

**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

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Monday 24-Friday 28 March 2003

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact

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Wisdom
Monday, 24 March 2003

BRITAIN PREPARES TO PROTECT SPECIAL COURT

As the Special Court sets up its work in the country, there is enough military resources to protect the court, judges and inductees from any anti-groups, persons or whatsoever form of insecurity.

In ensuring the safety of the peace process and justice to prevail, and the court to effectively carry out its work, Britain has decided to provide military support to defend the areas of locations hearings are heard, and the detention centers as well.

Troops from the British Joint Task Force in Freetown have been recently undertaken joint military exercises with the RSLAF and Unamsil in what was described as operation "Fire Power". The purpose of the exercise was to test and display military hardware equipment in order to quickly respond to enemy attack should Sierra Leone faces another territorial infringement

from Liberian LURD rebels who are reported of having mounted an attack on Charles Taylor's government. Last week, another successful operation has also been launched from HMS Iron Duke. "Operation Iron Panther" exercise made soldiers practice beach landings, and high-speed beach insertion from HMS Iron Duke's two fast patrol boats.

The Lynx helicopter from HMS Iron Duke was part of the exercise. It allows the ship to drastically increase its patrol range so as to enable troops training on Maritime waters used to the hazardous effects of the water while in battle when being chased or chasing an enemy frigate.

The exercise attracted onlookers from the land but

mostly local fishermen whose boats were out to sea to get a closer look at the frigate and Royal Fleet Auxiliary Black Rover, chatted with the troops involved in the exercise.

Major Ian Pole, the spokesman for the Joint Task Force said the exercise could closely bring British troops and the RSLAF Maritime wing to work together with a common understanding.

Besides landing on beaches for rescue, search or operational missions, the exercise also taught the troops how to enter fast boats from a frigate and carry out a coastal patrol.

The SLAF maritime wing also provided additional information and knowledge on the territorial waters of Sierra Leone. Both operations carried out have made the Joint Task Force versatile to respond to enemy attack.

Since its deployment in

February, the Joint Task Force has proved to be a substantially good force that could reach Sierra Leone from the United Kingdom if requested by the United Nations to defend its work presently on going in indicting those who commit greatest responsibilities and to secure their detention while under trial and being sentenced to imprisonment.

In Bonthe, where trials of Foday Saybana Sankoh and others have started, security measures are said to be perfect with the presence of British troops of the Royal Marines, Gurkhas, Unamsil and RSLAF.

The area is said to be calm and protected. With sea patrols conducted and helicopters hovering the airspace, there is enough evidence that the Special Court will be protected to carry out its work successfully without being hindered or sabotaged.



Lynx Helicopter in Military Manuevers

Wisdom

Monday, March 24, 2003

Concord Times Monday, March 24, 2003 Page 2

Guest writer
Mohamed Gibril - Sesay

The Special Court arrest

The Law is Great

One comment that struck my mind during the cathartic conversations following the first Special Court arrests came from an omolankay pusher. I saw him stare in wonderment, "ah, the law is great!" Mark his words, he did not say "the government is great," he said "the law is great."

Jurists say there are two types of jurisprudence or systems of laws and how the courts interpret them. There is what is called the jurisprudence of dictatorship. This is the jurisprudence that is made, interpreted and implemented according to the wishes of the *big men* and *Kakatuu*, it is the jurisprudence of "u know udat na me?" the jurisprudence of the magical net that catches the mina but let the kuta pass through. It is the jurisprudence that favours the guy with the big name and bigger deeds.

The other jurisprudence is that of constitutionalism. This is the jurisprudence that enhances the norms and values of a democratic order, it is one that animates the law with the spirit of democratic constitutionalism, that is not afraid of the big name, that would make an agent of the law, for example, go wherever the evidence leads. It is the type of jurisprudence yeamed for by the omolankay pusher who hollered in wonderment, "the law is great!"

The Arrest of Chief Hinga Norman:

Chief Norman is definitely a hero of the kamajor resistance to the degenerate tactics of sobels and rebels. But the chief was not the founder of the movement. The militia had its origins in the Eastern Region Defense Committee set up by the late Fourah Bay College History Lecturer, Dr. Alpha Lavalie. He was murdered on the Bo-Kenema highway by *sobel*s who loathed his heroic organizing of his people for self defense. Sobels were also responsible for the massacre at Tellu Bongor where Capt. (ret) Hinga Norman was Regent Chief. He too would have been killed, but, old soldier that he was, he played dead and survived to become a leader in the Kamajor movement. During the AFRC junta he fled to Liberia, met ECOMOG's General Wan Mohamed and coordinated the various kamajors units in Sierra Leone.

Post 1996, the Kamajors were not only fighting in defense of their communities. They were also fighting an internal struggle against a motley of people who held up arms against a duly constituted civilian government they (the Kamajors) and the majority of Sierra Leoneans overwhelmingly supported.

It was this government that was to late ask the UN to establish a court to try the rebels and their backers. The government was thinking in the context of what the overwhelming majority of Sierra Leonean thought was the evil writ large – the RUF and the AFRC. That was the context of the trial and execution of Messrs Gbone, A. K. Sesay and others. The government wanted the strength of the UN to help them bring the RUF to trial. But the UN was mainly thinking according to the tests of the *Geneva Conventions* and other international instruments. And these texts do not emphasize contexts, violations are violations, whether for or against a government or people.

The Arguments

The arguments since the indictments are mainly about emphasis on texts and contexts. Some guys stress the contexts – Chief Norman was resisting a degenerate rebellion. In that context, whatever else happened should be overlooked. Mr. Issa Sesay was very instrumental in bringing peace to this land, given that situation, whatever else he did should be discounted. Many on the side of this argument blame the government for not putting in place safeguards that would have prevented the arrest of the persons in whose favor they are arguing for. The government has since put out a notice disclaiming responsibility for what is befalling the indictees.

The other guys stress texts, laws. They believe that contexts should not nullify texts. The law is the law. *Those who violate the law should be held accountable.* The question is whether or not the indictees violated the legal texts and not for or against whom they violated the law.

Sociological Nuances

People are not just articulating texts and contexts

out of thin air, their positions in the arguments betray other orientations and identities. People with very little connections to the power structures, especially those who feel like losers in this hollow peace may be shocked, but they are more likely to hold arguments that support the arrests. Persons who were active partisans or supporters of the factions in the war are more likely to stress contexts that exonerate the arrested members of their factions. However, given the broad based nature of the arrests, the fires of their passions are controlled by the lack of substance to any talk of the arrests being particularly targeted at their factions.

There are also regional variations. People from regions who do not have revered figures amongst the arrested have less agonizing reactions and arguments. They may be afraid of the security implications, but they are likelier to see things as black and white than guys from other regions with revered persons amongst the arrested.

Types of reactions could also be distinguished into those that are mere talk and those that go beyond mere talk. And the type of reactions that go beyond mere

The other guys stress texts, laws. They believe that contexts should not nullify texts. The law is the law. Those who violate the law should be held accountable. The question is whether or not the indictees violated the legal texts and not for or against whom they violated the law.

words will depend on resources available. People may want to use the resources at their disposal to orient actions towards position they favor. And the use of these resources, especially armed and organizational resources depends on factors such as optimal access to these resources and estimations by users that they have nothing to lose if per chance there is a collapse of law and order.

For instance, whilst members and supporters of the Kamajor may feel intensely bitter at Chief Norman's arrest, they will not react in ways that jeopardize the survival of a government they overwhelmingly support. This may not be true of other factions, but then they may have to factor in considerations of optimal availability of armed resources when making their decisions. They will not recourse to fighting if they are low on armed resources and know fully well that those ranged against them have greater will and determination to move the nation out of the oubliette of the last decade.

Between Text and Context

The Special Court is special because its mandate and structure (as negotiated) should orient it towards both text and context. In terms of law and personnel, it is a mixture of that which is Sierra Leonean and that which is international. That which is Sierra Leonean should orient it towards the contextual, and that which is international towards the textual. But the agreement setting up the court also makes it clear that, that which is international, both in terms of law, personnel or penology takes precedence over that which is Sierra Leonean. Many more violations of laws that are international are to be investigated than laws that are Sierra Leonean. The judges are over-

whelmingly international, as is also the prosecutor and the registrar. The penal code is also international – there will be no death penalty.

The implementation of the agreement has further entrenched the international orientation of the court. The expectation was that the three judges to be nominated by the Sierra Leone Government would be Sierra Leonean, but only two are; the agreement envisaged the deputy prosecutor to be Sierra Leonean – this, however, is not the case. All this points to the weakness of Sierra Leonean agency; it betrays the lack of Sierra Leonean will and backbone that is so evident in all aspects of the post war reconstruction of this bruised nation.

Much More than Diamonds

Of course, Special Court personnel, in exercise of their judicial functions, answer to no other party outside the court's hierarchy. However, the presence of Sierra Leoneans in orientating-determining positions would have aided greater contextualized understanding of actions and reactions during the war. This would have, for example, more than enrich the prosecutorial monologue (to all types of audiences) of diamonds as the fuel of our war.

For the truth of the pain is that, causes of the atrocities changed over time and place. In some places, yes, it was for diamonds, but the renegades were not mining for diamonds when they ripped open the stomachs of pregnant women on the Masingbi – Kono highway. One reason the criminals gave for burning down half of Eastern Freetown was that they were avenging a sheikh murdered for his links with the AFRC. And ancient chieftaincy feuds were integral to the atrocities in the Kailahun district.

Definitely, there are guys who bear greatest responsibility that were incited by the devil stones, but to reduce motives for the overwhelming number of dastardly acts to the chase for the mocking stones is too straight jacket and uncontextualised. And this distracts from any attempt to give substance to the talk of prosecutions being done in the name of the ordinary people of Sierra Leone.

What is insulting to ordinary Sierra Leoneans about the atrocities is not the search for diamonds, or revenge, or even power. What is insulting is the "boti case" that is at the heart of all these atrocities. The renegades did what they did because they thought they would get away with it. That was why they were so vociferous and photo-happy about it. They chased diamonds with the murderous recklessness of impunity, razed down communities with the savage fury of impunity.

In the course of the war, people developed fear-no-consequence, bound-to-no-rule.

The Democrat
Monday, 24 March 2003

The Democrat
Monday March 24, 2003

The Special Court Arrests: Text and Context

From Last Issue

Crime And Punishment

I once heard the prosecutor responding to a question about punishment of persons convicted by the special court. He said there is no capital punishment, and asked what better punishment is there than the convicted sitting in jail and seeing the country he had done so much to destroy prosper. For the Special Court then, punishment is more psychological than physical. But penology in our cultures is more physical than psychological. This explains why alleged 'violators' of the codes extant during the war were subjected to such gruesome punishing of bodies as amputations, torture, melted plashes on eyes. 'An eye for an eye' penology inheres in every society steeped in the traditional, or swimming between the anachronistic and the surrealism of the postmodern. A traditional culture would react to horrendous acts horrendously. This explains why the CD's, sitting on a 'moral plane' higher than sobels and rebels would see nothing

By Mohamed Gibril Sesay

wrong in inflicting horrendous body-punishments on their antagonists. Within the contexts of their traditional orientations, they saw themselves as justified; but then according to texts of international law, they are unjustifiably wrong.

The dominant strands in international law and accepted penology are Western. Their penal codes, especially in north Western Europe are such now that the physically punishing aspects have been deprioritized. This is the penology that informs the texts of the Special Court, that makes unjustifiable the atrocious punishing regimes extant during the war, that will make recourse to context relevant only as pleas of mitigation.

Balancing the Scales

Obviously playing with the prosecutor's name, Sierra Leoneans say the Special Court's crane can only lift and

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haul heavy tons. Smaller tonnages are for the TRC. In essence they are saying the Special Court is not interested in bringing small men and women before it. Definitely, those who bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities are not small men and women.

But in the jurisprudence we have known in this country for a long time, it is the small person or the relatively powerless and moneyless that bears the weight of the power of our courts. Ours is a judiciary that justifies the rights and wrongs of the powerful and punishes both the rights and wrongs of the poor and powerless. Ours are judicial practices that recklessly favor the strong, the dictatorial, the criminal connectocrats. It is a jurisprudence that interprets the law to perpetually put the powerless and challengers of the statusquo in their place.

The special court is emphasizing another type of jurisprudence - one that goes after the powerful, the kuta, the demigods of impunity. It is a jurisprudence that will not harass the omolankay pusher.

But it is also a court, I hope, that will not pamper to our anachronistic penology of physical annihilation or great physical pain and violation of the integrity of the human body. The special court is part of an effort to break a shackling circle of retrogression; it should be, I think, a gratifying counterpoise to horrible moments, a structure of reference to humane values, a library of practical lessons on the jurisprudence that the omolankay pusher will feel at one with.

The Exclusive
Tuesday, 25 March 2003

The Exclusive
Tuesday March 25, 2003

Special Court Scare: **More Soldiers May AWOL**

The Sierra Leone Police has declared wanted a number of military officers and ex-combatants who allegedly, through various attempts, *Contd. page 5*

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conspired to destabilize the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

The recent escape of military officers came after the attack on a military base in Wellington, in the east end of Freetown in January this year. Few weeks before that attack, a handful of former SLAs and some hangers on were arrested at the home of President Joseph Saidu Momoh for allegedly holding clandestine meetings during the odd hours of night. The police have since linked the attack on the Military Base with an attempted coup after elaborate investigations. Some 17 military officers and ex-combatants have been charged with treason and related offences in connection with the alleged botched coup, while the former AFRC junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma and five others have gone into hiding.

Instances of military runaways abound in the ten chequered war years. Several senior and subordinate officers went into hiding after the overthrow of the AFRC which toppled the legitimate govern-

ment of Sierra Leone in May 1997. These fugitives were said to have worked with the junta during the interregnum between May 1997 and February 1998. Also, some military officers and ex-combatants escaped arrests when large cache of arms and ammunition was found in the home of the Director of Military Training, Colonel Gabriel Mani, now standing trial together with ten others for unlawful possession of arms and ammunition and an attempt to topple the government.

In another development, during the May 8, 2000 peaceful demonstration against the RUF leader Foday Saybana Sankoh, some military men and ex-combatants who joined ranks with the rebels opened fire on the demonstrators, killing more than twenty. Some of these trigger-happy men managed to escape, whilst the not so fortunate, including the RUF

leader and others have since been charged with murder.

Meanwhile, investigations carried out by this revealed that many military officers and ex-combatants plan to flee the country for fear of being indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, set up by UN, on the request of the government of Sierra Leone, to try war criminals. The arrest of Augustine Gbao, former Chief Security Officer of the RUF, and his appearance over the weekend before the court, even though not formally charged, may have only increased the apprehension in these men.

It could be called that the civil conflict in Sierra Leone lasted for tens and during that period, thousands of civilians were killed, mutilated, amputated and raped. Some of these war crimes have been blamed on the Sierra Leone Army.

Standard Times
 Tuesday, 25 March 2003

Special Commentary

That Special Court VIP treatment

BY KAMOUR NDULLU

I had that opportunity to listen to radio UNAMSIL's tea break of Wednesday 19th March 2002 in which the Prosecutor of the Special Court David Crane explained how Chief Sam Hinga Norman was arrested and the "humane" treatment he is getting.

Honestly, I have no course to doubt the Prosecutor, as it is largely a result of his credibility that he was appointed to that enviable position.

Perhaps what I wish however to draw his humble attention to is that since he was not physically present at the scene of Chief Norman's arrest, he ought not to argue about any humiliation that must have been dealt upon him.

The fact of the matter is that since some of our police were involved in that arrest, one cannot rule out the issue of humiliating Chief Norman.

This is partly because most of our brothers who were not disciplined and are related to those police must be personally against Chief Norman for being a disciplinarian.

If this was not the case one cannot understand why Tamba Gbekie in particular is behaving in all the negative manner reported in the local tabloids, (reference Awoko of March 18th 2003)

One cannot understand why Gbekie in particular is behaving in that manner, such as not only raiding the man's home in Freetown and making unprintable remarks, but also going to his villager to scatter his personal belongings and abuse his people.

What is it that Gbekie hopes to achieve by doing that?

Why should he behave like that to Chief Norman?

At least one would expect that even if Gbekie is sent to arrest or probe anything about Chief Norman, he must do so with humane and respect for the sacrifices he has made for this country.

After all, what needs to be put into the head of Gbekie is that Chief Norman is merely been charged, and has not yet been proved guilty.

If Gbekie is going to say and demonstrate that he has short memories, he ought to go again to pick up Awoko of 19th March, 2003 and see the picture of Chief Norman as it was published.

That picture will be enough to show how he fought and laid down his life for the redemption of this country.

In any case, where was Gbekie and his kind during the dark days of this country, when Chief Norman took to the bush to redeem this nation?

Your answer, please.

One cannot understand what Gbekie is now trying to achieve by humiliating Chief Norman, or maybe he is being used and abused by the white folks he's working for.

Or could it be because he is reportedly collecting up to five thousand dollars in as salary for doing the dirty job of the imperialists?

Where was this patriotic and ferocious police when Johnny Paul Koroma and his entire gang of rebels disappeared under his nose?

Perhaps if you want to prove that you are a good police, the first thing you need to do is to hunt down Johnny Paul Koroma and gang, who are a potential threat to this nation and have escaped in broad day light.

This writer wish to humbly bring to the attention of Gbekie that regardless of what might be said and done to Chief Norman, a large number of us, with absolutely no-relationship to him do however consider him one of our national heroes.

Certainly, this is what we would have expected Gbekie to tell those who sent him to arrest the Chief, and not resorting to victimizing his family.

We shall endeavour to appeal to Inspector General of Police, Keith Biddle to send Gbekie for further training for him to know that in the discharge of their duty the police should endeavour always to stay above grudges and worthless sentiments.

What Gbekie is doing ought to be a lesson for the rest of the membership of the SLPP government. Today it is Chief Norman that is humiliated for no just cause, other than galvanizing his countrymen to defend his people.

Today, SLPP as a government seems to be keeping tight lips in spite of all these reports of Chief Norman's ill treatment in the newspapers.

Should such a situation continue, there would come a time when no one will be ready to make any national sacrifice in the face of any anger.

Certainly these are the sort of things we expect Dr. Banya to be writing about and sensitizing his SLPP.

But no, his whole effort is nothing but just replying to people's opinions.

If I may speak the mind of Chief Norman, what he is hoping for is nothing but justice for all.

If Gbekie is actually concerned about the conduct of this Court, he should ensure that 'Masquira' and Johnny Paul are brought to face trial,

Some of us will continue to vent our vows on this issue, as the country is ours and we know what we have been through.

We are not saying that anyone is above the law.

Standard Times
 Tuesday March 25, 2003

Independent Observer
Tuesday, 25 March 2003

Independent Observer
Tuesday March 25, 2003

Voice Of The People

By Abdul Karim Koroma

Justice Must Prevail

Bockarie Ensah

(Country Representative, World Peace Prayer Society)

I believe that the indictments are in place because I want justice to prevail in our country and impunity should come to an end. People should not feel that would not be held responsible for their past misdeeds. People who committed gross human rights violations should face a properly constituted court of justice.

I am congratulating ex-combatants from all the factions for showing that indeed they were being used during the rebel war. When those who were using them were indicted by the Special Court the ex-combatants did not react negatively because they know justice should prevail.

I am reminding Sierra Leoneans about the adage which say "any evil done to man by man must face retribution if not now certainly later. If not by man it must be by God." For the victory of evil over good is certainly temporal.

My only joy as a youth is that even though accusing fingers are being pointed at us for committing a generation of abuses during the war, the majority of the people indicted by the court as bearing the greatest responsibility during the war are of the elderly class.

Good That Norman

Is Indicted

Ahmed Kamara Jnr.

(Mass Communication Student, Fourah Bay College)

It is very good that the Special Court indicted the former head of the Kamajors and erstwhile Minister of Internal Affairs, Chief Sam Hinga Norman. He should be tried for his role during the war and if the evidences against him are not strong to nail him he will be released. The international criminal court for



Sierra Leone is very much needed for this country if the government and people of Sierra Leone need justice.

The RUF rebels waged a war against the people of this country. During the war the Kamajors took up arms to fight against the rebels and in the process turned their guns against armless civilians they were claiming to protect especially in places like Bo and Kenema. During the AFRC/RUF interregnum when civilians hiding from the rebels fled to the bushes for

What Do You Make of The Special Court Indictment?

safety. When they met the Kamajors in the forest they are sometimes killed.

If you cannot talk Mende and the Kamajors happened to come across you they kill you. Even certain Nigerian ECOMOG soldiers like the notorious Evil Spirit, Major Tanko and a host of others should be indicted by the Special Court for various roles which they played during the armed conflict here. For justice to be done it should cut across all sectors and the Special Court has started doing a perfect job by coming down with indictments on all those who allegedly bear the greatest responsibility.

Misgivings About Special Court

Ben Kamara

(United National Peoples Party, Chairman UK/Ireland Branch)

I have a generation of misgivings about the Special Court. But the manner in which the Court has started doing its work shows they they will leave no stones unturned.

President Tejan-Kabbah after his term of his office should also be arrested and dragged before the Court to answer to crimes he committed during the war period. The same should be done to former Vice President Demby and a lot of other personalities in the government.

The Special Court's Prosecutor David Crane has said that those who bear the greatest responsibility will be held liable and Kabbah is one person whom many Sierra Leoneans believe is among those that bear the greatest responsibilities during the armed rebellion and political instability. He was the one who told the west African intervention force led by Nigerians that the people who stay in Sierra Leone during the AFRC/RUF are rebels and the ECOMOG troops whilst trying to reinstate Kabbah's government killed a multitude of people who were not even rebels.

There is no need for Norman to be arrested and Kabbah left out. If Kabbah is not arrested then the Court is of no use to the people of this.

Kabbah Potential Material

Esther Rogers

(Businesswoman, Bo)

Whatever way one may look at it, Kabbah is a potential material for the Special Court. Norman was deputy Minister of Defence and President Kabbah is Minister of Defence and Chief of the Armed Forces. Norman was taking instructions directly from him. The President during the days of the war approved millions of leones to the Kamajors, so I see no need why Norman should be held behind bars and Kabbah should be left a freeman.

Like Foday Sankoh, President Kabbah is another person who is considered to bear the greatest responsibility. All what Chief Norman was doing was in the name of Tejan-Kabbah so I see no reason why Kabbah should not be detained alongside the former Kamajor leader. Considering the sacrifices which Norman has made for this country he should not have been put in this manner. When this country was bleeding he put his life on the fire line whilst Kabbah and many government functionaries were in Guinea on self exile.

Signals End To Impunity

Abu Bakar Sheriff

(Journalist, Exclusive Press)

It is a welcome news not only for Sierra Leoneans but the rest of the world because it signals an end to criminal impunity.

There is no doubt that there would be some feeble hue and cry against the indictment particularly so when it involves a senior member in the Kabbah government. Be that as it may I believe that posterity would judge us to have taken the right destination.

However, there are genuine fears that the indictment might spark another conflagration in the country. Already we are hearing threats from some ex-combatants who are furious that their former commanders have been locked behind bars. Such threats should indeed be taken very seriously as the peace we are now enjoying is a fragile one.

None the less, such threats of intimidation should not cow us into submission as impunity should be delisted from our vocabulary.

Salone Times
 Tuesday, 25 March 2003

David Crane, Catch Charles Taylor If You Can

Commentary By Bola Cole

The Special Court has impressed the people of Sierra Leone that it is serious to dispense justice except for the shabby way it treated Sierra Leonean journalists. It has also shown us that it is independent and answerable to no one except as Crane says to the people of Sierra Leone.

Now it seems Crane wants to impress us further by tracking down those patrons and supporters of the RUF and AFRC junta. These overseas collaborators include Liberian president Charles Ghanghay Taylor.

Prosecutor Crane told the Reuters news agency that he can "go anywhere, reach out and get them". This means his powers are not only limited to this country but the whole world. He can with the support of the United Nations arrest potential indictees and bring them to Freetown or the Hague to stand trial. He is indeed so powerful.

So why is Crane wasting so much time to arrest Charles Taylor in the face of such overwhelming evidence. The fact that Sam Bockarie and some key perpetrators of violence in our land are still working for Charles Taylor in Liberia should make his investigation of the Liberian leader not very difficult. Another help for Crane should be former commanders of ECOMOG like Gen. Victor Malu who is retired in Nigeria. I recall in early 1998 when the AFRC was ousted and airman Victor King escaped by a helicopter and flew straight into Monrovia. There was a serious tussle between ECOMOG and the government of Liberia over who should receive the escapees in Monrovia. Taylor protested that there was only one President of Liberia and his is a sovereign state. General Malu refused Taylor's demands and sent Victor King and his runaways back to Freetown.

Taylor was so angry and got furious with ECOMOG. Infact that encounter punctured Taylor's already sour relationship with the regional peace keeping force.

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Salone Times
 Tuesday March 25, 2003

Independent Observer
Thursday, 27 March 2003

Independent Observer

Thursday March 27, 2003

Criminal Court In Observer

By Abdul Karim Koroma

A three man delegation from the International Criminal Court (ICC) yesterday visited the office of this press to brief its members about their organisation's activities and also to get a first hand information about the country. The ICC team which is expected to hold a one day workshop at the Grass Root Gender Empowerment Movement, John Street in Freetown, today were received by the Independent Observer's Managing Editor Jonathan Liegh after being ushered in by Sub Editor Abdul Rahman Swarray.



Flattau said that it is not the American government which has misgivings about the ICC, but President George Bush.

He said that they had fruitful discussion with Vice President, Solomon Berewa and other government officials.

"The ICC is any government's last result for justice", he said. He explained that the ICC is empowering small countries which can not stand up against America.

Responding the SLAJ Vice President expressed his appreciation. He asked the visiting delegation if there were relationships or differences between the International Tribunal for

Yugoslavia and ICC.

Leigh said that the policies of the United States Government frowns at the ICC, and he was very sceptical as to whether America will embrace the ideas of the ICC.

The ICC delegation in-

cluded Gaelle Laroque, Senior Associate International Justice Programme of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in New York and Marieke Wierda of The International Centre for Transitional Justice.

Independent Observer
Thursday, 27 March 2003

Independent Observer
Thursday March 27, 2003

Opinion poll on Special Court, TRC released

A poll released last Monday by the Civil Society Group, *Campaign for Good Governance (CGG)* indicates that majority of Sierra Leoneans support the Special Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

At the same time, however, the poll suggested that just weeks before their launch, many people still had an imperfect understanding of how the two institutions were supposed to work. The poll was conducted over a period of three weeks in November, 2002, with CGG field monitors interviewing about 1,280 people - 100 in each of Sierra Leone's 14 districts, and 200 in the Western Area.

In December, TRC *statement takers* fanned out across the country to record the stories of the victims and perpetrators in Sierra Leone's civil war. The Special Court handed down its first seven indictments of alleged war criminals in early March. In the poll, 62 percent of the respondents said that they believed the Special Court was necessary, and 65 percent said the same of the TRC. But when asked whether they knew the difference between the Special Court - a war crimes tribunal established jointly by the Sierra Leone Government and the United Nations - and Sierra Leone's national courts, 76 percent said they didn't know or were unsure. 59 percent of those questioned voiced support for the court's mandate

to prosecute only those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes, but just over a third knew that the court's jurisdiction covers only crimes committed after 30 November 1996. Confusion was even greater with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Only 17 percent of those surveyed said they fully understood the role of the TRC. 83 percent said that they understood it only partially or not at all.

The CGG acknowledged some problems with the poll, including the inability to determine what a representative sample in each district should be in the group's interviewers. No margin of error was given for the poll. It was also unclear whether those surveyed were representative of Sierra Leone's population as a whole. Fully 82 percent reported they had been forced to leave their homes as a result of the war, a much higher proportion than the estimated one third to one half of the population thought to have been displaced during the past decade.

57 percent of those polled said that they could read and write - about twice the level of reported literacy in the general population. By a 56 to 44 percent margin, more men were interviewed than women. In the age groups surveyed, however, Sierra Leonean women slightly outnumbered their male counterparts.

The Democrat

Thursday March 27, 2003

60% Support For Special Court, TRC

OVER 60% of Sierra Leoneans have expressed strong support for the Special Court and Truth and Reconciliation Commission, according to an opinion poll conducted by Campaign for Good Governance.

The organisation said in the report that it conducted the research to measure the extent to which Sierra Leoneans understand these institutions, whether or not they are will-

ing to co-operate and how far they support them. Also, it was to assess the people's perceptions of the institutions and gauge their concerns.

The report says 61% of those interviewed believe that both

institutions would benefit the country whilst 8% hold that only the international community stands to benefit from them.

CGG adopted a random sampling methodology in the exercise. One hundred people in each of the twelve districts and the western area which was divided into two districts were questioned, the report said.

The research, according to the organisation, was conducted over a period of three weeks in November 2002 using field monitors trained in undertaking such research in the provinces.

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From Page 1
The TRC was established to obtain an impartial historical record of violations and abuses of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law relating to the conflict in Sierra Leone from 1991 to the signing of the Lome Accord in July 1999, respond

to the needs of victims, promote healing and reconciliation and prevent a repetition of the violations and abuses suffered.
The Special Court on its part has a specific mandate, to address impunity by trying those who bear the greatest responsibility for crimes committed during the war.

Salone Times
Friday, 28 March 2003

Salone Times
Friday March 28, 2003

Int'l Criminal Court For Salone Soon

By Davida C-Thoronka

National Forum For Human Rights (NFHR) has organised a one day coalition building and orientation workshop for Civil Society groups on the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the Grassroot Gender Empowerment Movement (GGEM), John Street, Freetown, yesterday.

Giving an overview of the International Criminal Court, representative for the Lawyers Committee For Human Rights Gaelle Laroque, said that the ICC statute was adopted in Rome in 1998, and came into force four years later in 2002.

In September 2000 she continued, Sierra Leone became a signatory to this Statute.

Furthermore, she said that 139 countries have so far ratified the ICC but that only South Africa has enacted it into law. She maintained that the ICC is an independent court as it is not under the United Nations unlike the Special Court.

In his contribution, a representative for No Peace Without Justice, Pascal Ourlan, pointed out the relationship between the ICC and the Special Court. Though they are two different bodies, he said that they share the same aims and objectives as they are all working toward bringing justice under international law.

He went on to say that in Sierra Leone, the ratification of the ICC statute was part of a global process towards accountability and the end of impunity, long lasting peace, fair and effective justice.

As a country emerging from a ten year war, he said, "The country has chose justice as a way to face its past and prepare for its future." He said, "there is a need for such a court to be in place as the Special Court is temporary and perhaps there might be some other forms of crimes in the future, which would need to be tried by the International Criminal Court by international standards.

For di People
Friday, 28 March 2003

For di People
Friday March 28, 2003

The Special Court Arrest

From Last Edition
They will not course
to fight they are
law... they are
resources... fully
well that those charged
against them have
greater will and deter-
mination to move the
process of the publi-

ette of the last decade.
The Special Court is
special because its man-
date and structure (as
negotiated) should ori-
ent it towards both text
and context. In terms of
law and personnel, it is
mixture of that which
Sierra Leonean and that

which is international.
That which is Sierra
Leonean should orient it
towards the contextual,
and that which is inter-
national towards the text.
But the agreement
between the court also
makes it clear that, that
which is international,

both in terms of law, per-
sonnel or penology takes
precedence over that
which is Sierra Leonean.
Many more violations of
laws that are interna-
tional are to be investi-
gated than laws that are
Sierra Leonean. The
judges are overwhelm-

ingly international, as is
also the prosecutor and
the registrar. The penal
code is also international-
there will be no death
penalty. The implemen-
tation of the agreement
has further entrenched
the international orien-
tation of the court. The

expectation was that
the three judges to be
nominated by the Si-
erra Leone govern-
ment would be Sierra
Leonean, but only two
are; the agreement
envisaged the deputy
prosecutor to be Si-
erra Leonean-this,
however, is not the
case.
Continued Next Issue

For di People
Friday, 28 March 2003

Bush And Blair For Special Court Tribunal

The war in IRAQ is slightly a week old and yet there is still no CLEAR sign of an easy victory for the US-led Coalition of the Willing FORCES. While the US Central command in the Gulf is claiming thousands of Iraqis BEEN killed and THOUSANDS wounded and captured (Courtesy CNN and other American/British TV and Radio outlets) in the swoop to get rid of Saddam Hussein, the CIVILIAN death toll continues to rise by the day.

An American missile attack on a MARKET place last Wednesday forced Prof. PEEP to call for a WAR crime tribunal for the two leaders whose country named (George Bush of the US and Tony Blair of Britian) the so called Coalition of the Willing.

SIX reasons why PEEP wants BLAIR and BUSH tried for War CRIMES are:

- a) Killing of INNOCENT civilians like those in that IRAQI market violates the GENEVA convention.
- b) A war without UN backing (like the current US-led war in the GULF)



BUSH:accused is in total violation of International Humanitarian Laws.

- c) If trying the RUF/Afrc/ KAMAJORS for killing and maiming innocent lives in Sierra Leone what about the bombing of poor and defenceless Iraqis in their own land? After all civilians are non

combatants.

- d) Both leaders have ridiculous NAMES which seem to mean they are prehistoric- BUSH simply translated means a forest-like environment meant for APES and BEASTS, while Blair could have been misspelt for BLIND ha.ha.ha.

- e) Since an American (David CRANE) is trying Sierra Leoneans and possibly foreigners for war crimes in an Africa country what about trying some Americans and BRITS to add some colours in the game?

- f) The FINAL reason why PEEP wants the two leaders tried in a Special Court Tribunal is to



CRANE:prosecutor



BLAIR:accused prove to the WORLD that no one is above the law (u sai America dae?)

For di People
Friday, March 28, 2003

The Exclusive
Friday, 28 March 2003

The Exclusive

Friday March 28, 2003

Exclusive Talk Protect All Special Court Witnesses

There are reports of concern on the part of witnesses of the Special Court. There is the likelihood that witnesses would

Contd. page 3

be harassed and intimidated and probable eliminated. The atmosphere surrounding the Special Court is so electric that family or militia members of the indictees won't take it lightly with those who that will mount the witness box against their loved ones or their former commanders.

We at this medium do not expect the Special Court to hear the stories of witnesses for the prosecution and send them back to their communities. Certainly, some form of protection has to be provided to those prosecution witnesses. In fighting against impunity, protection has to be given to those new "soldiers" - witnesses for the prosecution.

The danger to our country and witnesses for the Special Court is real. Once the identities of witnesses are known, their immediate families will surely become targets of harassment from those families whose members they testify against.

This is indeed a very dangerous country. Therefore, the Special Court should be prepared to offer protection to witnesses and if possible relocate witnesses who will thereafter not feel safe to a third country, presumably a safe haven.

What the Special Court ought to do is to provide temporary protection to every witness who takes the witness box. We believe that the Special Court has to publish its road map for all to see and digest.

Whatever the case, the Special Court has to prepare itself for the ultimate reality that witnesses might have to endure.

Just to recap, the Special Court has started its hearings, where unprotected witnesses are going to take the witness box against formerly very powerful warlords who still command very significant loyalty among their "defunct" organisations.

Our message is that, protect the witnesses that will be prosecuting the war crime indictees and equally those who will be defending them.

New Vision
Friday, 28 March 2003

More Special Court cases...

RUF Commander raped 70 girls



AMIE WOLO, one of the juveniles who was raped and virginated by RUF Commander in Kailahun, Tom Sandi, has told New Vision that the former rebel commander raped over 70 girls in Kailahun township and its environs during the 10-year rebel war.

Other victims explained to our Eastern Region correspondent that the girls raped by Tom Sandi, who was training officer, were

mostly between eight and sixteen years of age.

Sandi is reported to have carried out his vicious acts during training ses-

sions. "He would strip captured girls naked during the training sessions and pick from among them those who he would forcefully raped. This was a routine and lasted as long as the war," Amie explained.

"Our children were abused right in our presence and we could not dare to do anything," a parent whose nine year old girl was raped,

said.

Most of the people who spoke to New Vision demanded that Tom Sandi be brought before the Special Court for the crimes he committed against humanity.

Chiefs in the fourteen chiefdoms of the district disclosed that Tom Sandi and others killed in cold blood

over 165 people they claimed were Kamajor Militia. Citizens of the district also disclosed that Morris Kallon, Sei Kullay, Saffa Nygobeh, all RUF commanders, were responsible for the kidnapping of the UNAMSIL Peace Keepers in the district.

Another commander

Edny Sankoh
whose vicious and barbaric act was explained by residents of the district is Manawah who resided at Kiwa in the Kailahun district.

Manawah spearheaded the killing of over two thousand people in the Mandu Chiefdom

New vision
Friday, March 28, 2003