

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 of:

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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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“Daramy Rogers misdirected 3,000 bags of rice”

...*Kamajor Commander*

Story: Tanu Jalloh
Former Kamajor Deputy Battalion Commander in Bo, Kenneth Koker Monday revealed at Special Court that the then Civil Defense Forces (CDF) Bo District Coordinator, Daramy Rogers was involved in a scam with 3,000 bags of rice meant for Kamajors. Koker is a common witness to Sam Hinga Norman and Moinina Fofana, first and second CDF accused

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“Daramy Rogers misdirected 3,000 bags of rice”

From page 1
respectively. He is sixth to testify on behalf of the former in the ongoing CDF trial at Special Court Trial Chamber 1. “Daramy Rogers was the Bo district Kamajor Coordinator and a member of the War Council at Base Zero (Talia). Kamajors (we) in Bo had starved for two months after our return from Freetown where we reinforced ECOMOG to fight back the RUF/AFRC invasion. We were later made to understand that President Kabbah had sent 3,000 bags of rice for us which we never

received,” Koker testified adding that the situation then created serious problems.

He narrated that former Vice President, Albert Joe Demby and former Internal Affairs Minister, Charles Margai together with other government officials were sent to investigate the allegation.

“After the investigation the outcome was never disclosed to us but Daramy Rogers was immediately replaced with Koseh Hindowan,” he explained. The former Kamajor Commander earlier testified that on reestablishing pro

government forces control in Bo town, ECOMOG had organized Kamajors by battalions. He said two days after the January 1999 RUF/AFRC inroad; ECOMOG helicopter had gone to collect them in Bo as reinforcement.

“We were deployed at various locations around Freetown and communication sets given to us. We drove the enemy forces up to Waterloo and later learnt that attacks on Bo via Yele was imminent so we were relocated to Bo in readiness for the operation,” he recalled.

“Norman Rescued ROF/AFRC Troops”

- Lieutenant General David Richards

The seventh defense witness in the trial of Chief Hinga Norman and two others CDF indictees are standing trial for crimes against humanity, the fifty-three-year-old British Lieutenant General, David Julian Richards who made five vis-



Hinga Norman

its to Sierra Leone between January 1999 and October

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"NORMAN RESCUED ..."

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2000, told the Special Court in Freetown yesterday that Special Court judge Sam Hinga Norman personally intervened to save the lives of RUF and AFRC prisoners of war when over excited CDF and loyal SLA troops attempted to execute the RUF and AFRC fighters at the Congo Cross Bridge.

According to Lieutenant General David Julian Richards, he joined the British Army in his teens and has since served Her Majesty's army for thirty-five years and that at the moment, as he is making preparation to proceed to Afghanistan, he is at the moment the Commander of NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in Germany.

Answering to questions put to him by Defense Lawyer, Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie, Lt. General Julian Richards also added, "in January 1999, I observed the government forces, including the CDF stopping the RUF advance and the loyal troops later crossed the Congo Cross Bridge and arrested the RUF prisoners. The government forces were over excited and angry when they captured the RUF prisoners as the atmosphere was dynamic and exciting."

When asked how he came to witness the battle at the

Congo Cross Bridge, the British General said, "Brigadier General Maxwell Khobe took me to the scene and later Chief Hinga Norman went to the scene and remonstrated with the loyal troops and admonished them to behave properly."

When asked by Defense Lawyer Bu-buakei Jabbie whether he had any knowledge or, if there was any indication that Chief Hinga Norman intended to overthrow President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's government, the British General responded, "I am surprised that you are asking me such a question because if Chief Hinga Norman really wanted to take over power he could have done so easily between 1999 and 2000."

The British General was subjected to a lot of questioning on this point from both judges and the prosecution but he held on to his ground that he did not believe that Hinga Norman intended to overthrow the legitimate government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

General Richards further explained to the Special Court yesterday that when he arrived in Sierra Leone in January 1999, there was a lot of fighting and that the fighting was very chaotic.

He also said that he witnessed groups of armed men mainly

loyal SLA and CDF fighters working towards a common plan to push the RUF out of the city and they were successful.

Lieutenant General Richards said that his report on the security situation in Sierra Leone was accepted by the United Kingdom government which resulted in the British government putting together a military package of £10 million to be beefed up to another £10 million from the other donors.

The military expenditure on Sierra Leone provided by Her Majesty's government was borne out of the confidence the British government had in President Kabbah, the Deputy Defense Minister, Hinga Norman and ECOMOG.

General Richards explained that when he returned in February 1999 to report to President Kabbah about the £10 million military aid package, he also brought along with him the British High Commissioner, Mr. Peter Penfold as he was now certain that it was safe for the diplomat to resume his duties in Freetown.

He said that he met Chief Hinga Norman, at several meetings during which the British General explained that the military equipment purchased by the British government should remain

in Sierra Leone after the departure of ECOMOG.

He stated in court yesterday that he was impressed about the fact that Chief Hinga Norman knew all the details about military logistics and that Chief Hinga Norman had a military acumen and that he was also a determined man to end the war.

Lt. General Richards further revealed that Hinga Norman was an effective minister, a courageous man and a man who stood by his convictions.

When Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie asked General Richards whether he had any knowledge of children fighting on the side of loyal troops, the British General replied, "I did not see any young people on the side of the troops loyal to government, no children on the side of the pro-government fighters."

The British General further stated that he had admonished both Hinga Norman and his fighters that any use of child soldiers would jeopardize the 10 million Pounds Sterling British military aid package.

He further quoted Chief Hinga Norman as having said on one occasion when he visited the CDF fighters at the Brookfields Hotel,

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From page 7

NORMAN RESCUED

"any use of child soldiers would amount to an own goal as this would jeopardize the military package." General Richards explained that during his six-week tour between May and June 2000, it was as a result of the United Kingdom's response to Kofi Annan's plea for help for Sierra Leone that caused British troops to be deployed in Freetown. General Richards stated that although the United Kingdom was not part of the UN peacekeeping troops in Sierra Leone, it became necessary for British troops to intervene in Sierra Leone especially after the abduction of the UN troops by the RUF.

He further explained that when the UK unilaterally came to Sierra Leone, especially after the abduction of UN soldiers by the RUF, he found again a very troubled Sierra Leone as the RUF had not disarmed.

According to General Richards, British troops did

not only take part in the evacuation of British citizens during the troubled times, but that he decided to stay on to help the UN troops to find their feet again.

He went on, "during my stay in Sierra Leone, I discovered that the Deputy Minister of Defense, Chief Hinga Norman, was dedicated in what he was doing, he was defending the country against the enemy and he was the kind of man who would consult others on any

decision he wanted to take."

When asked about his assessment of the Civil Defense Forces (CDF), the British General responded that the CDF forces were stupidly brave but not well disciplined. The CDF was more of a militia, trained for a purpose even though there were a few rogue CDF fighters on the periphery who took decisions outside the general leadership of the movement."

“£ 20M was given to the Government for support” -Gen Richards

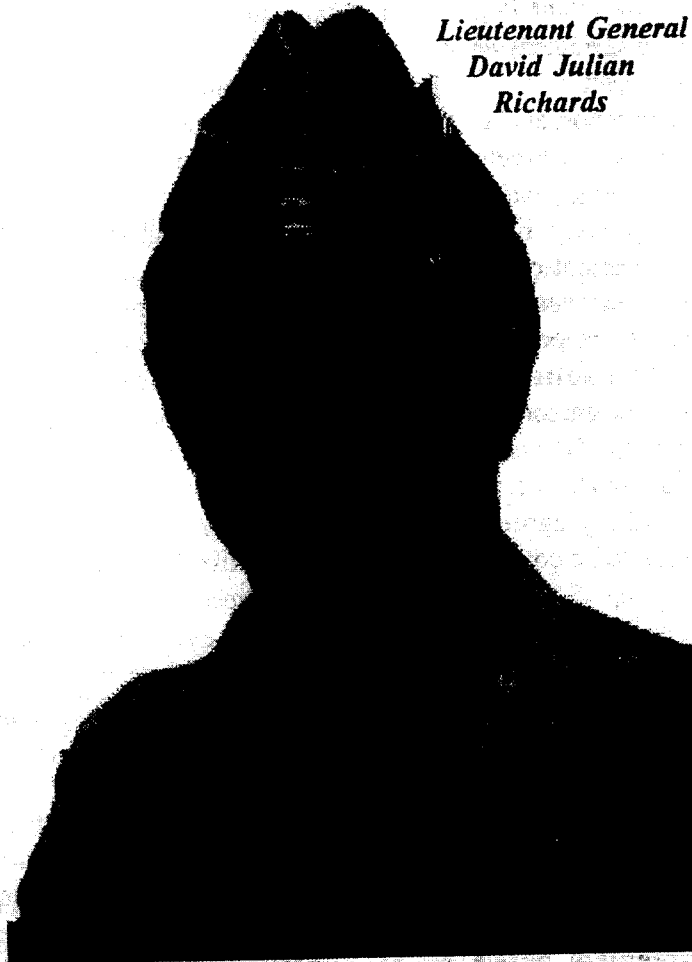
By Betty Milton

A British Lieutenant General, (Gen) David Julian Richards yesterday in his evidence at the Special Court in defence of the first accused, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, disclosed that an aid was sent to Sierra Leone in the sum of £10 million from the British Government and another £10 million from other countries.

Gen. Richards stated that he was assigned to Sierra Leone on five occasions; one of such occasions was when he was sent here to make an assessment of whether the British Government should provide support for the country.

The General further stated that when he visited Sierra Leone in January 1999 he went to Cockerill headquarters where he first

*Lieutenant General
David Julian
Richards*



met with Gen Shelpidi who was the Commander of the ECOMOG Forces. He said
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"£ 20M was given to the Government for support"

From Front Page

Gen. Shelpidi took him to the garages of the headquarters where he also met with Chief Norman and Brigadier Gen Maxwell Khobe and that they had a briefing as he was supposed to give his report on this issue.

He narrated that at one point, Gen Khobe took him to Congo Bridge to observe a fighting between the ECOMOG forces, including loyal soldiers and the CDF, and the rebels. The witness said he stood some distance and used a binocular to watch the fighting.

Gen Richards said he was told by Gen. Khobe that if the rebels crossed over the bridge, there was an armoury between Aberdeen and the bridge which they would use for their defence. The forces, he said, were successful to stop the RUF from crossing over the bridge.

Based on this, the witness noted, the Government merited support from the United Kingdom (UK) Government and agreed that a package of £ 10 million be further matched with another

£ 10 million from other countries and this was also based on the confidence the British Government had in President Tejan Kabbah, Hinga Norman, and also on ECOMOG to defend the country from the RUF.

This aid package, he maintained, had a string attached to it which included that child soldiers should not be part of the war. In one instance, he recalled, he went together with Norman at CDF headquarters where Norman emphasized that they should not include child soldiers in the fighting, as this would prevent the government from getting the package.

Gen Richards further stressed that as far as the war was concerned, the situation was chaotic. The fighters, he said, were all working with a common plan which was to push the RUF out of the capital and that this was done successfully although there were a lot of destruction in the eastern part of Freetown.

The General stated that he came back in February

as his Government gave him the mandate to tell President Kabbah that the Government had agreed to give the said aid and that he was also sent to know how the money would be used.

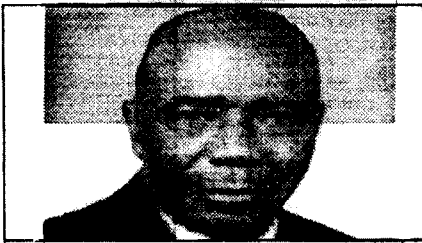
The witness also discussed that it was during this time that he was able to convince the British High Commissioner, Peter Penfold, to return as Sierra Leone was indeed safe.

Talking about the type of person Chief Norman was, he said he was someone devoted to what he was doing which was to defend the country and reinstate the government and that the indictee had respect for President Kabbah.

Answering to an allegation that Norman together with some members of the CDF were planning a coup, to this the witness said if that was what they had wanted to do they would have done it.

Lt. Gen Richards said he had been in the army for 35 years and had traveled many parts of the world including Germany, Northern Ireland on operations. He maintained that he also served in East Timor and in 1998 served in Indonesia on evacuation exercises.

"Britain Gave Kabbah £10,000 ..."



President Kabbah

By Mohamed Kai

The third in command in the British Army Lt. Gen. David Julian Richards, has told the Special Court that Britain gave President Alhaji Ahmad Tejan

Kabbah, ten million pounds in the form of military assistance to the Sierra Leone gov-

ernment during the war. General Richards disclosed that in 1999, he was posted to Sierra Leone. He said his mission was

-Gen. Richards Tells Special Court

to monitor, assess and report to the British government, the constraints faced by the Sierra Leone

government in its strides to prosecuting the war particularly with regards the support of loyal sol-

diers in the then Sierra Leone Army, now Republic of Sierra Leone Armed
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"Britain Gave Kabbah £10,000 ..."

From front page

Forces and the Civil Defence Force (CDF), that were fighting to restore the democratically elected government of President Kabbah.

According to General Richards, in the wake of January 6, 1999 invasion of Freetown, he managed to sneak into the country on board a British naval war ship, the Southgate, together with some staff officers.

Before arriving in Freetown, General Richards said he made a brief stop over visit in Conakry; Guinea, where he was briefed by President Lansana Conteh, on the situation in Freetown. The General said the naval ship strenuously managed to dock along Sierra Leone's coastal line since the fighting between the AFRC and the loyal troops was very tense at the time.

During his stay in Freetown he continued, he said he met Major General Shepeldi who was then head of the Nigerian contingent based at Lungi, Chief Sam Hinga Norman and also visited Wilberforce barracks and the Congo Cross bridge which was the hottest battle line at the time.

"I reported my findings to the British government and the British government disbursed ten million pounds which I handed over to President Kabbah," General Richards told the court.

In one instance, the General said he and Chief Norman went to the CDF headquarters at Brookfields where according to him, Chief Norman warned his commanders to avoid the use of children under the age of fifteen as combatants. He described Chief Norman as loyal to the government and was determined to defend his country and the government from rebel atrocities.

He further disclosed that whilst on board the British naval ship along the coastal line, he saw through his Binoculars, Ecomog jet fighters bombing areas occupied by the AFRC and RUF rebels and saw corpses floating near the sea shore.

The trial continues today.

British General testifies at the Hinga Norman trial

*By Tom E. Tommy
and Saffia S. Kabba*

British born Lieutenant General, David Julian Richards, 53, presently serving in the British Army, yesterday testified as the seventh witness in

the ongoing trial of Chief Sam Hinga Norman and co. at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Testifying, General Richards intimated that he is presently the Commander of Allied

Rapid Reaction Corp based in Germany.

His task, he said, is to combat any unstable situation anywhere in the world. According to him, he visited Sierra

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British General testifies at the Hinga Norman trial

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Leone five times between 1998 and 2000.

He referred to himself as a military trouble shooter.

During the course of the war in Sierra Leone, the General stated that he was assigned by the British government to pay a working visit to the country, so as to assess the military situation on the ground and forward appropriate recommendations.

This he said was to discover areas for possible British assistance.

Arriving in Sierra Leone, he said he first met General Shelpidi who was by then the Commander of the ECOMOG forces in the country.

According to him, General Shelpidi took him to the Army Headquarters at Cockerill where he met General Maxwell Khobe and Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

As the fight was growing serious everyday with the RUF on the one side and ECOMOG/SLA and the CDF on the other hand the ECOMOG were fighting in concert with the loyal SLA and CDF.

He was then taken to all the major partners fighting on the government side.

At that material time, the British General described the situation in the country as volatile, with ECOMOG making frantic steps to remove the rebels from their strong holds.

Speaking about Chief Sam Hinga Norman, the witness said Norman was anxious to ensure that ECOMOG inculcate the culture of sharing whatever military assistance they receive to all the pro-government forces.

He also maintained that Norman had a good military acumen, and was a very determined and effective Deputy Defence Minister, whose objective was to ensure that government gets absolute primacy over the overall security of the country.

He further stated that Norman was clearly and absolutely defending the

government while in exile in Guinea, adding that Norman was loyal to an extent that he always sought permission from the President before doing anything.

Commenting on allegations that Chief Norman and others were bent on holding on to power after they would have succeeded in removing the rebels, General Richards said that "Between that period in time, if Norman had wanted to do that he would have done that because by then he had all it takes to do it".

The CDF the witness said, had an ability which make, them great fighters and that they were more than a militia.

In May 2000, the witness said he had cause to visit the CDF headquarters at the former Brookfields Hotel, were he heard Chief Norman advising his men not to recruit children under the age of 15 years into the Kamajor society. The witness made special reference to an incidence at the Congo Cross Bridge in Freetown were he said pro-government forces (SLA, ECOMOG and Kamajor) captured some RUF fighters, and that they were about to execute them when suddenly Hinga Norman arrived at the scene and prevented the killings.

Returning back to the UK, the General intimated the Court that he recommended Sierra Leone to the British government and international donors as a country that needs international support. According to him, it was based on his recommendations that the British Government generated a package of £10,000,000 from donors, to augment the operation in Sierra Leone.

In February 1999, he said he came back to tell President Kabbah the good news and how the money is intended to be spent.

Norman never wanted to overthrow Pres. Kabbah

... **British General says**

By Joseph Turay

Contrary to the prosecution's witnesses' allegations that the C.D.F first accused chief Sam Hinga Norman had wanted to overthrow the democratically Elected Government of President Kabbah, the defence witness it all as General David Julian Richards yesterday 21

February testified at the Special Court that the first accused was not in any way planning to overthrow the President. Rather it was Norman who had the same goal to that of the International Community which included ECOMOG forces to stabilize the country and see that Democracy was restored in Sierra Leone.

Dressed in his full military

fatigue, relaxing confidently while giving his testimony in the crowded Court, the General explained to the Court that throughout his stay and five consecutive visits to Sierra Leone, while monitoring the activities of the conflict, he did not personally observe the first accused as somebody who wanted to plan a coup.

The British General told the Court, that Norman during the time of the conflict particularly 1998 and 1999 had all the

power and resources to do so, as he (Norman) was the then Deputy Minister of Defence, "if that is what they wanted he could have done so" the General added.

The British General explained the role Norman played in the restoration of Democracy and Peace in Sierra Leone. He described Norman as trustworthy and some body with integrity who has love for his country, adding that the

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Norman never wanted to overthrow Kabbah

from front page

General earlier recalled when Norman during the peak of the conflict around Congo cross Bridge, saved the lives of captured enemies who were about to be murdered by Government Forces, under the command of ECOMOG Commander General Kobe.

The witness went on to explain to the judges that inspite of all the power Norman had at that time he was like an administrative Head whose Government Forces served under the General Command of General Kobe.

The witness told the Court that he had no business with Chief Norman in terms of dealing with Military Planning and Fighting, rather they were dealing with General Kobe and other senior Sierra Leonean Army Official, and

they all sit and plan how the war was to be fought.

The General said as part of his assignment, he was to monitor the war in Sierra Leone, and as a way by which Britain could help in supporting the Government of President Kabbah to bring stability to the Country.

This he said was his mission in Sierra Leone which later prompted the British Government to dish a package of ten million pounds sterling, as a way of providing Military logistics (arms etc) to resist the rebels.

The General went further to reveal how he had meetings with President Kabbah, General Kobe and other senior Government Officials in their effort to strategise ways to end the conflict.

He described the Kamajor

Fighting Force as brave Government Military Fighters who fought along side ECOMOG to resist the junta forces.

"They were sometimes almost stupidly brave" The British General further described the C.D.F who he says had their beliefs but indiscipline.

Also earlier in his testimony he explained to the court that he is presently working as a commander in Nato Forces in Germany.

He narrated to the Judged that he previously served as a British Solider, in many parts of the World which included the East Timor, Albania, Indonesia, Central American, Iraq, Afghanistan and other major Countries in the World where dangerous wars has been going on.

“Norman never supported the killings of POWs”

Story: Tanu Jalloh

British Lieutenant General, David Julian Richards on the instruction of the British Government Tuesday testified at the Special Court saying indicted former CDF Coordinator and first accused in the ongoing trial, Sam Hinga Norman never supported the killings of captured prisoners of war (POWs).

“Norman was an inspirational figurehead. His intervention had the effect of saving the

lives of captured war prisoners. He stopped the killings of prisoners,” recounted General Richards adding that his Liaison Officer had radioed him that some captured Revolutionary United Front rebels might be killed by the Sierra Leone Army and the CDF.

He said when Norman intervened the government forces including the CDF had behaved themselves but immediately he left one of the captured prisoners was killed much to the disgust of Norman

...British General

as Coordinator.

The British Gen., under cross-examination by Charles Margai, defense counsel for the third accused, Alieu Kondewa, described the war in 1999 as violent and chaotic.

“I have taken part in most military operations in the world but the war in Sierra Leone under the period in question was violent at a low tactical level and chaotic at the higher level. I have never experienced the depth of brutality in this country except that it could be compared to the Rwandan genocide,” he explained.

He revealed that Norman was in a better position to take over the country if he had wished to

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“Norman never supported the killings of POWs”

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but did not choose to do so.

According to the Gen. he had been sent to Sierra Leone in January of 1999

by his government with the sole thrust of advising the latter on how she could intervene in stabilizing the situation.

At Special Court...

British General Vindicates Hinga Norman



Hinga Norman

Lt General David Richards began his testimony with graphic accounts of the January 6th 1999 invasion of Freetown by rebel forces, and the killings and destruction that followed the brutal assault on the capital.

He said he was sent in by the

British Government in order to monitor the unstable situation. In the process, he saw a lot of floating corpses, as the frigate in which he was traveling made its way to the Freetown shore.

The Nigerian-led intervention

force, known as ECOMOG, was at the height of its bombing raids on rebel positions, and according to the British General, the nature of the fighting was chaotic.

On one occasion, proceeded Gen. Richards, he was taken to the frontline by the then Ni-

gerian Commander, Brig. Gen. Maxwell Khobe. He said he used binoculars to observe the fighting along the Congo Cross Bridge, which had divided Freetown in two, between the combined AFRC and RUF

See page 2 for story

British General Vindicates Hinga Norman

FROM PAGE 1

forces, on the one side, and loyal government troops and local militia on the other.

Many people got killed there, the General told the court, and bodies were strewn all around.

General Richards however blamed the atrocities on rebel forces, exonerating Sam Hinga Norman, whom he described as being very effective, and with a military

acumen. Hinga Norman and two other former pro-government militia commanders are facing an eight-count indictment at the Un-backed Special Court for war crimes, crimes against humanity and the recruitment of children as child combatants.

General Richards is the second British official to testify as a witness for Hinga Norman and co-indictees, the first being Peter Penfold, the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone.

“Kamajors and Ecomog soldiers fought together”

By Gracie Bagrey

-Witness testifies

Kenneth Koker giving his evidence at the trial chamber 1of the Special Court said Ecomog soldiers joined them in Bo in 1998.

He said they where able to recognize them by their flags green, white and green and their tribal marks on their face.

Kenneth Koker testifies in court that he joins the Kamajors in 1996 in Messima Bo.

He was initiated by one Munda Fortune and later became one of the commanders of the Kamajors. He was a task force commander of the

Kamajors during the early 1998 during the war in Bo. After the Ecomog soldiers captured the whole town they called a general meeting for all commanders of the Kamajors. They told them that no Kamajors should attack and they should take orders from them. It was that very point that they started to take orders from the Ecomog soldiers. The Ecomog and the

Kamajors work side by side as they patrol during the night. The Ecomog soldiers gave the Kamajors guns as they patrol during the night and took the guns from them during the morning hours. Augustine Sullay Mgaoujia was the head of the battalion commander and the witness was the deputy commander to him during the period that they were living in the barracks.

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Owing to several calls from our numerous readers we are obliged to reproduce this vox pop, including additional information that suffered under the printer's devil.

The Special Court of Sierra Leone has summoned President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to testify before the court as a witness.

Theophilus Gbenldah,
Deputy Editor
Awareness Times

I Feel Good

I feel good because the jurisdiction of the Special Court far exceeds that of Sierra Leone, and hence anybody under the laws of Sierra Leone is subjected to the rules of the Special Court. President Kabbah is not above the laws of Sierra Leone, so I see no reason why he should not face the Special Court. It is no longer a secret that the Kamajors were fighting for government and that they were receiving direct support from government. In view of this, it's obvious that Kabbah is at a vantage position to explain the role played by the Kamajors during the course of the war.

Jusu Kallon
Asst. Manager
Mystic Foreign Exchange Bureau
1 Sani Abacha Street, Freetown.

A Dream Come True

For me personally it's a dream come true, based on the fact that there have been accusations and counter accusations with regards the President's, Chief Sam Hinga Norman's and the Kamajors'(C D F) role in the conduct of the war. After hearing Kabbah's side of the story one would be in a better position to judge him and his role with regards the Human Rights Violations committed by the C.D.F.

Mohamed Fofanah
Teacher
Muslim Brotherhood
Berry Street
Freetown

It's Embarrassing

It's embarrassing for the President to face the Special Court, considering his position as Head of State of a whole nation. It will be good for the Attorney General to testify in court on his behalf. The President should not be seen in the dock giving a testimony on his role for the commission of crimes against humanity. He was not actively involved in the crimes committed against humanity; he was only head of the defence force, but did



President Kabbah - wary of testifying?

not at any time give any command to any group of people to commit atrocities against any body, neither was he seen at the battle front. It is true that the Kamajors fought in his defence in order to restore constitutional rule, which was violated by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council in 1997. To me, both President Kabbah and Hinga Norman have no questions to answer. Instead they should be seen as saviors of thousands of Sierra Leoneans that were trapped by the then ruthless hooligans.

If for any reason the court wants the President to testify, they should wait till he ends his tenure of office.

Hon Harding Sherrif
SLPP MP

Northern Province

He Is Protected By The Constitution

The President is protected by the constitution. Therefore he is not culpable for any offence whatsoever, and as such I don't feel a Special Court is by any means above the national constitution, which gives protection to the President, except for war criminals like Slobadan Milosevic of Yugoslavia. For President Kabbah, there is no way you can get him culpable and throughout the period of the mayhem in this country, he was in exile. So he may not have given orders to any group to commit an offence. Of course, any other person will claim that Kabbah may have been giving orders to liberate the country, but there is no way any one can claim that the mayhem caused on the people of this country and the human rights violations during the war may have been done by President Kabbah.

Hon Ansu Kaikai
SLPP MP Pujehun District

It's A Very Bad Omen

It's a very bad omen for this country and the SLPP. The Special Court should never have come in the first place; we should have let

bye-gone be bye-gone. It is still not late, the proceedings can stop now and let our international friends realise that we are predominantly Muslims and Christians and believe in forgiveness, as forgiveness is part of our religious right. In the interest of our country, our international friends should endeavour to stop the proceedings and let bye gone be bye gone.

Agnes Vibie
House Wife
Lumley

He Should Face The Court

The President should face the court to exonerate himself from the allegations levied against him by the Special Court. He should do so to cancel the wrong perceptions of people, especially his detractors. Until that is done, most people will continue to be critical about him and will not be satisfied with his role during the interregnum.

We want the truth of the matter to come out of the bag. He will still have questions to answer for the benefit of the people of this country and the relatives of the victims of the war.

Hon Ibrahim Sorie
APC MP
Parliament Building

No One Is Above The Law

As you rightly know, no one is above the law. The President is a pacesetter in the observance of the rule of law.

I know the President is an observer of the rule of law and also know for sure the President has been a strong advocate for ending impunity. That was why in his own volition he came up with the initiative of the Special Court and with the support of the United Nations we have the Special Court established here today.

It's an agreement that was reached between the Sierra Leone Government and the United Nations.

The Sierra Leone Parliament ratified the agreement. It is therefore incumbent on the President not only to strengthen the Special Court, but also to respect what he has always advocated for, such as strengthening the rule of law, chasing away impunity and also for people to account for their own deeds.

I don't think the President should have any qualms in appearing before the Court, because it will improve on the moral grounds for us to press on Charles Taylor's appearance before the Special Court. It's very tricky and challenging for us; we have to make sure that we protect the integrity of the special statute as legislators.

MOTUBA'S CORNER



Punish Special Court, not Sierra Leone

United States of America Congressman, Ed Royce has said in his statement during the international relations subcommittee on Africa and International Human Rights hearing that the international community might show reluctance to continue with its strong support for the reconstruction of Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The reason for Royce's statement is that Charles Taylor continues to evade justice as he seeks refuge in Calabar, Nigeria. Royce also urged the newly elected Liberian president, Helen Sirleaf Johnson to ensure that Charles Taylor is brought to this country to be tried for crimes against humanity.

Motuba is not against extraditing former warlord, Charles Taylor as this serves as a form of punishing all those who spearheaded or funded the crisis over the past decade.

Motuba is worried for the fact that the congressman spoke on behalf of international organisations. What Mr. Royce should know is that both Sierra Leone and Liberia should not be blamed for Charles Taylor continued evasion of justice. Royce should also know that the Special Court was set up by an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is therefore prudent that the UN, who is the major funding partners of Special Court, should address any breach in the agreement.

The Special Court of Sierra Leone has a duty to ensure that Charles Taylor is extradited to Sierra Leone to face trial. It is not the duty of the Sierra Leone Government to bring Taylor as one cannot be a judge in his/her court.

Motuba knows president Obasanjo is aware of the indictment of Taylor. One thing Motuba will like to bring to the attention of Royce is that when rebels were advancing to Liberia city demanding that Taylor should leave, it was the same UN that intervened and let the latter seek refuge in Liberia.

This was done in the interest of peace. Now that sanity has returned, it is the duty of the UN to ensure that Taylor is brought to Sierra Leone.

The Special Court had done everything possible to extradite Taylor but proved futile. Why is Royce now speaking on behalf of nearly the whole world that both countries should suffer? The Special Court set up by UN should be punished and not Sierra Leone.

Motuba knows that there are much conditionality attached to aid and loans received by this country. Therefore some foreign organisations see this country as 'big eye'.

For some foreign organisations to dictate to government that A or B should be done is totally wrong. Sierra Leone is not a country that every Jack and Jill will use because of poverty.

Again most of the organisations that promise to assist this country never give anything. Prezo Kabs will testify to this. On one occasion, during the launching of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Prezo Kabs blew his mind on the international community to give what it promised.

Anyway Royce should know that Sierra Leone is gradually progressing and does not a situation where donors will stop supporting development programmes.

SPECIAL COURT MAY SMASH SLPP

Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops based in Afghanistan, Lt-Gen. David Richards yesterday testified at the Special Court on the role of the British government in Sierra Leone's decade long civil conflict.

In his testimony, Mr. Richards said he was here in 1999 to ascertain the magnitude of the conflict situation in the country, as it was part of his responsibility to avail himself with conflict situation the world over.

The smart-looking General told the Special Court of how Her Majesty the Queen's government in Britain had deep trust in the democratically elected gov-

ernment of Sierra Leone, but said England was not pleased with the way in which that government was violently overthrown by the AFRC.

"During my visit to Sierra Leone, I met with ECOMOG Commander and his troops that were the defenders of the ousted government as well some loyal troops and the Civil Defense Force," the British General explained.

One month later in February 1999, he continued that, he discussed with President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah about the military package the British government had put in place to resist the AFRC and the

RUF rebels and that other European nations also pledged their support of an extra ten million pounds added to the British ten thousand pounds Sterling towards the war effort.

Lt. General Richards disclosed that Chief Sam Hinga Norman helped in distributing the ten thousand pounds Sterling military package; in the form of war equipment, while describing Chief Norman as having played a pivotal role in restoring democracy and reinstating Tejan Kabbah as President in 1998.

However, veteran politicians who spoke to our reporter at New England suggested the ongoing testimonies at the Special Court may likely smash the SLPP image.

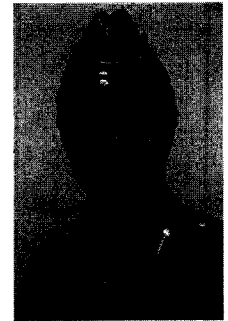
Cocorioko website

<http://www.cocorioko.com/>

LT. GEN. DAVID RICHARDS : CAN HIS TESTIMONY MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR HINGA NORMAN ?

Wednesday February 22, 2006

This is Lt. Gen. David Richards who started his testimony at the Special Court yesterday on behalf of the Hinga Norman defence. This picture was taken after his arrival in Freetown this week to testify in the War Crimes trials going on in Sierra Leone. He is one of the high-profile witnesses called by Chief Norman in his determined bid to show that he was a hero and not a villain.



Cocorioko website

http://www.cocorioko.com/hot_news_2_

GEN. RICHARDS AND KAMAJORS TAKE STAND FOR HINGA NORMAN AND THE CDF

By Rev. Alfred SamForay

Wednesday February 22, 2006

Following the bold stand by the former Vice President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Albert Joe Demby, as a witness for the defence last week, three more senior members of the Kamajor Movement have taken the witness stand in the trial of former Regent Chief, Sam Hinga Norman, Mr. Moinina Fofana and Dr. Alieu Kondewa. Demby, himself a senior member of the movement, testified for two days interrupted by the interjection of the Attorney General, Fred Carew.

Last Friday, the man who hosted the Kamajors in Talia, in the Yawbeko Chiefdom, Bonthe District at the famous Base Zero, Chief M. T, Collier, appeared on the witness stand for the CDF. Chief Collier testified to his role as host for the CDF as well as to events that took place in Base Zero including the alleged Death Squad. The chief also gave testimony about the role of the War Council in appointments of CDF commanders and the council's role in directing and strategizing the war as well as the acquisition of arms and ammunition by the Kamajors.

Next to testify after PC Collier was CDF Battalion Commander, Osman Vandi, alias Vanjawai. Commander Vandi testified about how the Kamajors captured Talia, home of Base Zero. He also testified to the actions of the soldiers and rebels in Bo prior to the arrival of the CDF, the joint defence of Bo by the CDF and ECOMOG and perhaps more importantly, the role of President Kabbah and the government in exile during the war. Commander Vandi also testified to alleged unlawful killings by men under his command in Bo and other towns and villages. Vandi has intimate knowledge of meetings between

President Kabbah and commanders such as himself as well as Kabbah's role in CDF appointments.

Following Chief Collier and Commander Vandi on the stand is general Battalion Commander, Kenneth Koker of Tongie, Bo District. Commander Koker has testified about the CDF supply chain and how the Kamajors received arms, ammunition and other necessities from the government of President Kabbah in exile. Koker told the court how junta forces disguised in Kamajor uniforms burnt villages they believed to belong to members of the Kamajor or their supporters. Koker was a lead commander in the re-capture of Bo from junta forces and narrowly escaped death in a rebel ambush near Bo Forrest Reserves.

General Richards Testifies

Another heavy weight of international stature took the stand for the CDF defence today. Gen. David Richards, third in command of the British Army and newly appointed commander in Afghanistan, appeared as Defence Witness No. 7. Richards, who was head of the British operations in Sierra Leone during the war, testified to the role of the international community in supporting the CDF in restoring democracy in Sierra Leone. He also testified to the coordination between the CDF and the British Army as well training provided by the British Army to the CDF. The Norman Defence Team is said to be well pleased with the general's testimony.

Kabbah's Subpoena

Meanwhile, deliberations on the oral arguments last week for and against the subpoena motion by Lead Counsel for Chief Hinga Norman, Dr. Bubuakei Jabbi, continues. We expect the judges to rule on the matter some time this week. Based on the Attorney General's response (or the lack thereof) to the matter, it is all but certain that the judges will grant Norman's request to have President Kabbah testify before the tribunal. Carew last week gave no particular reason why the president should not testify except that Counsel for Norman did not give sufficient reason for the president to appear. The judges were reportedly not impressed with Carew's explanation.

Alfred M. SamForay,
Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund.

Liberia sets up truth commission

Liberia's president has inaugurated a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate human rights abuses during 24 years of civil war and unrest.

The seven-member commission does not have the power to try cases but will investigate crimes committed between 1979 and 2003, when civil war ended.

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said Liberia had to face up to its past.

During her election campaign last year, she had said she would not push for the war crimes court which some demanded.

But launching the TRC, she said to loud applause: "In my own life I have come to believe that when the truth is told, humanity is redeemed from the cowardice claws of violence."

HAVE YOUR SAY

Will you give the poor, powerless and deprived an opportunity to be heard?

Jallah Kennedy, USA

She added that the body would investigate "gross human rights violations and violations of international laws... including massacres, sexual violations, murders, extra-judicial killings and economic crimes".

Warlords

The TRC's chairman, human rights lawyer Jerome Verdier, said the commission would "give voice to the dead... in a society polarised by long years of war."

Former President Charles Taylor is in exile in Nigeria, which is under pressure to extradite him to Sierra Leone to face trial for alleged war crimes in that country's civil war, which had close links to the Liberian conflict.

Mr Taylor began Liberia's civil war by launching a rebellion in 1989, but human rights abuses were committed by all of the many armed factions which emerged during the conflict.

Last month, Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf said bringing Mr Taylor to justice was not a priority for her country, which was seeking to rebuild after the conflict.

Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo has said Mr Taylor will only be handed over to an elected government in Liberia.

Other former warlords took part in last year's elections but they generally received few votes.



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 21 Feb 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

AFP 21/02/2006

Liberian panel to probe abuses

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Liberia's president inaugurated a truth commission yesterday to investigate crimes and human-rights abuses committed in the war-battered country during the last quarter-century. The seven-member Truth and Reconciliation Commission has a mandate to investigate crimes committed from 1979 until 2003, when years of civil war came to an end.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who took over last month from a postwar transitional government, said Liberians must be courageous enough "to face up to the past and revile as an affront to all civilized people the despicable acts our people endured during the past 14 years of our civil conflict." The panel will not have the power to try cases and is modeled on South Africa's truth commission, which was established in 1995 and investigated political crimes committed during decades of white-minority rule.

GBC Radio

Ghanaian leader receives special message from Liberian counterpart

20 February 2006

President [John Agyekum] Kufuor today received a special message from his Liberian counterpart, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. The message, which borders on restoring electricity supply to Liberia, was delivered by the acting minister of lands, mines and energy, Ernest C B Jones. He was accompanied by the managing director of Liberia Electricity Corporation Harry Yuan.

International Clips on West Africa

BBC 21/02/2006

France probes Ivorian kidnap link

French investigators are flying to Ivory Coast to hunt for the alleged ringleader of a gang suspected of torturing and killing a Jewish man.

The suspect, 26, of Ivorian origin, is believed to have fled France before police made several arrests last week. Ilan Halimi, 23, died on his way to hospital after being found naked, bound and gagged in a Paris suburb. He had been held for ransom for three weeks. French ministers believe he may have been a victim of anti-Semitism. More than 1,000 people, mostly Jews, marched in Paris on Sunday to protest against the killing, which has shocked France.

Local Media – Newspapers

UN Envoy Announces US\$500,000 Grant for Truth and Reconciliation Commission

(The Informer)

- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss announced at the commissioning ceremony of members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Monrovia yesterday a grant of US\$500, 000 to support the work of the TRC.
- He warned that impunity is a danger to stability and welcomed the formal establishment of the TRC.

President Commissions Truth and Reconciliation Commission

(Daily Observer, The News, New Democrat, The Telegraph and The Informer)

- At the commissioning of members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Monrovia yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf emphasized that setting up the Commission was an unprecedented testament to the courage summoned as a nation saying Liberians deserved more than admission of guilt for wrongdoings and more than just forgiveness and added that they need a mechanism which would ensure that the wrongs of the past are never recalled.
- President Johnson-Sirleaf said that she was hopeful that Liberia was starting on an important road to join international reconciliation and peace.
- The Commission's Chairman Cllr. Jerome Verdier pledged their commitment to uphold the values that would lead to genuine reconciliation and healing.
- Meanwhile, a member of the South African and Sierra Leonean Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Yasmin Soka encouraged the Liberian TRC to reach out to every sector of the country because the willingness of Liberians to speak out would be important if the Commission must succeed adding that evidence from hearings at the TRC should be used to prosecute individuals in a court of Law.

Nigerian Police Presented UN Medals

(The Informer)

- At a ceremony to award Nigerian police and correction officers with United Nations Medals, Special Representative of the Secretary General Alan Doss conveyed the gratitude of UN Secretary-General and the entire international community for the contribution of Nigerians in restoring peace to Liberia and other troubled parts of the world. He recounted that Nigeria was in the vanguard of the contingents that prepared the ground for the United Nations Mission's arrival in Liberia in 2003 and at the same time, its police and correction officers have made tremendous contribution to help Liberia regain peace.

Police to Crackdown on Criminals

(New Democrat and Telegraph)

- Deputy Liberia National Police Director for Administration Col. Alfred Karlay told journalists yesterday that the police would launch operation "Citizens Resistance Against Hoodlums" targeting criminal hideouts, street snatchers, hijackers and drug peddlers in response to public outcry against criminal activities in the city.
- Col. Karlay unveiled that the Liberia National Police in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America and UNMIL will design a shoulder-patch for the new police uniforms.

Improved Security Prompts Return of Refugees

(New Democrat)

- A press release issued in Monrovia said that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was encouraging the return of about 160,000 Liberian refugees in lieu of the improved security situation adding that there were still Liberian refugees living in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and elsewhere.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Commissions Truth and Reconciliation Commission

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

President Holds Talks with Nigerian Government Delegation

- Receiving a Nigerian government delegation at the Executive Mansion yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf stated that her government was poised to institute reform in the tax system of the country by reviewing the system of taxation, develop a pension scheme for retired civil servants and address the nation's damaged public service delivery system.
- The delegation's head, Nigerian Minister of State for Finance Nenadi Ousman said that the team was sent by President Olusegun Obasanjo to foster bilateral cooperation and explore investment possibilities in Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

General Services Agency Constitutes a Task Force to Repossess Government Properties

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, General Services Agency Director-General Willard Russell has detailed a task force as part of a tough plan to repossess all government properties. He said that the GSA would seek the assistance of the Ministry of Justice to counter any resistance.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Miners to Embark on Street Protests for Salary Arrears

- Employees of the Liberia Mining Company (LIMINCO) say they will embark on street protests as a measure to compel government to settle their salary arrears, the employees' spokesman Thomas Suah said.
- He stated that they had received a communication from Deputy Finance Minister for Administration Francis Karpeh requesting a meeting with them after Acting Finance Minister Edward Liberty had assured them that government would have paid them yesterday.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Monrovia City Corporation to Launch Solid Waste Plan Next Week

- Monrovia City Mayor Ophelia Hoff-Saytumah said that the Monrovia City Corporation will launch a 10-year Solid Waste Plan next week to enable the people of Monrovia to have a broader understanding of city cleaning.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO (*News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm*)

President Constitutes Board of Directors of Air Service Sectors

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday constituted respective Boards of Directors of the Roberts International Airport (RIA) and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).
- Those named to the RIA Board are Transport Minister Jeremiah Sulunteh as Chairman, Edwin Williams, Ophelia Hoff-Saytumah, Fatu White and Arthur Wesseh as members while RIA General Manager will serve as Secretary.
- The CAA Board of Directors includes James Attoh as Chairman, Minister Transport Jeremiah Sulunteh, Finance Minister Antoinette Sayeh, Abraham Simons, Fatu Jalloh and Wilkins Wright as members while the Director-General of the Authority will serve as Secretary.
- President Johnson-Sirleaf also appointed Rashelu Williams as Civil Aviation Authority Director-General, Jullius Dennis as RIA General Manager and Engna Lloyd as Deputy Managing-Director of the RIA.
- President also nominated Willie Barclay as Deputy Transport Minister for Administration, Merriam Fortson as Assistant Transport Minister for Administration, Philip Kparteh as Assistant Transport Minister for Land and Rail and Henry Varmu as Liberia Domestic Airports Agency General Manager.
- Others are Amandu Kiawu as Deputy Internal Affairs Minister for Urban Affairs, Yarsuah Kaleen as Deputy Internal Affairs Minister for Operations and Joseph Gebro as Deputy Internal Affairs Minister for Research and Planning.

Vice President Described Civil War as a Gloomy Chapter of Liberian History

- In discussions with the visiting United Nations Independent Human Rights Expert Dr. Charlotte Abarka yesterday, Vice President Joseph Boakai alluded that glaring human rights abuses occurred during the civil war but observed that it was gratifying that Liberia was now turning away from its unimpressive human rights record. He assured that the government would adhere to international laws and treaties as their violations caused unrests.
- Speaking earlier, Dr. Abarka briefed the Vice President about her mandate and called for the establishment of the National Law Reform Commission in Liberia to bring Liberia's domestic laws in conformity with international treaties and laws.

STAR RADIO (*News culled from website today at 09:00 am*)

Child Rights Group Says Rape Tops Child Abuses

- According to its report on child abuse in Liberia, the National Child Rights Observatory Group said that rape topped the list of abuses orchestrated against children between the ages of four and 13 years.
- The report also cited ritualistic killings, child labour, child trafficking and physical abuse as rampant vices meted against children mostly in Montserrado County. The group said that weak laws on the books were responsible for the proliferation of child rights violations.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.