLPP party from any blame whatsoever relating to Chief Norman's death.

Dr. Banya you are wrong, very wrong.

It is not the inevitability of Chief Norman's pros-

ecution that is the complaint - one is sure that Chief Norman would have gone through the lengthy Special Court procedure and trial valiantly if he was encouraged and certainly convinced that he had one hundred percent support and loyalty from President Kabbah in particular and his Government as well as the SLPP party. Because it is firm public opinion that he would definitely have come out of the trial victorious with an acquittal and ending up as a true National Hero.

What undoubtedly contributed to Chief Norman's loss of courage and bravery at the end was undoubtedly the defiant and resolute refusal of President Kabbah to give evidence when subpoenaed on Norman's behalf.

Even the white-man foreigner Mr. Penfold (*Chief Komrabai*) at no great cost to his diplomatic reputation, voluntarily and passionately gave evidence on behalf of Chief Norman.

This "let down" by President Kabbah coupled with the indolence he displayed when to his knowledge he permitted the Special Court using Gbekie and others to seriously and without warning, humiliatingly arrest Chief Norman whilst he was engaged on President Kabbah's ministerial business.

Surely if President Kabbah truly cared for Chief Norman whom he described as "one of my best ministers", he should have sanctioned a more dignified arrest such as Bush or Blair who have done for one of their own ministers in similar circumstances.

Mr. Puawui, you really should have kept your silence and not resort to blind defenses referring to "nonsense been thrown around by trouble

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PEEP!

Wednesday, 21 March 2007

My Tribute To Chief Sam Hinga Norman – Prof. Ajimefo Awundawolo, PGG (Political Prison Graduate)

I want to join the bereaved family members of Chief Samuel Hinga Norman who are at this moment distressed, deprived and mourning the death of their beloved one and friend, father, brother, uncle and a great national hero of Sierra Leone who fought for the liberation of Sierra Leone and maintenance of democracy when this country was in crisis with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) rebels.

forming a defence group

It was late Chief Sam Hinga Norman who founded and became the national coordinator of the *kamajor* fighters against the atrocities of the rebels (RUF/AFRC) that landed this country into over ten years of national chaos and anarchy with all its attendant miseries and sufferings. The late Chief Hinga Norman was inspired by God and the spirits of our ancestors, especially the spirits of Sengbe Pieh, Bai Bureh, Ndawa, Kailondo, Sir Milton Margai and many others who provided him the vision and the stamina to organize the local community based resistance groups against the rebels (*RUF, AFRC and sobels*).

These local militia forces who fought against the rebels became known as *Civil Defence Forces* (CDF), a brain child of chief Hinga Norman.

The CDF stood firm against the rebels and made it difficult for the rebels to take over the state of Sierra Leone according to their plan as documented in their booklet of ideology entitled: '*Footpath to Democracy*' which I refer to as: '*Footpath to Destruction*' which indeed it was. Chief Hinga Norman forestalled their victory.

stood against machinations of rebels

When finally peace was restored and a democratically elected government was installed, headed by the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP), Chief Hinga Norman played a pivotal role in making that shaky regime of SLPP stay in power against all odds and evil machinations of the rebel forces and the political opposition parties that were not satisfied with the SLPP leadership of the country.

Chief Hinga Norman and his CDF or *kamajor* fighters became branded as the SLPP militia wing of the party and that factionalized the Sierra Leone Military Force into tribal factions with their hidden agenda of interests. That made the country instable and unsafe to govern by the SLPP even after the several peace accords signed with the help of international bodies during the years 1994 to 2001.

Chief Hinga Norman was in the mainstream of most of these peace treaties and even served as a high profile SLPP government Cabinet minister as Deputy Minister of Defence and later as Minister of Internal Affairs.

Unfortunately, he later fell out of favour with SLPP government and most of us were shocked to hear that he was arrested in his ministerial office as minister of Interior and dragged to detention (Prison) as a Post-Graduate Student - *Political Prison Graduate* (PPG).

I have said so, because this was not the first time Chief Hinga Norman had been imprisoned for political reasons.

Press releases from State House stated that Hinga Norman was indicted for crimes against humanity. Ugly propaganda also painted his coordinating role in the *kamajor* movement as most atrocious and inhuman and therefore needed to be looked into by a "Special Inter-

national Court' set up in Sierra Leone to try Chief Hinga Norman and his *kamajor* initiators etc:

He was detained in prison on indictment while awaiting trial on charges of war crimes to humanity.

four years in detention

Regrettably, Chief Sam Hinga Norman had been in detention since 2003.

I tried to visit him but was denied the visit even after my home was visited by a CID personnel for clearance.

I only heard about his sickness a month or so ago and was told that he had been flown to Dakar, Senegal Military Hospital for Special treatment.

The result of the 'Special Treatment' was the shocking news that Chief Samuel Hinga Norman had died.

Most of us expected it, but did not believe it. And to convince myself that Chief Samuel Hinga Norman is dead, I want at this point to be permitted through this medium to call Chief Norman four times by mobile phone and if he fails to answer me, I will accept the death of Chief Hinga Norman.

Let us all now listen while I call on Chief Hinga Norman four times being the symbolism of his 'HINDODEKUI'. I am making that the call in accordance with his Hindonekui. I now make the call:

Mahai Sami Hinga Anorma!

Mahai Sami Hinga Anorma!

Mahai Sami Hinga Anorma!



he left with conviction that he wouldn't come home

THE BURIAL OF CHIEF (RTD)

CAPT SAM HINGA NORMAN

NO DRUM WAS HEARD
 NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WAS INVITED
 NO GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WAS READ
 NO GOVERNMENT LORRY WAS USED
 NO SOLDIER SALUTE WAS TAKEN
 NO POLICE BAND WAS PLAYED
 NO SIREEN WAS BLOWN
 NO TRIBUTE FROM PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
 WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY!
 THE LOYAL KAMAJORS AND THE CIVIL SOCIETY GAVE HIM A HERO'S BURIAL.

*Mahai Sami Hinga Anorma!
because we abandoned him...*

My brewed people of this nation of Sierra Leone, Chief Hinga Norman has not responded to my call. He has ignored me with contempt.

I don't blame him because, I know I failed like many others to organise a peaceful public demonstration of displeasure at his arrest to show solidarity and appreciation for him at the time of his distress in detention.

TO BE CONCLUDED

Sama Banya And Chief Norman

from page 6

makers"

You only dealt with purely superficial issues. Please *Puawui*, for once at least be conscientious and not be as hard-hearted as your Boss. Do you sincerely dispute that all the above matters and more did not severely destroy Chief Norman's resistance to everything? *Puawui* please witness what is reported to be Chief Norman's last words as he was being "herded" to Dakar - "*I shall not be returning alive*".

Are those not the words of a broken man - of a man who had given up all hope? Indeed did they not turn out to be true?

Dr. permit me, as I am a Muslim, to try to equate Norman's last words here to that of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross when he said "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani*" which in Hebrew means "*my God, my God why has thou forsaken me*"? and later went on to say "*it is finished*".

If I have blasphemed may the Lord forgive me. But as I write this, there are tears in my eyes especially when I look at the photograph of Norman as he was being "led away" to Dakar - the stoical look on his face looking towards the East with lips parted and his mouth open - What a picture!

How does this picture strike you, President Kabbah the SLPP and the government? What about being led like a sheep to the slaughter?

Dr. *Puawui* you unfortunately referred to the time when "*thousands of citizens from all walks of life decided to march peacefully to Sankoh's residence*". In this regard let me remind you of two things:

Firstly President Kabbah refused approval for the march but rather suggested that 3-6 persons only should go but fortunately he was ignored.

Secondly, to this day what memorial has this government set up for those who lost their lives on that magnificent occasion?

You have done nothing. However a next different government would appropriately honour those who were so killed.

Finally, it is lapses such as are detailed above that have left both your party and your Government despised by the people.

Yours faithfully,

S. Alghali, Fourah Bay Road

Standard Times

Wednesday, 21 March 2007

Human Rights – Prisoners' Status Needs Improvement

As a sequel to March 14th edition of Standard Times which carried an article on the status of prisoners according to the UN minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners.

This article takes a look at the Rules of Application to prisoners under sentence.

Apparently, the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of offenders held in Geneva in 1955 and approved by the Economic and Social Council Resolution 663c indicates on the guiding principles that "57. imprisonment and other measures which result in cutting off an offender from the outside world are afflictive by the very fact of taking from the person the right of self-determination and depriving him of his liberty. Therefore the prison system shall not, except as incidental to justifiable segregation or the maintenance of discipline, aggravate the suffering inherent in such a situation".

As the adage goes "A man is born free but his instinct and desire makes him in chain".

This phenomenon has subsequently resulted into the high crime rates in the world and beyond countries and cities on a daily basis.

In fact, the purpose and justification of a sentence or similar measure is ultimately to protect society against crime. Similarly, crime prevention can only be achieved if the period of imprisonment is used specifically to ensure prisoners under sentence should return to their society and live a law abiding and self supporting life for themselves and their families.

Therefore, it is imperative for prison authorities to utilize all the remedial, educational, moral, spiritual and other forms of assistance which are appropriate and available to improve on the treatment and needs of jailed prisoners. As 60(1) of the Guiding Principles of the UN Congress on Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners state that "The regime of the institution should seek to minimize any differ-

ences between prison life and life at liberty which tend to lessen the responsibility of the prisoners or respect due to their dignity as human beings"

However, this is contrary to what is obtaining in Sierra Leone at the Pademba Road maximum prison where most sentenced prisoners have not been accorded their dignity and cannot even boast of quality food and good health facilities. Principle 60(2) of the same congress states thus: "before the completion of sentence, it is desirable that necessary steps be taken to ensure prisoners gradually return to life in society. This aim may be achieved depending on the case by a pre-release regime organized in the same institu-

tion or in another appropriate institution or by release on trial under some kind of supervision which must not be entrusted to the police but should be combined with effective social aid".

61 read thus: "the treatment of prisoners should emphasize not their exclusion from the community but their continuing part in it. Community agencies should, therefore, be en-

listed when ever the institution is assigned with the task of social rehabilitation of the prisoner. There should be in connection with every institution social workers charged with the duty of maintaining and improving all desirable relationship of a prisoner with his family and with valuable social agencies. Steps should be taken to safe guard, to the maximum extent compatible with the law and the sentence, the rights relating to civil interests, social security rights and other social benefits of prisoners".

Social rehabilitation - sentenced prisoners at the Pademba Road maximum prison cannot boast of decent social life as they are seen in

boast of meaningful contribution towards the development of the country as they are only there to eat and sleep free and don't work.

Work - 71(1) states that prison labour must not be of an afflictive nature. (2) All prisoners under sentence should be required to work, subject to their physical and mental fitness as determined by the medical officer. (3) sufficient work of a usual nature shall be provided to keep prisoners actively employed for a normal working day.

(4) So far as possible the work provided shall be such it will maintain or increase the prisoners ability to earn a honest living after release.

ganization and methods of work in the institutions shall resemble as closely as possible to work outside the institutions, so as to prepare prisoners for the conditions of normal occupational life.

(2) The interest of the prisoners and their vocational training, however, must not be subordinated to the purpose of making financial profit from an industry in the institution.

73.(1) further reveals that the organization and methods of work in the institutions shall resemble as closely as possible those outside the institutions preferable institutional industries and farms should be operated directly by the administration and not by private contractors.

76(1) there shall be a system of equitable remuneration of the work of prisoners and that under the system prisoners shall also be allowed to at least spend part of their earnings on articles for their own use and if possible to send part of their earnings to their families. The system should also make available part of their earnings be set aside by the administration to constitute a savings fund to be handed over to the prisoner on the day of his/her release.

Education and Recreation

77(1) of the same charter made reference to education and recreational facilities. It states that provision shall be made to further the education of all prisoners capable of doing so thereby, including religious instruction in the country where this is possible.

The education of illiterates and young prisoners shall be compulsory and special attention be paid to it by the administration. This shall be integrated with the normal educational system of the country so that after their release they may continue their education without difficulty.

78. **Recreational and cultural** activities shall be provided in all institutions for the benefit of the mentally and physically abled prisoners.

The education of illiterates and young prisoners shall be compulsory and special attention be paid to it by the administration. This shall be integrated with the normal educational system of the country so that after their release they may continue their education without difficulty

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61 read thus: "the treatment of prisoners should emphasize not their exclusion from the community but their continuing part in it. Community agencies should, therefore, be en-

every corner of the streets of Freetown doing odd jobs for the purpose survival after heavy day's work, or found in ghettos taking drugs rather than getting social security jobs as in other countries.

Social benefits - The issue of social benefits for sentenced prisoners in Sierra Leone is totally opaque. However most sentenced prisoners cannot

(5) Vocational training in useful trades shall be provided for prisoners especially young prisoners.

(6) Within the limits compatible with proper vocational selection and with the requirements of institutional administration and discipline, the prisoners should be able to choose the type of work they wish to perform.

72 (1) indicates that the or-

...crime prevention can only be achieved if the period of imprisonment is used specifically to ensure prisoners under sentence should return to their society and live a law abiding and self supporting life for themselves and their families

Patriotic Vanguard website

Tuesday, 20 March 2007

http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/article.php3?id_article=1103

Special Court: Munlo Bids Farewell

- Tuesday 20 March 2007.

PRESS RELEASE

Lovemore Munlo(photo), SC has announced he will leave the Special Court after a year and a half as Registrar.

“After one and a half years at the Special Court, the time has come to move on”, Mr. Munlo told staff members last week.

Mr. Munlo became interim Registrar in October 2005. In February 2006, he was appointed Registrar of the Special Court by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In taking up his post in 2006, Mr Munlo said his vision was “to consolidate what the Court has already achieved and to move forward in providing efficient and professional support to Chambers, Prosecution and Defence”.

Mr. Munlo numbered among his accomplishments as Registrar a more focused completion strategy which meets projected milestones, and improved working conditions for local staff.

He also pointed to the conclusion of a host agreement with the Government of the Netherlands and the Memorandum of Understanding with the ICC, to enable the Special Court to hold the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague.



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 20 March 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

AP March 20, 2007

Liberia faces violence as it tries to rein in rubber wealth

MONROVIA, Liberia—Little that's worth anything makes it out of Liberia's war-wrecked ports these days — except rubber. Three years after the end of a civil war allegedly bankrolled by stolen timber and diamonds, the gooey latex accounts for virtually all the West African country's exports. Rubber was the first commodity to return to market after the fighting, and the first to be targeted by ambitious government programs to redistribute Liberia's natural wealth. The slow and violence-marked reform of the rubber sector shows just how challenging **Liberia's** return to healthy trade and resource management will be.

International Clips on West Africa

'Sierra Leonean Women Suffer From Obstetric Fistula,' Mercy Ship

Freetown, Mar 19, 2007 (Concord Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --A

press release from Mercy Ship Wednesday stated that thousands of women in Sierra Leone are suffering from a terrible injury which the organization described as obstetric fistula. "On Tuesday March 20, people across Sierra Leone will celebrate International Women's Day and the important role women play in society. But many people are unaware across Sierra Leone that women are suffering from this disease," the release states.

Local Media – Newspaper

President Dialogues with Media Gurus Thursday

(The News, The Informer, The Inquirer and Heritage)

- The Press Secretary to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Mr. Cyrus Badio announced that the Liberian leader will no Thursday, meet with the Press Union of Liberia and a number of media executives to find a way to resolve some pressing issues which have erupted between the Office of the President and the Union.
- Analysts stated that the meeting was necessary in the wake of the perceived threat the Presidency poses to the press. But Press Secretary Badio denied the claims and stated that the Government would do nothing to undermine press freedom in the Country.

Supreme Court Halts Revocation of Newspaper License

(The News, The Informer, The Inquirer, The Analyst and Daily Observer)

- The Supreme Court yesterday placed a temporary halt on revocation of the license of *The Independent* newspaper and thereby instructed the the Government of Liberia and the Paper to remain in status quo and stay all further proceeding until otherwise ordered.
- Acting Supreme Court Judge Gladys Johnson, who issued the order said that she notified the parties to appear before her on 22 March 2007 although according the Government said that it would appropriately respond to the Paper's petition to the Court.

Government Turns to Netherlands and Belgium to Rebuild Bridge

(The Analyst, Heritage and The New Liberia)

- According to correspondents, the Government of Liberia allegedly diverted from the DCN, a Dutch company that evaluated the broken Vai Town bridge with aim of reconstructing it provided the Government would provide 50 percent of the cost.
- Instead, during her visit to Europe, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf reportedly requested the Governments of Netherlands and Belgium to consider underwriting the cost and carrying out the reconstruction
- The Liberian leader had stated that the agreement with the Company would be reviewed, a move analysts and commentators thought was due to the lack of money on the part of the Government.

Japan Gives UNHCR Liberia US\$2.5m

(The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Informer and New Democrat)

- Japan has signed a grant of US\$ 2.5 million with UNHCR-Liberia as reintegration assistance program to Liberian Returnees which will cover the construction of health and educational facilities including water supply, and support for operations of NGOs.
- In a statement, Japanese Ambassador to Liberia, Masamichi Ishikawa said the grant was part of efforts aimed at restoring bilateral cooperation between the two countries and hopes that the effective and successful implementation of those programs would reduce the suffering of Liberian Returnees. UNHCR Representative to Liberia Mengesha Kebede called on the International Community to provide continual assistance.

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

President Says Press Censorship Claim Mere Rumours

- Speaking during the monthly phone in programme "Conversation with the President" President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf says government has no intention to censor the media and attributed the perception to mere "rumours".
- President Sirleaf said as a leader who suffered repression she would in no way sanction the muzzling of the press.
- She observed that though her government is not perfect, it is striving to respect the rights of all and hoped that Thursday's forum with the Press Union and media executives will bring to rest the rumours of media censorship.
- Meanwhile, the president has dismissed the notion that no country has set pre-condition for the waiving of Liberia's debt but disclosed that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) only requested that Liberia meet some bench marks in terms of fiscal discipline.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Catholic Prelate Alleges Flaws at the TRC

- The Director of the Catholic Media Centre, Father Anthony Bowah says the Truth and Reconciliation Commission appears nice on the surface but it is full of flaws.
- Father Bowah said TRC has not succeeded in any country and thought it was fear-laden, time and duty centred instead of human centred with monetary value attached. He said some of the financiers of the commission are primary perpetrators of the wars in Liberia but are not questioned.

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 12:00 noon)*

Supreme Court Places Stay Order on Newspaper Ban

Japan Gives UNHCR Liberia US\$2.5m

Voice of America

Tuesday, 20 March 2007

Liberians in US Tell of Civil War Atrocities

By Deborah Block
Minneapolis, Minnesota

In the West African country of Liberia, thousands of people are telling their stories about human rights abuses that took place in the country, especially during the 14-year civil war. Their comments will become part of a report by the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The aim is to promote healing in Liberia. A large Liberian community in the U.S. midwest city of Minneapolis, Minnesota is also providing testimony for the report. VOA's Deborah Block has more.

A recent event in Minneapolis encouraged Liberians to come forward to document atrocities during their country's years of civil war and conflict between 1989 and 2003.

The conflict began when rebel leader Charles Taylor tried to overthrow Samuel Doe, who had taken over the country in a military coup. Various rebel factions also battled each other. It is estimated that the violence left at least 200,000 people dead and displaced a million more.

A private group, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, is coordinating the Liberian testimony in the United States.



Director Robin Phillips says the views of Liberians who live in the U.S. are crucial. "A lot of the people who fled Liberia were victims of the atrocities there and if they don't include their statements then the record won't be complete."

Momolu Getaweh was the minister of information under Doe, who was assassinated in 1990. He says he was astounded how Liberians turned against each other. "To see students kill their teachers. It's very gruesome some of those things that we saw, that we witnessed."

After Doe's death, ECOWAS -- The Economic Community of West African states -- formed an interim government, but Taylor's rebels and other factions refused to recognize it. Peace accords failed until Taylor agreed to another transitional government. After major fighting ended in 1997, Liberia held

democratic elections. Taylor won the majority of the votes and became president.

During his six years as president, Taylor left Liberia bankrupt and in ruins. Under intense international pressure, he resigned in 2003 and went into exile in Nigeria.

Then in 2006, after being jailed in Sierra Leone, the United Nations sent him to The Hague, Netherlands for trial. He faces charges of allegedly backing rebels in the Sierra Leone civil war.

The Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission says its report will not be used to prosecute Liberians who may have committed crimes. But Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf told VOA the information could also be used for other purposes. "The whole process will enhance contrition and forgiveness. And at the end of the day if the recommendations lead to other forms of justice, we'll go that route appropriately."

Ben Browne is editor of a Liberian magazine in Minnesota. He is not testifying for the truth and reconciliation report because he says it is a waste of time. "There should be a war crimes tribunal set up for people who perpetrated crimes against the Liberian people. People should pay the price for what they did during that time."

Maimen Woepa says he was tortured during the civil war and both his parents were killed. "I know those who did it. And the first time I saw one of my torturers here, my friends will tell you I shed tears, I didn't know what to do. I wanted to grab him but I was able to tell him, 'do you remember me?' And when he said 'no' I told him about our interaction and then he said 'I'm sorry.' Then I broke down in tears."

Law firms in Minneapolis are providing free services to take testimony from local Liberians. Attorney Jim O'Neil spoke to one man for four hours. "Things that were done in this conflict are almost hard to believe. They are hard to imagine and how people could do that to other human beings."

O'Neil recently visited Liberia where he says a man on the street opened up to him. "And the story this gentlemen told involved murder, rape, cannibalism and a mass grave where he said children were buried alive."

But what if these stories are not true, or they are exaggerated? Since all testimony is confidential the commission hopes most people will tell the truth.

Liberian Truth and Reconciliation commissioner Massa Washington says confidentiality is the only way some people will find out what happened to their loved ones. "For example, the woman whose son disappeared who is still waiting after 14 or 15 years. How does she get the answer as to what happened to her son? Someone out there might know."

There are plans to take testimony in other U.S. cities with large Liberian populations. The Liberian commission's report is scheduled to be released in 2008.



Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf responds to reporter's question during a press conference at VOA, 16 Feb 2007

IPP Media (Tanzania)

Tuesday, 20 March 2007

<http://www.ippmedia.com/ipp/guardian/2007/03/20/86669.html>

Tanzanian Journalist Appointed to UN Desk

By Jacqueline Mosha

The UN has appointed veteran Tanzanian journalist Saidi Msonda Deputy Chief of Press and Public Affairs and Managing Editor with the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

Information reaching Dar es Salaam yesterday said Msonda is supposed to report to his new office in the Sierra Leone capital Freetown immediately.

``I am pleased to offer you appointment as Deputy Chief of Press and Public Affairs/Managing Editor,`` said the Registrar of the UN-established Court, Lovemore Munlo SC, in his letter of offer.

Before his appointment, Msonda was Public Information Officer and Head of Community Liaison, Outreach and Print Unit of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL). UNAMSIL completed its task last year.

UNAMSIL's Chief of Public Information, Sheila Dallas Katzman, said: ``Msonda worked under my leadership and demonstrated exceptional professionalism and dedication in his duties.

``He is industrious, tolerant, and very creative and understands the United Nations very well. The young man is an innovative thinker.``

Prior to serving UNAMSIL, Msonda was Public Information Officer and Head of Outreach Centre of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) in the northern Ethiopian city of Mekelle.

Previously, he served as Public Information Officer at the UNMEE's headquarters in Asmara, Eritrea, since September 2002.

Before joining the UN in 2002, Msonda worked in different capacities with the IPP media group, in particular The Guardian Limited.

He started his journalism career with Uhuru/Mzalendo newspapers in March 1990.

Msonda received his MA in journalism from the University of Wales in Cardiff (1994-1997).

He has attended a series of courses on journalism and international law, among them from The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in New York, at the University of Ghana's Legon College, at the International Training College for Conflicts in Pisa, Italy, as well as at The Institute for the Advancement of Journalism in Johannesburg.

He has also received numerous awards on academic and professional excellence.

The SCSL was established in 2002, to try ``those who bear greatest responsibility`` for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Sierra Leone after November 30, 1996. The brutal civil war was fought from 1991 to 2002.

* SOURCE: Guardian