

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:

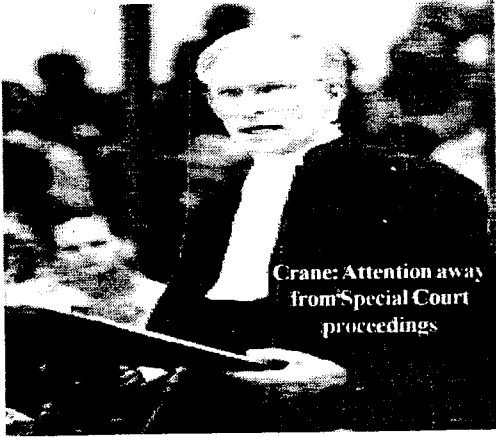
Tuesday, 26 January, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76-645914

Special Court Controversy: Senior Official Resigns

Just over two months after giving evidence in the trial of Special Court war crimes investigator 56-year-old Australian Peter Holloran, Mandy Cordwell, associate criminal investigator of the Special Court has tendered her resignation. Mrs. Cordwell was asked to respond to allegations of violations of staff 'code of conduct' by the 21st of January in the matter involving his colleague Halloran in the alleged sexual assault case on a child less than 14 years,

but instead she tendered her resignation effective the same day. If will be recalled that Mandy Cordwell featured prominently in the prosecution of Peter Halloran.



Crane: Attention away from Special Court proceedings

The Australian assistant crimes investigator has been standing trial on a four-count indictment of sexually abusing a girl under 14 years of age. For this purpose Australian High Commissioner to Ghana Jon Richardson was in Freetown in October to observe the trial in the High Court of the United Nations backed Special Court. While here he emphasized to the Press "It is important to understand our diplomatic and consular role to ensure that the judicial processes are fair and transparent and to

see that the Australian individuals welfare is protected while being subjected to judicial process. Associate Criminal Investigator, Mandy Cordwell, was suspended for four months without pay with effect from Wednesday December 15, 2004. Her pay was later restored. This may be "for breach of the Special Court Code of conduct", Special Court spokesman Peter Anderson told reporters in Freetown Wednesday 15 December 2004. Anderson added "and that relates to her allegedly speaking to the Australian press, but not the contents of what she

may have said. This is a decision of the Special Court Office of the Registrar on staff matters. Mrs. Mandy Cordwell, who is a Police Officer from Tasmania, Australia, had a one-year contract with the Special Court, which started in March 2004, when she arrived in Freetown to take up her appointment. She came together with another Australian and co-worker Peter Halloran. Cordwell came to the public limelight and started featuring in the local in mid August 2004, following the arrest of her boss and workmate and

Cont. Page 2

Senior Official Resigns

From Front Page

other Australian from Victoria.

High Commissioner Jon Richardson has already held discussions with Attorney General and Minister of Justice Frederick Carew.

According to the Senior Australian envoy, Attorney General Fredrick Carew has given the "assurance of

the Sierra Leone Government's concern to have a fair and expeditious trial process, and that the government recognizes that it is under international scrutiny with respect to the handling of the case in terms of the assessment of the implementation of the rule of law in Sierra Leone."

High Commissioner Jon

Richardson has been proposed as the Australian High Commissioner to Sierra Leone while the Australian High Commission in Accra, Ghana, has in the meantime, diplomatic and consular responsibilities for Sierra Leone.

Australian print and television journalists are in Freetown to cover the trial.

Christian Monteiro

Tuesday, Jan 25, 2005

Three witnesses testify in Halloran's case

Mohamed T. Fofanah

The Defense counsel yesterday led three witnesses before Justice

Ademusu at the high court in defense of the clients Peter Halloran, Sheka Fofanah and Abdul Fofanah. The three witnesses were Fatmata Fofanah, Pa Hassanah Fofanah the father of the alleged rape victim, and

Abu Kamara. In the testimony of Fatmata Fofanah, she disclosed to the court that she came from Lunsar where she was residing to Freetown on account of the death of her relative. She said that she

Three witnesses testify in Halloran's case

From Front Page

went to Sheka, her cousin's house but did not meet anyone there. She disclosed that she met her sisters going to Sulaiman Bah's office and went along with them. Fatmata continued that Mr. Bah then introduced them to his boss Mr. Carew who told them to work with him. When asked how they should "work with him", she revealed to the court that Mr. Carew then said they should get Kadie to say that Mandy told her to say Halloran played with her breast and that they will do everything for them. Fatmata revealed that the ten of them all family members in that meeting did not reply, giving the excuse that they do not know what to say. She continued that Mr. Carew told them if they will not cooperate he would send them to jail. Fatmata then told the court that Kamanda Mohamed Sillah and Gbandie took us to Mr. Dabo and after which they took us to

Central police station where they were locked up for three days without food. Fatmata concluded that they were then brought back to Mr. Carew who expressed regrets for his action in detaining them for three days and that he also gave them ten thousand leones and warned them not to relate their experience with him. In the cross examination the prosecutor Robin Mason pointed out to the witness that Mr. Carew told her, Fatmata that Kadie had given a statement at the police and that he wanted her to maintain that statement in court. Fatmata denied this. Robin Mason suggested

to the witness that she was one of the people who interfered with Kadie and that is why they did not even ask why they were being incarcerated Fatmata said that she did not question their incarceration because Mr. Carew "na big man". The second witness Hassanah Fofanah was led by the defense to establish the age of the alleged victim. He said she was fifteen years old and that he got this age by calculating the farming seasons. The third witness related almost the same story as the first witness Fatmata Fofanah. The case was adjourned to today.

Awoko

Wed January 26, 2004

Sex assault trial witness resigns

From correspondents in Freetown

26-01-2005

From: Agence France-Presse

THE star witness in a Sierra Leone trial of an Australian police officer acquitted of sexual assault has resigned from the UN-backed war crimes court for the west African state, reports said today.

Mandy Cordwell first brought the charges of sexual assault against her colleague and house mate Peter Halloran to the war court, which dismissed them for lack of evidence.

She then turned to local law enforcement, which indicted Halloran on four counts, including unlawful carnal knowledge and procuring a girl under-age 14, as well as for his alleged illicit relationship with a 13-year-old schoolgirl hired to work in their home.

The daily Awoko reported Tuesday that Cordwell worked her last day at the war crimes tribunal on Friday, which had earlier disciplined her for "breaching the staff code of conduct on media policy".

Court spokeswoman Alison Cooper was quoted by the daily as saying that Cordwell had been suspended since November.

Halloran was acquitted of the two main charges against him on January 17, but was back in court today to defend himself against the lesser charges of conspiracy and indecent assault.

"I am totally innocent of the charges against me," he told the High Court presided by Judge Samuel Adamusu.

The 56-year-old Halloran, on leave from his post as a senior inspector with the Victoria State police, insisted there had been "distortions" in the statement he gave to police.

"The police did not take down all what I said," he told the court. "I only knew of the allegations made against me on June 4, 2004, when I was advised by (chief investigator) Alan White, and I denied the allegations."

The trial had been controversial from the beginning, and a blot on the war crimes tribunal aiming to judge those deemed most responsible for the atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's decade of civil war.

As the trial progressed, the Australian government moved to exert pressure on Britain, Sierra Leone's former colonial power, to ensure a fair trial for Halloran.

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Jobs at News](#) | [Terms](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Copyright 2005 News Limited. All times AEDT (GMT + 11).

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia
(UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
25 Jan 2004**

Former President Taylor's Arms Supplier Faces Extradition

(The News)

- A Czech national, Darlibar Kapp, who is charged with arms trafficking by the Czech government, is facing extradition hearings at the Monrovia City Court.
- However, the state is yet to provide evidence of an extradition arrangement between the Czech and Liberian governments.

Confidant of Former President Charles Taylor Restarts Logging in Nimba

(The Telegraph)

- There are reports that one of the trusted confidants of former President Charles Taylor, Mr. Mark Kishen alias "General Fox," is planning to commence illicit logging in the vast rain forest of Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties.

'One hundred' arrests in Guinea

At least 100 people have been arrested after last week's apparent attempt to assassinate President Lansana Conte, a human rights group says.

They are being held in abominable conditions, Thierno Maadjou Sow, the head of the Guinean Organisation of Human Rights, told Reuters news agency.

Some of those arrested have been released but others are still being questioned by the security forces.

Some opposition figures are sceptical about whether it was a coup bid.

They say that previous apparent coup plots led to a crackdown on the opposition.

Mr Sow said he knew of 100 arrests and suspected that the real figure was twice as high.

Last week, the BBC's Alhassan Sillah in Conakry said he understood that those arrested were not well known personalities or politicians but local residents.

A truck containing grenades, uniforms and guns was found near the site of the assassination attempt, police say.

Confused

Unidentified men fired on the presidential convoy taking Mr Conte to work. The president escaped unscathed.

Our reporter says a dispatch rider who was leading the presidential motorcade was seriously wounded in the shootout and is now in intensive care.

After opening fire the gunmen threw away their weapons and disappeared into the crowd, eyewitnesses say.

Most residents are confused that such a daring attempt could be made on the president's life in broad daylight, our correspondent says.

The president - who seized power in a coup in 1984 - has hinted that an unnamed foreign power may be behind the attempt.

The incident happened a year after President Conte was sworn in for a third term, following his victory in controversial elections in December 2003, after the constitution was changed to allow him to stand.

Celebrations to mark the occasion were dampened by the shooting, our correspondent says.

Mr Conte is a diabetic, and correspondents say doubts about the president's health have led to worries about a possible future power struggle.

Guinea, a mineral-rich country bordering Sierra Leone and Liberia, has been viewed as generally stable in an otherwise turbulent region.

S.Leone on alert at borders for Guinean dissidents

By Christo Johnson

FREETOWN, Jan 25 (Reuters) - Sierra Leone has ordered soldiers on its border with Guinea to stop anyone who might have been involved in last week's attack on Guinea's president from crossing its frontier, an army official said on Tuesday.

A senior security official in the capital Freetown told Reuters that Guinea had sent intelligence agents to Sierra Leone to work with local security forces in hunting any dissidents.

S.Leone on alert at borders for Guinean dissidents

25 Jan 2005 13:05:15 GMT

Source: Reuters

By Christo Johnson

FREETOWN, Jan 25 (Reuters) - Sierra Leone has ordered soldiers on its border with Guinea to stop anyone who might have been involved in last week's attack on Guinea's president from crossing its frontier, an army official said on Tuesday.

"Security forces in Sierra Leone have received intelligence that some Guineans allegedly involved in the assassination attempt against President Lansana Conte have fled into the country," said chief of defence staff Major General Sam Nboma.

"If it is true we are going to arrest them and we appeal to Sierra Leoneans not to condone the escapees," he told Reuters.

A senior security official in the capital Freetown told Reuters that Guinea had sent intelligence agents to Sierra Leone to work with local security forces in hunting any dissidents.

Conte's convoy was attacked last Wednesday as he drove through Conakry, according to government officials.

Conte, who seized power in a coup in 1984 and is rarely seen in public, has ruled the former French colony with an iron fist, surviving several coup attempts.

A senior police officer in Guinea said on Monday authorities had detained suspects there and were continuing inquiries.

The Guinean Organisation of Human Rights said at least 100 people had been held but that the number could be twice as high.

Conte's opponents have said last week's attack could have been a set-up. They have dismissed some previous coup rumours as pretexts for clampdowns by Conte loyalists.

In a television address hours after the attack, Conte spoke of "external manipulations" against him, but gave no details.

Guinea, which has one third of the world's known reserves of bauxite, the raw material for aluminium, has long been seen as a bulwark against instability in its neighbours Sierra Leone and Liberia, and more recently Ivory Coast.

After years of intertwined civil war in the three countries and despite ceasefires, guns and gunmen are easy to find, especially in remote


borderlands, and there are fears that freelance fighters still move easily to wherever trouble brews.

Relations between the neighbours have often been tense.

In 2001, Conte's troops beat back a cross-border insurgency blamed on dissidents and Sierra Leonean rebels backed by Liberia. Guinea has also been accused in U.N. reports of backing Liberian rebels in the past by providing support and shelter.

The United Nations has recently been investigating reports that guns and former fighters from Liberia, where a 14-year civil war ended in 2003, were crossing into Guinea, where fears of instability have been boosted by Conte's ailing health.

Conte, a former general who says he was born around 1934, has no obvious successor and analysts say his death may spark a violent scramble for power in a country where the military is divided along ethnic and generational lines.

AlertNet news is provided by **REUTERS** 

[Printable view](#) | [Email this article](#) | [Send comments](#)

© 1998-2001 Reuters Limited. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of Reuters content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Reuters. Reuters shall not be liable for any errors or delays in the content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon.