

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Monday, 26 March 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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## **VIII. Special Court for Sierra Leone**

49. At the end of 2011, as a result of difficulties in obtaining voluntary contributions, the Special Court received a subvention from the United Nations General Assembly of over US\$9,000,000 to cover its 2012 budget.

50. The Court is awaiting the delivery of the trial judgment concerning former Liberian President Charles Taylor at The Hague, which is expected to take place on 26 April 2012. In addition, two contempt cases against five individuals, who were accused of interfering with witnesses involved in the trial, will resume after the delivery of judgment in the Charles Taylor trial. The Court continues to make preparations for its transition to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, liquidation of its assets and handover of its site.

Note: An excerpt from the UN Secretary General's report to the UN Security Council last Friday.

Standard Times  
Monday, 26 March 2012

## That Sad Chapter in Sierra Leone

# ISSUES

BY MUSTAPHA SESAY

**P**ack up, Pack up and Go' was the strange and rude sounds of explosion and automatic rifles that rocked residents in the eastern border towns of Bomaru in the early hours of March 23rd, 2001 that sent most of us residing at that time in that part of Sierra Leone running helter skelter.

It was unthinkable that after years of spending time in that part of the country, a group of armed bandits labeled the Revolutionary United Front Rebels (RUF) could overrun most parts of the country killing innocent civilians who have no business in the governance of the state and exploit the resources of this nation.

At the start of this rebellion, youths who had never tasted the bitterness of war, and were bitter about the high rate of unemployment, strike actions at various institutions, the famous to-line for essential commodities, suppression of student activities, and oppositions along with a host of others welcomed the idea of the insurrection.

As the event unfolded, there were two sets of people that made up the Revolutionary United Front; the elitists, mainly university students and secondary school pupils who were frustrated with the system and thought that the only option to get the then All Peoples Congress (APC) Government out of governance was through armed struggle, it was as a result of this that members mostly students went to Libya for training. Another issue that inspired most of the disgruntled students that went on exile was the heavy crackdown on the 1997 Hindolo strike that paralyzed educational institutions. It was believed the Green Book of the Late Ghadiffi inspired them with revolutionary ideas.

The next group was the militants who were thirsty for power; it was this group that Foday Sankoh belonged.

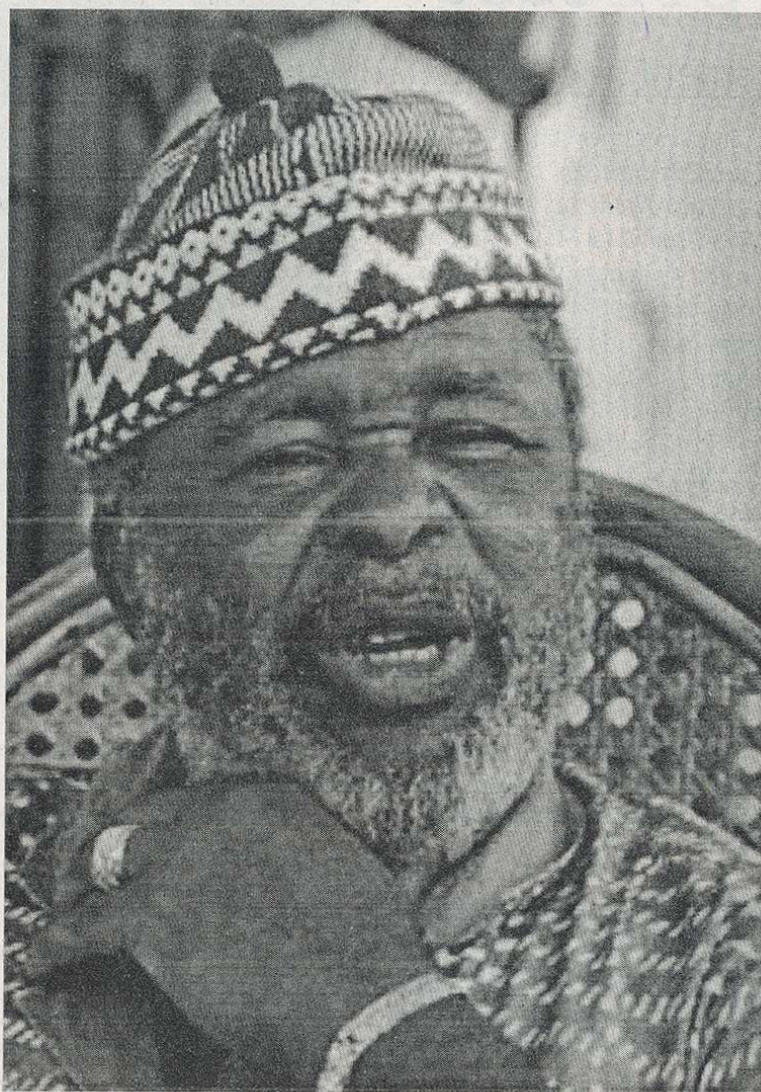
It was very difficult for these two groups to actually come to a conclusion as to the method of actualizing the vision of the movement. While the elitists' squad wanted more time to plan properly for this mission, the fighting forces led by Foday Sankoh who wanted the support of Charles Taylor moved over to Liberia to fight alongside the National Patriotic Force of Liberia NPFL, SO AS TO GET MORE ARMS AND ARMUNATION to invade Sierra Leone.

During the war in Liberia, the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) decided to use Sierra Leone as a base for their military

activities to put an end to the hostilities in Liberia. With various factions emerging in Liberia such as those of Charles Taylor, Prince Johnson and Alhaji Koroma of ULIMO, the situation was becoming very difficult for millions of civilians until ECOMOG stepped in to salvage the bloody situation and provide corridors for humanitarian organizations to operate.

This, according to NPFL Taylor, was a barrier to his plan of over running the entire city. As a way of seeking revenge on the people of Sierra Leone, He went on the International Broadcaster, BBC, to vent his frustration that Sierra Leone will taste the bitterness of war, Little realizing what this meant, many thought that the military might of Sierra Leone this will never happen. But what we failed to note at the time was that despite the professionalism of the military yet access to modern weaponry was limited; as a result, the rebels backed by foreign mercenaries were able to make swift moves along the border towns.

So in the early hours of 23rd March 1991, a group of armed RUF, NPFL rebels and Burkinabes numbering less than a hundred heeded to the call of Foday Sankoh, a dismissed Corporal from the Sierra Leone Army for being implicated in a military coup twenty years before, to attack Bomaru, Kailahun District in the Eastern province. Sankoh and others have undergone insurgence military training in Lybia. At first, they fought alongside Taylor's NPFL in Liberia but later requested for military assistance to invade Sierra Leone.



*Foday Sankoh*

The Local Police station was captured in Bomaru, most other towns in Kailahun and Pujehun Districts including the famous diamondiferous town of Zimmi came under the RUF control. At first they brainwashed the youths with getting them involved in the decision making process when they would have taken the seat of government. But this was rapidly eroded when they joined forces with the NPFL to unleash banditry on the masses.

As news of this attack spread rapidly, authorities in the city of Freetown downplayed it with the saying that it was a minor confusion among border guards over a conflict of interest in trade. As provincials head for the city with news of rebel advancement, those in the city who had no idea were quick to ask if they were human beings or have tails.

Unfortunately, as the war spread from one region to the next, the security situation degenerated to a point that the

masses lost interest in the Police and army forces. The reason being that the rebels and gangs of criminals wore similar uniforms in their dastardly activities, making many to label them as soldiers. In the wake of protecting their properties and defend their environment, the youths resorted to forming Civil Defence groups.

As towns came under attack, many were forced to move to bigger towns, this had serious effects on the education and human resource base of this nation. Educational institutions were closed down in most parts of the country while others were relocated to big towns.

According to UNICEF Report, in 1998, most of the girls captured were used as sex slaves for the fighting forces. This psychologically damaged children whose self-esteem had been completely shattered over the past years and could hardly adjust themselves to school work.

As a matter of fact, engaging such children in a situation yields little or no effects. A child who had made her way through prostitution will hardly concentrate in the classroom. This means she must have lost all innocence a child should get for learning situation.

A child with HIV/AIDS lacks both the mental and physical ability for any school drill.

In the towns, as the rebel attack was all over the country, we witnessed the influx of soldiers from different countries contributing troops to bring peace to this land.

In the wake of all this, bombs, drugs, and ammunition flooded Sierra Leone. Jets were in the sky attacking various positions. There were lots of ambushes along the major roads hampering the travelling of essential commodities to most parts of the country.

During the war, the then APC Government led by Major General Joseph Saidu Momoh was overthrown by a group of military officers claiming they were advocating for better conditions of service.

With the restoration of democracy, Ex-President Kabbah in 2002 officially declared the end of the war. The Special Court for Sierra Leone was set up to try those bearing the greatest responsibility. Most have returned to their places of origin while others continue to stay in the urban towns. It is the belief of Sierra Leoneans that those dark days should now be a thing of the past. Peace and development should now be the key words in the minds of Sierra Leoneans.

Awoko

Friday, 23 March 2012

## RUFPP Befriends Ex-Kamajos

By Easmon Moiguah

A high profile Consultative Conference between the Revolutionary United Front Party and that of the ex Kamajos held in Bo on Sunday 18th March 2012 ended at the RUFPP

office with the later interim leader calling on their counterparts to once more close their ranks as to promote peace in post war Sierra Leone.

Speaking at the meeting the RUFPP interim leader Eldred Collins says both of them stood and fought for democracy which both the SLPP and APC together with the people of this country are now enjoying and further stated they need to help rebuild Sierra Leone.

Speaking further the RUFPP's Eldred Collins stated that both the Late Sam Hinga Norman and late Corporal Foday Sankoh were heroes who did all to uphold the democracy gradually now unfolding and referred to it as their baby as they laid their lives for the rest of other Sierra Leoneans to enjoy.

Eldred Collins also called on other disbanded Civil Dense Forces to continue to uphold democracy and strengthen the post war era which he added should be used

to rebuild the country and never to go back to those bloody days when brothers slaughtered brothers.

He concluded by calling all Sierra Leoneans to get registered and vote come polling day

In her statement former Kamajo Initiator Mama Munda expressed thanks at the plan to unite both former warring factions for an all out peace and further called on all sides of the alliance to remain sincere to the cause of the unity.

Speaking at the Meeting RUFPP National Scribe Augustine Fowai recalled that they were taught the art of revolution from schools and therefore took guns to liberate their country of birth and all should now unite in the name of peaceful co existence.

The RUFPP Scribe spoke of plans to bring the party to the people of Bo with the view of practicing true democracy

Various statements were made by various representatives and other members all of whom spoke of the need to continue supporting the existing peace.

Speaking to Awoko News most Bo residents expressed the hope that the former fighters will now hear the message of peace and not to any longer look at their own brothers or sisters as enemies.

## The Daily Star (Lebanon)

Saturday, 24 March 2012

### Roux: Bid to add "criminal association" count could be dangerous for Hezbollah



Head of Defense Office at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon François Roux speaks during an interview with The Daily Star in Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, May 27, 2011. (Mohammad Azakir/The Daily Star)

BEIRUT: Attempts to add a count of “criminal association” to the indictment against four members of Hezbollah in the assassination of statesmen Rafik Hariri could be very dangerous for the resistance group, the head of the defense office for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon told a local newspaper in an interview published Saturday.

Francois Roux, in an interview with As-Safir newspaper, also made an appeal to Lebanese authorities, citizens and political parties to help the defense team to provide it with information that can help in rebutting the indictment.

In an announcement by the court in mid-March, STL pretrial Judge Daniel Fransen rejected on “procedural grounds” a March 8 request by former Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare to add a count of “criminal association” in the indictment against Salim Jamil Ayyash, Mustafa Amine Badreddine, Hussein Hassan Oneissi and Assad Hassan Sabr, the four suspects wanted in the case.

According to the article on criminal association in Lebanon’s Penal Code, which the court adheres to, “if two or more persons establish an association or enter into a written or oral agreement to commit felonies against people or to undermine the authority of the state then they are punishable by fixed-term hard labor.”

Roux said the prosecution was still trying to amend the indictment by adding the count of "criminal association," adding that it was essential to prepare a defense strategy against the indictment.

He also said that if the four suspects do not recognize the international tribunal, they could argue this



point at the court in The Hague.

Roux, who was asked whether he believed the indictment was politically motivated, said a politically motivated indictment would play in the defense team's favor as it could be used to show the insufficiency of the evidence against the accused and be used to help exonerate them.

He also said that regardless of the suspects' personal views toward the STL, the fact remained that there are international arrest warrants issued against them.

Hezbollah denies any involvement in the assassination of Hariri and accuses the court of being part of a "U.S.-Israeli" project aimed at targeting the resistance group.

# The New York Times

Friday, 23 March 2012

## Libya Resists International Court's Claim on War Crimes Case

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK and MARLISE SIMONS

Libya's interim authorities escalated their face-off against the International Criminal Court on Wednesday over custody of the most significant confidants to Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi taken prisoner since his ouster and death: his son Seif al-Islam el-Qaddafi and his brother-in-law Abdullah Senussi. The battle over the men's fate is an early test of the former rebels' commitment to the rule of the law.

In both cases, the new Libyan authorities have made statements about the legal status of the captives in direct contradiction to the views of the court, which the rebels had lauded as an invaluable ally after it issued indictments charging Colonel Qaddafi, Mr. Qaddafi and Mr. Senussi with war crimes committed in their attempt to crush an uprising.

Human rights groups and some members of the Libyan government acknowledge that Libya still lacks effective police, prosecutors, courts and prisons, as well as the wherewithal to protect judges, lawyers or witnesses from potential retribution by armed militias. But the interim authorities say they are determined to try both defendants at home because of the secrets they might reveal about the actions and assets of the former government.

With scheduled elections only months away, Libyan officials also appear afraid to buck the demand for revenge by an increasingly impatient Libyan public.

On Wednesday, the mounting legal dispute over Mr. Qaddafi, who remains in the custody of a local militia in the town of Zintan, broadened to include Mr. Senussi, Colonel Qaddafi's longtime intelligence chief.

France has also sought Mr. Senussi, who was convicted in absentia there of murdering 170 people, including 54 French citizens, in the bombing of a passenger jet in 1989. So his capture five days ago, by the Mauritanian authorities at the Nouakchott airport, has set off a multilateral scramble for the chance to try him. (French intelligence helped orchestrate Mr. Senussi's capture.)

Libya immediately sent a delegation of its top officials to demand custody, and as they prepared to fly back from Nouakchott on Wednesday, they asserted that Mauritania had committed in principle to surrender Mr. Senussi to them. Mr. Senussi will "soon be in a Libyan prison," declared Mustafa Abu Shagour, deputy prime minister in the interim Libyan government, according to Reuters.

Officials at the International Criminal Court in The Hague and in Mauritania quickly disputed that prediction. "No commitment of any sort has been given in this matter," a senior Mauritanian official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

In the case of Mr. Qaddafi, who had been his father's heir apparent, Mr. Shagour and other officials have said confidently in recent interviews that the International Criminal Court had consented to a trial here under its supervision. To help prove they could handle the case, the Libyans are building what he called a "five star" maximum-security prison, Mr. Shagour said.

But a spokesman for the International Criminal Court said that the decision of where to hold a trial had not yet been made, and that a trial could take place in Libya if the country successfully challenged the court's jurisdiction. To do so, Tripoli would need to show that it could hold a credible and fair trial.

"Consultations" are still going on, one lawyer close to the prosecution said, and representatives of the court recently visited Tripoli to discuss procedures. But the Libyans' pleas have so far failed to persuade the judges, who continue to press for a formal hearing to settle jurisdiction.

Some Libyan officials were frank about the growing conflict. "The I.C.C. wants Seif al-Islam for sure, because they say our justice system isn't effective," said Fathi Baja, a member of Libya's Transitional National Council. He noted that the Libyan authorities did not yet have the ability to properly gather evidence or present a case.

"If you bring him to trial under these conditions, I think he will be found innocent," he said, adding, "We are asking the attorney general to speed up the process because of the pressure from the street."

Nick Kaufman, a lawyer in Jerusalem hired by Mr. Qaddafi's sister Aisha, has complained that the Libyan interim authorities have blocked any communication with Mr. Qaddafi, preventing the designation of a lawyer who could represent him.

In the meantime, the court has appointed two lawyers from its public defense office, Jean-Xavier Keita and Melinda Taylor, to defend Mr. Qaddafi, and lawyers familiar with the court said at least one of them had been to visit him. The public defense office has prepared a critical report on his conditions, noting that Mr. Qaddafi is being kept in isolation without any contact with his family or the outside world.

People briefed on the report say that he is suffering from a severe toothache related to dental surgery shortly before the fall of Tripoli in August, but that he has been unable to see a dentist. These people say he has also been unable to see a doctor for follow-up care for a hand injury he suffered during his flight and capture.

*David D. Kirkpatrick reported from Tripoli, and Marlise Simons from The Hague. Laura Martel contributed reporting from Nouakchott, Mauritania.*

## Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Friday, 23 March 2012

### **Rwanda: Kigali Exasperation Vs. ICTR Diplomatic Hedging**

Angry over the slow pace of French justice in trying cases related to the 1994 genocide, Rwanda will recall two of its investigators, Rwandan prosecutor Martin Ngoga announced yesterday in Arusha.

More than four years ago, the French state, which was committed to trying genocide suspects wanted in Kigali, was entrusted with the cases of two suspects charged by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). While Arusha continues to cloak its impatience in diplomatic hedging, Kigali has ceased to hide its exasperation.

Questioned Thursday in his office about the cases of Father Wenceslas Munyeshyaka and former préfet Laurent Bucyibaruta, which were transferred to the French state in 2007, ICTR prosecutor Hassan Bubacar Jallow chose to blame their slow progress on the French court system.

"This is of course a civil case, not a common law one, which may in part explain why it is taking so much time. But I know that both cases are now being examined by an investigating judge, who has taken matters in hand. We will continue to press the French authorities to ensure these cases are heard as rapidly as possible," the Gambian magistrate concluded.

Is he prepared to demand that the decisions to transfer these cases to national jurisdiction be annulled if progress does not occur? "I cannot comment on that," he responded, with the diplomatic smile of a former Minister of Justice.

### **Wanted list**

The former priest of the Sainte Famille parish in Kigali and the former préfet of the southern district of Gikongoro are both on the wanted lists of the Rwandan courts. Father Munyeshyaka has already been found guilty in absentia by a Kigali tribunal.

Seated beside Jallow was Martin Ngoga, his Rwandan counterpart, to whom he had just officially transferred the case of Fulgence Kayishema, a former judicial police inspector who, according to sources at the ICTR, is in hiding in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Rwandan magistrate picked up where his colleague had left off, complaining against the French authorities, who he claims have so far arrested and released eighteen other suspects. Furthermore, he revealed that Rwanda, exasperated with so much talk, took action last week in turning away a team of French investigators returning to the country for their thirty-fifth visit.

Yet another signal to Paris that there are limits to Rwandan patience. "We told them, 'go home - when you're prepared to do your work, and to take it seriously, we'll be prepared to work with you,'" Ngoga explained to the press, with assurance resembling that of Rwandan president Paul Kagame.

His message to the investigative team, whose composition he did not divulge, was a message to France: "If you're not ready for these cases, then please suspend your investigations. Don't waste our time. Please stop these innumerable and fruitless visits to our country," the former Rwandan governmental representative to the ICTR explained. "We are very disappointed in France, in the way they have dealt with cases linked to the genocide," he said, adding, "I think that if France does not change its approach, we [the Rwandan prosecutor's office] will have to rethink our working relationship with them."

## **Easy excuses**

The Rwandan official declared that his country could no longer be satisfied with "easy excuses" claiming that the Paris high court lacked the resources to bring the genocide cases to a successful conclusion.

Finally, he recalled, and rightly so, that France is, among all European countries, the one to have sent the most rogatory missions to Rwanda to investigate the 1994 genocide of the Tutsis. And that despite this, genocide trials have already been held in neighbouring Belgium and the Netherlands.

The Rwandan reproof is the second this year. In February, the Rwandan government refused to approve the credentials of H  l  ne Le Gal, who had been named to replace Laurent Contini as French ambassador in Kigali. Contini arrived in the Rwandan capital following the diplomatic rupture between the two countries from 2006 to 2009 and had succeeded, if falteringly, in pursuing the stabilisation of relations initiated by Bernard Kouchner and Nicolas Sarkozy.