

**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:

Friday, 23 February 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 22 February 2007

Special Court Indictee Sam Hinga Norman Dies in Dakar

It is with deep regret that the Special Court for Sierra Leone announces the death of former Sierra Leone Internal Affairs Minister Sam Hinga Norman, who was on trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Norman died today at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal.

Mr. Norman and another Special Court detainee were taken to Dakar on 17 January for medical procedures which were considered routine, but which were unavailable in Sierra Leone. Those procedures were performed on Thursday, 8 February, without complication.

At 10:55 this morning Mr. Norman collapsed and, despite attempts to revive him, was pronounced dead at about 11:15.

Initial indications are that Mr. Norman suffered heart failure during post-operative care. Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC has ordered an independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death.

Mr. Munlo informed family members early this afternoon and expressed his deep personal regret at their loss.

Mr. Norman had been charged with 8 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by the Civil Defence Forces militia he headed during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil conflict. He had maintained his innocence throughout the trial, which began in June 2004.

A verdict in the case is pending before the Trial Chamber.

#END

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, 22 February 2007

Prosecutor Expresses Regret at the Death of Sam Hinga Norman

The following is a Statement by Stephen Rapp, the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

At noon today, the Office of the Prosecutor was informed of the death of Sam Hinga Norman, Defendant before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Norman had been taken to a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal on January 17 for routine medical procedures.

We deeply regret the death of Hinga Norman and express our sincere condolences to his family. His death means that there will not be a judgment issued by the Trial Chamber in his case.

All parties to this case deserved to see a verdict rendered. Hinga Norman's death means that the people of Sierra Leone are deprived of their right to see justice done in an important and high-profile case before the Special Court.

Our mission, our pledge and our duty has been and remains to bring justice to those who bear the greatest responsibility for the terrible atrocities suffered by the people of Sierra Leone. When an Accused dies before judgment, then justice is denied.

While we profoundly regret the death of Hinga Norman, we will continue our work to see that justice is done in the name of and on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone.

The Prosecutor indicted Hinga Norman in March 2003 with eight counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by forces under his command during Sierra Leone's civil conflict.

#END

Government of Sierra Leone – Office of the President

Thursday, 22 February 2007

Government Statement On The Death Of Chief Sam Hingha Norman

Government has received with deep regret news of the death of Chief Sam Hingha Norman, former Deputy Minister of Defence, who before his death in a hospital in Senegal was being tried for various alleged offences in the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Government expresses its deepest condolences to the family of the late Chief Sam Hingha Norman and wishes to state that in spite of his indictment by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Government will in consultation with the Special Court for Sierra Leone, authorise and facilitate a normal family funeral and burial for the late Chief Sam Hingha Norman.

May his soul rest in peace.

For di People
Friday, 23 February 2007

NORMAN

IS DEAD!

An Epitaph To The Late Kamajor Chieftain

CHIEF SAM Hinga Norman is dead. Aged 67. He is survived by his family, many SLPP supporters and the Kamajors on the loss of their revered chieftain, members of the mende clan as well as other Sierra Leoneans and members of the international community associated with him during his service before and after the civil war that restored the SLPP after its overthrow by the AFRC-Ruf junta.

by
LEO KAMARA
Norman first came to prominence in the coup

d'etat of 1967 when on the orders of late Brigadier David Lansana he put under house arrest the Gov-

ernor-General of Sierra Leone, Sir Banja Tejan-Sie and prominent APC politicians after it was clear that

the SLPP under the premiership of Sir Albert Margai were certain to lose those elections.

He spent some time in prison and when released moved to Liberia and later became a paramount chief

of Mongere in the southern province until the NPRC era when he was recruited as an ex-soldier to help prevent that region from falling into the hands of the rebels who were aided
Continued Page 2

EPITAPH TO HINGA NORMAN

From Front Page

and abetted by former Liberian president, Charles Taylor now a war crimes suspect standing trial in The Hague.

Norman became a leading political figure when the SLPP won the 1996 general elections and a return to multiparty democracy after almost two decades of one-party APC politics and served as the next defence chief to president Kabbah as well as later transferred to the Internal Affairs ministry before his arrest in his office for crimes against humanity in a manner he termed disgraceful, for someone who had played the leading role within the SLPP for the restoration of the beleaguered Tejan Kabbah government then exiled in Guinea.

During his term as deputy minister of defence he came under severe criticism from the press for elevating his civil militia outfit-the Kamajors above the national army with many soldiers losing their lives within the southern territories controlled by the mendes which are strongly aligned to the SLPP and a basis for discontent within the national army.

He was also blamed, being an ex-soldier, for failing to bolster civil-army-militia relationships and rather seen as not forgiving; the military establishment and the APC after he was jailed for his part in the 1967 coup. Not only were soldiers killed but policemen and other Sierra Leoneans from the northern parts of the country were

killed if they happened to be non-mendes. The banning of the army took place during his tenure of office and this ultimately contributed to the 1997 coup by the AFRC-Ruf who brought Johnny Paul Kamara as leader and sent the SLPP government packing into exile in Guinea. During the interregnum, many people including mendes living in Bonthe and elsewhere complained that they were also prey to Kamajor extra-judicial executions and this was made evident during the Special Court Trials for crimes against humanity.

He was also blamed for fuelling the eating of human beings mainly from other parts of the country for what is widely known as 'yamoto' a word in mende that subsequently saw Norman standing before the Special Court for cannibalism amongst other crimes against humanity.

However, Norman has always retained a strong following amongst his tribesmen, especially the Kamajors for the role he played to restore the SLPP government and for giving prominence to the Kamajor outfit. He is definitely a regional hero for the southerners but not a national hero as he incurred the wrath of the army and other ethnic groups for practicing sectionalism.

He had presidential ambitions when he was moved from Defence to the Internal Affairs ministry and this must have brought him into direct collision path with vice-president Solomon Berewa and Norman was disgracefully arrested

at his office and handed over to the Special Court. He has already stood trial at the Special Court and was now awaiting judgement before his death.

Norman was lately taken to Senegal for medical treatment but died of heart failure yesterday 22 February 2007. He was already sick for sometime with spinal problems and diabetes.

In Senegal, he and another war crime suspect wrote an open letter disassociating themselves from the SLPP and putting their support behind the newly-formed Peoples Movement for Democratic Change of Charles Margai.

This was the last move by Norman to show his total rejection of the SLPP by a man seen as having sacrificed his life for the restoration of the party he so dearly loved but which betrayed him in the end. He had ordered his men not to vote for the SLPP and it is left to be seen whether these last orders would be followed by Kamajors whose loyalty to the SLPP is also unquestioned.

Norman must have died a frustrated man, rejected by his party but loved dearly especially by his countrymen but missed most by his family. May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

Awoko

Friday, 23 February 2007

Norman: Dead

By Kelvin Lewis
The Registrar of the Special Court Lovemore Munlo yesterday (Thursday) announced the death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

Chief Norman was flown over to Dakar Senegal for medical attention on Wednesday January 17, 2007

On Thursday January 8th he underwent a hip replacement operation which Special Court authorities say was successful.

Mr Munlo told journalists

that Chief Norman was responding well to treatment and they were simply waiting for him to recuperate for a few more weeks before coming home.

He explained that it was when Chief Norman "was talking to his doctors (that) he collapsed and died"

This incident according to the Special Court Press release took place at about 10.55am.

Family sources however say that Chief Norman was feeling okay until three days ago when he complained of feeling dizzy.

They say he was then examined by the doctors who diagnosed that his blood count was low, and proposed a transfusion.

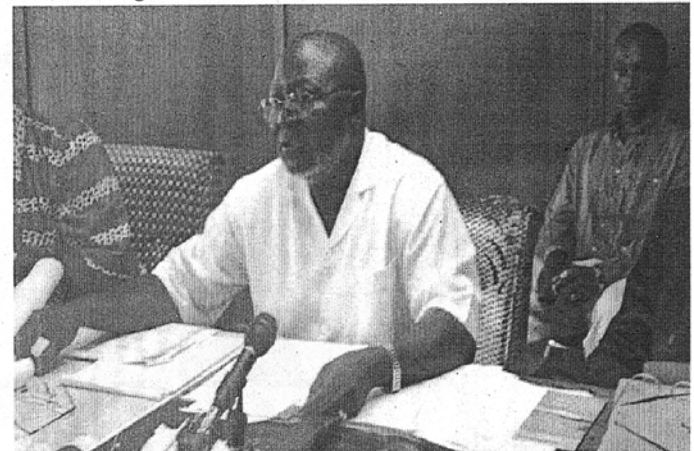
They say the blood transfusion took place Wednesday and Chief Norman was reported to have told his family members that he was feeling okay, but only for him to be reported dead the following day.

Chief Norman was arrested in his office on March 7th 2003 while still the Internal Affairs Minister in the present

government.

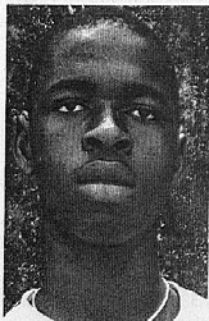
He was facing 8 count

charges of war crimes for the Civil Defence Forces his role as coordinator of d u r i n g t h

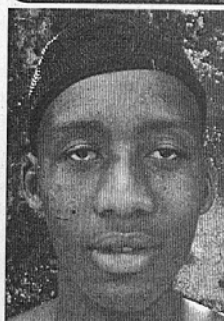


The late Sam Hinga Norman when he was Minister of Internal Affairs

You Said It



Abubakarr Sillah



Mohamed Turay



Femi Cummings



Edna Musa



Mohamed Donlux



Alusine Bangura

The death of Sam Hinga Norman hit Sierra Leoneans hard in the face yesterday when it was announced by the Special Court that the former national coordinator of the Kamajors and later Internal Affairs Minister died in Dakar, Senegal, where he underwent a hip replacement surgery. Accusations, counter accusations and denials were flying all over the place. So, Awoko's reporter, Abibatu Kamara, went out in the streets to sound people's opinions on the issue.

Abubakarr Sillah: His death is a shock to me. Sam Hinga Norman was a great hero of this country and a man who fought for peace in this country. After the peace he did not gain any benefit but to face trial at the Special Court. He died like a slave and he was betrayed by this government. I think his death would hinder the peace of this nation and would cause disparity between government and the Kamajors who he once head. This would also create bitterness in his family. He died like Foday Sankoh who died without saying anything and explaining the true justice of this country.

Edna Musa: He was a warrior in this country. Though he was the head of the Kamajors he saved lives and property. On the circumstances surrounding his trial, I thought the government could have settled them instead of taking him to the Special Court. We now want to know how he died and what are the circumstances surrounding his death.

Alusine Bangura: I felt sorry for him. He was a healthy man and I was expecting

him to stand trial till the end. Foday Sankoh died the same way. If I were a family member, we would investigate his death. Again why was he taken to Dakar for surgery? Are there no good doctors in the country?

Femi Cummings: His death was God's time and in sickness either you die or recover. I do not think Sierra Leoneans should take his death as something that would bring chaos to the country. Death is inevitable and everybody has his or her time to go back to his or her Maker. All I want the family to do is to have faith in God.

Mohamed Turay: His death would cause a setback to the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) because he died during the time of the party he helped bring back to power. One may wonder what would happen to Issa Sesay and others who are facing trial at the Special Court. If the Special Court has the mandate to fly them to Dakar then they should have the resources to bring in doctors to the country to treat them here instead of taking them out of the country.

Mohamed Donlux: His death is a pathetic situation as heroes always die like that. He was a man who worked hard for this country. He fought the war for peace which was gained but he never enjoyed it. He was one of the ministers who served president Kabbah's government well. My advice to the government is to take his corpse and give him a befitting civic funeral.

African Champion
Friday, 23 February 2007

Hinga Norman's Death Is Disaster For SLPP

The news of the death of Sam Hinga Norman has created a serious conflict within the rank and file of the Sierra Leone People's Party, resulting in accusations and counter-accusations about the role played by President Kabbah and his Vice President Solomon Berewa in the indictment and long incarceration of a man who contributed highly in bringing the present government back to power. Norman, a former commander in chief of the Kamajor militia and one time deputy minister of defense in the Tejan-Kabbah government died yesterday in a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal while in the custody of security guards from the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Norman is reported to have died after undergoing a hip replacement operation. He was 67. Long before his transfer to a military hospital in Senegal last month, his family members had been complaining that Norman was critically ill. However, the Special



Sam Hinga Norman takes his last walk out of Sierra Leone

However, the Special Court Prosecutor and doctors attached to the Special Court had announced that his condition was not life threatening and that he was receiving adequate

medical attention. Then last month, Hinga Norman's daughter in a BBC interview said her father was gravely ill and was not receiving

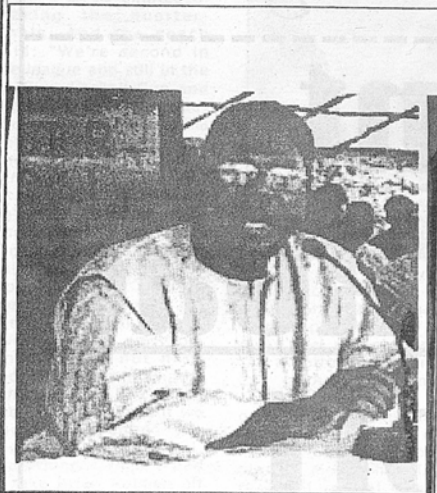
proper medical treatment. That was the day he was air lifted to Senegal for hip replacement surgery, which the Special Court said was successful.

Barely two days after the operation the former Kamajor boss is reportedly collapsed while sitting on his hospital bed. All

attempts by medical personnel to resuscitate him fail and he was pronounced dead. No cause of his death was given. It can be recalled that Chief Sam Hinga Norman with two other Kamajor leaders, four commanders of the RUF and three members of the renegade AFRC junta were indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2003 on eleven count charges of war related crimes and crimes against humanity. This inspite of a general amnesty and the Lome Accord of 1996 that granted blanket amnesty to all those who had been engaged in the armed conflict in Sierra Leone.

Speaking on the 'BBC's Focus On Africa' program

yesterday afternoon, his son Samuel Norman confirmed his father's death but said that the family will secure the services of an independent pathologist as the cause of death is still unknown. Special Court for Sierra Leone officials continue to maintain tight lips over the demise of the former minister, and have instead sent out a press release announcing the death. *The African Champion* in a snap interview with former Kamajors and SLPP supporters has been informed the death of Norman has already caused a big split within the party. "We will never support the people who sat by while Norman suffered in jail," one said angrily, "We know it was Berewa who was behind the whole move to see that Chief Norman dies in jail because he is popular among the people."



President Alhaji Tejan Kabbah Vice President Solomon Berewa

Family of Late Kamajor Boss make startling allegation ...

Hingha Norman Bled to Death

By Sayoh Kamara

Confirmed reports are that the adopted son of Chief Hinga Norman, Lansana Jawara was the only member of the family that was at his bedside in Dakar, Senegal

while Chief Norman was hospitalized and was present when he finally passed away. In an emotional exclusive telephone call to this newspaper yesterday, Jawara has refuted claims by the

Special Court for Sierra Leone that his father might have died of heart failure.

"My father bled to death. Chief Hinga Norman bled to death." Jawara wept over the

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telephone line to Awareness Times. Jawara disclosed that his father died of what he termed as, "excessive bleeding and lack of proper medical care" at the hands of authorities of a small sub clinic of the Hospital de la Dantec, and not the VIP wing of the Military Hospital in Dakar as earlier claimed by the Special Court, and that he had been bleeding seriously for the past three days.

"Chief did not die of any heart failure as the people of Sierra Leone are made to understand by the Special Court. Chief died because of lack of adequate post operative care," Jawara told Awareness Times with sobs.

According to Jawara, Chief Norman was for the past three days bleeding excessively from the operation site and that he would have since died, but was always given extra blood which was what keeping him alive.

He explained that nurses at night who were supposed to be looking after him were for the past three days refused access to Chief Norman by the security officials posted at the hospital. He described the condition of Hospital de la Dantec as being, "worse than the state the Connaught Hospital was before its renovation". "If the Special Court is sending out press releases that my father died of heart failure, I am challenging them that it is false. They are merely trying to play down the neglect my father suffered in the hands of the so-called doctors in whose care he was. I have every confidence that Papa would have survived had he been given the right treatment at the right time," Jawara stated.

When told that the Special Court has ordered an "independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death of Chief Norman, Jawara responded that it was "rather too late" and that what had prematurely met his father would not have possibly happened too soon had they listened to the earlier concern raised by the family for him to be taken to a hospital of international standard.

"It is going to be a white elephant investigation. A fait accompli of which any report that would come out of it would not be different from what have already been explained by the Special Court," Jawara said.

Meanwhile, Reverend Alfred Sam Foray who issued a Press Release on behalf of Chief Hingha Norman just a few days ago in which he had stated that Chief Norman "successfully underwent hip surgery at a military

hospital in Dakar, Senegal on Thursday 8 February 2007 and is recovering well" also in a telephone call he placed to this newspaper from his home in the US, backed up the claims by Jawara. "As a family, we are in deep mourning and we did not want to say anything for now. However, the Special Courts refusal to give Chief Norman his dignity in death has forced us to come out and loudly denounce the Court." Reverend Foray stated.

According to Reverend Foray, the family was very grateful to Dr. Donald Harding who accompanied Chief Norman to Senegal. He however raised an alarm that attempts were being made by certain persons to get Donald Harding to sign a false and misleading medical report. He however cautioned Harding not to sign any such report.

When Awareness Times put these allegations to Peter Andersen, the Chief of Information at the Special Court, he first expressed his deep sadness at the death of Norman and extended his condolences to the family and friends of the late man.

Peter Andersen however elaborated that no one attributed the death to a heart attack.

"We said it was a failure of his heart. Hearts can fail from lack of blood which can result from excessive bleeding. I am not authorized to say anything about the medical condition of the late man but I will strongly deny that he was not given proper medical care." Andersen said.

When it was put to him that the hospital where Chief Norman died was reportedly in a terrible condition, Andersen offered to make available to the public pictures of the hospital.

Andersen also denied that nurses were blocked by security personnel from attending to Chief Norman in the night.

"I am very concerned and personally very upset myself over this death but I find it hard to believe that he died from lack of proper medical care. The independent investigation will include medical doctors of the family's own choice and we shall leave no stone unturned to get to the bottom of this matter" he assured with a sad tone.

Meanwhile, this newspaper who conducted the very last interview ever granted by the late Norman to a media house has reproduced the report we published after that interview on Page 7 of this edition. In the next column on this same Page 2, we have also reproduced another pertinent report. On Page 5, we have the reactions of political parties to the death of such a figure like Chief Hingha Norman.

Awareness Times
Friday, 23 February 2007

Hinga Norman Located

This article was first published Jan 23rd 2007

By Savoh Kamara & Modou Njie

Exhaustive and intensive investigations by Awareness Times which included the hiring of one of Senegal's top investigators over the weekend has finally yielded dividend and this newspaper can now authoritatively reveal the EXACT location right down to the exact room number in Dakar, Senegal where Chief Sam Hinga Norman is being held by the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

When Awareness Times contacted the Special Court Spokesman and Chief of Information, Peter Andersen late last evening with our compiled facts, Mr. Andersen refused to confirm the veracity of our investigations. Interestingly, he also refused to deny our claims.

According to Andersen, he was not authorised to discuss the location of Hinga Norman with reporters but he repeated severally that Chief Norman was being treated with the utmost respect in Dakar Senegal.

"I repeat again that he is in the VIP (Very Important Persons) wing of the same top military hospital where Senegalese Ministers of Government get treated." Andersen stated whilst warning this newspaper that the paper's persistence to find out the location of Hinga Norman meant the paper was threading on grounds that could be considered as "contemptuous" of the Special Court. Awareness Times is however so sure of the veracity of our information and we have also sought legal advise upon which we are going ahead to publish that Chief Norman is currently being held at the L'hôpital Aristide Le Dantec (HALD Hospital) along Avenue Pasteur in Dakar, Sénégal which hospital our investigations further reveal is under the care of a military doctor by the name of Colonel Diop Massamba.

Although we know the exact number of the Room where Norman is being held, we are withholding this information due to legal advise we have received. However, we can authoritatively state that Chief Norman is in a private hospital room right next to Issa Sesay who is in the adjoining private room. The two rooms are both private rooms which have coloured televisions, private bathrooms and are fully airconditioned.

Our investigations also reveal that this HALD Military Hospital was the exact same location that Chief Norman had been flown to since his arrival in Senegal. This therefore contradicted earlier claims that the Chief was being held at a "jailyard" in Senegal.

However, Awareness Times extensive investigations now authoritatively reveal from our top notch sources in Senegal that initially when Chief Norman was taken to the military

hospital, the Senegalese guards who are not as well trained as the international Special Court security, had not been as "polite" as expected in their handling of the Chief and the RUF's Issa Sesay which led to the Chief feeling very intimidated by their presence and naturally concluding that he'd been taken to an African jailyard. Our sources reveal that the refusal of the Senegalese soldiers to allow Chief Norman to move out of his room for some exercise also compounded the situation. Our sources in Senegal reveal that Chief Norman had been emotionally traumatised by the frightening and uncompromising stance of the Senegalese security.

Our sources also reveal that the international uproar caused by the bitter complaints of Chief Norman to Awareness Times Newspaper, led to the Special Court having to renegotiate with the Senegalese security guards about the respectful handling and treatment of detainees according to international standards. Additionally, our sources also reveal that when Chief Norman and Issa Sesay were first taken to the rooms, the rooms were in a relatively deplorable manner as compared to the Special Court detention rooms in Freetown.

"The rooms had not been completely cleaned out of the debris from construction work that had been recently done on them to fortify them and the bathrooms, although they were private bathrooms were in such an unaesthetic condition that there was not even toilet paper in them. The Chief was quite right. It really was not a conducive atmosphere especially compared to what Chief Norman had been used to in Freetown." our hired investigator wrote in his email dispatch from the Senegalese capital yesterday. Meanwhile, Ms. Juliet Norman, the daughter of the detained Chief Norman had earlier confirmed to Awareness Times that her father's living conditions had been "dramatically improved" since she went on her press offensive to highlight the plight of her Dad on his initial arrival in Senegal. According to Juliet Norman, her father had been made far more comfortable and has since agreed to have the operation performed upon him.

"My investigations reveal that the operation on Chief Norman is to be performed on Wednesday January 23rd 2007." our investigator in Senegal also wrote in his email dispatch yesterday.

Awareness Times was unable to contact any of the Norman family to confirm if the Chief's hip replacement operation is expected to be performed today January 23rd 2007. However, it is believed that they might have all flown to Senegal to be with Chief Norman at this emotional time of his.

DEATH OF HINGA NORMAN

SPECIAL COURT PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 22 February 2007

It is with deep regret that the Special Court for Sierra Leone announces the death of former Sierra Leone Internal Affairs Minister Sam Hinga Norman, who was on trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Norman died today at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal.

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At 10:55 this morning Mr. Norman collapsed and, despite attempts to revive him, was pronounced dead at about 11:15.

Initial indications are that Mr. Norman suffered heart failure during post-operative care. Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC has ordered an independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death.

Mr. Munlo informed family members early this afternoon and expressed his deep personal regret at their loss.

Mr. Norman had been charged with 8 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by the Civil Defence Militia he headed during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil conflict. He had maintained his innocence throughout the trial, which began in June 2004.

A verdict in the case is pending before the Trial Chamber.

REACTIONS TO THE DEATH

The National Secretary General and the National Publicity Secretary of the **Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP)** said the party first of all recognised that Chief Hinga Norman was a "highly traditional" person and so it was not easy for anyone to simply pronounce him as having died. They however agreed to react to the "rumors" of the grave illness of the Chief by stating that the party was "shocked and dismayed" at the news of the grave illness of one who was not only a senior member of their party but also one of the Grand Chief Patrons of the SLPP. They both expressed "deep regret and condolences to the family of Chief Hinga Norman" for the grave illness of the chief whilst assuring that whatever may have happened to Chief Norman as a result of his handling at the Special Court was not the fault of the SLPP. "Today, the SLPP is deeply sad at our loss of such a great member of our party."

APC National Publicity Secretary, William Juana Smith in his initial reaction on behalf of the APC noted, "It is unfortunate that Chief Sam Hinga Norman died under such a circumstance. The APC wishes to express profound sympathy to the Norman family. However, we feel he was made a sacrificial lamb. The SLPP had used him on two separate missions to maintain them in power. The first was when he was used to arrest Prime Minister Siaka Stevens to ensure the return of their party, and the second was when he was made Coordinator of the Kamajors and was given instructions from above. He was used as a sacrificial lamb and offered to the Special Court as a way of eliminating him from the Presidential race. He was the only senior SLPP member to have been arrested by the court. The APC regrets that a hero in the person of Chief Norman should die in another man's land other than in his own mother land, for which he had sacrificed so much. The APC wish his soul perfect eternity."

Journalist Paul Mandela Kamara, on behalf of the Third Force Political Amalgamation had this to say: "The death of Chief Norman is a tragic loss, if not for the entire country but the SLPP which he faithfully served as well as the Kamajors who revered him as a Chieftain for the role he played in the restoration of the SLPP in 1999. The Third Force wishes him a peaceful rest in eternity.

The PMDC's Leader, Lawyer Charles Margai respectfully declined to make any comments yesterday.

This exclusive report was first published January

The Special Court for Sierra Leone in the early hours of yesterday, 17th January 2007 flew out two of its detainees: Chief Sam Hinga Norman (CDF) and Issa Sesay (RUF) to Dakar, Senegal apparently for medical treatment but Chief Hinga Norman has now exclusively revealed last evening to Awareness Times that he is very bitter against the Special Court whom he emphatically states has not taken him into any hospital but have instead "dumped me into the worst jailyard in Senegal".

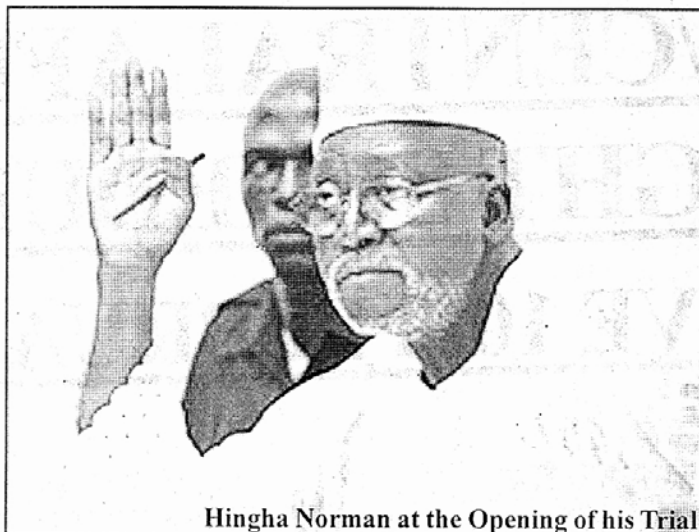
However, the Special Court Spokesman, Peter Andersen denied the allegation when contacted last night.

"Chief Norman and Issa Sesay are in the VIP [Very Important Persons] wing of a military hospital in Dakar," Andersen told Awareness Times. When pressed further to name the military hospital, Andersen refused to do so appealing for understanding from Awareness Times because of what he termed as "obvious security reasons." However, in an exasperated mood, Chief Norman stated unequivocally to Awareness Times during a facilitated telephone call between this newspaper and the Chief in Senegal that, the place himself and Issa Sesay had been taken to was, "very much unsatisfactory and not conducive for human living".

Chief Norman said they had been taken not into hospital as expected but that they had been "dumped" into what he termed as, "the worst jailyard in Senegal" pointing out that if they are not taken from where they are at present to a conducive place, preferably a hospital of international standard for his surgical operation to be conducted, he would, "resist any attempt at performing the surgery until I am removed from where I am at present to a place that is environmentally conducive for a surgical operation."

It now appears that the sudden transfer was done with the complete ignorance of the Norman family and his lawyer Bu-Buakei Jabbe who told Awareness Times yesterday that he (Jabbe) was surprised that Chief Norman was taken out of Sierra Leone without his knowledge. However, Special Court's Peter Andersen posited that since it was a "medical issue" and not a "legal issue", the court did not need to inform the lawyers for Norman or Issa Sesay before flying them out for medical treatment.

Chief Norman himself explained to this newspaper that he and Issa Sesay were suddenly whisked from their cells very early in the morning on Wednesday to



Hinga Norman at the Opening of his Trial

the Lungi Airport and put on board a helicopter which shuttled them to Dakar in Senegal after they were assured that they were going to be admitted into hospital.

According to Chief Norman, they had agreed with the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be taken to "a reputable hospital that meets the international standards set in the statutes of the Special Court but not to a squalid environment like we are in now", he angrily told Awareness Times, and therefore threatened, "If I am not removed from where I am now, I will embark on an indefinite hunger strike for the attention of the international community and the people of Sierra Leone as a way of highlighting my plight", he noted.

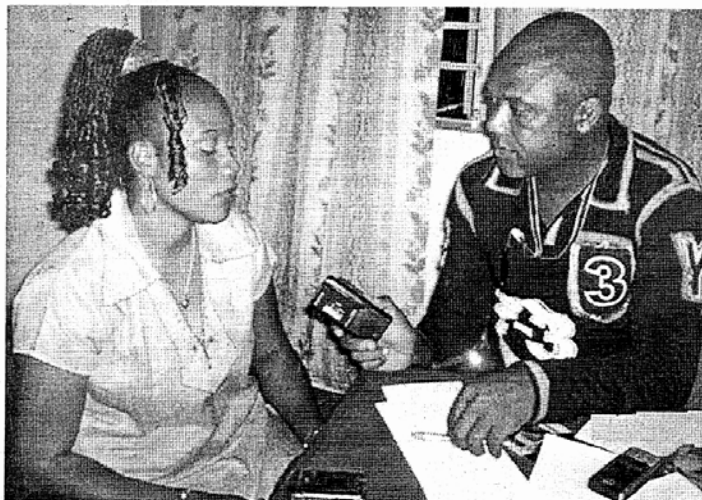
He went on to express fear for his life and disclosed, "As I speak to you now, I have not seen any Doctor. Nobody has spoken to me and since I arrived early this morning I have not been given any food to eat", adding, "We are being treated like virtual prisoners in a condition far worse than we were in at the Special Court in Sierra Leone."

He therefore called, "Because of all these unprecedented happenings, I want to tell Sierra Leoneans and the world through you Awareness Times that I, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, am very much afraid for my life as it is put in the hands of people I do not trust to administer any form of medical treatment on me", he stated.

A daughter of Chief Norman, Juliet Norman who also spoke exclusively to Awareness Times pointed out that as a family, no one was informed or contacted about the transfer of her father. "I only came to know about it when I got an unexpected call from an unknown person in Senegal that my father wanted to talk to me", she said.

She explained that the family had earlier requested from the Special Court that they be informed whenever they want to take him any where for whatever medical treatment, noting that they had suggested that at least a member of the family be allowed to accompany him.

"I was therefore shocked to hear from Papa that he was in Senegal and was in a place that is a jailyard and not a hospital", Juliet told Awareness Times.



Juliet Norman speaks to Sayoh Kamara on January 17 2007

Juliet Norman drew a hypothesis emphasizing the concern of the Norman family, which suggests that her father may be about to be treated like the late Foday Sankoh.

"Perhaps because of fears that he might say things which some people never wanted to be known by the Sierra Leone people, he was first put in what they called "catatonic condition" only for him to die later. I am therefore very much concerned over my father's welfare and life especially in the kind of conditions he now finds himself", Juliet said.

According to Juliet Norman, she does not believe that her father was actually taken to Senegal for an operation.

"How could they have smuggled him out of the country like he was already a condemned prisoner that is being taken to the gallows?" she commented.

Miss Juliet Norman on behalf of the Norman Family (who all accompanied her to the Awareness Times offices last night) and on behalf of her father called on the international community especially Human Rights bodies to impress on the Special Court for Sierra Leone to bring back her father to Sierra Leone or to take him to international standard hospital and to also ensure the presence of at least a member of their family where ever he was to undergo his operation.

She said she was making this call because "I am not actually sure whether Papa would receive the kind of attention a surgical patient deserves if he is forced to be operated on. I truly do not have any confidence that he would be treated accordingly", Miss Norman asserted.

Since agents of the Special Court arrested him on 10th March 2003. Chief Norman has been complaining of pains in his right thigh, which he attributed to a fall in the vehicle which was transporting him to the Special Court. He had complained that his hands were handcuffed behind his back and his right foot chained which made it impossible for him to gain his balance in the speeding vehicle when he had to fall heavily on his right side.

The operation that is to be performed upon him is expected to be a hip replacement operation.

In a passionate appeal last night to Awareness Times, Chief Norman pleaded for this newspaper to ensure that the world got to know of his plight. "I hope that you will not allow yourselves to be intimidated into not letting the world know of what has happened to me in Senegal." he pleaded.

May his soul R.I.P.

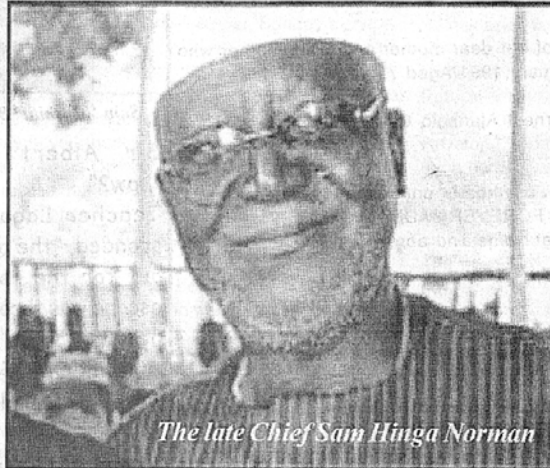
NORMAN'S DEATH SHAKES SALONE

By Sogie Thomas, Sahr Bangah and Mohamed Mansaray

COMMENTARY SPECIAL COURT, MISMANAGING INFORMATION

The death of Sam Hinga Norman has created a whole lot of confusion as a result of tongue-wag-

Contd. back page



The late Chief Sam Hinga Norman

Special Court indictee, Sam Hinga Norman who was arrested by the Special Court for Sierra Leone since 2003 and who remained in the custody of that Court since he stood trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity died in Dakar, the capital of Senegal yesterday at a military hospital, a Special Court press release revealed yesterday. The former government minister in the Kabbah government, Chief Sam Hinga Norman and another Special Court indictee, Issa Sesay of the RUF were flown to Dakar on the 17th of January for medical treatment which, according to the Special Court, was considered as part of normal routine. When Hinga Norman was flown

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to Dakar, some members of the public questioned his removal from the premises of the Special Court in Freetown to an unknown facility in Senegal but at the time, Special Court authorities argued that the medical facilities needed for the treatment of the late Special Court indictee were not available in Sierra Leone.

According to the Special

Court press release circulated in Freetown yesterday, Chief Sam Hinga Norman collapsed at 10:55 in the morning and died at 11:15 a.m. after he failed to respond to medical treatment.

The Special Court press release, in an attempt to explain the factors that led to the death of the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman stated, "Mr. Norman suffered heart failure during post-op-

erative care. Special Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo, has ordered an independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death."

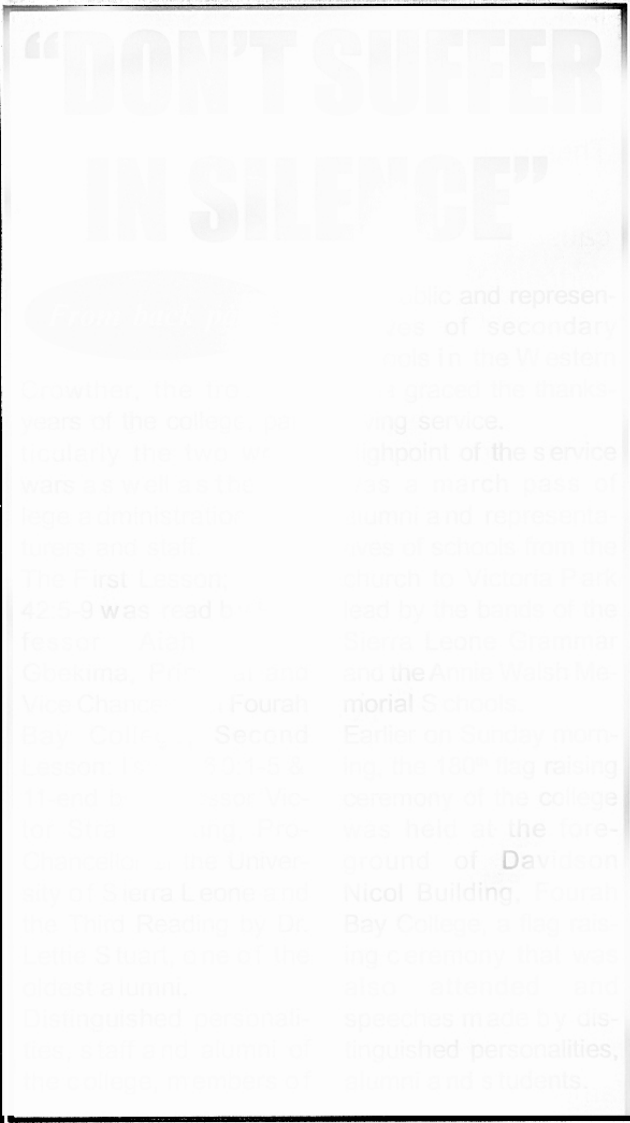
Registrar Munlo informed family members of the late Sam Hinga Norman mid afternoon yesterday about the death of Sam Hinga Norman.

Chief Sam Hinga Norman was standing trial on an eight court charge of war crimes and crimes against humanity, stemming from acts allegedly carried out by the Civil Defence Force which he headed during Sierra Leone's decade long civil conflict.

Up to the time he was taken to Dakar, and possibly up to the time of his death, Sam Hinga Norman had maintained his innocence. His trial commenced in June 2004 and a verdict in the case is still pending before the Trial Chamber of the Special Court.

Sam Hinga Norman, one of the strong members of the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party was first appointed Deputy Minister of Defence in 1996 by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, a position he held up to the 2002 presidential and parliamentary elections.

After the 2002 general



and presidential elections, President Kabbah again appointed Sam Hinga Norman member of his government when he appointed him Minister of Internal Affairs.

During his tenure as Minister of Internal Affairs, Sam Hinga Norman was minister in charge of internal security.

Special Court experts who investigated those Sierra Leoneans who bore the greatest responsibilities for the atrocities during the war years isolated the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman, RUF's Issa Sesay and AFRC's Sanmtigie Kanu, CDF's Allieu Kondowa, Monina Fofanah and other persons as possible suspects who could have committed crimes against humanity.

Chief Sam Hinga Norman was still Minister of Internal Affairs when Special Court personnel entered his offices at Liverpool Street, arrested him and first incarcerated him in Bonthe.

He was later brought to the Special Court facilities in Freetown where he was kept in the custody of the authorities of the Special Court.

The sudden decision taken by the Special Court on the 17th of January this year to transfer Sam Hinga Norman to Senegal for medical treatment took many people by surprise and cynics actually suspected that the Special Court indictee would not return to Sierra Leone alive. But the Special Court authorities gave all assurances that the decision to take Sam Hinga Norman and RUF's Issa Sesay to Senegal for medical treatment was an internationally accepted practice.

Sam Hinga Norman's death, once it became public yesterday, caused a lot of tongue wagging and some people actually drew the conclusion that Sam Hinga Norman could not be unconnected with political decisions.

But the Special Court again gave assurances yesterday that Sam Hinga Norman died of natural causes even though there is yet another assurance that the death of the indictee will be thoroughly investigated by medical experts.

In Bo yesterday, Radio Kiss 104 FM organised a phone-in-programme in an effort to measure public opinion about the death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman and reactions varied from threats by some citizens to cutoff their support for the SLPP party, to the expulsion of the Special Court from Sierra Leone and to transporting the remains of Sam

Hinga Norman to Bo Town for burial.

In Makeni yesterday, citizens were carrying transistor radio sets, monitoring the news wanting to know more about the causes that led to the death of Hinga Norman. In Kenema yesterday, angry sentiments about the death of Hinga Norman were expressed openly by the citizens of that township, demanding more information about the causative factors for the death of the late CDF Chief.

Other citizens in Freetown demand that the autopsy to determine the death of Sam Hinga Norman be performed in Freetown and not in Dakar.

Sam Hinga Norman, a trained military officer, joined the Sierra Leone Army in the early sixties and left the army after he attained the rank of Captain.

He is still remembered as the ADC to the first African Governor-General of Sierra Leone, Sir Henry Lightfoot-Boston who was arrested by officers under the command of Sam Hinga Norman dur-

ing the first military coup ever recorded in Sierra Leone in 1967 in the wake of the SLPP/APC elections stalemate.

Sam Hinga Norman became famous after the AFRC regime was removed as was seen by many as the leader who mobilised the CDF to overthrow the military junta and who played a major role in restoring to power the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah after an eight month military interregnum.

His status as a hero who contributed to the restoration of the legitimate government of President Kabbah came to an abrupt end after he was arrested by Special Court functionaries in 2003.

He was later charged for crimes against humanity and other war crimes.

Sam Hinga Norman's relatives and friends said yesterday that they felt betrayed and were shocked that a hero could be reduced to a villain.

COMMENTARY

SPECIAL COURT, MISMANAGING INFORMATION

The death of Sam Hinga Norman has created a whole lot of confusion as a result of tongue-wag-

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COMMENTARY

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ging and insufficient information surrounding the death of the late Special Court indictee.

What is clear is that Sam Hinga Norman's death must be further explained in clearer terms by the Special Court if for no reason than the fact that skeptics and those who are in the process of losing confidence in the activities of the Special Court need vital assurances to justify the existence of that Court.

Skeptics have already started complaining that too many of the indictees have not had their full day in court ranging from Foday Sankoh who died prematurely to Sam Bockarie who himself died before he even appeared before the court, Charles Taylor, whose trial had to be transferred to another country and now Hinga Norman has suddenly passed away, leaving the other indictees to ask themselves privately, for whom next will the bell toll?

If for some reason one more indictee dies, then the very existence of the Special Court would be seriously questioned, but it is only hoped that nothing of the sort happens as the trial progresses.

The New Citizen has good reason to ask certain questions – how come when some sections of the media suggested that Sam Hinga Norman was seriously ill, the Special Court downplayed the ailment of the CDF Leader?

How come since Sam Hinga Norman was taken to Senegal for medical treatment, the health status of Sam Hinga Norman was not made available to members of the media?

These questions are important principally because Sierra Leoneans understand and indeed the media is aware of the very sensitive nature of Sam Hinga Norman's presence in the custody of the Special Court.

The fact must be stated that there are parts of the country which refused to accept the rationale behind the arrest and charging to court of Sam Hinga Norman, even though the prosecutors would have presented good reason to suggest that Hinga Norman committed crimes against humanity.

The point that must now be emphasized is that as from this moment, all information related to the stay of Hinga Norman in Senegal should be made public and the nature of his ailment should also be made public and a report on his autopsy should also be made public.

There is no way by which anybody can run away from the fact that Hinga Norman's name in Sierra Leone has always been associated with politics and there is no way by which anybody can run away from the fact that some Sierra Leoneans perceived Hinga Norman as a hero who under difficult circumstances took on an illegal military regime and fought to the last until the international community was convinced that Sierra Leoneans were totally against the AFRC regime.

Under normal circumstances, Hinga Norman should be a decorated Sierra Leone, a hero and in the event of his death in freedom, the organist would be expected to play either the Death March in Soul Oh Praise We Great and Famous Men or but of course, the fact that he died in prison custody can only now suggest that he actually died a humiliated man who up to the point of his death claimed that he was innocent of the charges preferred against him.

The relevance of the Special Court to promote the peace process in Sierra Leone has never been in dispute but unlike the death of Foday Sankoh, an indictee that was totally hated by the populace, the same thing cannot be said about Sam Hinga Norman which explains why the New Citizen suggests a very efficient management of all information and news items related to the death of Sam Hinga Norman.

The Spectator
Friday, 23 February 2007

Hinga Norman Dies in Dakar

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has intimated the press about the death of former Sierra Leone Internal Affairs Minister Sam Hinga Norman, who was on trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Norman died today at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal. According to the Special Court, Mr. Norman and another Special Court detainee were taken to Dakar on 17 January for medical procedures which were considered routine, but which were unavailable in Sierra Leone. Those procedures were performed on Thursday, 8 February, without complication.

At 10:55 a.m. yesterday, Mr. Norman collapsed and, despite attempts to

revive him, was pronounced dead at about 11:15.

Initial indications are that Mr. Norman suffered heart failure during post-operative care. Registrar, Lovemore Munlo, SC, has ordered an independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death.

Mr. Munlo informed family members early in the afternoon yesterday and expressed his deep personal regret at their loss.

It could be recalled that Mr. Norman had been charged with 8 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by the Civil Defence Militia he

headed during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil conflict. He had maintained his innocence throughout the trial, which began in June 2004.

A verdict in the case is pending before the Trial Chamber.

Meanwhile, Stephen Rapp, the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

has expressed deep regret over the death of Hinga Norman and also sincere condolences to his family. Hinga Norman's death, he said, means that there will not be a judgment issued by the Trial Chamber in his care.

He told the press in a release yesterday that all parties to this case deserved to see a verdict rendered. Hinga Norman's

death means that the people of Sierra Leone are deprived of their right to see justice done in an important and high-profile case before the Special Court, the Prosecutor added.

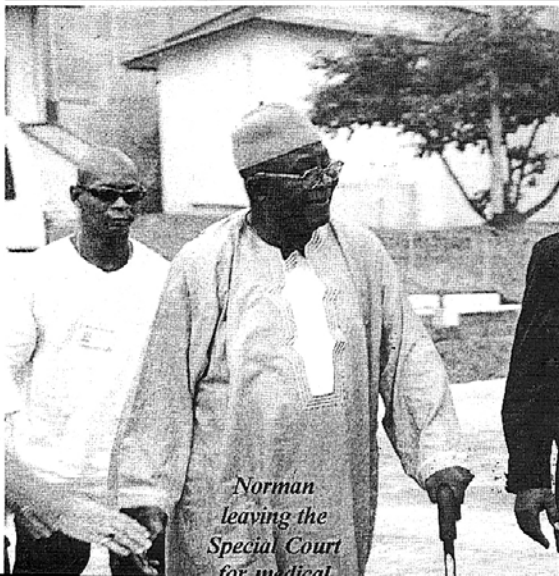
"Our mission, our pledge and our duty has been and remains to bring justice to those who bear the greatest responsibility for the terrible atrocities suffered by the people of Sierra Leone. When an Accused dies before judgement, then justice is denied."

While they profoundly regret the death of Hinga Norman, Mr. Rapp expressed that they will continue their work to see that justice is done in the name of and on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone.

I won't come back alive

By
Joe
Lamin

...Norman said before leaving Salone



Norman leaving the Special Court for medical

Chief Hinga Norman is dead. He died yesterday in a hospital in Senegal. Special Court believes he probably died of heart attack. The Court in a press release yesterday said it was awaiting the outcome of a medical examination. Norman's son, Sam Norman appears not to trust any Special Court investigation into the death of his fa-

ther.

"We want an independent post-mortem," Sam told the BBC yesterday.

Concord Times has obtained exclusive information of the last moments of Norman's last day in Sierra Leone.

24 hours before departing for Senegal, Norman was said to have given away all his personal belongings to menial workers at

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After Norman's death

*SLPP says "We regret the sickness"

*PMDC says "

A personal loss to us"

*APC says "Norman is

a great loss to Salone"

*Bo, Kenema say "We

are shocked and

concerned"

I won't come back alive

From page 1

the Special Court. One of those who benefited was someone who constantly cleaned his room.

No one was sure of the reason why Norman was giving out his belongings. One of the cleaners was said to have asked him, "Chief, why are you giving out your things?"

Norman replied, "I am giving out all my belongings because I am sure I will not come back alive."

Norman was again spotted at the Lungi International Airport. Moments before he boarded the plane, he scrubbed the airport tarmac with his fore finger, touched his tongue with the dirt from his finger and placed the same finger on his forehead.

This seeming ritual lasted for about two minutes. Norman then took a long, hard look eastwards, and said: "May God bless Sierra Leone."

Concord Times can authoritatively confirm

that Norman's last words on the Sierra Leonean soil were, "May God bless Sierra Leone."

The news of Norman's death shook the country yesterday.

The operation to replace his hips which took place two weeks ago was said to be largely successful. Hospital sources in Senegal said that Norman's recovery was on schedule.

He was said to have collapsed yesterday morning and died shortly after.

Norman is not the first to die in the Special Court custody.

The former leader of the Revolutionary United Front, Foday Sankoh had also died while in detention.

The other major player in the war, General Sam Bockarie alias Maskita also died in mysterious circumstances in Liberia.

The leader of the erstwhile Armed Forces

Revolutionary Council, Johnny Paul Koroma has gone missing and indications are that he may have died.

Norman, even by the admission of his enemies, is credited for leading a major movement that joined forces with ECOMOG troops to topple the AFRC junta.

Norman always referred to himself as a freedom fighter. He was said to have had a great ability at mobilizing the numerous traditional fighters from different parts of the country into a fighting unit that supported ECOWAS forces.

Before leaving for Senegal, Norman wrote a controversial letter urging his supporters to vote for Charles Margai of the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) in the next elections.

Many people were yesterday speculating on the political repercussions of Norman's death.

Concord Times
Friday, 23 February 2007

Sageby Archives

By Tanu Jalloh

His family members say he was martyred. That Chief Samuel Hinga Norman was indeed a martyr to his pelvic cavity infirmity; a hip problem they've always attributed to the manner in which he was manhandled by police officers who executed his arrest as inditee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in March 2003. However, most people see him as a hero.

The Court having been established by an Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone pursuant to Security Council resolution 1315 (2000) of 14 August 2000, shall, as part of its mandate, function in accordance with the provisions of the present Statute.

It was in conformity with the said provisions of the Statute that the First Accused, Norman who served as a Deputy Defence Minister and later Minister of Internal Affairs, a position he held until his arrest and detention, was indicted.

He was alleged to have been the National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces; a militia group (Kamajors) that fought alongside government troupes in the latter part of the rebel war. As a result, he was indicted on 3 March 2003 on an 8-count indictment for crimes against humanity, violations of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II (commonly known as war crimes), and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The Kamajors (as they were referred to by the Mendes in the east and south) are a group of traditional hunters from all over the country. In the north, the Themnes called them 'Gbethis or Kapras', while the Korankos and the Yalunkas called them 'Donsos or Tamaboros'. They were originally employed by local chiefs but, under the leadership of Hinga Norman as Coordinator, were used by President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in 1996 to replace mercenaries like the Executive Outcomes and Sandline International, both of whom helped trained the force as a security apparatus of the government.

The force's numerical strength, apparently owing to its open conscription methods, eventually rose to over 20,000; twice as large as the army that had betrayed the government of Sierra Leone. The Sierra Leone Army (SLA) was at this time supporting former rebel leader, Foday Sankoh against the Kabbah led-Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) government.

The Kamajors, therefore, had to integrated themselves into the ECOMOG (a Nigeria led West African economic community monitoring group) counteroffensive, from whom they took command, to reinstate President Kabbah in 1998 after he was overthrown by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) in 1997. The said junta, led by the fugitive Major Johnny Paul Koroma, was a combination of the rebel Revolution United Front (RUF) and the former SLA.

During his initial appearance at a closed hearing on 15 March at the temporary courthouse on Bonthe Island, Norman pleaded not guilty to all charges. Three years later Norman, in his defence, would still testify at the Special Court, between the periods 20 January and 18 October 2006 when testimony in the Defence case began and ended, that "I never told Kamajors specifically to go and attack anywhere simply because I was a civilian Coordinator."

"I did not arrange for the distribution of weapons while I was at Talia (Base Zero). As a coordinator, I organized Kamajors, gave them rudimentary training and then addressed them to go and operate under the command of the superior forces, the ECOMOG. These forces would use them for war purposes or otherwise because they provided them with logistics."

He would recall that his appointment by President Kabbah as National Coordinator of the CDF was

merely to coordinate and not to command or control war. In fact that was why, as he puts it, while he was at Base Zero in Talia there was a War Council that advised as to how disciplinary committee recommendations, if any, could be handled by him and also how appointments were to be treated.

Born on New Year's Day of 1940 in Ngolala Village, Mongeri, in the Bo district, southern Sierra Leone, Norman grew up as a brave boy. He joined the Sierra Leone Army in 1959 and served until 1972, ascending to the rank of captain. He also attended school during this time and received a diploma from the Officer's School of Aldershot in the United Kingdom.

It was apparently as a result of his military background that Norman was first made chief among the Mende tribe and subsequently came to lead the traditional paramilitary force, the Kamajors. The Kamajors fought under the banner of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) which supported the government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah against the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which was led by Foday Sankoh. And because of his role in restoring peace, legitimate civilian government and democracy, Norman is today considered to be a hero by a majority of his country men.

But in addition to his being a hero, Norman was the Deputy Minister of Defence, serving from April 20, 1998 to May 21, 2002. He also served as Minister of Internal Affairs from May 21, 2002 to March 10, 2004, overlapping his indictment at the Special Court.

Today, this perceived martyr, as his family would say, or a hero in the eyes of a majority across the country, is dead. The news of his death was officially made public by the current Prosecutor of the Special Court, Stephen Rapp on February 22, 2007. Nor-

man, as a defendant before the Court, had been taken to the military hospital in Dakar, Senegal on January 17 for routine medical procedures.

According to the prosecutor, Norman's death means that the people of Sierra Leone are deprived of their right to see justice done in an important and high-profile case before the Court.

However, the Policy Sciences Research Section of the Sierra Leone Working Group in its recent account captioned "The Special Court's Push for an Unfair Advantage for the Prosecutor," argues that "from the first day of the proceedings of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Prosecutor has been given an unfair advantage to win guilty verdicts and convictions in the case against Chief Samuel Hinga Norman.

"Indeed, the preceding evidence clearly shows that the Court has bent backwards to allow the Prosecutor to manipulate the proceedings to win guilty verdicts against the three Civil Defense Force defendants. In doing so, however, the Court has also exposed the fact that the Prosecutor has no case. Indeed, to turn one of the Prosecutor's statements upside its head, it would be "ridiculous" to find the three 'accused guilty of the crimes for which they stand trial,' and they should be 'acquitted."

Meanwhile, subsequent reactions and feelings about the death of Sam Hinga Norman by politicians will either give credence to the argument that Norman's death was a martyr or the deceased, a hero.

Read more accounts and analyses on Norman in subsequent editions.

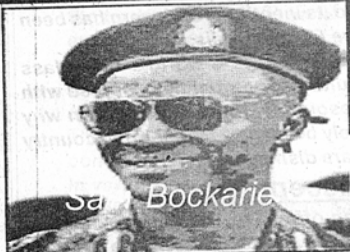
The author is a staff of Concord Times newspaper who has been reporting Special Court for Sierra Leone and its activities for the past two years.

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Norman, Sankoh, Maskita Dead

*Johnny Paul Still Missing

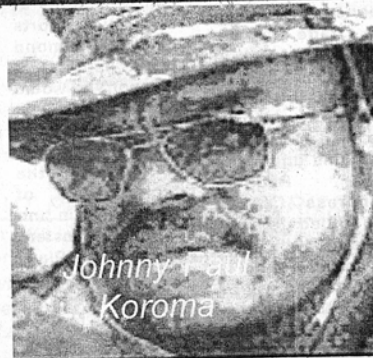
*Issa Sesay Dying



Sam Bockarie



Foday Sankoh



Johnny Paul Koroma

**Profile of
Hinga
Norman**
*See
page
3*



Norman, Sankoh, Maskita Dead

War crime indictee and former Internal Affairs Minister, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who was being tried at the Special Court for Sierra Leone died yesterday Thursday February 22nd, 2007 in Dakar, Senegal.

Mr. Norman according to reports, collapsed at 10:55am. Desperate efforts to revive him proved futile. He was proclaimed dead at exactly 11:15am whilst responding to treatment in Senegal.

Mr. Norman and other Special Court indictees were taken to Dakar January 17th this year for medicare. The surgery it was learned, was performed on Thursday February 8th 2007 without complica-

tion.

Initial reports have it that Mr. Norman suffered heart failure during post-operative care.

Mr. Lovemore Munlo, Special Court Registrar, has ordered an independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death.

Mr. Munlo has already informed family members yesterday and expressed his deep personal regret at their loss.

It could be recalled that the Sierra Leone Police, under the command of the Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of Western Area Mr. TP Gbeki, raided his Liverpool Street office where he was arrested and

charged with 8 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, stemming from acts allegedly carried out by the Civil Defence Militia during the decade-long civil conflict in the country.

He had maintained his innocence throughout the trial which began in June 2005, with a verdict still pending before the Second Trial Chamber of the Special Court.

When this press visited some members of his family at his Spur Road residence yester noon, they were shedding tears and expressed utter disappointment over the SLPP govt's failure to do what was required of them to have averted such unfortunate occurrence.

Profile of Hinga Norman

Samuel Hinga Norman was born on 1st January 1940 in Ngolala village in the Bo district of Sierra Leone.

He served in the armed forces of Sierra Leone from 1959 to 1972 reaching the rank of Captain. In 1966, he obtained his diploma from the Officers School in Aldershot, United Kingdom. After serving as Vice Minister of Defence he became Interior Affairs Minister for Sierra Leone up until the time of his arrest. According to the indictment, Norman was the national coordinator of the CDF (Civil Defence Force), in particular after 30 November 1996, the date from which accusations were levelled against him by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Due to this position, he is considered to have been the principal authority with the power to establish, organise, support, lend logistical support and to further the aims of the CDF.

During the conflict he was also reported to have been the leader of the pro-government militia made up of traditional hunters, the Kamajors, who put themselves at the disposition of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in 1996 in order to combat the rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

As the national coordinator of the CDF and Commander of the Kamajors, Norman is said to have known about and approved the recruitment, initiation and training of the Kamajors as well as young children of less than 15 years of age, who subsequently were used to take part in hostilities.

According to the indictment, given his position, Norman exercised authority, command and control over all subordinate members of the CDF.

Samuel Norman's plan, as well as that of the members of the CDF, allegedly was to take all necessary measures to defeat the forces of the alliance between the RUF and the AFRC (Armed Forces Revolutionary Council), and to gain control over the territory of Sierra Leone. This reportedly included taking entire control over the civilian population as well as the complete elimination of the RUF/AFRC as well as their partisan followers, sympathisers and any person who had not actively shown resistance to the RUF/AFRC.

The Accused is said to have acted both individually and in concert with his subordinates in the execution of this plan.

In various parts of the country, the CDF, in the majority made up of Kamajors, is said to have undertaken military actions against the RUF/AFRC. These actions in particular included attacks against civilians suspected of "collaborating" with the rebels. Whenever these civilians were identified as being collaborators, they were illegally killed either through being shot or hacked to death or by being burnt alive.

Such acts, which also included looting, the destruction of private property and violence to physical well-being, were aimed at terrorising and menacing the local populations.



The Exclusive
Friday, 23 February 2007

Commentary

THE DEATH OF A HERO!

United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone war crimes indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, former Deputy Minister of Defence and coordinator of the civil defence Forces (CDF) was announced dead yesterday afternoon. This newspaper had often times reported on the ailing status of Chief Norman, with headlines like 'Hinga Norman is dying' etc. No one took heed and Peter Anderson, the Public Affairs Director of the Special Court kept blaming us for sensationalism.

HINGA NORMAN THE HERO

In the eyes of the majority of Sierra Leoneans, Chief Sam Hinga Norman was a hero who fought tooth and nail to chase out the RUF rebels and their S.L.A allies and restored the legitimate government of HE Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah; something even the out gone British Commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan, Gen. Julian Richards who interacted with Norman in Sierra Leone's hottest moment, attested to at a special session of the Special Court in Freetown.

TELEPHONE CALL TO NORMAN

We could still recall that this press once managed to access the late Chief Norman's telephone number in his detention and interviewed him on the phone. He told us that he was not only disappointed but felt very much betrayed by President Kabbah and the SLPP. He threatened to go on hunger strike; but nobody seemed to care.

When we reported the story, officials at the Special Court told us we were prejudicing their trials and threatened us with a cease of cooperation between them and our medium. When we called Norman the next day, we could not reach him apparently because, his line had been cut off.

GOVT. PRESSURE ON NORMAN

Government officials secretly held meetings with the late chief to get him to pacify the thousands of his 'kamajor' followers who were threatening to fight back; to the extent that the late hero put out a statement urging his followers and friends, not to go to any other party but remain in the SLPP.

NORMAN JOINED PMDC

All of a sudden, Norman, Moinina Fofana and others joined RUF, AFRC and SLA indictees to pledge their full fledged support for the PMDC; leaving the nation in doubt as to where Chief Sam Hinga Norman truly belongs.

NORMAN, SANKOH ENCOUNTER

This commentator recalled when during the disarmament process, the late Foday Sankoh and now late Chief Norman met in Bo. Sankoh asked whether his men had not captured Norman, tied him up and taken to him to camp Zogada; where Sankoh ordered his release. Indeed Norman acknowledged that as true.

May the soul of this great hero rest in peace especially when he is going to his final resting place.

Rest in peace; the great son of Sierra Leone. You will always be remembered by patriotic Sierra Leoneans.

How Special Court broke news of Hinga Norman's death

It is with deep regret that the Special Court for Sierra Leone announces the death of the former Sierra Leone Internal Affairs Minister Sam Hinga Norman, who was on trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Norman died today at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal.

Mr. Norman and another Special Court detainee were taken to Dakar on 17 January for medical procedures which were considered routine, but which were unavailable in Sierra Leone. Those procedures were performed on Thursday, 8 February, without complication.

At 10:55 this morning Mr. Norman collapsed and, despite attempts to revive him, was pronounced dead at about 11:15.

Initial indications are that Mr. Norman suffered heart fail-

ure during post-operative care. Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC has ordered an independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death.

Mr. Munlo informed family members early this afternoon and expressed his deep personal regret at their loss.

Mr. Norman had been charged with 8 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by the Civil Defence Militia he headed during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil conflict. He had maintained his innocence throughout the trial, which began in June 2004.

A verdict in the case is pending before the Trial Chamber.

Prosecutor Express Regret at the Death of Sam Hinga Norman

The following is a statement by Stephen Rapp, the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

At noon today, the Office of the Prosecutor was informed of the death of Sam Hinga Norman, Defendant before the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Norman had been taken to a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal on January 17 for routine medical procedures.

We deeply regret the death of Hinga Norman and express our sincere condolences to his family. His death means that there will not be a judgement issued by the Trial Chamber in his case.

All parties to this case deserved to see a verdict rendered. Hinga Norman's death means that the people of Sierra Leone are deprived of their right to see justice

done in an important and high-profile case before the Special Court.

Our Mission, our pledge and our duty has been and remains to bring justice to those who bear the greatest responsibility for the terrible atrocities suffered by the people of Sierra Leone. When an Accused dies before judgement, then justice is denied.

While we profoundly regret the death of Hinga Norman, we will continue our work to see that justice is done in the name of and on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone.

The Prosecutor indicted Hinga Norman on 3 March 2003 with eight counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by forces under his command during Sierra Leone's civil conflict.

Norman to be handed over to family for burial

It has been authoritatively confirmed that the remains of late Sam Hinga Norman is to be handed over to his family for burial after an international medical expert would have conducted an independent investigation to determine the exact cause of death.

It happened in the case of Foday Sankoh who died in the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

and the former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosovic who died in the custody of the war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Like Melosovic, Norman was awaiting judgement in his trial when he passed away. And now the court says there will not be a judgement issued by the Trial Chamber in his case.

The court did not say when his body would be flown home.

HINGA NORMAN

**1st Jan 1940
to
22nd Feb 2007**

Samuel Hinga Norman was born on 1st January 1940 in Ngolala village in the Bo district of Sierra Leone.

He served in the armed forces of Sierra Leone from 1959 to 1972 reaching the rank of Captain. In 1966, he obtained his diploma from the Officers School in Aldershot, United Kingdom.

After serving as Vice Minister of Defence he became Interior Affairs Minister for Sierra Leone up until the time of his arrest.

According to the indictment, Norman was the national coordinator of the CDF (Civil Defence Force), in particular after 30 November 1996, the date from which accusations were levelled against him by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Due to this position, he is considered to have been the principal authority with the power to establish, organise, support, lend logistical support and to further the aims of the CDF.

During the conflict he was also reported to have been the leader of the pro-government militia made up of traditional hunters, the Kamajors, who put themselves at the disposition of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in 1996 in order to combat the rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

As the national coordinator of the CDF and Commander of the Kamajors, Norman is said to have known about and approved the recruitment, initiation and training of the Kamajors as well as young children of less than 15 years of age, who subsequently were used to take part in hostilities.

According to the indictment, given his position, Norman exercised authority, command and control over all subordinate members of the CDF.

Samuel Norman's plan, as well as that of the members of the CDF, allegedly was to take all necessary measures to defeat the forces of the alliance between the RUF and the AFRC (Armed Forces Revolutionary Council), and to gain control over the territory of Sierra Leone. This reportedly included taking entire control over the civilian population as well as the complete elimination of the RUF/AFRC as well as their partisan followers, sympathisers and any person who had not actively shown resistance to the RUF/AFRC.

The Accused is said to have acted both individually and in concert with his subordinates in the execution of this plan.

In various parts of the country, the CDF, in the majority made up of Kamajors, is said to have undertaken military actions against the RUF/AFRC. These actions in particular included attacks against civilians suspected of "collaborating" with the rebels. Whenever these civilians were identified as being collaborators, they were illegally killed either through being shot or hacked to death or by being burnt alive.

Such acts, which also included looting, the destruction of private property and violence to physical well-being, were aimed at terrorising and menacing the local populations.

The Spark

Friday, 23 February 2007

By Abu Bakarr Jalloh

The Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Mr. Lovemore Munlo yesterday told journalists at a hurriedly organised Press Conference at the Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA) that one of their indictees, Chief Sam Hinga Norman has died. The Registrar disclosed that Norman died in a Military Hospital in the capital city of Dakar in Senegal where he and one of his fellow indictees, Issa Sesay were receiving medical

treatment. According to the BBC programme, Focus on Africa, Norman is said to have died of heart failure. Earlier on it was rumoured to have been flown to Senegal for hip prob-

lems.

Continued page 3

He Is Dead!!!

From front page

Extending condolences to the bereaved family, Mr. Munlo expressed the court's regrets over what he described as the sudden death of Norman saying that the Special Court does not wish to have received such shocking news.

The Prosecutor of the Court, Stephen Rapp said the death of Norman means that the people of Sierra Leone have now been deprived of their right to justice in the matter of the late indictee. He affirmed that the Court's earlier mission statement and duty to bring to justice all those

who bear the greatest responsibilities for the terrible atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's civil conflict remains the same, adding that when an indictee dies before judgement then, justice is denied.

It could be recalled that the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman was indicted two years ago by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for what it called atrocities committed by former fighters of the Civil Defence Force then known as Kamajors during the decade-old rebel war. He has since been in custody of the court until his recent

death. Norman found himself in the court's net for having led the former Kamajors in his capacity as Co-ordinator of the CDF, a position he ran simultaneously with the office of Deputy Defence Minister in the SLPP Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. He also served President Kabbah as Minister of Internal Affairs.

News of his death was received with mixed feelings as Sierra Leoneans as sympathisers and opponents alike, held different views over the incident. According to one of his daughters, the family of the late man

would highly appreciate if the Government could lay their hands off their father because, she alleged that the Government whom her father worked assiduously for to the point of risking his life to ensure the return of democracy to the nation after the RUF and the AFRC regime had gone all out to disrupt the lives of peaceful citizens. Opponents hold the view and still remember Norman's role in the coup of 1967 when he was a Lieutenant in the Army and helped in arresting the then Governor General the late Sir Henry Josiah Lightfoot-Boston

at State House, an incident which culminated in the notorious Martial Law under the Leadership of Brigadier David Lansana in a bid to ensure the SLPP continued in power after the 1967 elections which ended in a 32-32 tie between the SLPP and the APC.

The remains of the late man is expected home soon.

In his youth, he served the Armed Forces of Sierra Leone where he rose to the rank of a Captain. He is survived by his wife and many children some at home and abroad.

And A Bone Is Left Alone

As the news of the death of Sam Hinga Norman hits us, one could not help but recall the kindergarten school game in which the farmer goes into the ring and attracts a whole bunch of other players. Maybe you remember it. If not let me remind you that it goes this way. 'The farmer in the den, the farmer in the den, ah yo ah yo ah yo....' When Foday Sankoh took up arms in 1991, he attracted a whole lot of players into the circle. He started this beautiful game together with his godfather Charles Taylor. The farmer in the den the farmer in the den ah yo ah yo ah yo.... The first to jump into the ring with him was the late President J.S. Momoh. Do you remember how he called us to State House and informed us about the war? He told us that he was going to don his military uniform and personally chase the rebels out of their hiding places. The farmer takes a wife; the farmer takes a wife ah yo ah yo ah yo....

Then there was the Strasser regime with young and vibrant military officers all ready to take the falling nation into a higher height. Would I need to remind you of the role played by the NPRC strongman, S A J Musa? He was the one who tried to turn Sierra Leoneans to their sense of responsibility overnight. The wife takes a child, the wife takes a child, ah yo ah yo ah yo..... When things became too messy, ECOMOG was brought in to institute some sanity into the whole rubbish. We all remember the role played by the then Nigerian leader Sani Abacha. We even named a street after him. The child takes a nurse-the child takes a nurse ah yo ah yo ah yo....

Sierra Leoneans got tired and made a loud, clear and desperate call for Democracy. Next player? Hon. Tejan Kabbah. The nurse takes a dog-the nurse takes a dog ah yo ah yo ah yo....The war still raged on. The soldiers who were sent to the war front to defend the citizenry of the country turned their backs on us and teamed up with the rebels forcing us to call them SOBELS. Tejan Kabbah was left with no other alternative but to turn to civilians for help. Thus the Civil Defence Force CDF headed by his strongest man, Sam Hinga Norman. The dog takes a bone the dog takes a bone ah yo ah yo ah yo....

The ring then became too crowded and the players started leaving firstly with the demise of J S Momoh. The wife goes away-the wife goes away ah yo ah yo ah yo...Foday Sankoh then died with no one to shed a tear. The farmer goes away-the farmer goes away ah yo ah yo ah yo...The news of the death of Sani Abacha did not only shake Freetown but the continent as a whole. The nurse goes away the nurse goes away ah yo ah yo ah yo...S A J Musa, it is said died a gruesome death. Well we were not there to see the corpse. All we know was, he died. The child goes away-the child goes away ah yo ah yo ah yo... Yesterday the news of the death of Sam Hinga Norman hit Sierra Leone like a tornado. Maybe this time there will be some tears shed. The bone goes away the bone goes away ah yo ah yo ah yo.... Hey wait! Did I see one more player in the ring?

Hinga Norman dies in Dakar



By Solomon G Brima

The Registrar of the Special Court in Sierra Leone, Mr. Lovemor Munlo has announced the sad news of the death of former

Minister of Internal Affairs and Head of the Kamajors, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, at a press briefing held at the office of the Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA).

Breaking the news, Mr. Munlo told the media that the late Chief Norman who was on trial before Special Court on 8 Count charges of war

crimes and crimes against humanity, was flown to Dakar for medical treatment on the 17th of January this year, after it has been proved that the type of treatment

he required was unavailable in this country.

The Special Court Registrar further pointed out that the Late [See back page](#)

Hinga Norman dies in Dakar

Hinga Norman underwent a successful operation on the 8th of February and his health gave signs of improvement of late.

Mr. Lovemore Munlo told the press that he got news that Mr. Norman died yesterday morning between 10:55 and 11:15, adding that he had relayed news of his death to the late man's lawyer and family members. Meanwhile, he said, the Special Court was awaiting to get more information from the Senegalese authorities, while the prosecution will now determine the fate of

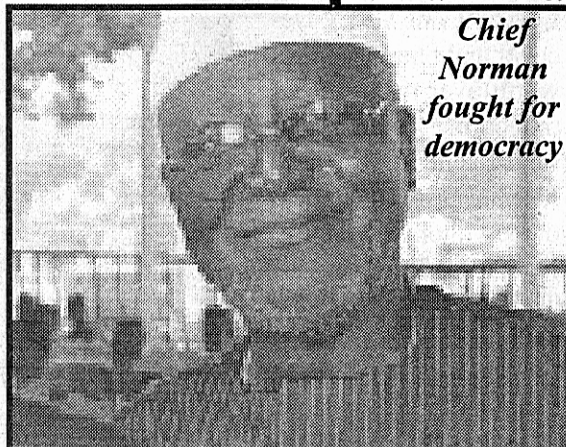
the case. Deputy Registrar Herman Von Mebel and the Principal Defender, Vincent Nmehielle were part of the Special Court team. Mr. Norman was facing an 8 count charge of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by the Civil Defence Militia he headed during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil conflict. He had maintained his innocence throughout the trial, which began in June 2005. A verdict in the case is pending before the Trial Chamber

Hinga Norman drops dead

Former Internal Affairs Ministers and Special Court indictee Chief Sam Hinga Norman died yesterday at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal.

Breaking the news, the Prosecutor of Special Court Stephen Rapp told journalist in Freetown

Cont. page 2



*Chief
Norman
fought for
democracy*

Hinga Norman drops dead

From front page

Norman and another Special Court detainee were taken to Dakar on 17 January for medical procedures which were considered routine, but which were unavailable in Sierra Leone. Those procedures were performed on Thursday 8th February without complication.

At 10:55 this morning Mr. Norman collapsed and, despite attempts to revive him, was pronounced dead at about 11:15. Initial indications are that Mr. Norman suffered heart failure during post-opera-

tive care.

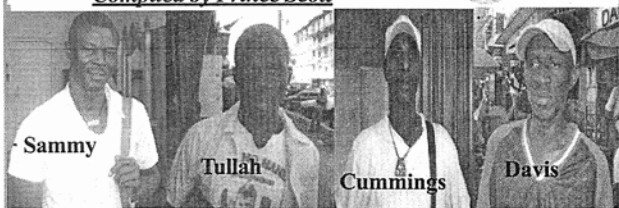
Stephen Rapp noted that Norman's death means that there will not be a judgement issued by the Trial Chamber in his case. "All parties to this case deserved to see a verdict rendered. Hinga Norman's death means that the people of Sierra Leone are deprived of their right to see justice done in an important and high profile case before the Special Court" he said.

Meanwhile, the Registrar Lovemore Munlo, disclosed that Special

Court has ordered an independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death. The late Sam Hinga Norman had been charged with 8 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by the Civil Defence Militia he headed during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil conflict. He had maintained his innocence throughout the trial, which began in June 2005.

VOX POP

Compiled by Prince Scott



Hinga Norman is dead What the people say

Former Internal Affairs Ministers and Special Court indictee Chief Sam Hinga Norman died yesterday at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal. This event prompted various reactions from the public among which are the following.

Femi Cummings (Jawukateh)

Comedian

Big blow

Hinga Norman's death came as a shock to all Sierra Leoneans. His death is a big blow to the people of this country. Norman was a very popular figure and key member of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP)

Davis Bangura

Businessman

Rawdon Street

Frustration

I strongly believe Norman's death was as a result of frustrations he suffered from the hands of the SLPP government and pressure from the charges he faced at the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

Sammy Messi

Trader

Swizzy

Disappointed

It's still unbelievable that Sam Hinga Norman is dead. This man has served this country diligently. To be honest I do not know who is responsible for his death. I am really disappointed because Sierra Leoneans were awaiting final verdict to know whether he is guilty or not.

Steven P Turay

Student

Wilberforce Street

Split in SLPP

SLPP has finally reached the point of disintegration. Everybody knows the party and government failed to rescue this devoted Sierra Leonean. As a born Mende from Norman village we know Norman's death is not natural.

Momoh Tullah

Businessman

Swizzy

Betrayal

The government is highly responsible for Norman's predicament. Norman was one of those who fought to restore President Kabbah back into power after he was forced to flee Freetown. The government should have helped him instead of handing him over to be tried. Johnny Paul who overthrows his government and also committed a lot of atrocities was aided to escape because he threatened to called top government officials that were supporting them during the war. Why not Norman who has helped Kabbah and this country? The big question is why he was taken to Senegal instead of Europe where there is better medical facility.

Emmanuel Sigismond

Businessman

It will tell on SLPP

I am not happy with the way he met his death, considering the fact that he has defended this country. Norman was just a deputy and was receiving command from his boss the (president) man. Peter Penfold explains the efforts made by Chief Norma when Sierra Leone was faced with crisis whiles testifying at the Special Court sometimes last year. This will sure limited SLPP's chance of winning the election.

United Nations News

Thursday, 22 February 2007

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21649&Cr=sierra&Cr1=leone>

UN-backed Sierra Leone court says war crimes suspect's death means justice denied

22 February 2007 – The death of a former militia leader suspected of war crimes in Sierra Leone has deprived the West African country's people of their right to see justice done, the prosecutor of a United Nations-backed court there said today, while pledging to press forward on their behalf.

The Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp, issued a statement in Freetown voicing deep regret at the death today of the West African country's former Internal Affairs Minister and militia leader Sam Hinga Norman, who has been on trial for war crimes since the summer of 2004.

Mr. Norman's death signals an end to the case mounted against him in the Special Court, where, as one of the leaders of the now-defunct Civil Defence Forces (CDF), he was being tried on eight counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including unlawful killing, physical violence, mental suffering, terrorizing civilians and using child soldiers during the brutal 10-year civil war.

"Hinga Norman's death means that the people of Sierra Leone are deprived of their right to see justice done in an important and high-profile case before the Special Court," Mr. Rapp said. "When an Accused dies before judgment, then justice is denied."

Mr. Norman died this morning at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal, and initial reports indicate that he suffered heart failure during post-operative care.

He was transferred to the hospital on 17 January for medical procedures generally considered routine but which are not available in Sierra Leone. He received treatment on 8 February with no complications.

The Court's Registrar, Lovemore Munlo, has ordered an independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death.

Mr. Rapp said, "While we profoundly regret the death of Hinga Norman, we will continue our work to see that justice is done in the name of and on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone."

The Court is the world's first hybrid international war crimes tribunal, and was established by an agreement in January 2002 between the United Nations and the Republic of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in the country after 30 November 1996.

BBC Online

Thursday, 22 February 2007

S Leone War Crimes Suspect Dies

One of the key defendants at the UN war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone - ex-former Defence Minister Sam Hinga Norman - has died, aged 67.

Mr Hinga Norman had been receiving medical treatment for several months. The verdict in his case was pending.

He was indicted for various crimes, including murder and acts of terrorism.

During the civil war, he led a pro-government militia which fought against Foday Sankoh's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel movement.

Correspondents say many in Sierra Leone considered him to be a hero for his role in resisting the rebel forces.

Mr Hinga Norman had been to a military hospital in Senegal in January to receive "routine" medical treatment, but died after surgery, the Special Court for Sierra Leone said.

"At about 1055 (GMT) Mr Norman collapsed and, despite attempts to revive him, was pronounced dead at about 1115," the court said in a statement.

"Initial indications are that Mr Norman suffered heart failure during post-operative care," it said.

The special court was set up to prosecute those with most responsibility for war crimes during a brutal 10-year civil war.

The conflict spread across West Africa and created millions of refugees.



Hinga Norman was due to hear a verdict in his case

Reuters

Thursday, 23 February 2007

Sierra Leone war crimes indictee Hinga Norman dies

By Nick Tattersall

DAKAR, Feb 22 (Reuters) - A former Sierra Leonean militia leader, whose fighters were accused of human sacrifice and cannibalism during the country's civil war, died on Thursday weeks before a verdict was due in his trial for war crimes.

Sam Hinga Norman, a former government minister and co-ordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) militia during the ex-British colony's 1991-2002 conflict, had been on trial at a U.N.-backed tribunal in the capital Freetown.

He was flown to a military hospital in Senegal in January for medical treatment which had been considered routine but died after surgery, the Special Court for Sierra Leone said.

"At about 1055 (GMT) Mr Norman collapsed and, despite attempts to revive him, was pronounced dead at about 1115," the court said in a statement.

"Initial indications are that Mr Norman suffered heart failure during post-operative care," it said.

Sierra Leone's war shocked the world with its images of drugged-up child soldiers and civilians whose limbs were hacked off by machete-wielding rebel and militia fighters. U.N. peacekeepers disarmed more than 47,000 fighters before it ended.

Norman was acting defence minister and national coordinator of the CDF during the war, in which some 50,000 people were killed. He was also leader of the feared Kamajor hunters that formed the backbone of the militia.

The indictment against Norman and two co-defendants stated that Kamajor fighters killed scores of civilians suspected of sympathising with the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

It said some were hacked and burned to death and that the militia practised cannibalism.

The indictment also said Norman knew and approved of the recruitment of children below the age of 15 into the Kamajor.

Norman had been charged with eight counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during one of modern Africa's most brutal wars but had maintained his innocence throughout the trial, which began in June 2004.

The prosecution told a packed courtroom in Freetown when the trial began that witnesses had described how drug-addled Kamajor fighters paraded severed heads and ate the roasted flesh and intestines of their victims.

It said the three defendants were each personally liable for crimes carried out under their orders "as if they committed each and every crime themselves".

The Special Court's highest-profile indictee, former president of neighbouring Liberia Charles Taylor, has been sent to a special sitting of the court in The Hague to face war crimes charges linked to his support for rebels during the war.

Other top war crimes suspects have died before being brought to justice by the tribunal.

RUF leader Foday Sankoh died in captivity in 2003, months after his field commander Sam Bockarie was shot dead in Liberia.

Johnny Paul Koroma, the former leader of a military junta accused of atrocities, vanished several years ago and many Sierra Leoneans believe he is dead, although the court has not withdrawn his indictment.

Associated Press

Friday, 23 February 2007

Sierra Leone War Crimes Defendant Dies

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone - Sam Hinga Norman, a former government minister on trial for allegedly overseeing a militia accused of torturing and mutilating civilians during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war, died Thursday at a Senegalese hospital, a court statement said.

Norman, 67, Sierra Leone's former internal affairs minister, had been awaiting a verdict on eight charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly performed by fighters he oversaw during the 1991-2002 war.

The court statement said Norman, who had been flown to Senegal's capital, Dakar, on Jan. 17 for medical procedures, died of apparent heart failure.

Norman maintained his innocence throughout his trial, which began in June 2004 at the U.N.-backed Sierra Leone Special Court in the capital, Freetown. During hearings, 75 prosecution witnesses testified to support charges of murder, systematic looting and burning of villages, as well as the recruitment of child soldiers.

"Initial indications are that Mr. Norman suffered heart failure during postoperative care," the statement said. An independent investigation has been ordered to determine the exact cause of death.

Sierra Leone's Special Court was established to try those bearing the "greatest responsibility" for atrocities committed during years of vicious fighting in which various groups burned villages, chopped off people's hands with machetes and went on campaigns of rape.

It is estimated that about half a million people were victims of killings, systematic mutilation and other atrocities during the fighting.

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is awaiting trial by the same court, though his hearing is set to take place in The Hague out of concern that his presence in Sierra Leone could destabilize the fragile region.

Some have criticized the Special Court - which has yet to produce a ruling on any of the 12 originally indicted in 2003 - for not progressing through trials quickly enough. Two others have died since the indictments - one of natural causes and one in a killing that many believe was a move to silence him.

A judgment on Norman's case had been widely expected within the next few months.

Voice of America

Thursday, 22 February 2007

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-02-22-voa55.cfm>

Sierra Leone War Crimes Suspect Dies in Custody

A Sierra Leone war crimes suspect has died while awaiting a verdict in his trial.

Officials from the Special Court for Sierra Leone said Sam Hinga Norman collapsed and died Thursday at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal. He was 67 years old.

In a release, the court said the exact cause of death is under investigation, but that initial indications suggest Norman died of heart failure. He had been taken to Dakar last month for medical procedures unavailable in Sierra Leone.

The court's prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, said Norman's death deprives the people of Sierra Leone their right to see justice done in the case.

Norman was charged with eight counts of war crimes stemming from acts carried out by the militia he commanded during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war.

A verdict in the case had been expected soon. Rapp said Norman's death means the court will not issue a judgment in the case.

More than 200,000 people were killed and thousands more were mutilated during the brutal Sierra Leone conflict during the 1990s.

Star Radio (Liberia)

Thursday, 22 February 2007

UN-backed Special Court Wants Hinga Norman's Death Investigated

Written by Wellington Geevon Smith

The UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has ordered an independent investigation in the death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

Chief Hinga Norman, a detained former Deputy Defense Minister of Sierra Leone, died Thursday at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal.

Chief Hinga-Norman was flown to Senegal in January for medical procedures, which were performed on February 8 without complication.

A statement issued by the Special Court said Chief Hinga Norman collapsed and was pronounced dead in an attempt to revive him.

Chief Hinga Norman was coordinator of the Civil Defense Force in Sierra Leone's eleven-year bloody civil war.

He was arrested and charged on eight-counts for the role he allegedly played in the atrocities and human rights violation that occurred during the war.

Cocorioko Website

Thursday, 22 February 2007

<http://www.cocorioko.net>

Shock Waves Rip Through Diaspora and Sa. Leone: Chief Sam Hinga Norman is Dead

Heads are bowed and mouths are full with dismay and disbelief. Chief Hinga Norman, the Special Court indictee who continued to create waves in Sierra Leone's chequered political arena even while in captivity has died .

When the news hit the airwaves via telephone calls from all over the world, COCORIOKO, the newspaper known for bringing readers all the scoops , was transfixed in disbelief and did not want to be the one to break such an astonishing news that may later turn out to be a political gimmick, until the confirmation from the Special Court of Sierra Leone, which is trying Norman for alleged war crimes and infact sent him to Dakar, Senegal, only on January 17 , this year, for medical treatment that got many tongues wagging . Loyalists feared the worst when they learnt of the trip to Senegal until Chief Norman himself and the Special Court assured one and all that the late Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force (CDF) had only been taken to Dakar for a long-scheduled treatment on his hip

ONLY LAST WEEK, Chief Hinga Norman himself confirmed that the news that had been having the political scene buzzing for months was true---He and other indictees had joined the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), a move that members of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) conceded , put a dent on the hopes of the party to win the forthcoming Presidential and Legislative Elections. Norman was a born SLPP die-hard before this and helped to bring back the SLPP government after it was overthrown by errant and rebel soldiers of the Sierra Leone military forces on May 27, 1997. Norman marshalled the CDF, a fearsome militia made up of hunters and members of the public, to fight dauntlessly and bravely alongside the multi-national interventionist force , ECOMOG , to defeat the army and rebel government and restore the SLPP.

Sierra Leoneans were trying to come to terms with the latest surprise from Chief Norman when his death was announced today by the Special Court.

Though dead, Hinga Norman may continue to cast his shadows over the country's politics and future, especially if his loyalists decide to still make his phenomenon count in the country's political metamorphosis.

Hinga Norman's sudden death in Dakar today brings to an end a controversial military and political career of a man that was devoted to the SLPP to the point that he played a hand in some of the most tumultuous events in the country's history. It was Norman , for instance, who led soldiers to State House in 1967 to stop the swearing-in ceremony of the then Prime Minister Siaka Stevens , after the then Governor-General, Sir Henry Lightfoot-Boston , declared Stevens and his All People's Congress (APC) winners of the 1967 watershed elections .

Norman was arrested for Treason after the APC came to power but he won his case after many years in jail.

When the rebels and renegade soldiers threatened to overrun Sierra Leone in the 1990s, Chief Norman headed the CDF or Kamajor militia, which played a leading role in thwarting the efforts of the rebels from seizing power in Sierra Leone.

Today's event is one of the most shocking and unbelievable news to have haunted Sierra Leone ever.

May his soul rest in peace.

Cocorioko website

February, 22 February 2007

<http://www.cocorioko.net/INTERNATIONALMEDICALEXPERTSTO.html>

Special Court Regrets Hinga Norman's Death: International Medical Experts to Investigate

By Joseph Kamanda

Shortly after the death of the Special Court indictee , Sam Hinga Norman, was on Thursday announced, Registrar of the Court Lovemore Munlo told journalists at a news conference that an investigation has to be conducted by international medical experts to know the cause of Mr. Norman's death.

The former Internal Affairs Minister according to the Public Affairs Office Special Court for Sierra Leone, collapsed at 10:55 on Thursday morning and attempts to revive him proved futile. He was later pronounced dead at about 11:15.

Prosecutor of the Court , Stephen Rapp, said that his office was informed about the defendant's death before the Special Court. He says Mr. Norman's death means that there will not be a judgment issued by the Trial Chamber in his case as all parties to this case deserved to see a verdict rendered. Mr. Rapp says Hinga Norman's death has deprived Sierra Leoneans of their right to see justice done in an important and high-profile case before the Special Court.

Mr. Norman had been charged with eight counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by the Civil Defence Militia which he headed during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil conflict. He had maintained his innocence throughout the trial, which began in June 2005.

A verdict in the case was to have been delivered in April this year.

Cocorioko website

Thursday, 22 February 2007

<http://www.cocorioko.net/SAMFORAYCALLSFORCALM.html>

Rev. SamForay Calls on Kamajors in Sierra Leone to Remain Calm and Respect the Peace

A very sad and grieving Rev. Alfred SamForay last night called on all members of the Civil Defence Force (CDF) and sympathisers of the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman to remain calm and continue to respect the law and peace .

Rev. Samforay, who is the Spokesman of the Hinga Norman Defence Fund was talking exclusively to COCORIOKO last night on the sudden death of Chief Norman.

Mr. Samforay told this newspaper that Chief Norman died from internal bleeding. He disclosed that the bleeding was not from the places involved in the hip replacement surgery the chief had taken. It was from a different place, he disclosed. "The bleeding was internal and they knew " (Referring to Special Court officials in Dakar). His own doctor told them .They were aware of it", SamForay stressed.

Rev. Samforay stated that three days ago , the chief collapsed again and became unconscious because of this bleeding , "But they gave him blood transfusion and revived him ", he went on. However, the same thing happened yesterday and this time they could not revive him, he continued.

The Chief, Samforay went on, did not want to go to Senegal for the operation. He wanted to go to a more advanced country but he was in no position to determine the final decision and he had to go to Senegal. He just wanted the surgery done and the matter got done with. Rev. Samforay stated that they, the family of the chief were awaiting the autopsy by international experts, as promised by the Special Court. He said the family too was meeting in Senegal to also make their own plans.

Mr. Samforay indicated that Chief Norman's daughter, Juliet , was so shocked yesterday that she had to be hospitalized but he stated that she had returned home but was still so devastated she was not able to talk to people and was just crying.

"When you spoke to him recently, did he complain to you about anything ?" , COCORIOKO demanded .

In response, Rev. Samforay said that in the days after the operation, he used to talk to the chief and he was doing fine. There was no indication of anything having gone wrong. Rev. Samforay disclosed further that during his last discussion with the chief, he was in good mood and complained about nothing. He had just had his physical exercise which he does twice everyday and was even joking that he was going to bed and even if his mother called after that he would not be able to speak to her." It was just a joke, of course ", he clarified.

Mr. Samforay said the chief's death was very shocking and sad but he appealed to all Kamajors and supporters to keep up the same spirit of calmness they had been observing before. "We don't want any activity that would detract from the sadness of the situation. They should be calm and let us all wait for the body to be handed to the family so that we can give the chief the fitting funeral he deserves", Samforay continued. "I just spoke to them, he told COCORIOKO, "And they are in grief but are holding out fine ".

COCORIOKO: Have the SLPP reached out to the family ?

Rev. Samforay replied that he did not know. The death just happened , he went on, and so they may be planning to do that.

EARLIER yesterday at Leonenet-UMBC, Rev Foray complained : "The autopsy will tell us nothing that we don't already no. That this was no act of God. Chief has been loosing blood over the past three days or so. His court-appointed doctor raised the alarm to the Senegalese doctors but he was ignored. Two days ago, he became unconscious and was given blood and recovered temporarily. This morning he collapsed again and they tried to rush him to ER but it was too late."

"From what we know now after talking to the court physician and the son with him in Dakar, attending nurses were not permitted by court security to see Chief at night when he called for help. His blood count had dropped to alarming levels over the past few days but no emergency measures were taken to remedy the situation. The court physician was helpless in the situation."

Rev.Samforay had also complained about Internal Affairs Minister, Pascal Egbenda and appealed for an unbiased autopsy : "All in all, the most painful moment for me today aside from the obvious is my speaking with SL Internal Affairs Minister, Pascal Egbanda. After calling him early this morning to give him heads up on the situation, he first of all told me in so many words, he did not wish to be interrupted in his meeting. Calling him later to verify Norman's death, he indicated as far as he was concerned, it was still a rumour. With my wife on the phone, Egbanda accused me of fomenting trouble in the country after I advised him that it will be prudent to alert security forces before the death was announced to the public. Especially since Kabbah and his VP are both out of Freetown. I have never in my life dealt with any one as cold as this guy. Apparently he was on his way to Lugbu and did not wish to be bothered by such matters. The most depressing thing of it all was that this was my own brother (cousin to be sure) and he never in our conversation express remorse or say, I am sorry."

"My appeal to all is that we prevail on the people at Hospital de la Dantec in Senegal not to falsify the autopsy results for expediency sake. The hospital, we are told, is far less than Connaught Hospital in days gone by. In the past few days, Norman had to cook his own meals. It was not the VIP military hospital John Leigh and Peter Andersen told the world. We are only blessed that we were able to fly some of Norman's family over there to see for themselves what we had reported earlier and were chastized for causing trouble. The court physician in attendance is being pressured to go along with the heart attack rubbish and he too needs our support as much as the Norman family presently. In all fairness, Dr. Harding, in his own words: "I did the best I could." Indeed he did, but his hands were tied and now they want him to lie."

COCORIOKO called the Chief of Public Affairs and Information of the Special Court , Mr. Peter Andersen, for his own comments but his telephone rang for long and was nobody came on the line.

IRIN

Thursday, 22 February 2007

War crimes indictee's death is blow to Special Court

DAKAR, 22 February (IRIN) - SIERRA LEONE - Death of war crimes indictee a blow to Special Court Freetown - (IRIN) - Sam Hinga Norman, the leader of the local civil defence militia that helped defeat the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) during the 1991 to 2001 civil war but who was later indicted by the UN-backed court in Sierra Leone, has died.

"A verdict in the case was to have been delivered shortly," according to a press release issued on Thursday by the Special Court for Sierra Leone which had had him in detention.

Norman collapsed on Thursday morning following a medical procedure at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal. "Initial indications are that Mr. Norman suffered heart failure during post-operative care," the statement said.

Norman, who had served as the country's deputy minister of defence throughout the war, was revered by many people in Sierra Leone for having galvanized local hunter groups known as the Kamajors to resist the rebel RUF, which had controlled most of the country during periods of the war and twice took the capital Freetown.

Members of the Civil Defence Front, or CDF as the militia was known, claimed to have magic powers to stop bullets penetrating their bodies. They were estimated to number 20,000, more than both the army and the rebels.

The army and the rebels joined forces during the war committing heinous atrocities against civilians, although so too did the CDF.

The Special Court was jointly established in 2002 by the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone "to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996".

Norman's death is a major blow for the Court, according to the Thierry Cruvellier the editor of the International Justice Tribune, an independent newsletter specialized in international justice issues. "This was the most important case before the court in Freetown because, for many Sierra Leoneans, Hinga Norman was seen as a war hero," Cruvellier said. "So the court had to draw the line between what many saw as legitimate action to stop both the army and the rebels from attacking the population, and war crimes committed for a just cause".

"So we are now facing a situation where in six years by 2008 the court will have at most only tried eight individuals in Freetown, all of them considered of secondary importance".

The Special Court is also trying the former president of Liberia Charles Taylor but the trial is to take place at The Hague.

"In the eyes of most people there is little doubt that Taylor and the other major inductees are war criminals," Cruvellier said.

"The only one subject to debate was Norman".

After the end of the civil war Norman became minister of the interior until his indictment by the Special Court in March 2003 for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He has been in detention at the court since then, maintaining his innocence throughout his trial, which began in June 2004.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 22 February 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberian Refugees Reluctant to Return Home

Kenema, Feb 21, 2007 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Thousands of Liberian refugees sheltering in camps in eastern Sierra Leone are reluctant to be repatriated, saying they would rather stay where they are or resettle in another country. Some of the refugees in two of the eight camps in Sierra Leone's eastern border province of Kenema said they felt conditions back in Liberia were not yet favourable for their return, despite assurances by the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) and the Liberian government that life had improved.

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea likely to extend martial law as talks fail to end crisis

CONAKRY, Feb 21, 2007 (AFP) - Guinea will extend a state of martial law due to expire on Friday if an ongoing general strike is not called off by then, the country's speaker of parliament said on Wednesday. "If the strike call is not lifted, we will extend the state of siege to safeguard security" in the country, Aboubacar Sompore told AFP.

Local Media – Newspaper

Unity Party Wins Nimba County District #6 By-Election

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

- The National Elections Commission yesterday declared the Unity Party candidate Evans Koah, winner of the Nimba County District #6 By-election. Mr. Koah won the run-off election with 71 percent of the valid votes cast over his rival, Paul Tuazanma of the Liberia Action Party who garnered 28 percent of the total votes cast.
- The Nimba County By-election brings to three the number of by-elections held since the government came to power.
- In the last by-election in Kakata, Margibi County, the Unity Party represented by its candidate, Ben Fofana, lost to Mr. Sorsor Jallah of the opposition Congress for Democratic Change while in another by-election in Rivercess County, the Unity Party was declared the winner.

Government Announces Preliminary Budget of US\$150 Million

(The Analyst, Heritage and Liberian Express)

- The Government of Liberia yesterday announced a preliminary budget of US\$150 million for 2007/2008, about 16 percent of the current budget.
- Speaking to reporters, Budget Director Augustine Ngafuan said that the budget would focus on the Government's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategies designed to consolidate peace, revitalize the agricultural sector, rebuild the economy and promote good governance and the rule of law.

Publisher's Lawyers Express Outrage as Activates Scorn Minister for "Sexual Impropriety"

(The Analyst, Heritage, The Inquirer, Daily Observer, The News, Liberian Express, The Informer, The Monitor)

- Lawyers representing the legal interest of *The Independent* Newspaper and its publisher, Sam O. Dean, have expressed outraged over reported instructions issued by the Government through the Liberia National Police declaring Mr. Dean as a "fugitive" for publishing a photo depicting Presidential Affairs Minister Willis Knuckles in an orgy with two ladies.
- The lawyers, Attorneys Sayma Syrenius Cephas and Adolphus Karnuah, said they were deeply troubled by reports that the government was hunting Mr. Dean, saying that to single out their client for arrest and prosecution instead of Mr. Knuckles who they claimed has intentionally patronized prostitution was unacceptable.

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

Ruling Party Wins Nimba County District By-Election

Government Begins Payment of Deactivated Security Personnel

- A circular released by the Ministry of Finance yesterday said that the Government, will today, Thursday, commence the payment of three months salary arrears to deactivated security officers and former Arm Forces of Liberia soldiers after they had protested for the arrears.

Stray Chimpanzee Stalls Farming in Nimba County

- A Zoegeh District, Nimba County elder Tarpeh Yalou called on the Government and other conservationists to take steps to immediately evict from the area, a strayed Guinean Baboon which was on the rampage and has already killed a child.
- Elder Yalou told Radio Veritas that human movement, farming and other sustainable activities in the area have been stalled by the presence of the animal.
- But Nimba County Representative Willie Saywah Dona who visited the District also told the station that the issue of the Baboon being in the District was illusive.

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(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Women Rights Advocates Scorn Minister for Indecent Sex

- The Women in Peace-building Network (WIPNET) yesterday scorned State for Presidential Affairs Minister, Willis Knuckles for his part in an indecent sexual act with two women and described it as "sexual exploitation of Liberian Women". The group called on the Government to probe the act and ask Mr. Knuckles to resign if he was found guilty.
- Also, WIPNET condemned the publication and circulation of the photograph involving Mr. Knuckles in the unwholesome sexual act.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Ruling Party Sympathizes with Minister in Sex Scandal

- The National Chairman of the ruling Unity Party (UP), Dr. Charles Clarke said that the UP was in sympathy with State and Presidential Affairs Minister, Willis Knuckles in the sex scandal allegedly involving him and two other women and added that the reported scandal was disturbing because it was being politicized. He described Mr.

Knuckles as a "fine gentleman" whose entire future must not be determined by the scandal.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Star Radio *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

Agriculture Ministry Empowers the Blind

- The Ministry of Agriculture yesterday empowered the Christian Association of the Blind (CAB) with the donation of farming tools to enhance its agriculture project along the Roberts International Airport highway.
- Deputy Agriculture Minister, Lorpu Kandakai lauded members of the CAB for undertaking the project and urged other disabled people to emulate the example of CAB.
- CAB Executive Director Beyan Kota commended the Ministry for the donation which included cutlasses, wheelbarrows and shovels.

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.

Voice of America

Thursday, 22 February 2007

Guineans Suffer Under Military Rule While Strike Lingers

By Nico Colombant
Dakar

Union leaders in Guinea are pursuing a strike that began in early January, demanding that long-time President Lansane Conte name a consensus prime minister. Meanwhile, the government is maintaining a state of emergency the president says is needed to prevent a civil war. Meanwhile, Guineans in the capital, Conakry, say they are suffering under military rule. VOA's Nico Colombant has more from Dakar, with on the scene reporting by Tatiana Mossot in Conakry.



Soldiers man a checkpoint separating the city center from the suburbs in Conakry, Guinea, 20 Feb 2007

AP Photo
Helicopters hover in the sky.

Soldiers patrol neighborhoods of the capital.

The head of the army appears on state television telling citizens what they can and cannot do.

Residents in courtyards, like More Kamara, his right eye gashed, tell horror stories. He says, a group of soldiers bashed his eye with their rifle butts when he was trying to get water from an outdoor pump at night, violating the curfew. He says soldiers do not seem to be in Guinea to protect the people anymore, but to protect the interests of President Conte and his government.

Human Rights Watch says security forces have committed numerous abuses, including beating and shooting people and rape.

The top union leader, Radiatou Serah Diallo, accuses soldiers of raping women at night, and says this must stop. She says the government needs to make more effort and to show more compassion to put an end to the crisis.

More than 100 people have been killed in the unrest, while many more have been wounded.

At this ward at the main hospital, a wounded young man, who prefers to remain unnamed, says Guineans want change. He says they are tired of poverty and crumbling government services, and that is why they are protesting. He was shot through the leg into his knee. He says he is ready to sacrifice himself for the future of his country.

If Mr. Conte does not leave power, he says, he will go back out on the streets to protest.

Small markets are starting to reopen, but prices for basic goods have gone up.

Mediators from the regional grouping ECOWAS are preparing to send a new team to Conakry, while the United Nations is also trying to prepare a mission to help defuse tensions.

For these young Guineans, toiling around a destroyed gas station, it seems the strike has caused more hardship and more deterioration.