

**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, 25 May 2007

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

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## \$85 Million for Special Court

Following a budget proposal submitted to the Management Committee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2007, the committee has on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 approved US\$ 89 Million for the Court's three-year budget. This was revealed in a release from the Special Court dated 24 May 2007.

The committee also reaffirmed its commitment to working with the Court to raise its profile and to seek more financial contributions from members of the United Nations. According to the release, the court needs \$36 million

for 2008, and \$20 million for 2009. By the end of 2009, the Special Court for Sierra Leone would have concluded all its activities. The release further stated that downsizing of staff and activities will commence in due course in Freetown, this year. According to the release, the trial of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, in The Hague, requires substantial budget until the end of 2008, and after that, downsizing of staff and activities in The Hague will also take place, the release concluded.

## AWARENESS TIMES NEWS BRIEFS

### Justice King's mandate extended

Reports revealed that Justice George King's mandate as President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has been extended to another one-year period. His extension came as he has been re-elected presiding judge of the appeals chambers. The profile of Justice King maintained that he had once served as president of country's appeal court and that of The Gambia. He has also held so many ambassadorial positions, serving in Portugal Switzerland, France, the United Nations, etc. He became judge for the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in December 2002.

# ***Court life span extends as...***

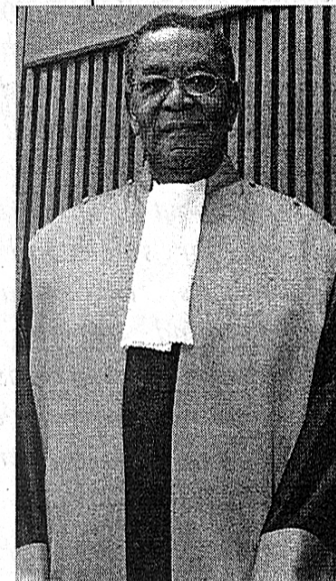
# **Special Court gets US\$89 Million for 3 years**

*BY TALLEYRAND*

**S** sequel to press reports by Standard Times earlier published about the Special Court for Sierra Leone's financial budget for the next three years is running dry has been confirmed by the court in a press release dated Thursday 24th May 2007. The release states that US\$89 Million has been approved by the Management Committee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. "The Man-

agement Committee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone has on 15 May 2007 approved US \$89 million for the Court's three-year budget and reaffirmed its commitment to working with the Court to raise its profile and to seek more financial contributions from members of the United Nations". The \$89 million would be expended by the Court with \$36 million in 2007, \$33 million for 2008 and \$20 million for 2009 when it is hoped to reach completion.

*CONTINUED PAGE 15*



*King... Special Court President*

## **Special Court gets US\$89 Million for 3 years**

Before 2009, the countdown to downsize staff and activities will start in Freetown in the course of 2007 while the trial of Mr. Charles Taylor in the Hague would require a substantial budget until the end of 2008, there after downsizing will also take place.

The budget proposal was submitted to the Committee on 5 April 2007.

Awoko

Friday, 25 May 2007

10 yrs. Ago: Gborie shocked us...

# “Pa Kabbah don run away”



Late Tamba Gborie

## ***Pa Kabbah don run away***

**E**arly in the morning of Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> 1997 soldiers at the Cockeril Military headquarters came out into the streets and started diverting cars into the compound.

Some who had been enjoying a very beautiful

Saturday night had the drunkenness rudely wiped off their clouded minds as they battled to take in what was to be the start of the darkest part of the history of this nation.

As the dawn broke and events started to unfold, soldiers dressed in their red and black ceremonial uniforms started commandeering

vehicles and sticking out their bodies through the car windows started proclaiming that they had taken over the government.

With shots being fired at random the streets were deserted only to the brave to witness the drama unfold.

Word spread that the prisons had been broken into

and all the prisoners including coup suspects Johnny Paul Koroma and others were released.

The hesitancy was broken when a helicopter was seen to have taken off from the vicinities of Kabasa Lodge. Everyone concluded that president Kabbah had fled and therefore the alleged coup had succeeded.

The meek who clung to their radios waited for the confirmation and it was soon after that the voice of Corporal Tamba Gborie

“The state is in the hands of the other ranks, now I am appealing to you people the rank from lieutenant Colonel to full Colonel to report to the Army headquarters. Now I am very very happy for the simple understanding our Nigeria brothers have done to us as now I am

speaking here we have already take over the FM and some other important places and also I am very very happy as I am now talking to you people my men are closer in the state house as for now fellow citizens enough is enough we have to build up our nation after that we are trying to make negotiation for our brotherly country Nigeria to release Corporal Foday Sankoh to come to Sierra Leone and join us and we are trying to call Saj. Musa to come to join us fellow citizens this is the time we are appealing to the RUF we are all one the war is over as I’m talking now as a spokesman now all Kamajors have been disbanded forthwith no more Kamajor no more Civil Defence Force as for now

we are the national army, we have to fight for this country through the support of you the nation and *me mama dem ar dae greet una all tiday as we the young young soja man dem we de other ranks don take over dis SLPP govment Pa Kabbah don run away ee don go now de contri don lef nar we han ...* This followed bitter fighting for the State House with Nigerian ECOMOG forces who were determined not to give in. Bombs meant for State House landed on top of the Law Courts and later they were directed at the Ministry of Finance setting the building on fire.

Meanwhile unprecedented looting was taking place systematically from shop to shop. This was the beginning of the worst part of Sierra Leone’s history.



*Rescue mission*

# May 25: Bad Day for Pa Kabbah!

BY MUSTAPHA SESAY

May 25th will always be a memorable day in the history of Sierra Leoneans and more so President

Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and the SLPP led government, who after a few months in power were overthrown in a military coup

that saw most of its members fleeing to Guinea.  
Most interesting was the speed of the authorities who had been living in luxury, wielding their influence, power and affluence on the poor electorates. Funnily enough, it was the fountain of honour, father of  
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# May 25: Bad Day for Pa Kabbah

FROM FRONT PAGE

the nation, Commander of the Armed Forces who led the marathon to Guinea in modern Olympic Games record time. It was a comic sight as our leaders soon became women to escape for their life : Those who were accustomed to riding jets and living in five star hotels managed in canoes and trucks to find a haven at Belleville to manage in motels and shacks at least to live to see another day.

Pa Kabbah, then sure of tight security found his voice to ask the citizenry to fight to the finish while he was guarded by Guinean troops out there in Conakry. Meanwhile, the sobels and rebels were busy killing, maiming, looting and burning infrastructures and held on to the power meant for the elected Members of Parliament, however evil

they were.

Once in Guinea Pa Kabbah and his refugees tried to seek the support from the International community, NUSS, Labour Congress and ECOMOG for the restoration of the democratically elected government.

Prior to the take over by Armed Forces Revolutionary Council group, there was an alleged coup plot by Johnny Paul Koroma which the Nigerian government was asked to carry out the investigation . During the course of the treason trial, a group of junior military officers headed by Tamba Gborie and some civilians broke the Pademba Road so-called maximum security prison and released Johnny Paul Koroma and hundreds of prisoners.

In the early hours of Sunday, President Kabbah's government

and the masses were shocked at the state of lawlessness and thousands fled to neighbouring countries where inhuman treatment were meted on them as they became refugees without voices.

Despite pleas from the international community and sub-regional governments, the AFRC/ RUF government bent on hanging like faltering sailors in the turbulent seas to power failed to relinquish power until the ECOMOG loyal forces, the CDF and Sandline mercenaries from South America in a deal involving minerals for freedom came to the rescue and brought sanity back to the nation. Above all, it was Maxwell Mitikishie Khobe who weathered the storm and later Sierra Leoneans already withered and lean, breathed a sigh of relief.

For di People  
Friday, 25 May 2007

# WE WANT FAIR TREATMENT FOR SALONE PRISONERS

**DIRECTOR OF Prison-Watch Sierra Leone, Francis Kaikai has said they are advocating for prisoners to be treated under conditions that are binding under international protocols on the right to prisoners welfare and protection.**

He said they want to see that prisoners in Sierra Leone are regarded as humans and people who can still play important roles in the socio-economic development of the country.

Kaikai made this response when asked about the organisation's activities and role in society.

"There have been incidences of violence and torture in the prisons and cells in this country. We want to see a change to that and help reform them as places of correction and not to be seen as schools for criminals." He said.

He said though prison inmates are serving sentences for crimes they have committed, yet they still have to be treated as Sierra Leoneans, and should be privileged with those services that will ensure their rights are not violated.

"It is unacceptable for those detained to be treated like outcasts." He said

Kaikai said there are many prisoners who have died in prisons due to unfavourable conditions and that many come out sick of cold and other diseases due to the lack of proper medical facilities.

## Says Prison Watch Director

He also stated that the position of prison officers is very poor when compared to the other security forces and that Prison-Watch is calling on the government to provide the needed support for those officers to be able to carry out their duty.

Kaikai said the poor condition of service of the many prison officers is the root cause of the many violations metted on inmates in prisons, and that, as a human right body they are calling upon the government and all political stakeholders to realise that there are many prisoners of conscience who are suffering in prisons because of the violation of their rights by prison officers.

He also said the police cells are still poorly kept in many parts in the provinces despite the tremendous improvement the leadership of the police has made in this period.

The Pademba Prisons which was made to hold a population of 300 inmates is now reported to have over 1000 in its custody.

Many prisoners are reported to be seriously sick and craving for their cases to be expedited in the magistrate courts to escape the possibility of early death.

"We want all stakeholders to know that the prisons should be places of correction and not for torture", he said.



**KABBAH: neglected prisons completely**



## BBC Online

Thursday, 24 May 2007

### Sierra Leone's poems of war

By Penny Boreham

BBC African Performance, Freetown

#### **An important document of the tragic 10-year-long war in Sierra Leone exists and yet, until now, has had no international recognition.**

It is a collection of poems produced by a group of Sierra Leonean writers who met regularly throughout the war.

They came together, wherever and whenever they could, to share their writing and also for companionship in the direst of circumstances.

One, Oumar Farouk Sesay, recalls that at the time, every individual in Sierra Leone was confronted with his or her own mortality.

"No-one escaped," he says.

"Status did not matter. I began to realise that soon we all would exit and then I began to consider what would be left behind. This is why I wrote My Will."

#### **Dark days**

The 10-year war was marked by horror difficult to comprehend.

Some of the atrocities included mass rape, brutal amputations, and the widespread use of child soldiers - many of whom were abducted and forced to commit these atrocities against their own families.

In the early stages of the long war, the physical fighting was one stage removed from these writers, as the capital Freetown was not affected.

But in the latter stages of the war Freetown was invaded and ransacked by the rebels.

This put the war on these writers' own doorsteps.

Dark days followed. All of the writers encountered violence.

One, Tom Cauray, remembers being stripped naked by a group of rebels in the centre of town.

He says they were ready to kill him, accusing him of being Nigerian; the rebels had a particular hatred of the Nigerians, who made up the West African peacekeeping force, Ecomog.

Mr Cauray describes how a group of evangelists, who happened to be passing, called on the rebels to pray and as the rebels were distracted, and some of them prayed, he escaped.

#### MY WILL - OUMAR FAROUK SESAY



When I die  
Don't bury my poetry  
In the prison of your  
Shelves under your beds.  
In your cockroach  
Infested boxes for mice  
And cockroaches to dine.  
Don't pluck the pages of  
My poetry to wrap crumbs.

#### TRYING TO FORGIVE - KOSONIKE KOSSO THOMAS

I hear your plea but now I'm  
losing  
The spirit to forgive,  
Just when it moves through me  
And enters right into my thinking  
lobe.  
I sense it fail to instruct the bits in  
me  
Which respond to acts of love,  
And keep me trying to forgive.

## Aftermath of war

Five years after the war ended, Sierra Leoneans are trying to move on - but are still reeling from the war's dire effects.

Kosonike Koso Thomas sums up the tension of the war's aftermath in the poem Trying To Forgive.

In their poetry, the writers all contemplate the way that poverty in the aftermath of war is restricting the lives of the population.

Mohammed Gibril Sesay's short poem Where Will Our Child Lie deals with this.

He says that a poem is "a rainbow," and about "controlled emotion."

"You can tell the individual has experienced pain but right now it is not overwhelming him," he adds.

"The poet is in the driving seat of his emotions."

Oumar Farouk Sesay believes that most Sierra Leonean writers feel an immense responsibility to their country, and want to use their words and their voices to tackle fundamental and ethical issues and problems in their country.

"We are the voice of the people," he says.

"We try to articulate what the illiterate in our society would like to say if they had our access to the written word."

**WHERE WILL OUR CHILD LIE -  
MOHAMMED GIBRIL SESAY**  
 Headside-footside-jamming-wall  
 The bed  
 Is workbenchwide  
 The room twice that  
 And my woman pregnant  
 Where will our child lie?

## Voice of America

Thursday, 24 May 2007

### **Developing Countries Urged to Contribute to Proposed Arms Trade Treaty**

By Joe De Capua  
Washington

An international relief agency says major developing countries are running out of time to make proposals for an arms trade treaty. OXFAM says countries, including Liberia, Ghana, Namibia, Uganda, Botswana and Tanzania, have one more month to submit their suggestions on time.

Anna MacDonald is Oxfam's arms campaign manager. From London, she spoke to VOA English to Africa Service reporter Joe De Capua about efforts to write and approve an arms trade treaty.

"Last December 153 governments, which is more than 80 percent of the world's governments, voted in favor of a resolution to begin work on an arms trade treaty. This included a majority of countries in Africa, South America and many countries from Asia and other developing regions. These countries now have a month left in which to input their views on what should be in such a treaty. So, we're encouraging them all to submit their proposals to the Un as soon as possible," she says.

Supporters say such a treaty could help curtail or prevent many conflicts. "Basically, an arms trade treaty would control sales of arms and transfers of weapons across the world. At the moment, the arms trade is unregulated at the international level. Different governments have got different levels of export controls, which means that unscrupulous arms dealers or unscrupulous governments can easily find their way around these controls. Which is why we see so many weapons ending up in the world's worst conflict hotspots. And why the arms trade at the moment is contributing to fueling conflicts, fueling poverty and fueling human rights abuses in some of the poorest countries in the world," MacDonald says.

Asked how it would control the flow of weapons, the OXFAM official says, "For a start, what it would do is make states responsible for all transfers of weapons that either begin from their country or pass through their country. At the moment, states don't have to authorize every weapon sale that passes through their country or goes from their country to another country because we don't have any international agreements."

She gives an example of conflicts where an arms treaty might have had an effect. "In the 90's, we saw unscrupulous arms dealers selling weapons to both sides of the civil war in Liberia, in Sierra Leone, in countries in Central Africa and so on. That kind of arms transfer needs to stop," she says.

Details of the treaty are expected to be worked out in 2008 with a vote at the United Nations in October of next year.