

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



A Lisk-Carew Brothers postcard showing Kissy Street, now Sani Abacha Street, as it was a century ago.

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:

Thursday, 22 March 2007

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

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Salone Times
Thursday, 22 March 2007

LATE HINGA NORMAN'S SON ALLEGES

SPECIAL COURT 'LIES' EXPOSED

By Josephine Lagawo

Son of the late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, Samuel H. Norman Jr. has described the arrangements and words of Special Court Registrar, Lovemore Munlo as 'a pack of lies.'

He was speaking at a press conference convened at Frontline Internet Café and Restaurant at Hannah Benka-Coker Street in Freetown recently.

Addressing journalists in a

pensive mood, Sam Norman Jr. claimed among other things that his late father was not taken to Senegal for treatment but for further "incarceration," because according to him, the room his late father oc-

cupied in a hospital in Senegal was very small, adding that "his bed was a cot." He further claimed that when he learnt about his fathers' transfer to a hospital in Dakar, Senegal for medical treatment, he enquired about the state of the hospital and was told by the Special Court Registrar, Lovemore Munlo that, "it is a VIP hos-

pital." He went further to say that he could not get to Dakar, Senegal before his father, Chief Norman died, adding that when he eventually arrived at the hospital at which his father was admitted, he discovered to his surprise that "it was a total reverse of what the Special Court Registrar



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Lovemore Munlo, resigned

Late Norman's Son Speaks

had informed me of earlier." According to Mr. Norman Jr., the hospital his late father was admitted at was not to the standard as told by the Special Court Registrar Mr. Munro."

"When I called the registrar of the Special Court to ask him about the status of the hospital in Senegal that my father was being taken to, he told me that it was the best hospital in Senegal that treats Senegal's senior military and other VIP officials. I found out on my arrival in Senegal that, the said hospital was not even up to the standard of the second best hospital in Sierra Leone," Mr. Norman Jr. alleged. He added, "even our Connaught Hospital in Freetown (Sierra Leone) has better facilities than the ones at the hospital in Dakar where my father was taken to."

The late Chief Sam Hinga Norman's son went on to claim that, his father was "actually not treated under the best medical practices," adding that he and the rest of the late Hinga Norman's family are suspicious of the government and the Special Court over the "untimely" death of Chief Norman. He added that as far as the late Chief Norman's family is concerned, "we are demanding that the Special Court deliver the verdict on Chief Norman as his case had already been heard and closed by the Defence and prosecution teams respectively.

According to Sam Hinga Norman Jr., the Special Court Registrar lied to him on several occasions. He said that some of the lies included "the actual description of the hospital's facilities; my father's condition and that the Special Court also 'bungled' the travel arrangements we (the family) had made for an independent pathologist to be present at the autopsy."

He warned that whatever autopsy result the Special Court comes up with, would be challenged by the late Chief Norman's family because, "we were not given the opportunity to have our own private pathologist at the post-mortem."

Other members of the late Chief Norman's family included Juliet Norman, Florence Norman, Kadi Norman and others. They spoke on Chief Norman's discussion with them during his last days and told journalists present about how they respectively felt about his demise; whilst blaming the Special Court and the government for his death and at the same time, calling for an enquiry into his death because they believe that Chief Norman's death was 'not natural.'

Independent Observer
Thursday, 22 March 2007

Special Court Name New Acting Registrar

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has appointed Herman Von Hebel Acting Registrar of the Special Court, following the departure of former Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC.

Mr. Von Hebel has wide experience in international law. From 1991 to 2000 he was a member of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working within the Department of the Legal Advice and the Directorate of Legal Affairs.

Between 1995 and 2000 he represented the Government of the Netherlands on the Preparatory Committee to set up the International Criminal Court. In 1998 he chaired

the Working Group on the Definition of War Crimes at the Rome Conference, and from 1999 to 2000 he chaired the Working Group on the Elements of Crimes.

He joined the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 2001 as Senior Legal Officer.

Mr. Von Hebel was appointed Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in July 2006.

He will remain as Acting Registrar until the Secretary-General of the United Nations has made a decision on the appointment of a new Registrar.

Concord Times
Thursday, 22 March 2007

Beware Of Norman's Ghost

The last time I was in Sierra Leone, I saw some Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) supporters donning T-shirts with the screening words: "One Solo B - No Second Round!" This was in the Eastern capital town of Kenema. The hungry-looking party stalwarts were out on the streets singing the praises of Solomon Berewa who was visiting the town. The praise-singers had one motive; sing songs that Berewa wanted to hear - tell him he is the most handsome man in the world; tell him they will vote him 'wutehteh' and in the process get some coins that will make their pots boil.

It's election time; it's harvest time - this is how most people see elections. But the reality remains that unlike previous elections, the July 28 elections would be a hard palm kernel to crack. Let me clarify that I do not belong to any political party and do

also shocked to hear about his death? Basically, Norman has been a "shocking" story. You know, I have one or two friends in the ruling party but I will tell them any time and any where that they have an uphill task come July.

Hinga Norman gave up the ghost while in the custody of the Special Court. Special court in deed! At least except for the Special Court staff who smile away with pay cheques at the end of every month, even a child that is not yet born knows that the Court has long lost its relevance.

At this point, perhaps, I should let you know that my journalism career started during the war days in the 90s. Rebels were on the prowl. Soldiers had become 'Sorbels' (Soldier- rebels). I entered the world of journalism not scared of death. I just wanted the world to know

version of 'Blood Diamonds' as he hacks off the limbs of innocent villagers. It is a movie - but it happened. Poor villagers had hope that their lives will change with a democratically elected government. You may agree with me that although Sierra Leone had a civil war raging, the calamity and atrocities were exacerbated by the government that people sacrificed their lives to elect. Remember 25 May 1997? The 25 May coup with the infamous late corporal Gborie and co. was the beginning of worst days to come.

Mercifully, the days of the gun are now gone, but many people will recall that the authorities knew about the coup in the making. The only thing they did to avert it was NOTHING. And when Freetown woke up to the sounds of gunfire on that unforgettable Sunday, the big guys ran to Guinea.

Mercifully, the days of the gun are now gone, but many people will recall that the authorities knew about the coup in the making. The only thing they did to avert it was NOTHING. And when Freetown woke up to the sounds of gunfire on that unforgettable Sunday, the big guys ran to Guinea. "He who fights and runs away lives to fight another day," was what our Alhaji said from Guinea. The next moment, you and I were at the mercy of marauding RUF rebels and Alpha jets.

not intend to. However, I think it is wrong for anybody to deceive Solo B that he will easily climb the palm tree like his boss did in May 2002.

For now, let me restrain myself from analysing the political climate in Sierra Leone. Instead, let me take you to memory lane. Let me ask you - were you shocked when you heard about the arrest of Norman four years ago? Why were you shocked? Were you

about what was happening in Sierra Leone. In 1996, when people braved the RUF to cast their ballots, they did so because they were tired of the then National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) junta regime.

"The government says the future is in your hands - no hands, no more future," a fierce-looking commander, Captain Poison (David Harewood) says in the recently released Hollywood

"He who fights and runs away lives to fight another day," was what our Alhaji said from Guinea. The next moment, you and I were at the mercy of marauding RUF rebels and Alpha jets. Amidst the chaos that engulfed the land, it was late Norman and others that decided to come to the rescue of the nation. Have you ever paused to think about what Norman's death means to the country? I very much share the views of the

former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, who is convinced that Norman should not have been arrested. Let us put it this way - mind you this is not a perfect analogy - an editor tells a reporter to write a story. He or she gives the reporter all the

their lives for their motherland and for a democracy that has not made any positive impact on the lives of the masses.

Norman may have committed human rights abuses. But what greater atrocities could be committed by people in author-

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paraphernalia needed to write the story. The editor takes the final look - if there is any mistake in the story, would you only arrest the reporter, lock him up to rot and leave the editor in peace?

I am not very sure I met late Norman face to face on many occasions. However, I remember he once invited me to his office together with Kingsley Lington and gave us a good tongue lashing after I wrote a story critical about the activities of the former militiamen in Pujehun. I was harassed by Kamajors and I saw people being harassed. Mind you, I wrote the story, but Kingsley Lington, my former boss shared the 'punishment.' Before we left his office, Norman admitted that he was aware about the excesses of his men and encouraged us to always bring such things to his attention for action. Like all other factions to the conflict, Kamajors had some excesses.

No question. But at the same time, they sacrificed their lives. I still have vivid memories of seeing dead Kamajors in pools of blood - they sacrificed

ity who deprive the masses of good living conditions? Was there a need for Norman to have been flown to Senegal in the first place if we had good hospitals in Sierra Leone? Against the background of a sick economy - please don't tell me about Sierra Leone doing well on paper; practically, most Sierra Leoneans are suffering souls.

With Norman dead and gone a disgruntled soul, and with the late CDF coordinator openly declaring for another disgruntled party, the PMDC, with a controversial SLPP convention in Makeni and so on, I can foresee Norman's ghost seriously haunting the SLPP at the polls. This does not, however, mean that Margai or Ernest Bai Koroma will sweep the polls. No way! The election will be keen and interesting. 'One Solo B - no second round'? Words and expressions are free, but please let nobody fool the SLPP that the forthcoming elections will be another 'wutehteh'.

*Note: The writer is
former editor of the
Concord Times
Newspaper*

The Independent

Wednesday, 21 March 2007

New Registrar For War Crimes Court

The Secretary-General of the United Nations Has Appointed Herman Von Hebel Acting Registrar of the Special Court, Following the Departure of Former Registrar Lovemore Munlo, Sc.

Mr. von Hebel has wide experience in international law. From 1991 to 2000 he was a member of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working within the Department of the Legal Adviser and the Directorate of Legal Affairs.

Between 1995 and 2000 he represented the Government of the Netherlands on the Preparatory Committee to set up the International Criminal Court. In 1998 he chaired the Working Group on the Definition of War Crimes at the Rome Conference, and from 1999 to 2000 he chaired the Working Group on the Elements of Crimes.

He joined the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 2001 as Senior Legal Officer.

Mr. von Hebel was appointed Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in July 2006.

He will remain as Acting Registrar until a decision has been made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the appointment of a new Registrar.

UN News Centre

Thursday, 22 March 2007

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21931&Cr=sierra&Cr1=leone>

Dutch lawyer appointed Acting Registrar for UN-backed court in Sierra Leone



20 March 2007 – The United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), set up to bring to justice those responsible for the worst crimes during the country's brutal civil war, announced today that it has appointed an experienced Dutch practitioner of international law as its Acting Registrar.

Herman von Hebel, who had been serving as Deputy Registrar since last July, replaces Lovemore Munlo, SC, who is departing after one and a half years at the Special Court.

Before joining the SCSL, Mr. von Hebel worked as a lawyer for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and represented his Government in negotiations on the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC). He also served as Senior Legal Officer at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Mr. von Hebel will be Acting Registrar until Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon makes a decision on a permanent replacement to Mr. Munlo, according to a press statement released by the Court in Freetown, the Sierra Leonean capital.

The Registry is responsible for the overall administration and management of the SCSL, including its detention facility. It must ensure that witnesses are protected and that the rights of all accused are respected.

An independent tribunal created jointly by the UN and Sierra Leone, the SCSL is tasked with bringing to justice those bearing the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed after 30 November 1996, during the West African nation's civil war.

So far 11 people have been indicted on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of humanitarian law. The Court has jurisdiction over the case against the notorious former Liberian president Charles Taylor, whose trial will be held separately in The Hague in the Netherlands.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Wednesday, 21 March 2007

Special Court Clarifies

The Chief of Press and Public Affairs of the Special Court in Sierra Leone, Peter C. Andersen, has reacted to reports that former President Charles Taylor's cell was under surveillance.

"I note that your article on Karim Khan's press conference was based on an AFP article which contained some errors," he said in response to an article carried in Monday's edition of this paper.

He clarified that the camera in question is not in Mr. Taylor's cell but was placed by the ICC in the conference room where Mr. Taylor holds conferences with his lawyer. It does not have a microphone.

"The Special Court's Rules of Detention 44(D) state that "Visits from counsel and legal assistants shall be conducted in the sight but not within the hearing of the staff of the detention facility," Anderson said.

For the venue in The Hague, he said: "We've adopted the ICC's rules of detention," and added "Their interpretation is that video surveillance from another room is the same as having a detention official within sight but not within hearing."

He said their interpretation is that the rule does not allow the substitution of a video camera for that official.

United Nations  Nations Unies
United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 21 March 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

VOA 20 March 2007

Liberian Court Temporarily Lifts Ban on Newspaper

By James Butty, Washington

The Supreme Court of Liberia has temporarily lifted the ban on The Independent newspaper that had published the sex photo of former minister of state for presidential affairs Willis Knuckles. The government had banned the paper on the grounds that the paper exposed Liberian youths to pornography. But in its ruling, the court urged a return to the status quo and asked the government to show cause why the ban should not be lifted by this Thursday.

VOA 20 March 2007

UN Says Liberia Needs External Support

By Naomi Schwarz, Dakar

The United Nations says Liberia needs to focus on economic development to ensure the country continues redeveloping peacefully after more than a decade of civil war. To help with this task U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon is requesting that the United Nations extend the mandate for its peacekeeping force in Liberia for another year.

The Christian Science Monitor March 21, 2007

All-female unit keeps peace in Liberia

In Monrovia, the first women-only UN peacekeepers join the 15,000-strong force, inspiring local women to become police.

By **Tristan McConnell** | Correspondent of

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Behind rows of razor wire, a machine gun peeking over the sandbags is trained on the road below. This is just one of many fortified compounds in the Congo Town suburb of Liberia's war-ravaged capital, Monrovia. But this compound is different, because everyone inside – from the armed guards to the cooks responsible for the inviting scent of curry that wafts around at lunchtime – is female. The 103 Indian women who have called this compound home since January make up the United Nations' first-ever all-female peacekeeping unit. The women have quickly become part of Monrovia's urban landscape in their distinctive blue camouflage fatigues and flak jackets. They guard the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, patrol the streets day and night, control crowds at rallies and soccer games, and respond to calls for armed back-up from the national police who, unlike the Indian unit, do not carry weapons.

International Clips on West Africa

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

Local Media – Newspaper

Lawmakers to Elect New House Speaker in April

(National Chronicle, Heritage and The News)

- Members of the House of Representatives yesterday voted to formally declare the position of Speaker vacant as of April 15 this year and in so doing voted to allow Deputy Speaker Tokpah Mulbah to act for 60 days following the resignation of Honourable Edwin Snowe as Speaker of the House.

Budget Bureau Submits Supplemental Budget to Lawmakers

(The Analyst, The Informer and Heritage)

- Addressing a news conference yesterday, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, Mr. Augustine Ngafuahn said that the Executive Branch of Government has submitted to the National Legislature a draft supplemental budget of US\$5 million to be funded by grants of which US\$1.2 million and US\$1.5 million would come from France and the People's Republic of China respectively.

President Discounts Allegation of Muzzling Press

(The Inquirer and National Chronicle)

- President Ellen Johnson assured Liberians when appeared on the monthly radio phone-in talk-show: "Conversation With The President" that the Government would never clampdown on any press freedom and free speech, boasting that the kind of press freedom that is being enjoyed in Liberia today under her administration has never being enjoyed in any years.
- President Sirleaf emphasized that as a major opposition politician who stood for change in the past, she would never start any form of suppression of the Liberia media although the recent extra-judicial closure of *The Independent* can be likened to what obtained in previous administrations. President Sirleaf called on those having the evidence of media censorship by any agency of Government to produce the evidence and strong action would be taken.

President Asks Legislators to Endorse Steel Agreement

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

- Speaking on a radio phone-in programme yesterday, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf enjoined the National Legislature to accelerate the process leading to the endorsement of the Mittal Steel agreement which she signed in January, for the agreement would not only create jobs for Liberians but would expand the economy and signify the suitability of investing in the post-war Countries. However, she lauded the Deputies for opening the agreement for discussion and questioning it.

Ethiopian Army Withdraws Infantry from UN Mission in Liberia

(National Chronicle, The Informer and The Tribute)

- In his report to the United Nations Security Council, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said that the Ethiopian Army in December, 2006 withdrew its Infantry Battalion from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) because calm has returned to Liberia following the election and induction of a government. He said that the withdrawal has affected activities in some sectors of the Mission.
- Meanwhile, Mr. Ban has named Herman von-Hebel as Acting Registrar for the Special Court for Sierra Leone.
- In another UNMIL developments, Force Commander Lt./Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor yesterday commissioned a school block in Tubmanburg having been renovated by an Engineering Battalion of the Pakistani contingent assigned in the area. The school's proprietor, Madam Christine Vincent applauded the peacekeepers for the gesture.
- Under the auspices of UNMIL, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization Commissioner Abla Williams said that Officers of the Bureau were being trained in the field of handling fraudulent documents and that during the training, facilitators would travel to a major border in Nimba County to experience the way immigration officers handle traveling documents with the aim of improving their work.

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

Deputies Declare House Speaker Seat Vacant

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Executive Branch Submits Supplemental Budget to Deputies

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Dispels Assertions of Government Muzzling Media

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said that her Government was not out to muzzle the press and there was no evil plans against the media to institute censorship in any form or manner.
- The Liberian leader assured Liberians when appeared on the monthly radio phone-in talk-show: "Conversation With The President" that the Government would never clampdown on any press freedom and free speech, boasting that the kind of press freedom that is being enjoyed in Liberia today under her administration has never being enjoyed in any years.
- President Sirleaf emphasized that as a major opposition politician who stood for change in the past, she would never start any form of suppression of the Liberia media although the recent extra-judicial closure of *The Independent* can be likened to what obtained in previous administrations.
- President Sirleaf called on those having the evidence of media censorship by any agency of Government to produce the evidence and strong action would be taken.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Presidency Hails GEMAP

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said that her Government thought GEMAP was generally performing well, but that her Government was not satisfied with the performance and qualification of some GEMAP Experts in the Country over the one year after her Government came to power.
- Speaking on the monthly radio programme: "Conversation With The President" Tuesday, she stated that the Government would discuss areas it was dissatisfied with and what needed to be done to improve such areas at the next partnership meeting and hoped that within the next 12 months, the capacity of Liberians would be built to take control of the Liberian economy.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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

UNMIL releases its quarterly report on the promotion and protection of human rights

Monrovia, Liberia - The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has today released its third periodic public report on the situation of human rights in Liberia. The report, which covers the period from August to October 2006, was prepared with information gathered by 25 Human Rights Officers of UNMIL stationed in all of Liberia's 15 counties. The report focuses on the human rights concerns relating to sexual and gender-based violence, particularly rape, and finds that despite clear legislative provisions, implementation of the Rape Amendment Act by the national authorities charged with the investigation, prosecution and trial of suspects is still inadequate.

The report also highlights several positive human rights developments that took place during the period, including, the ratification by Liberia of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption; the enactment of the National Forestry Reform Law as a means of protecting Liberia's natural resources for the benefit all Liberians; the ongoing process towards the establishment of a Law Reform Commission for Liberia; the commendable steps taken to provide universal primary education; and the inclusion of peace and human rights education in Liberia's national school curriculum.

Nevertheless, Liberia continues to face several challenges which impede the ability of its entire people to fully enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms. In spite of steps taken to strengthen the rule of law, the judiciary continues to need to be strengthened. In addition the report highlights several cases in which constitutional guarantees and legal processes have not been fully adhered to. Other concerns raised in the report include relatively low awareness regarding the implementation of Liberia's international human rights law obligations; appalling conditions in prisons and police holding cells; insufficient progress with respect to the re-establishment of the juvenile justice system and the continued practice of trial by ordeal and other harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation.

As a way of encouraging efforts to promote and protect the human rights of the people of Liberia, the report provides recommendations to Government authorities to address these problems.

UNMIL continues to work with the Government and civil society organisations to improve the human rights situation in Liberia.

A copy of this report and other human rights reports are available on
UNMIL website: www.unmil.org.

For further information, please contact the Human Rights and Protection Section, UNMIL.
