

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Friday, 24 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
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## *Palm Kernel, Snakes & Sex Taboo To Kamajors*

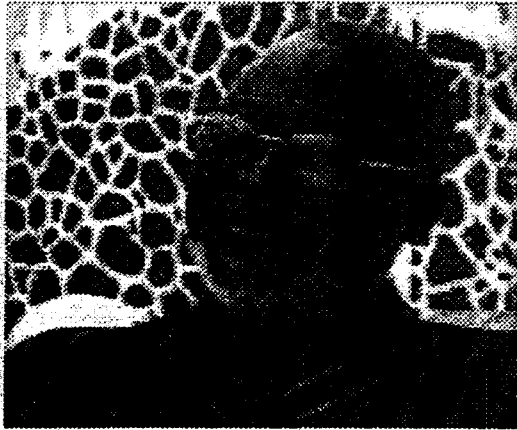
**THE MAN** who was made chiefdom commander after the kamajors captured the rebel stronghold of Camp Zogoda and the eighth defence witness in the Kamajor Trials at the Special Court, Ishmael Senesi Koroma has explained the laws given to kamajor initiates.

He said kamajors were forbidden to eat palm kernel oil, snakes and not to touch a corpse or woman or let alone have sexual in-

Continued Page 3

# Kamajor Rituals!

From Front Page



**NORMAN:**respected by the kamajors tercourse with her. They should not also loot or kill civilians that were harmless. He also said Lt Tom Nyuma of the NPRC told kamajors to assist in bringing the war to an end and that late Dr Alpha Lavallie was the head of the kamajors and acted as a link between Kamajors and the soldiers and that at that time they were called vigilantes.

Meanwhile, the Special Court has adjourned to May 2.

# Kamajor commander denies looting ICRC vehicle

*By Joseph Turay*

Witness for the Special Court Ishmael Koroma who identified himself as a former Battalion Commander, of the Civil Defence Force CDF has yesterday refuted an allegation that he had commandeered an official vehicle belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross (I.C.R.C). During cross-examination by

ECOMOG Officer Major Tony, whom he later handed over the vehicle to after I.C.R.C. officials request for their vehicle. Responding to the prosecutor's allegations that it was he (Koroma) who had gone to the I.C.R.C compound in Kenema where he looted the vehicle. Mr. Koroma told the Court that he never entered the ICRC campus to loot a vehicle, as he was not deployed there,

the prosecuting counsel Joseph Kamara, in the ongoing C.D.F trials at the Special Court, the witness testified to the judges that the vehicle in question was given to him by an

but rather it was the ECOMOG Major Tony who handed him the said vehicle.

Koroma testified that he had been using the vehicle onto the time of the signing of the Lome Peace Accord, before the vehicle was finally handed over to the I.C.R.C officials who tested the vehicle in his presence and thanked him that the vehicle was in a good working condition. The witness cited that a document was signed between him, the I.C.R.C staff and Major Tony confirming that the vehicle was in good working condition. The witness further denied his involvement in the killings of a Police Sergeant Amadu Musa and a former Kamajor fighter Brima Marah whose death the

prosecutor alleged resulted when he (Marah) refused to supply ammunition to the kamajors.

The witness also revealed to the Court that he was involved in the attacking of major Bases of the RUF and A.F.R.C Junta fighters. Since 1996 unto 1999 the witness disclosed that he never fought under the instructions of the three accused persons Norman, Fofanah, and Kondewai.

"I did not receive a dime not even a razor blade from Norman" the witness affirmed. He added that they were fighting under the command of ECOMOG who had been supplying them with arms and ammunition.

**Local News**

**Witness denies commandeering ICRC vehicle**

*Story: Tanu Jalloh*

Erstwhile Kamajor Commander testifying as eighth witness for Sam Hinga Norman at the Special Court, Ismael

Senesie Koroma Thursday denied ever commandeering International Committee Red Cross (ICRC) vehicle as charged by Prosecuting Counsel, Joseph Kamara.

"I was given the ICRC

Toyota Land Cruiser by the then ECOMOG Brigade Commander in Kenema, Brig. Tony. He sent for me from Blama where I resided as General Battalion Commander for Kenema district and handed me

the keys and documents to the vehicle to enable me shuttle between Kenema and Blama," Koroma narrated.

He said after the cessation of hostilities and on the return of ICRC he willingly

handed back the vehicle to Commander Tony for the attention of the former.

"I led the attack on the junta who were based at Blama. We also successfully attacked Camp Zogoda and on

my return I was appointed Chief-in-Command in charge of all Kamajors in Kenema district at a meeting chaired by Evans Gbemeh as member of the War Council in Kenema," he said.

# ICRC roped in Kamajor operations

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

The 8<sup>th</sup> Defence witness,  
Ishmail Senesie Koroma  
continued his testimony

yesterday at the Special  
Court for Sierra Leone,  
with more startling  
revelations coming out.  
During the cross  
examination process, the

witness disclosed that  
during the course of the  
war, he was at Blama as  
Battalion Commander  
when he was  
*Contd: page 2*

## ICRC in Kamajor operations

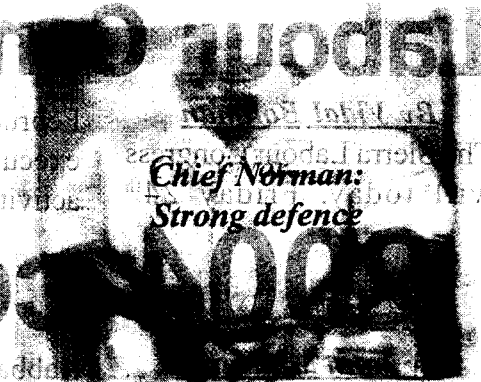
*From front page*

summoned to Kenema by his boss,  
Major Tonny who was the Brigade  
Commander of Kenema. The witness  
stated that he left almost immediately  
for Kenema, onboard an ICRC  
vehicle that was captured from the  
rebels.

While in Kenema, the witness testified  
that he was informed by Major Tonny  
that officials of the International  
Committee of the Red Crossed  
(ICRC) had donated a quantum of  
food and medicine to augment the  
operations of Kamajors.

According to the witness, Major  
Tonny demanded that the ICRC  
vehicle be used for the distribution of  
the supplies to the respective bases.  
The witness stated that the ICRC gifts  
were received with a pinch of salt due  
to the double role the organization was  
suspected of playing in the war.

One such suspicion according to the  
witness had to do with claims that



some officials of ICRC were neck  
deep in collaborating with the rebel  
forces.

The witness went on to state that from  
1996 onwards, the Kamajors were  
getting their logistical supplies through  
ECOMOG forces in Liberia, upon the  
instructions of President Ahmad Tejan  
Kabbah who was by then in exile in  
neighbouring Guinea.

In 1996, the witness said Kamajors  
fought in concert with ECOMOG and  
other pro-government forces to  
capture Camp Zogoda and Camp  
Lion from the rebels.

## “ ECOMOG supplied us with arms to fight”- *Defence witness*

**D**efence witness for the Civil Defence Forces (CDF), Ishmael Senessie Koroma yesterday in his evidence revealed that they were supplied with arms to fight the

junta by ECOMOG, this he disclosed at the Trial Chamber I of the Special Court presided over by Justice Pierre Boutet.

Narrating his role in the CDF on various occasions,

the witness said all the weapons that they used were supplied to them by ECOMOG. He said Paramount Chiefs of the various Chiefdoms gave them single barrel guns and

cartridges and that he was not given even a razor blade by Chief Norman.

Mr. Koroma also said after they had fought with the ECOMOG Forces to dislodge the rebels at Blama, they were called to a meeting on 28 February 1998.

At that meeting, the witness stressed, they were commended by ECOMOG for the capture of Kenema; they were urged to remain with the forces as they [ECOMOG] were not familiar with the terrain and that they would provide all the equipment needed.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February the rebels attacked the troops again but “this battle was fierce as the rebels were wearing the Kamajors’ attires and the ECOMOG forces were unable to distinguish the rebels from the Kamajors.” Adding that “after we have finally dislodged the rebels, we were told by ECOMOG that we should set up checkpoints at all roads

leading to Kenema, and that they [the checkpoints] should be manned by both ECOMOG and the Kamajors.”

The witness disclosed that it was after this fight that he was appointed to the rank of General Battalion Commander of the Kamajors when they returned to Bo.

The defence lawyer, Dr. Bu-Buakei, further asked the witness what were their means of transportation during this time? Mr. Koroma said they had a vehicle which belonged to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which was given to them by ECOMOG as they were told that the ICRC people were supporting the junta and that made them to flee.

Later the witness recalled, the staff of ICRC went to Major (Maj) Tony who was by then the Brigade Major and informed him that they had brought food and medicines for the people but they did not have vehicle to

transport these items and that they had seen their vehicle with him. Maj. Tony, the witness said, told him that he should handover the vehicle and so it was tested and then handed over to the man in good condition.

Being a common witness to all of the three indictees, the witness was also examined by Arrow J. Bockarie. He revealed that he first met Moinina Fofanah when he went to Small Bo in 1999 and that he [Moinina] was never involved in any attack. Mr. Koroma said he only heard of Moinina being a Director from one Mr Daniel and that he never took orders from him as they were under the direct control of ECOMOG.

Ishmael Koroma was also examined by Ansu Lansana and he disclosed that after their initiation, they first attack a rebel position in Kpetema during this time they were under the control of the Sierra Leon Army (SLA).

Exclusive  
24 February 2006

# Special Court Folds Up Dec. 2007

*By Mohamed Kai*

The Registrar for the Special Court for Sierra Leone Lovemore Munlo yesterday dis-

closed that the trial of indictees of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC)

and Revolutionary United Front (RUF), will be concluded in December, 2007.

He was addressing participants at one day trial awareness raising work-

*Contd. page 2*

trophy.

## Special Court Folds Up Dec. 2007

*From front page*

shop organised by the outreach section of the Special Court. The Registrar further intimated that the trial of RUF indictees will commence 2 March, 2006.

According to Lovemore Munlo a team of management committee from the United Nations will be paying a visit to Sierra Leone and they are expected to meet with government officials and different sections of the Special Court to get an appraisal of the activities of the court with regards funding and other assistance to boost the capacity and enhancement of the court.

Mr. Munlo also dispelled claims by some members of the public that the mandate of the Special Court is supposed to expire within three year and noted that the Special Court has extended contracts of the eleven judges till the end of the trial of all indictees.

He told participants that Mongolian soldiers who are presently securing the entire court structure, in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Police and Prison Officers and referred to the Mongolians as enthusiastic, well trained and of high professional standards.



# 16 Westsiders freed

By **Bawoh Y. Jenkins**

**S**ixteen Westside Boys, standing trials before Justice Hamilton at the Freetown High Court, were yesterday acquitted and discharged for lack of evidence.

The 13 Westside Boys released were 10<sup>th</sup> accused Foday Kamara 3, 13<sup>th</sup> accused Mohamed Kallon, 15<sup>th</sup> accused George Mansaray, 16<sup>th</sup> accused Mohamed Mannah, 18<sup>th</sup> accused Mohamed Tulla, 19<sup>th</sup> accused Moijueh Gboyama, 28<sup>th</sup> accused Abubakarr Conteh, 21<sup>st</sup> accused Abu Marrah, 22<sup>nd</sup> accused Mustapha Lahai, Alpha Sallieu, Foday Kanu, Ayo Cole, Mohamed Monseray, Abu Ansumana, Ibrahim Koroma, Jameson Koroma and Joshua Junior Pratt.

They were before Justice Hamilton for murder and other related charges being committed during their occupation of the Okra Hills. But 11 others still standing trials are Foday Kallay,

Usman Sesay, Mohamed Bangura, Mohamed Sidique, Mohamed Savage, Jonathan Maxwell, Alhaji Fofanah, Foday Kamara 2, Samuel Kargbo, Kai Komba Koroma and James George.

They were asked to choose whether to be examined from the witness box, accused box or to rely solely on statements taken from them, and they made diverse choices.

First to stand trial from the witness box was Foday Kallay, the former Commanding Operations Officer at the Okra Hills, who narrated with intermittent weeping of his role and how he ordered the release of Major Bangura, when he was arrested along two British Officers.

In his explanations, he maintained that he ordered the arrest of four people but denied claims that he ordered their killings. Over and again during his explanation, CO Foday Kallay commented that, "it was witchcraft that controlled me in the jungle" and "I never believed in witchcraft until while in the jungle."

Meanwhile, Justice Hamilton told both the acquitted Westside Boys and those still standing trial that, "I am doing this because I am a man who believes in decency, in justice... if an accused is guilty let him be tried and if not let him be let free." He however warned those who were freed that, "rudeness does not pay, it only get you into more trouble... as you leave, leave properly." He admonished the freed Westside Boys to comport themselves well in society and to those who continue standing trial he promised that, "I am doing this work for the sake of justice, make sure you do not be rude as you have been very rude during these trials or if you want you can." He disclosed that he would be fast tracking the trials so as to give "justice to whom justice is due."

Justice Hamilton complained of the delay in the matter but assured that the matter would soon be finished, as "justice delayed is justice denied."

In addition, three female Westside girls were freed on Wednesday.



The people of Niger need **our help today!**

## Origin of "Sobel" Revealed At Special Court

Concord Times (Freetown)

NEWS

February 23, 2006

Posted to the web February 23, 2006

By Tanu Jalloh

Freetown

Seventh witness on the list of Sam Hinga Norman to testify in the ongoing CDF trial at Special Court, Ishmael Senesie Koroma, 41 Wednesday revealed the origin of the word 'sobel' as description for Sierra Leone soldiers who connived with the RUF rebels at some stage in the war.

"Those of us who joined the 'Kamasors' as novices in the use of guns in 1994 were called vigilantes. We were initiated as Kamajors to fight alongside and assist the Sierra Leone Army (SLA). The latter were never initiated because they have proven to be dishonest. We had called them "Sorbels" because we no longer trusted them," he narrated adding that they behaved almost like the RUF rebels they had fought against.

He said these 'Sorbels' had the same uniforms and guns, as the rebels and so one could not easily distinguish between the two. He said they loot properties left behind by fleeing settlements and original inhabitants of towns and villages in the Niawa, Small-Bo and Langurama chiefdoms.

"We had seen most of our belongings in the vehicles of soldiers who returned to Bo and Kenema from where they would have dislodged rebels who had earlier attacked our settlements. They would sell our properties in front of us," Koroma explained.

He said as Kamajors, they were never allowed to have sexual intercourse or go anywhere near women, they would not shake hands with people in order to maintain cleanliness, they wont touch corpses or forcefully take civilian properties nor would they eat palm kernel oil or eat snake.

He said reasons for the above restraints were primarily set aside to ensure or enable an initiate remain immunized throughout the war period.

The proceedings continue.

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 23 Feb 2006

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

Houston Chronicle, 22 February 2006

#### **Liberia's new leader takes on graft**

MONROVIA, LIBERIA - The cancellation of some multimillion-dollar contracts in Liberia is the first step in a systematic review of all deals granted by the previous government, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said. "We do believe that many of those contracts do not pass the national interest test," Johnson-Sirleaf said in an interview. "The review of contracts and concessions agreements was also one of my campaign promises."

#### **Liberia: Sexual abuse of children still rampant, report says**

**MONROVIA, 22 Feb 2006 (IRIN)** - Child rape - with victims as young as age four - is common across post-war Liberia, topping a list of abuses against children over the last year, a rights monitoring group says.

The lack of effective laws to combat rape complicates the problem, the National Child Rights Observation Group (NACROG) said in a report released this week.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

BBC 23/02/2006

#### **French 'anti-Jew gang chief' held**

The suspected head of an anti-Semitic gang which kidnapped, tortured and killed a young French Jew near Paris has been arrested in Ivory Coast. Yousuf Fofana, 26, is in the custody of French police who went to Ivory Coast to question him. The French authorities had issued an international warrant for his arrest after he had left the country.

Victim Ilan Halimi died after being found naked, bound and gagged in a crime that shocked France.

BBC 23/02/2006

#### **Sierra Leone police urge probe into rape charge against Nigerian peacekeeper**

Sierra Leone's assistant inspector-general of police says the rape allegation against an UNMIL Nigerian officer must be investigated. Mrs. Kadif Okondo said overlooking the incident will send a negative signal throughout the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) sub-region.

## **Sierra Leone seizes passports from 18 Lebanese men**

FREETOWN, Feb 22, 2006 (AFP) - Immigration authorities have seized Sierra Leonean passports from 18 Lebanese nationals claiming to be citizens of the West African country, an official said Wednesday.

"These men are suspected to be non-citizens and we are investigating the issue," Michael Baion, chief immigration officer of southeastern Bo city, 350 kilometers (220 miles) from the capital, told AFP.

### **Local Media – Newspapers**

#### **Liberia and FAO Sign Over US\$300,000 Project Agreement**

*(Daily Observer)*

- Liberia's Agriculture Minister Chris Toe and FAO Country Representative Wariboko West recently signed in Monrovia two project agreements worth US\$301,000.

#### **European Commission Donates to Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

*(The Inquirer)*

- The European Commission Institutional Support Program yesterday presented office equipment and logistical support to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

#### **5,000 Ex-Combatants Take Over Rubber Plantation in Sinoe County**

*(Daily Observer and The News)*

- During a recent workshop in Greenville Sinoe County on natural resources extraction and revenue tracking, the citizens of the area reported that around 5,000 ex-fighters were illegally engaged in the exploitation of the Sinoe Rubber Corporation.

#### **Female Lawyers Call for Establishment of Rape Court**

*(The Analyst)*

- Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia President Lois Louis Brutus recently called for the establishment of a court for the exclusive and expeditious arbitration of rape cases.

#### **Chinese Envoy Recommends Change of Liberian Passport**

*(The News)*

- Chinese Ambassador to Liberia Lin Songtian told lawmakers in Monrovia this week that Liberia needed to change its current passport as it has been devolved to criminal activities. He said such a move would restore Liberia's image in the international community.

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

#### **President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Earns Honorary Doctor of Laws**

- On behalf of the University of Liberia (UL) Board of Trustees, UL President Dr. Alhassan Conteh yesterday conferred on President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **President Pledges to Give Opportunities to All Liberians**

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said yesterday that she would create opportunities for all Liberians regardless of their socio-political and economic origins in order to bring change to the country.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

### **China to Construct Rubber Processing Plant and Coastal Highway in Liberia**

- Speaking during a reception tendered for members of the Liberian Senate Tuesday, Chinese Ambassador Lin Songtian announced that China had agreed to establish a rubber processing industry in Liberia and build a coastal highway linking Grand Cape Mount County to Maryland County, the National Legislature Press Bureau said.  
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

### **IMF-Funded Cash Management and Commitment Control Workshop Opens Today**

- According to a press statement, the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will today commence a refresher workshop on cash management and commitment control system for comptrollers and financial Officers of government ministries and agencies.  
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

### **GEMAP Implementation Unhindered Says Steering Committee**

- The Economic Governance Steering Committee of the Governance Economic Management Assistance Program said it was pleased that implementation of the Program was proceeding unhindered with the first international experts for the Central Bank and the Cash Management Committee assuming their duties.  
(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

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

### **Senate Holds Confirmation Hearing for Nominees Today**

- A Senate press release says the Upper House will today conduct confirmation hearing for Justice Minister-designate Frances Johnson-Morris, Liberia National Police Inspector-General-designate Beatrice Munnah Sieh, Civil Service Agency Assistant Director-designate Othello Weh and Deputy Lands, Mines and Energy Minister-designate Alfred K. Fayiah.

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

### **USAID Donates to Youth HIV/AIDS Program in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County**

- United States Aid for International Development Executive Director Wilbur Thomas Tuesday donated 30 soccer balls to an anti-AIDS campaign group in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County. The "Yes to Soccer" is a youth group campaigning against HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancy and drugs in the county.

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