

**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:**

Thursday, 26 January 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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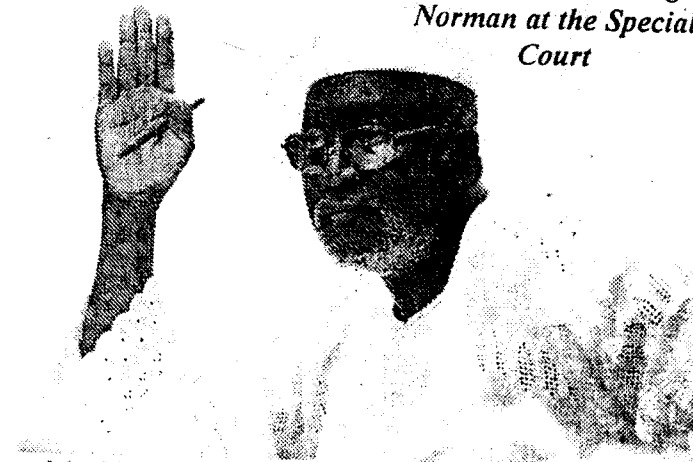
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# “Tejan kabbah was Chairman of the War Council” - Norman

By Betty Milton

Continuing his evidence, the first defence witness Chief Samuel Hinga Norman has told the Special Court that when the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) government was exiled in Guinea, President Tejan Kabbah was the chairman of the War Council.

Chief Samuel Hinga  
Norman at the Special  
Court



Mr. Norman who was testifying in English said that when the government was ousted on 25 May 1997, most of the Ministers and Parliamentarians including President Tejan Kabbah and himself fled to neighboring Guinea to seek refuge.

He said that between 25<sup>th</sup> 1997 May to 10<sup>th</sup> March 1998 he still doubled as Deputy Defence Minister and Acting Minister of Internal Affairs since there

was no cabinet reshuffle so he was still taking command from the Defence Minister and reported to him also.

He noted that when he realized that the President was based at Belleview, he went there on seven consecutive days to see him but was not permitted.

Around the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June, the Chief narrated that he was approached by some white people who said they

*Contd. Page 2*

# Tejan Kabbah was Chairman of the War Council

*From Front Page*

were working for the BBC and that they wanted to interview him as people were saying that he was dead. "I decided to grant them the interview at the basement of the Novotel Hotel where I was residing. During the interview, I told them that I was against the coup and that I would stand by the people of Sierra Leone in whatever decision they take. I also appealed to the hunters' associations to support the people to reinstate the elected government".

He further said that, "immediately after the interview, I had a phone call and President Kabbah was on the line and said to me 'Chief I want you to realize something that there is a captain in the ship.' I replied saying that if I'm aboard a ship that is about to sink and I have one or two things to do, I will get out or help it not to sink. And the line went off".

The former Co-ordinator of the Kamajors stated that, "in the space of one to two hours, I heard a knock on my hotel door and when I opened it I saw four men. They were the former American Ambassador to Sierra Leone John Hirsch, Peter Penfold the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, General Alhaji

Abubakarr Wan Mohammed Nigerian the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone and Berhanu Dinka former UNDP Representative. They said they had come to see me as they had realized that there was difference between the President and me and that they wanted to have talks with both of us and that we should meet and discussed."

The Co-ordinator maintained that they went to the place where Tejan Kabbah was residing. General Abubakarr, he said, was the spokesman at the meeting and the others were also present. The General he said told him that their countries were quite prepared to assist Sierra Leone from sinking further but that assistance depended on President Kabbah and Chief Norman. "He also said that the success of the country would depend on our cooperation and trust for each other. I told him that I was committed to these words", noted Chief Norman, adding that he was also told that

the late Head of State of Nigerian, General Sani Abacha who was also the then Chairman of ECOWAS, was prepared to convince other ECOWAS member countries to assist Sierra Leone if only he was convinced that it was the

wishes of the people of Sierra Leone not to accept the coup, and that they would need the hunters of the country to liberate it and that arrangement had already been made for him to be flown to Liberia to meet with some ECOMOG Military officers.

Hinga Norman said that he was later told by President Tejan Kabbah that he was going to announce over the BBC that he [Norman] had been given another appointment as the National Co-ordinator of the CDF which he did.

The Chief went on to say that he was sent to Liberia around 17<sup>th</sup> June 1997 where he met General Victor Malu and the other day they held a meeting together with some Kamajor Commanders.

ECOMOG, he said, promised to support the Kamajors with food, medicines, arms and ammunition or with cash in US dollars.

At a War Council meeting, which he attended in Guinea Conakry, the witness said he reported to them the activities of the CDF and that there was no problem. Members of the War Council who were present include Prince Harding, Hon. Ansu Kaikai, Momodu Koroma, late R.E.S. Lagawo, Charles Margai, Thorlu Bangura and one T.K Vandy. The witness said President Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was the Chairman at this meeting.

# Kabbah's role in the CDF revealed at Special Court

Story: Tanu Jalloh

First accused in the ongoing Civil Defense Forces Trial at the Special Court trial Chamber 1, Sam Hinga Norman who testified in his defense, Wednesday revealed President Kabbah controlled the War Council in Conakry, Guinea, which supported the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) in Sierra Leone.



*Continued page 3*

*Kabbah - what was your role?*

## Kabbah's role in the CDF revealed

*From page 1*

"The then Nigerian head of state and chairman of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), late Gen. Sani Abacha told President Kabbah and I, through his High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Alhaji Abu Bakarr, that they were prepared to support and reinstate the exiled Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) government if that was the wishes of the people," he recounted.

Quoting President Kabbah's response, Norman recalled: "That is where we need the support of the hunters in rejecting the military government of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC)," adding that there was an arrangement that he (Norman) should join ECOMOG in Monrovia, Liberia for the coordination of the Kamajors.

"President Kabbah told me he was going to announce my new appoint-

ment as National Coordinator for CDF in addition to my being the Deputy Defense Minister and Acting Internal Affairs Minister, which he did." he testified to the Chamber and continued, "I later, on the instruction of President Kabbah, traveled to Monrovia to meet with Nigerian ECOMOG General Abdul Wan Mohamed who later introduced me to his boss, General Victor Malu on 17 June 1997.

I made a verbal report to President Kabbah, in my capacity as National Coordinator and short guns, (between 500 to 5,000 pieces) and a huge quantity of cartridges, oil, rice and cash in dollars were supplied to the hunters and he expressed gratitude."

Norman recounted that he later got a satellite communication set sent by the then minister of Finance, James Jonah and delivered by his deputy, Momoh Pujeh via ECOMOG to him at Base Zero where he coordinated the CDF.

# Momodu Koroma and 9 others named at special court

By  
Joseph  
Turay

The on going trial at the Special Court as Hinga Norman continues his testimony yesterday, the former Internal Affairs Minister, and National Coordinator of the Kamajor Militia, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman has again dropped another bombshell, by

revealing the names of certain Ministers and Members of Parliament in the Kabbah Government, who he said played active role in the formation of the Civil Defence Force C.D.F (Kamajors)

Amongst those that the first accused (Norman), recalled to the judges which his Defence lawyer Dr. Jabbie

yesterday named were the Minister of Transport and Communication Dr. Price Harding, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Momodu Koroma, Hon. Momoh Pujeh, Hon Ansu Kai Kai, Hon M.S Kallon, Dr. James Jonah, Thorlu Bangura, T.K Vandy

*continued page 2*

*from front page*

and R.A.S Lagarwo. This list, the witness said is endless as it also includes President Kabbah who he says was the chairman of the Kamajor War Council in Guinea.

Chief Norman who was led in evidence by his Lawyer Dr. Bubuaki Jabbie, testified that all of those names that he had mentioned played key roles which led to the succession of the C.D.F as a fighting force. He said all of them were Executive Members of the war council of the C.D.F, particularly when they were in exile in neighbouring Guinea in 1997. He said most of them contributed immensely for the facilitation of arms and ammunitions to the C.D.F group. The former Deputy Defence and Internal Affairs

Minister disclosed that when they were in exile in Guinea after the May 1997 coup, he escaped to Conakry, where he met most of these Ministers and M.P.s including President Kabbah who had formed the Kamajor War Council, which had been holding several secret meetings for the recruitment of civilians who could oust the military regime. Norman revealed that soon after President Kabbah had appointed him National co-ordinator at the time in Guinea, the latter assured him that he was to based in Monrovia, where he would be co-ordinating with ECOMOG; who were based in Liberia at the time, for the recruitment and training of more local hunters C.D.F. They would then be

# ial court

formed into a fighting force to re-instate the SLPP Government. Norman said after the president had informed him about his move to Liberia, he was later picked up the following day at his hotel by some men who told him it was the President who sent them.

The accused justified that he boarded the private car together with the men who drove him straight to the airport, where he said he later boarded a Belview air line plane, which later landed him at the sprigspane airfield in Monrovia, he then received by a military vehicle ( Nigeria ECOMOG soliders) who conveyed him to one ECOMOG Nigeria Military General Abdul Wan Mohammed who gave him a warm welcome and later told him that he was expecting him and briefed him ( Norman) about what he described as a " mission of military importance" with regards the situation at the time in Sierra Leone.

Norman said after his meeting with the General, he then talk to one General Victor Marlow, the then ECOMOG boss at the time in Monrovia, who also explained to him about the proposed military mission in Sierra Leone. This the witness said was followed by a meeting the following day on the 17

June 1997 between Senior ECOMOG Officers and some traditional hunters ( mainly kamajors) who had already been deployed in Bo waterside. The special court indictee explained that the meeting which was conveyed in Monrovia came out successfully as ECOMOG pledge its support to help the C.D.F with all logistical support the hunters were represented by one Eddie Massallay and Mr. Tucker also pledge their fullest support in terms of manpower.

Norman revealed that while all these arrangements were going on, President Kabbah who had earlier on in Guinea told him about the " Mission" was being briefed about every step he was taking towards the said venture, as the President had assured him of General Abacha's fullest support to see that the SLPP government was re-instated by military means. Chief Norman told the court that he had several meetings with his men around the boarder area where he delegated different responsibilities for them to be accomplished. He will always give his reports via ECOMOG telephone communication to H.E Kabbah in Conakry, who always commends him for his good work.

Norman testified that he also had support from the National

Student Union ( NUS) President Egerton MarCarthy and his vice one Sanoh both of whom he said raveled to meet him in Monrovia, and pledged to give manpower support.

Norman further said inembers of the war council were sent to carry military logistics for fighters; they always give fine speeches at several meetings held in Monrovia. Adding that Hon. Pujeh who was the then Deputy Minister of finance, who most times was sent by President Kabbah to carry military logistics, which included cash in dollars and other physical items. This also the witness confirmed does not exclude Dr. Prince Harding, Thorlu Bangura, Hon. Ansu kai Kai.

Norman also recalled when he reported to the war council in Conakry about his successes in his task, the President and other colleague Ministers praised him particularly so when his forces had at once been able to dislodge the rebels and AFRC forces at Mano River Bridge. Norman said he finally pulled out from Liberia when he noticed that Charles Taylor wanted to track him dead or alive. Before his deployment at his Base Zero in Kailahun. The witness narrated that he first informed his boss ( Kabbah) in Conakry, who promised to provide him with communication set that would enhance a link between the two of them.

The phone was presented by Dr. James Jonah (the then Finance Minister) who gave it to Hon. Pujeh who later delivered it via a helicopter from Conakry to his "base Zero".

Earlier in his testimony Chief Norman also recalled the very day of May 1997 when he arranged for a helicopter which later picked the President at his state lodge in Freetown, which later saw the later in exile in Conakry. He also added that even when he (Norman) made his escape to Guinea, the President. Norman said he was not in good terms with the President, but not until at a later part when diplomats like Peter Penford, the U.S.A Ambassador to Sierra Leone John Hash, the Nigerian Ambassador to ask Alhaji Abubakarr and the then U.N.D.P representative Bananudinka all of these people he said broker peace between him and the President.

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# More Fire at Special Court

*As Hinga Norman names Dr. Prince Harding, Momodu Koroma, Momoh Pujeh, Thortu Bangura, Hon. Ansu Karkai, M.S.Kallon etc. as Members of the Kamajor War Council...*

**By Savoh Kamara**  
Chief Sam Hinga Norman yesterday continued his defense at the UN backed Special Court with an insight into how arrangements were made for the ECOMOG military intervention that subsequently ousted the AFRC Junta with the full participation of the Kamajor Militia of which

he was National Coordinator. Chief Norman started off by explaining how he facilitated the flight that took President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah out of the country in the wake of the AFRC coup in 1997. He told the court that after he had ensured that a the helicopter he had facilitated to carry the President out

of the country was in motion, he used his walkie-talkie hand set to direct the route of the pilot in order to avoid enemy fire from the ground. He said after the helicopter safely left Sierra Leone, he was not aware as to where the President was heading for until he eventually met him in Conakry, in the Republic of  
*Contd: page 2*



*Tejan Kabbah: Named*



*Momodu Koroma:  
Named*



*Dr. Prince Harding:  
Named*

**From front page**

Guinea. In Conakry, Guinea, Chief Norman told the court that he attempted to see the President about seven to eight times, but was refused access by the security, even though other government ministers at the time were allowed to see him. He told the court that sensing that he would never be given access to the President, he therefore stopped any further attempts to see him.

He went on to tell the court that it was after sometime that when one day, he received a telephone call only to realize that it was the President. Upon taking the call, he told the court, he said the President's voice came over stating that there is only one Captain to a ship and that he (the President), was that Captain.

According to him, two days later, he was approached by Mr. Peter Penfold, the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone at the time, Mr. John Hirsh, the former American Ambassador to Sierra Leone at the time, Alhaji Abubakar, the former Nigerian High Commissioner to Sierra Leone at the time and the UNDP Country Representative to Sierra Leone at the time.

He said their mission was to preach to him the message of reconciliation because according to them, they have the understanding that all was not well between him and the President. He told the court that these emissaries told him how important it was at the time for Sierra Leoneans to galvanize around each other in the interest of the nation. He went on to tell the court how these men promised to do all they could to reinstate the government and therefore considered it prudent that they as leaders of the country see each other in good faith.

He told the court that it was from there that they went to the President's residence at the time at Bellview in Conakry where peace was brokered between him and the President and that after which they embraced each other. He told the court that it was there that he was informed by the President how then President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and

Chairman of ECOWAS, General Sani Abacha has pledged his support to assist militarily to remove the Junta from power in Freetown. He said he was therefore asked by the President to take up another appointment as National Coordinator to mobilize the local hunters at the time.

According to him, it was from that moment that the whole idea of the Kamajor Militia getting involved in overthrowing the AFRC, originated. He further told the court that four days after this meeting, he was instructed by the President to go to Liberia to meet with ECOMOG officials where he would be briefed as to the modalities of the pending military operation.

Chief Norman said the President specifically named one General Abdulai Mohamed Wan as the officer he was to first meet with directly on arrival in Liberia. He however noted that while all these were unfolding, he never told his wife about anything.

He continued by explaining that it was on the next day of his meeting with the President that the President sent him a vehicle to take him to the Conakry Airport from where he was flown to Sprigg-Pane Airfield in Monrovia, Liberia, where he was received by General Abdulai Mohamed Wan as said by the President. He said that he was whisked from the airfield to in a military vehicle to the General's military base where the General stated to him that he expects him to have been fully briefed about the pending military operations. He said he was then taken to General Victor Malu, then Commander of the ECOMOG troops in Liberia, who also briefed him on the same subject and assured him of all the necessary logistical support.

Chief Norman went on to explain that the following day, he held a meeting with Nigerian ECOMOG officers with some members of the Kamajors militia already deployed at the Bellview Waterside. He said during the meeting, he was told by General Malu that they were to provide the manpower whilst ECOMOG will provide all other logistics including arms and ammunition and food. He also stated that while all these were

unfolding, he constantly reported to the President as to developments on the ground.

According to Chief Norman, whilst he was in Liberia, he was regularly visited by some government officials including Dr. Prince Harding, Momodu Koroma, Momoh Pujeh, Ansu Kaikai, M.S. Kallon, Thorlu Bangura etc. According to him, all these officials were members of the Kamajor War Council. Chief Norman also intimated that whilst he was engaged in discussions with ECOMOG in Liberia, the President was already rendering financial support to those Kamajors already deployed in the Kailahun axis, whilst ECOMOG was already supporting them with arms and ammunition. According to him, Dr. Prince Harding, Ansu Kaikai and Momoh Pujeh were the most frequent visitors to Liberia. And that it was from the Liberia axis that they usually traveled to go to Base Zero, the Kamajor Base in Sierra Leone.

Chief Norman stated that during War Council meetings which he also attended in Conakry regularly, his efforts were widely lauded by his colleagues. According to Chief Norman it was because of these constant shuttles to and from Liberia that the then President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, threatened to arrest him. He said he therefore reported this to the President following which he decided to become permanently based at Base Zero.

According to Norman, the President was not all comfortable with that decision on the grounds that he would not be able to communicate with him as easily as when Norman lived in Liberia. Norman stated that throughout the initial period, he used ECOMOG communication facilities to communicate with the President in Conakry.

Norman said that later a satellite phone was therefore provided for him by Dr. James Jonah which was delivered to him in Base Zero by Mr. Momoh Pujeh who went to the camp with a helicopter flight. The testimony continues.

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## Peter Penfold and General John Reilly to testify for Norman

Contrary to recent media reports that the British Government had issued a gag order on Peter Penfold, the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone; which gag effectively banned him from testifying in favour of Chief Hinga Norman, the Norman Defence team

*Contd: page 2*

### Peter Penfold and General John Reilly to testify for Norman

*From front page*  
yesterday informed Awareness Times newspaper that not only was Penfold going to testify in favour of Norman but that Norman had also secured the consent of a senior British military officer, Major General John Reilly whom the Norman Defence terms as the third in the hierarchy of the British Army. They also claim that another senior British military personnel who will be traveling to testify in favour of Chief Norman shortly before this un-named senior military personnel left for his new assignment in Afghanistan. According to the Norman Defence Team who spoke

extensively to Awareness Times yesterday, the cost of flying in Peter Penfold and the two British Military Officers is going to be borne by the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

"The Special Court is going to finance their travel and accommodation and any other logistical arrangement that is needed. Those media reports claiming that Peter Penfold will not be testifying in our favour are very false. Please just ignore them." stated a member of the Norman Defence Team to Awareness Times. Meanwhile, another Hinga Norman aide also told Awareness Times last night, that in his opinion, based on the judgment delivered last

year by Chief Justice Dr. Ade Renner Thomas and other Supreme Court Judges at the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, which effectively stated that no Sierra Leonean enjoyed any form of immunity as far as the Special Court was concerned, the attempt by Government Attorney General Fred Carew to block the subpoena for President Kabbah to appear in front of the Special Court was "futile and will never succeed."

"We have questions for President Kabbah and we need him to answer those questions. That is why we have subpoenaed him to appear in front of the Special Court." he added.

# **SALONE IN BRIEF**

## **ISAA SESAY INJURES GUARD**

A security guard at the Special court was on Sunday injured during a physical tussle with RUF indictee, Issa Sesay. The incident followed an argument over the guard's insistence on enforcing recent court rules which permit only the wives and children to visit detainees. Sesay had reportedly been visited by his nine year old son who was accompanied by a 16 year old boy said to be his caretaker. The guard, however, disallowed the said caretaker, enraging Sesay who removed one of the glasses of his cell window through which he hit a local security officer, causing him to receive three stitches at the court's medical centre.

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## Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/special\\_\\_court](http://www.cocorioko.com/special__court)

### CHIEF HINGA NORMAN TELLS SPECIAL COURT HOW THE CDF CAME ABOUT

Wednesday January 25, 2006

The former Coordinator of the pro-government Civil Defence Force ( CDF ) , Chief Hinga Norman yesterday started his testimony before the Special Court , which is trying him and two other leaders of the militia for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity .

The trial started with controversy as the morning session was taken up by a request by Norman's counsel, Dr. Bubakai Jabbie, asking that he ( Norman ) be allowed to testify on alternate days and that his legal team be allowed to meet with him on the off days. At about 3:00, after the midday break, the chamber referred to their previous order and dismissed it. Chief Norman then started his testimony. He was led in evidence by Dr. Bubakai Jabbie.

Hinga Norman said that the National Provisional Ruling Council ( NPRC ) in 1994 decided that chiefs be mobilized in their respective chiefdoms to help fight the war and since he hailed from Nyagua Bongor Chiefdom, the NPRC decided to have him appointed as Regent Chief of the area . Norman went on to narrate that they ( The council of Chiefs ) sought permission from the NPRC to train young men in their respective chiefdoms to defend their various boundaries against the rebels.

Continuing his testimony , the former Internal Affairs Minister said that as a result of the consent granted their request by the NPRC, the first batch of young men were trained at Koribondo to help defend their respective boundaries .Every chiefdom, he said, contributed 75 men.

Chief Norman however pointed out in his testimony that it was wrong to say that the Kamajors came about because of the war. He said that CDF were constituted by hunters from the various regions of the country . These hunters had always existed before the war. He stated however that when they became part of the CDF they were known by different names to different tribes. The Mendes, he explained , called them the Kamajors, while the Temnes called them Gbethis or Kapras and the Madingo and Yalunkas Tamanborohs.

A legal analysis of this segment of the Hinga Norman Testimony

It could be that Chief Norman is trying to demonstrate that the CDF, the organization he headed, which has been accused of committing atrocities, which led to the leaders being brought before the Special Court, was not only comprised of the Kamajors, against whom testimonies have made in court to the effect that they killed people belonging to other

tribes. He probably wants to show that the CDF was just an umbrella name under which the hunters, known by different names by the tribes in the localities where they operated, operated.

LIKE THE AMERICAN MEDIA, throughout the trial, COCORIOKO will make legal analyses of some portions of the testimonies. This paper will also publish the views of noted lawyers like John Lansana Musa, John Carr, Baimba Kamara, Professor Peter Dumbuya etc. However, the views must only be seen as the facts and the law as seen by these lawyers and in no way the final authority about the implications of certain testimonies.



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

## Taylor's Trial Imminent, UNMIL Takes Journalists On Tour of Special Court in Freetown

**The Inquirer** (Monrovia)

NEWS

January 25, 2006

Posted to the web January 25, 2006

By Melissa Chea-Annan

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has trained contingents from the Irish and Swedish battalions on a Quick Reaction Operations to beef up the security at the Special Court in Sierra Leone .

Presently there are 250 well-armed Mongolian Military Guard Force deployed at the premises to provide security at the court, but UNMIL has indicated that it intends to provide support to the Mongolian troops at the Special Court in case of any eventuality.

Over 10 local and foreign journalists accompanied by the UNMIL Chief Military Public Information officer, Cdr. Anders Johansson, on Monday visited Freetown , Sierra Leone , to tour the Rapid Reaction Unit of the multinational peacekeeping force and the facilities of the Special Court in Sierra Leone .

Upon arrival at the Mammy Yoko Hotel , the UNMIL Chief of Staff embraced the journalists and briefed them on the purpose of the trip. He explained that UNMIL's engagement at the Special Court is in fulfillment of a new mandate for it to provide prompt and swift support of a Rapid Reaction Force to the Mongolian Military Guard Force at the Court.

Also, at the premises of the court, the Special Court security guard, Simon Edward Lang, who took the journalists on a guided tour, particularly in the chambers of the court room, gave a clear picture of how their cases are being tried and positions of defense prosecutors, judges, witnesses and observers whenever a case is being heard.

The Special Court on Jomo Kenyatta Road in Freetown comprises of two chambers, and most cases are being heard by three judges.

Speaking to the press, the officer explained that the Special Court has indicted 13 persons, of which nine persons are currently in its custody, whilst two persons including exiled former Liberian president, Charles Taylor, and Johnny Paul Koroma are still at large. He said the other two indictees, Sam Bokarie and Foday Sankoh are said to be dead.

According to him, they have Special Sitting capacity for which the hearings are being recorded. At the moment, he said three factions in Sierra Leone , the Civil Defense Force (CDF), Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) are being tried at the court, and that the leader of the CDF, Chief Hinga Norman was expected to testify on Tuesday as a witness.

Commenting on Mr. Taylor's appearance at the court, officer Lang said he could not comment on the exact date he (Taylor) would appear, but gave some assurance that they are fully prepared for his arrest.

Observers believe that the beefing up of UNMIL Security at the Special Court in Sierra Leone might mean that the transfer of Mr. Charles Taylor to Freetown sooner or later is certain.

The security officer also told the visiting Liberian journalists that they have no knowledge of an imminent threat in any form, yet they have been placed at the court to provide maximum security just in case of any eventuality.

In the court room, there are 27 computer sets, two medium size screens for video and tape recordings. The place is well-equipped and up to standard for pending cases.

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A black banner with the text "Build. Your business." in white, serif font. The banner is partially obscured by the allAfrica.com logo on the left.

## Taylor's Mercenary Partner Arrested, RUF's Trainer Escapes

**The NEWS** (Monrovia)

NEWS

January 25, 2006

Posted to the web January 25, 2006

Monrovia

A long time business partner of former President, Charles Taylor, and Simon Rosenblum has been arrested in Monrovia. He was nabbed Tuesday from the Milano Hotel by officers of the Defense Intelligence Service (DIS) of the Ministry of Defense.

An unimpeachable source that spoke to this paper yesterday on the basis of complete anonymity, said Simon was a military partner of Mr. Taylor.

He was involved in the training of Taylor's disbanded elite group, the Anti Terrorist Unit (ATU) and the erstwhile Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of Sierra Leone.

Rosenblum is a Brazilian/Israeli national who has been placed on the UN sanction and travel ban list. He was a member of the Israeli military, our source said.

Intelligence source hinted this paper that when Mr. Rosenblum was arrested yesterday at Milano Hotel, he was in possession of a Liberian diplomatic passport. The former President following his appointment as Counsel General issued the diplomatic passport to him.

Deputy Defense Minister for Administration, Joe Wylie, when contacted confirmed that the DIS has arrested Rosenblum, but declined to give details on grounds that he was still undergoing investigation at the NSA.

He said details of the arrest of the former president's business partner would be released during the week.

When our reporter contacted the National Security Agency (NSA), he was told that authorities of the NSA were not available for comment. Efforts to contact Mr. Henry Pearson, Chief of Investigation at the NSA proved futile as his mobile phone was on voice mail.

Investigation conducted by this paper revealed that Rosenblum was a senior partner of GETRAC, a company that was engaged in the construction of roads and other projects.

During the administration of Mr. Taylor, he was offered several contracts, however, our source said Simon used GETRAC as a cover-up to purchase weapons for the former President.

Intelligence sources also told this paper that Rosenblum recently invited one Yair Klein, a former Israeli special forces to Liberia. He was said to have been in Liberia during and after the induction of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. But he escaped after intelligence about his presence became widespread. He came to Liberia after he obtained a visa from the Liberian consul General in Israel. Klein traveled to DR Congo where he operates shady businesses before visiting Liberia. He traveled to Liberia under a dubious named,

"Yair Gal."

Our intelligence sources said during his recent visit to Liberia, he met with certain former confidante and officials of Mr. Taylor, but details of their discussion were not disclosed.

Information about Mr. Klein is visible. During the reign of Mr. Taylor he lived in the diamond rich area of Weasua in Gbapolu County, where he was involved in the trade. He also obtained a contract from Mr. Taylor to help train the ATU at Gbatala, Bomi and other parts of Liberia. After his contracts ended, he moved to Sierra Leone, where it is believed that he was involved in the training of the RUF.

Reports say he was arrested briefly by Sierra Leonean authorities, but was released apparently due to lack of evidence to prosecute him. Klein is a wanted man, because of his shady activities, our source indicated.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 25 Jan 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

**The Los Angeles Times** 25 January 25 2006

**Liberian President Gets Rousing Reception at Summit**

By Edmund Sanders

KHARTOUM, Sudan -- When South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma first started attending African leadership summits in 1999, security guards would often block her at the door. "They assumed I was someone's spouse or secretary," Zuma recalled. On Tuesday, there was no mistaking the identity of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the newly elected president of **Liberia** who made her first appearance at the African Union's annual summit here.

At a conference largely overshadowed by a bitter fight over who should take over leadership of the pan-African alliance, the debut of Africa's first elected female head of state electrified the gathering and injected a few sorely needed moments of unity and celebration.

**Japanese editorial excerpts**

TOKYO, Jan. 25\_ (Kyodo) \_ Editorial excerpt from the Japanese press:

**MORE WOMEN TAKING CHARGE** (*The Japan Times*, an English-language daily)

January has been a precedent-setting month for women. Ms. Michelle Bachelet was elected Chile's first female leader, becoming South America's second woman elected head of state, while Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf took office as president of Liberia, Africa's first elected female head of state.

**International Clips on West Africa****Defendant in Sierra Leone war crimes trial takes stand**

FREETOWN, Jan 24, 2006 (AFP) - A former Sierra Leone cabinet minister, facing charges of war crimes, became the first Defence witness Tuesday at the UN-backed Court trying about a dozen people for crimes committed during the west African country's war. Former deputy Defence minister Hinga Norman is accused of failing to prevent the loss of life during the war between pro-government kamajor hunter militias and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels.

**UN News** 24 Jan 2006

**SECURITY COUNCIL EXTENDS UN MISSION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE THROUGH MID-DECEMBER**

New York-The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) through 15 December and pledged to keep its troop strength under review, stopping short of meeting Secretary-General Kofi Annan's recommendation to significantly increase in the size of the force.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Former Finance Minister Differs with the President on Sweeping Dismissals**

*(The Inquirer and Heritage)*

- In an interview yesterday, former Finance Minister Nathaniel Barnes said that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's recent decision to terminate the services of all political appointees at the Finance Ministry was unnecessary because corruption does not usually take place at the level of political appointees. He said that he was disappointed at the slow pace at which the President was making appointments.

### **President Makes New Appointments in Government**

*(New Democrat, The Analyst, The News, Daily Observer and The Inquirer)*

- Based on the recommendation of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) Board of Directors, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has appointed Harry Greaves as Managing Director of the Company, according to an Executive Mansion press release.
- The release said that the President also nominated Jeremiah Sulunteh as Transport Minister, Dr. William Allen as Director of the Civil Service Agency, Augustine Ngafuan as Director of Budget Bureau and John Woods as Managing Director of the Forestry Development Authority.

### **Senate Elects Heads of Standing Committees**

*(New Democrat, Heritage, The Analyst, The News, Daily Observer and The Inquirer)*

- The Senate yesterday elected Grand Cape Mount County Senator Abel Massalley as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, River Gee County Senator Fredrick Cherue as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Bomi County Senator Richard Devine as Chairman of the Committee on Ways, Means and Finance. Meanwhile, Senate President Pro Tempore Isaac Nyenabo said that confirmation hearings for nominees to government positions will begin Thursday.

### **New International Foundation for Elections Systems Director Arrives in Liberia**

*(The Analyst, Daily Observer and The Inquirer)*

- The new International Foundation for Elections Systems (IFES) Resident Country Director for Liberia, Almami Cyllah, has arrived in the country as a demonstration of IFES's commitment to work with Liberians, an IFES press statement issued in Monrovia said yesterday.

### **Ministry of Education Says Teachers' Salary Checks Are Not Missing**

*(The News)*

- Addressing a news conference yesterday, Deputy Education Minister for Administration Marcus Dahn refuted an allegation that 434 salary checks for teachers in Grand Kru County are missing.

### **American Philanthropist Donates to John F. Kennedy Hospital**

*(Daily Observer)*

- Speaking at a ceremony to donate medical equipment to the John F. Kennedy Hospital recently, American philanthropist Nicolas Soutour said he regretted the lack of needed logistics to ably address medical problems facing Liberians. He expressed the hope that the equipment, valued at US\$100,000, will improve the quality and effectiveness of the medical facility.

### **Justice Minister Wants Nominees to Take Office to Safeguard Public Property from Looters**

*(The Analyst)*

## **Newspapers Support Call for Audit of Former Transitional Government**

*(New Democrat and Heritage)*

- Expressing support for President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's determination to confront corruption in the public sector, *New Democrat* admonished the President to remain resolute because there are detractors who are poised to abort the campaign. The paper added that auditing the past transitional government will end the culture of impunity which has undermined Liberia's development.

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

### **Former Sierra Leonean Rebel Spokesman Charged with Treason**

- The former spokesman of the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone Mr. Omrie Golley, and two ex-combatants have been charged with treason by a Freetown Magisterial Court, reporters said yesterday.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Former Finance Minister Differs with the President on Sweeping Dismissals**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **President Makes New Appointments in Government**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Senate Elects Heads of Standing Committees**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **New International Foundation for Elections System Country Director Arrives in Liberia**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Ministry of Education Says Teachers' Salary Checks Are Not Missing**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

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

### **Demobilized Soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia to Disrupt Recruitment of New Soldiers**

- Demobilized soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia spokesman Saylee Tarley said yesterday that ex-soldiers will disrupt the recruitment exercise for new soldiers of the AFL if the government fails to pay retirement benefits. He said that a letter has been sent to the President to resolve the problem.

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

### **Liberian Refugees Face Humanitarian Problems in Côte d'Ivoire**

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Ron Redmond said that the agency was facing shortages of humanitarian assistance for Liberian refugees in Côte d'Ivoire due to last week's attacks on its offices.

### **Former University of Liberia Student Leader wants the President to Constitute a Cabinet Appraisal Committee**

- Former University of Liberia student leader Bornor Varmah called on the President to set up a cabinet appraisal committee to conduct a periodic performance assessment of government officials.

*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).*