

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



An 'omolankay' merges into traffic at Aberdeen Junction.

**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:**

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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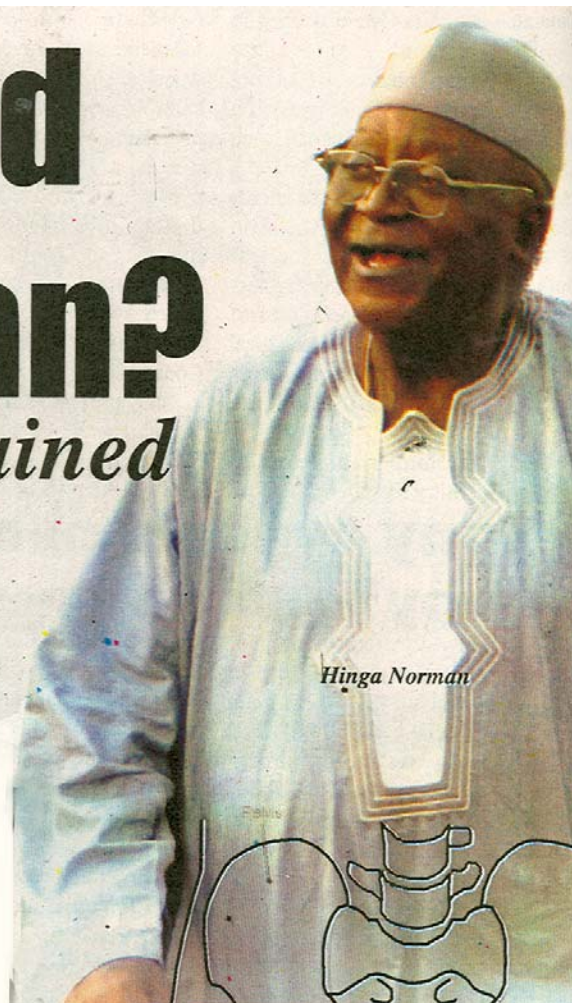
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Awoko  
Monday, 26 February 2007

# What killed Chief Norman?

## *Hip replacement explained*

*Chief Sam Hinga Norman (67) was on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January flown over to Senegal for a hip replacement operation which was performed on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. He died shockingly on Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Without prejudice to the medical investigations going on, we share our (web) findings with you (readers) on Page 6 about what is hip replacement in an attempt to understand the sickness and what might have led to his death.*



# Hip replacement explained

A total hip replacement is a surgical procedure whereby the diseased cartilage and bone of the hip joint is surgically replaced with artificial materials. The normal hip joint is a ball and socket joint. The socket is a "cup-shaped" bone of the pelvis called the acetabulum. The ball is the head of the thigh bone (femur). Total hip joint replacement involves surgical removal of the diseased ball and socket, and replacing them with a metal ball and stem inserted into the femur bone and an artificial plastic cup socket. The metallic artificial ball and stem are referred to as the "prosthesis." Upon inserting the prosthesis into the central core of the femur, it is fixed with a bony cement called methylmethacrylate. Alternatively, a "cementless" prosthesis is used which has microscopic pores that

allow bony ingrowth from the normal femur into the prosthesis stem. This "cementless" hip is felt to have a longer duration and is considered especially for younger patients.

What are the risks of total hip replacement?

The risks of total hip replacement include blood clots in the lower extremities that can travel to the lungs (pulmonary embolism). Severe cases of pulmonary embolism are rare, but can cause respiratory failure and shock. Other problems include difficulty with urination, local skin or joint infection, fracture of the bone during and after surgery, scarring and limitation of motion of the hip, and loosening of the prosthesis which eventually leads to prosthesis failure. Because total hip joint replacement requires anesthesia, the usual

risks of anesthesia apply and include heart arrhythmias, liver toxicity, and pneumonia.

**What are the possible complications of surgery?**

Although replacement of the hip joint is a major operation, serious complications are infrequent. More than 95% of people who have this surgery can anticipate good or excellent results. The most significant complications include infection, dislocation, blood clots in the legs and lungs and loosening of the components from the bone.

**Infection:** The infection rate is approximately one-half of one percent. In spite of very extensive procedures to reduce it, infection has not been completely eliminated. Infection is one of the most serious complications possible, as it usually

requires further surgery.

**Dislocation:** After surgery, the artificial joint can move out of its proper position. This is called dislocation. Your physician can move a dislocated hip back into place by applying gentle traction under sedation or a light anesthetic. Most people who dislocate soon after their procedure will not have a problem with chronic dislocation if they follow appropriate precautions. After six months to one year, dislocation occurs much less frequently, but people should still be careful not to place their hips in an unstable position, as late dislocations can still occur.

**Leg length inequality:**

After surgery, some people may have a small difference in leg lengths. This is not a significant problem and can be easily corrected by a small shoe lift. During surgery, leg lengths are measured very carefully. Restoring length to a previously shortened limb often makes it feel longer after surgery.

Occasionally, your surgeon may need to lengthen a limb slightly to make your hip joint more stable. Proper measurement of leg lengths requires X-ray films.

**Blood clots:** After hip replacement, people can develop deep venous thrombosis, or blood clots,

following hip replacement. To prevent clots, people wear compression stockings and receive medication that thins the blood. People usually take anti-coagulation medication for about three to six weeks after surgery.

**Loosening:** With time, your body may begin to absorb, or remove, bone next to the implanted cup or stem that may, in turn, cause them to loosen. Although loosening has been seen before 10 years after surgery, it usually doesn't occur until late after surgery. Loosening is more likely in people who received a joint replacement when they were young and are very active. If the prosthetic joint loosens and your hip becomes painful, you may need revision (or replacement) surgery. Today, advances in design and technology make revisions increasingly successful.

Awoko

Monday, 26 February 2007

## SLPP expresses regrets on Norman's death

After many Sierra Leoneans last week squarely laid some of the blame on the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) for what they called "the untimely death of Chief Sam Hingha Norman", the ruling party has issued a statement on the issue.

The SLPP notes that it "wishes to state that in spite of his indictment by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Government will in consultation with the Special Court for Sierra

Leone, authorise and facilitate a normal family funeral and burial for the late Chief Sam Hingha Norman".

But some political commentators believe the government is now bent on a sort of crisis management and trying to save its face by showing interest in Chief Norman's funeral.

"If these guys have so much interest in Norman, why then did they leave him to suffer so much humiliation at the Special Court?"

One woman from the southern part of Sierra Leone

asked.

Another prominent personality in the eastern part of the country, who does not want his name to appear discussing such a sensitive issue, stated that, "No matter what they do to Norman's corpse, his death will be on their consciences forever."

It will be recalled that Chief Sam Hingha Norman, former Deputy Minister of Defence, who before his death in a hospital in Senegal was being tried for various alleged offences in the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Awoko

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

# “Norman is more heroic than Kabbah” – Foh

By *Abibatu Kamara*  
**T**he Secretary General of the All People's Congress (APC), Victor Bockarie Foh, told Awoko

in his office yesterday in Freetown that the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman was more heroic than President Tejan Kabbah.

“I consider him like myself

who is a hero of truth and hero of political conscience and so our lives... are free to fight,” Mr Foh echoed, adding that Chief Norman was a hero and that

whatever mistake he might have made “is history we have to be proactive.”

He maintained that, “I will remember him like a hero, what mistakes he may have made are mistakes of the past. If I should put him on a scale he is a good balance plus in his favour unlike President Kabbah who has minuses”.

He went on to say that the death of Chief Norman was a tragedy to the peace process and to the political landscape of this country,

noting that “the APC is saddened that the man who fought relentlessly for peace in whatever way has died under such circumstances”.

The Secretary General of the APC stated that his party “is not making any political capital out of the loss but we must say it is sad that Norman has died at this time when we are close to the elections”.

He disclosed that, “the APC party has already paid visit to Norman’s family and I will continue to go there to represent the leader and supporters of my party to

show solidarity to the bereaved.”

Mr Foh continued that he had been instructed by Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma to be in constant touch with the family.

“Hinga Norman was my brother and I am glad that I never let him go to his cell at the Special Court unvisited. The leader and myself paid him visits to sympathize with him and to know how he felt when he was incarcerated. I was there on four occasions. So I am not being hypocritical but I felt his death is a big loss to the country”.

Awoko

Tuesday, 27 February 2007



## ***Awoko Tok Tok*** **Was Hinga Norman** **A Hero Or Villain?**

Chief Sam Hinga Norman: former coup-plotter, deputy defence minister; national coordinator of the kamajors, internal affairs minister and later war crimes indictee, was a sort of "a man for all seasons". Sierra Leone's history would not be rewritten without his name appearing in parentheses or subheads or even footnotes. The fact was, and still is, he was one of the key players around whom the darkest side of the country's history revolved. You talk about the first coup in the country, Hinga Norman had the unenviable role of arresting the Governor General which led to the first ever disruption of democracy in the country. Decades later, this man washed off his undemocratic credentials and fought with all his might and strength to restore democracy.

Depending on which side of the fence one is standing, Chief Sam Hinga Norman was both a hero and villain. For some, he was one of the antecedents of coups and counter-coups that permeated Sierra Leone's history since independence to the AFRC coup. While to others he was an epitome of patriotism, and his contribution to democracy should have transformed him into a translated homemade version of Abraham Lincoln.

But be that as it may, everyone has his or her dark sides. But history will not be kind to those whose dark sides overshadow their bright sides. And Chief Hinga Norman's bright sides did illuminate his dark ones. If Sierra Leone is at present basking in some of the tenets of democracy, Chief Norman's contributions were enormous. If the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) is today bragging about having political authority, Chief Norman's contributions towards this could not be shrugged off.

Chief Sam Hinga Norman, during his 'mature' years, took up the Churchillian mantra of "toil, sweat and blood" in pursuit of his political beliefs. Though in the course of this he did trample on many sore toes, including those in the media whom he once famously referred to as "rebels", this man no doubt has a place in Sierra Leone's modern history.

Yes, we are aware that those who were on the other side of the political divide during the eleven years war might have gloated when this man was arrested in his office; manacled like a common criminal, dragged to the Special Court for Sierra Leone like an already convicted criminal, humiliated during court sittings by prosecuting counsels who before the trials never knew where to find Sierra Leone on a map; taken to a Senegal hospital like a pauper and died like a slave far away from the country he helped liberate. But the point is, Chief Hinga Norman was a hero and will continue to be a hero till the day our grandchildren's children's children stop talking about the eleven years rebel conflict in their country.

Many may want to 'villain-ize' this man because of testimonies that emerged during his trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. But the fact about wars generally is that orders have to be given and people killed—whether inadvertently or otherwise.

So Chief Norman might have made some mistakes which resulted in some extra-judicial killings. He might have stepped on several toes which still hurt. He might have even said some unguarded words which still ring bells in our ears. But heroes without any trace of villainy are not heroes. And Chief Norman may be seen by many as a hero with a little dose of villainy.

Awoko

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

# Golley mourns Norman

The death of the former internal affairs minister and special court indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, has raised concerns especially with others who are facing trials either at the special court or law courts.

Among those facing trial is Omrie Golley, the former spokesman of the defunct

Revolutionary United Front (RUF) who is now detained at the Pademba Road Prisons awaiting trial for alleged treason.

Now his lawyers are worried that the same fate may befall their client whose health is said to be deteriorating.

According to some reports, it has been disclosed that since Mr Golley's doctors in

Freetown recommended to the prison authorities that he [Golley] should be admitted to a hospital, nothing has been done.

The lawyers further stated that a similar fate befell Foday Sankoh, the former RUF leader, who used to complain about poor medical treatment at the Pademba Road Prisons where he died in July 2003.

# Berewa grieves Norman's death

By Ophaniel Gooding

in Senegal.

Vice President Solomon Berewa is grieving over former deputy defense minister and special court indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman's death which took place last week

Speaking to Awoko at his Spur Road office, Mr Berewa explained that Norman's took him aback "like everybody's reaction [to Norman's death], I'm sad." As someone who worked with Chief Norman as a colleague, the Vice President

stated that, "Norman was a hard working colleague."

It will be recalled that Mr Norman was flown to Dakar, Senegal, for a hip replacement surgical operation in January but died two weeks after it was performed.



# "Norman Was One Of My Best Ministers"

— *President Kabbah*

The President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah who had travelled to Bo, the regional capital of the Southern Province to take part in the convocation ceremony of Njala Uni-

versity College took time to make a statement on Hinga Norman for the very first time since Hinga Norman was arrested by functionaries of the Special Court in 2003. President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah

*Contd. back page*



*President Kabbah*

said among other things that Sam Hinga Norman was one of his most dedicated minis-

*Contd. back page*



*Late Hinga Norman*

**From page 1**

ters when he served in his cabinet and that Hinga Norman could be

## Kabbah on Norman

described as one of the most dedicated government collaborators. President Kabbah made this statement in the wake of the death of the former government minister who also doubled as head of CDF during the war years. The Special Court for Sierra Leone, a hybrid court that combines domestic laws and laws borrowed from international tribunals, had indicted Chief Sam Hinga Norman for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. The President elaborated on what could have caused the death of Sam Hinga Norman when he said that the former Special Court indictee underwent a very complicated surgical operation and that a good

number of people have not survived such an operation and one such person was the late Secretary to the President, Alhaji Sheku Bayoh.

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah further stated that the hospital in which the late Sam Hinga Norman was hospitalized was a first class hospital where government ministers in the Senegalese government also receive medical treatment.

He explained that from his own knowledge of the law, even though Hinga Norman had been charged to court, the fact that the trial was not completed means that Chief Sam Hinga Norman could not be classified as a war criminal.

The president further ex-

plained to the audience that a member of the Hinga Norman family would witness the autopsy in Senegal and that a representative of the United Nations would also be present at the autopsy.

President Kabbah explained that at the time Chief Sam Hinga Norman was arrested, his government could not intervene because he did not want the United Nations to hold the view that his government was interfering with the operations of the Special Court. He concluded by stating that his government was prepared to hold discussions with the Norman family to discuss the funeral and other matters.

Concord Times  
Tuesday, 27 February 2007

# Kabbah says Norman was not a 'war criminal'

*By Mohamed Massaquoi  
in Bo*

President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah over the weekend declared that the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman was not a war criminal as his indictment was not completed until his death.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of Njala University students on the Coronation Field in Bo, Kabbah said he was not talking as a President but as a lawyer. "...Mr. Norman's case has not been completed and nobody will say that he was a war criminal," he said.

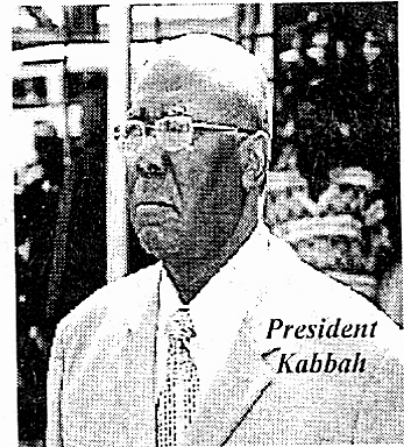
The President also used the opportunity to narrate his friendship with the late Norman while serving in the military saying, "Indeed, Norman was an outstand-

ing minister in my government. We were all emotional about his arrest but after the brutal civil war, we all decided to bring the Special Court which was an agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations."

He however cited that one of the conditions for the court's establishment in the country was for the government not to interfere in its activities.

He said they were only informed by the Special Court that Norman is being taken to Senegal for medical attention. "A lot of Sierra Leoneans have gone through similar operations like that of Chief Norman but unfortunately he could not bear the pain and subsequently died."

"One thing we should try to get



*President  
Kabbah*

off the minds people is politics of lying. Some politicians have so many stories to tell just to win your mind. So we should be conscious of them and always be watchful," he said.

He concluded by saying that an investigation team will be set up to probe the death of Chief Norman.

## On Hinga Norman's Death and Sierra Leone

*By Mohamed Bangura in Toronto, Canada*

"The political implications of Norman's death as we prepare for the already slated 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections will be enormous. Prior to his death, he requested all former commanders, fighters, friends and family members to support Charles Margai and his Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC)."

The recent announcement of the death of the former Deputy Defence Minister of Sierra Leone, retired Captain Chief Sam Hinga Norman in Dakar, Senegal has provoked more controversy as well as conspiracy theories.

Appointed by President Kabbah following the victory of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) in the 1996 presidential and parliamentary polls, Hinga Norman became the public face of the government in dealing with security matters. As such, he com-

***With this plan in place, Kabbah assured Sierra Leoneans from his presidential villa in Bellevue, Conakry that we are surely going back to power. I have given instructions to Hinga Norman, my deputy Defence Minister to use all the power at his disposal to restore the government. What a Machiavellian feat. This, by all indications meant that the late Defence Minister had the tacit support of not only the government, but that of the president personally. This could be seen in the shipment of a consignment of food to the Kamajors as a form of encouragement***

manded enormous respect across the spectrum of not only Sierra Leoneans, but also the international community at large. This political buoyancy was, however, short-lived with the torpedo of the government by combined rag-tag rebels of the mercenary Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and a cross-section of renegade military personnel headed by fugitive Johnny Paul Koroma of the infamous Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) in 1997.

The coup, which could have been prevented to save the precious lives of innocent and unsuspecting civilians from the barbarism of the rebels, was made possible by president Kabbah himself who later told the nation that he had known about the coup three days earlier. Instead, Kabbah vamoosed to neighbouring Guinea along with his cronies running a pseudo government in exile.

Instead of joining his boss in Guinea to dine from the handouts given by the international community, Hinga Norman stood his ground and mobilized local hunters and mounted internal resistance against the marauding rebels masquerading as political leaders in Freetown. Interestingly, as the civil resistance gained momentum, President Kabbah in a BBC interview boasted that he would return pretty soon.

With assurances from Hinga Norman that there was resilience on the part of the militia who later became known as the Kamajors (meaning local hunters in the Mende language) the Kabbah government in exile contracted the British based private military company Sandline International with the indefatigable support of the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, for the supply of arms and ammunition to the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) and the organized civil defence forces with the expressed mandate to oust the junta from

power.

With this plan in place, Kabbah assured Sierra Leoneans from his presidential villa in Bellevue, Conakry that we are surely going back to power. I have given instructions to Hinga Norman, my deputy Defence Minister to use all the power at his disposal to restore the government. What a Machiavellian feat. This, by all indications meant that the late Defence Minister had the tacit support of not only the government, but that of the president personally. This could be seen in the shipment of a consignment of food to the Kamajors as a form of encouragement.

But with politics bastardized as serving the best interest of one's political disposition, Kabbah in league with the international community initiated a

kind of Special Court to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities against civilians during the course of the war. Looking for a scapegoat to legitimize the so-called United Nations backed Special Court, Hinga Norman became the immediate sacrificial lamb. He was roped before the court to answer to charges ranging from war crimes to the recruitment of child soldiers. This selective justice has warranted observers to question the possibility of Hinga Norman establishing a parallel military without the uncompromising support of president Kabbah and the government for the that matter.

Also, what was the legal logic used to arrive at the conclusion to prosecute Hinga Norman by virtue of his role as head of the Civil Defence Forces in spite of the fact that he was taking instructions directly from president Kabbah, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the country? Well, other conspiracy theorists have postulated that president

Kabbah at one point became frenetic over the popularity of Hinga Norman that he jokingly accused him of whether he wanted to succeed him (an euphemistic way of saying whether Norman wanted to overthrow him).

Added to this theory is the recent speculation by the Kabbah insiders that Hinga Norman was poisoned in jail before he was transferred to Dakar, Senegal where he succumbed to death. No wonder Norman was so demonized by the government that not a single government functionary, his former cabinet minister-colleagues inclusive, dared visit him in detention out of fear of encountering the wrath of His Excellency, the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Order of the Rokel, Chancellor of the University of Sierra Leone and Minister of Defence, Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. In essence, politics in Sierra Leone has succeeded in eroding the moral fibre of a cross-section of ministers who would kowtow to the president just to stay in power.

The political implications of Norman's death as we prepare for the already slated 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections will be enormous. Prior to his death, he requested all former commanders, fighters, friends and family members to support Charles Margai and his Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC). This, to say the least, means the die is cast with regards to the SLPP's alleged determination to use all means, including thuggery and intimidation, as evidenced in recent skirmishes in Kamakwei when SLPP thugs attacked All Peoples Congress (APC) supporters, to win the elections.

Indeed, history teaches nothing if the SLPP government could not reverse the sordid trends of political thuggery and intimidation, selective justice, corruption and political opportunism, vices predominant during the reign of the kleptomaniac APC rule, in order for the country not to relapse into chaos similar to the dark chapter in our beloved country from 1991 until the cessation of hostilities in 2002.

It is in this spirit that one will support calls for an international investigation into the untimely death of the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman if only credence could be lent to the rationale behind the formation of the moribund Truth and Reconciliation Commission charged with the responsibility of fostering peace and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

## Salone News

Lawyers for Omrie Golley, former chairman of the Peace Council of the Revolutionary United Front, who is in detention in Freetown awaiting trial for alleged treason, has in a press release raised concern for the safety of their

# Golley's lawyers raise concern after Norman's death

client after the sudden death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman in Senegal.

"Now, lawyers for Mr Golley are worried that the same fate might befall their client whose health is said to be failing fast. According to reports, it has now been a month since Mr Golley's private

doctor in Freetown recommended to the prison authorities that he be admitted to the doctor's hospital so that he could supervise and monitor the new blood pressure drugs Mr Golley has been prescribed," the release stated.

The release further stated

that the authorities at Pademba Road Prison have submitted the medi-

cal report and the endorsement of the prison doctor to the government

but are still awaiting confirmation for the admission to go ahead.

## Adieu Chief Norman

*Former Internal Affairs Minister in the Sierra Leone People's Party, Chief Sam Hinga Norman died last Thursday in a military hospital in Senegal. He was responding to treatment after a hip surgery. The late man's death did not only shock family members but the whole country for the fact that he was a great hero that helped to restore the SLPP government.*

*Motuba recalled in 1997 when the late man in the war front fighting to bring peace to this country. Immediately after the SLPP government was overthrown, the chief went to Liberia. He worked very closely with the Civil Defence Forces in an effort to restore peace and stability in Sierra Leone. He was held in high esteem by the CDF for his stance to repel the then rebels of Johnny Paul Koroma. He fought day and night. He had sleepless nights as he was a target of the rebels.*

*Most of the Ministers in the SLPP government fled the country to neighboring Guinea. They stayed in that country until Democracy was restored in Sierra Leone but Chief Norman stayed throughout. Prior to the May 25 overthrow of the democratically elected government of President Kabbah, Chief Norman was already a target.*

*Readers would want to know why. The late hero had got an intelligence that some elements of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces were planning to topple the SLPP government. As a retired army officer who knew the consequences of coups, immediately arranged a meeting in which he invited the then Army Chief of Staff and also the Chief of Defence Staff at the office of the President. In that meeting, Chief Norman informed the Head of State that the two men had fore knowledge of a coup. When they were asked both denied. The late man explained in that meeting the consequences of coups, which was just five days to the planned date. Nothing was done to foil the planned military coup.*

*Exactly in five days time the government was overthrown. The late man's life was as stake for the fact that he had exposed some of the men. He therefore deemed it fit to fight for his motherland.*

*Five years after the restoration of the SLPP government he was arrested on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2003 by the UN backed Special Court and charged with various offences. He was incarcerated for nearly four years undergoing trial with other former members of CDF. Many prominent people testified in his favor. They included former British High Commissioner, Peter Penfold, General Richards, former V.P. Demby and others. He was awaiting verdict when he fell sick and had to be transferred to a Military hospital in Senegal where he passed away.*

*Chief Norman has gone but his memory will continue to linger in our minds. Motuba knows family members have lost somebody that was dared to them. Although he is not in our midst today Sierra Leoneans will remember him for his role towards the restoration of democracy. May your soul rest in peace.*

The News  
Tuesday, 27 February 2007

*By Sia Tiyaama*

## A tribute and rebuke: Allow Hinga Norman to rest in peace

A hero to many Sierra Leoneans has fallen. Those who lifted no finger to support and protect him are now the people making the most noise about his death. Those who genuinely grieve are the most quiet. In my estimation, they understand Chief Norman has to rest in peace. Even before he lost the warmth of his body, people were already estimating how much political support they could benefit if he were to die as a special court detainee. Indeed, some people have tried to score political points even by bandying a press release Chief Hinga Norman did not author as if he had changed his mind from the firm public declaration he had made last year that he remains a member of the SLPP. But is it not nauseating that some of these people who never lifted a finger to protect Chief Hinga Norman are now trying to make political capital out of his death? This piece is both a tribute to Chief Hinga Norman and a warning/advice that as we mourn the passing of one of Sierra Leone's greatest heroes, we must be aware of the political vultures for the vulgarity in exploiting the death of Chief Norman.

### **CHIEF NORMAN**

He was unflinchingly loyal to his country and party until his death. Some have faulted him for what they call "an unquestioned dedication to SLPP"; but others actively worked for the divisive Special Court's prosecution team and called him a villain and a cannibal. How can such a dedicated hero be so misunderstood and vilified? Yes, Chief Norman was dedicated to the SLPP until his death; but to say that his was unquestioned dedication to SLPP borders on the abysmally ignorant. Those who knew Chief Norman would tell you that he had a lot of disagreements with his party mates, but he always knew that the party is bigger than an individual. That was exhibited in the only seemingly authentic press release he made through his lawyer Dr Bu-Buakei Jabbe in which told all his supporters to stay put in the SLPP and disregard all what other parties are claiming.

Call him what you may, but as far as I am concerned, he showed us all what national dedication and loyalty means. He stayed and fought the good fight for democracy while others were busy destroying the nation. Through his leadership of the Civil Defense Forces, he cleared the Southern region of rebels. In 1998, he joined forces with the ECOMOG troops to drive out the murderous Johnny Paul Koroma and his blood thirsty AFRC/RUF coalition from Freetown. He was called upon again to help in driving out the drug-crazed AFRC/RUF coalition who entered Freetown in 1999. Tell me this is not pure, selfless heroism? So how can anybody in his right mind use Chief Hinga Norman's demise as a bad example of "unquestioned dedication"? Show me somebody who said that he would not defend Chief Hinga Norman in court except for a sizeable amount of money that Chief Hinga Norman could not afford, and I will show you someone who cared for Chief Hinga Norman in life. Show me somebody who as minister of interior refused to send food to the CDF at the warfront because he said that the CDF was an unconstitutional militia and I will show you someone who really cared about the CDF. For the love and dignity of Chief Hinga Norman, let us please stay quiet about those who are now presenting themselves as saints.

Hinga Norman may be physically dead but his spirit undoubtedly lives on. His life is one that is worthy of emulation. His dedication and love for country should go into the annals of history as exemplary of civic duty and patriotism in Sierra Leone. His sacrifice must be looked at as unsurpassed since the days of Bai Bureh and Nyagua. His steadfastness must be copied by all those wanting to lead the nation. His courage under humiliation by some should be a goal for all of us who give off our best for love of country.

### **ADMONITION/REBUKE**

Allow Hinga Norman to rest in peace. Attempts at making political gains out

of this tragedy are becoming nauseating by the hour. This I must add started about three weeks before his death. First came out a seemingly forged document with the Hinga Norman's signature clearly scanned on it; then came another press release from the leader of PMDC in Indiana that Chief Norman has declared for PMDC. That was all well and good because Chief was still alive. But the attempt at continuing with such nonsense is really irritating and bizarre. Shortly after the news of Chief Hinga Norman's demise broke out, the Director of Communications declared the situation a PMDC family affair and had to be reminded that Norman belongs to every Sierra Leonean. Others, like the Secretary General of PMDC Netherlands, were insinuating that the PMDC was trying to prevent the "Kamajors" from wreaking havoc when he made this statement: "I think we should mourn Chief with respect and honor and not in violence. . . I hope our Kamajor brothers will also understand this."

In another instance, the Deputy Coordinator PMDC North America, one Morie Moussafa (aka Toegondoe), who in all honesty comes across as the most irresponsible executive of PMDC, wrote in so many words on February 22<sup>nd</sup> that Hinga Norman was murdered for political and election reasons. This is the height of irresponsibility and a bare-faced attempt to politicize the tragic death of a hero even before the family started their grieving. I find that repulsive and utterly heartless for such statement to come from anyone. On a refreshing note, another PMDC Executive UK/Ireland member one Moijueh Kaikai, who has always dignified Chief Sam Hinga Norman, admonished everyone to focus on giving Chief a fitting funeral. He said, "Let us bury our dead like the hero he is."



### LESSONS FOR ALL GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA

Governments in Africa and Sierra Leone in particular must take seriously the saying that global powers have interests and not friends. The arm twisting that may have taken place in establishing the Special Court of Sierra Leone did not have the country's interest at heart. I hope we as Sierra Leoneans have learnt a lesson. This may be another instance in which someone has to be a sacrificial lamb for us to see that the Special Court is divisive and should be shut down. When Chief Norman was fighting to rid the towns, villages, cities and country of rebels, the countries now supporting the Special Court evacuated their citizens. The same thing happened in Rwanda. However, African leaders being dependent on donor funds accept almost anything presented to them. The countries that evacuated their citizens are the ones in whose custody a hero met his tragic death. Now that they have no big fish to use in their quest to keep their jobs, may be they should all just go home and leave us alone. Let us resolve once more that never again should we allow this to happen. In 1787, Naimbana received gifts and signed what he considered a treaty of friendship only to be told the land belongs to Britain. Treaties of friendship and cooperation were signed all over Sierra Leone by Chiefs only to be told later that they had given up their sovereignty to Britain. Beware what treaties you sign with some Western institutions. If we had never learnt anything before, this should be a wake up call that you do not give a blank check to certain Western institutions because they will divide your country and then evacuate their citizens when things go wrong. Rest in Peace Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Rest in peace, OUR HERO,

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## Amputee Team starts World Cup preparation

As the first All African Amputee Nations Cup ended in Freetown with the host emerging as the bronze holder, the Sierra Leone amputee soccer team has over the weekend start intensive training at the Aberdeen beach in the west end of Freetown. This training is for the Amputee World Cup to be hosted in Istanbul Turkey in November 8 to 18 2007. Speaking to this press Maxwell Kallon alias 'Amputee Kallon' said Sierra Leone was called to join Ghana, Liberia to represent Africa in the Amputee World Cup because they are the only African team that has experience in amputee world cup. He further said that this time Sierra Leone will surely bring this cup home, noting that the reason why they loose to Ghana is due to poor preparation which affected them a lot. Kallon encouraged all to come down at the beach every day to give them their own piece of advice. He stressed that if they are not well equipped this time round, they are not going to be happy. Kallon called on all to give them the fullest support in order to motivate them for this big event.



## *After Norman's Indictment...*

# Kabbah Defends Gov't



By Amara A. Samura

Addressing students and a large crowd of residents of Bo during the convocation ceremony of Njala University last Saturday, President Kabbah dispelled rumours that the indictment of Chief Norman was orchestrated by his government. He explained that after the civil war, his government reached an

agreement with the United Nations to establish the Special Court in Sierra Leone. He said the dictates of the agreement was that the court should be independent and free of government's interference.

The President reminded his audience that Chief Norman was then a Cabinet Minister

*Contd. Page 8*

# Kabbah Defends Government

when the decision was reached and recalled in 2003 when the then Inspector General of Police, Keith Biddle informed him about his arrest. "As a government, we could do nothing when Chief Hinga Norman was arrested, but only to wait and see what would happen." He explained.

President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah then described the late Mr. Norman as an outstanding Minister and a good collaborator of his government.

While calling on the youths to be careful with politics of lies and rumour mongering the President lamented that immediately after Chief Norman was arrested by the Special Court, some unscrupulous individuals started spreading politics of lies.

President Kabbah explained that the hip operation which Chief Norman underwent in Dakar, Senegal is a risky and

dangerous operation, adding that the hospital where the operation took place is exclusive for the treatment of Senegalese ministers.

Government, he said, is in touch with the United Nations and Special Court to authorise and facilitate the normal family funeral and burial for the late Chief. Norman. He said government is prepared to pay the air fare for any member of Mr. Norman's family or a friend to witness the postmortem which will take place in Senegal tomorrow Wednesday February 28.

He added that government will cooperate with the Norman family to see which role it could play to give the late man a decent funeral.

Meanwhile President Kabbah has warned Sierra Leoneans not to refer to the late Chief Norman as a convicted man or criminal since the matter was not completed before his death.

By Sia Tiyaama

## Allow Hinga Norman To Rest In Peace

A hero to many Sierra Leoneans has fallen. Those who lifted no finger to support and protect him are now the people making the most noise about his death. Those who genuinely grieve are the most quiet. In my estimation, they understand Chief Norman has to rest in peace.

Even before he lost the warmth of his body, people were already estimating how much political support they could benefit if he were to die as a special court detainee. Indeed, some people have tried to score political points even by bandying a press release Chief Hinga Norman did not author as if he had changed his mind from the firm public declaration he had made last year that he remains a member of the SLPP.

But is it not nauseating that some of these people who never lifted a finger to protect Chief Hinga Norman are now trying to make political capital out of his death? This piece is both a tribute to Chief Hinga Norman and a warning/advice that as we mourn the passing of one of Sierra Leone's greatest heroes, we must be aware of the political vultures for the vulgarity in exploiting the death of Chief Norman.

### CHIEF NORMAN

He was unflinchingly loyal to his country and party until his death. Some have faulted him for what they call "an unquestioned dedication to SLPP"; but others actively worked for the divisive Special Court's prosecution team and called him a villain and a cannibal. How can such a dedicated hero be so misunderstood and vilified? Yes, Chief Norman was dedicated to the SLPP until his death; but to say that his was unquestioned dedication to SLPP borders on the abysmally ignorant. Those who knew Chief Norman would tell you that he had a lot of disagreements with his party mates, but he always knew that the party is bigger than an individual. That was exhibited in the only seemingly authentic press release he made through his lawyer Dr Bu-Buakei Jabbie in which told all his supporters to stay put in the SLPP and disregard all

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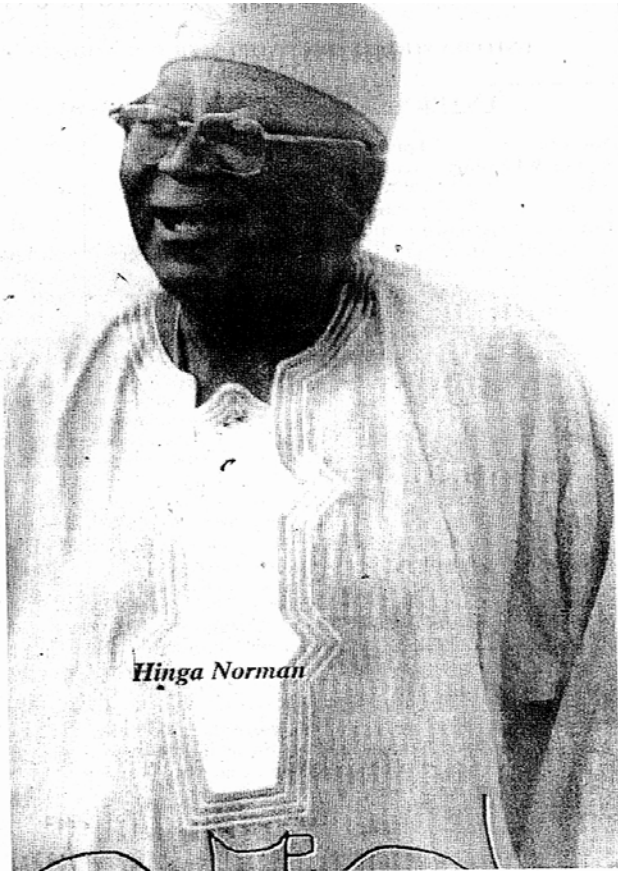
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African leaders being dependent on donor funds accept almost anything presented to them. The countries that evacuated their citizens are the ones in whose custody a hero met his tragic death. Now that they have no big fish to use in their quest to keep their jobs, may be they should all just go home and leave us alone. Let us resolve once more that never again should we allow this to happen. In 1787, Naimbana received gifts and signed what he considered a treaty of friendship only to be told the land belongs to Britain. Treaties of friendship and cooperation were signed all over Sierra Leone by Chiefs only to be told later that they had given up their sovereignty to Britain. Beware what treaties you sign with some Western institutions. If we had never learnt anything before, this should be a wake up call that you do not give a blank check to certain Western institutions because they will divide your country and then evacuate their citizens when things go wrong. Rest in Peace Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Rest in peace, OUR HERO,

The Exclusive  
Tuesday, 27 February 2007

# Taylor Back To Freetown

***\*Stranded In Holland***

***\*No Food, No Privacy...***

Legal luminaries  
of the profiled  
indictee of the

Special Court for  
Sierra Leone, Mr.  
Charles Taylor, are

seeking for an  
immediate transfer of  
. *Contd. Page 2*



# Taylor Back To Freetown

## From front page

their client from The Hague were he was reportedly subjected to unfair treatment.

Mr. Taylor who was flown over to The Hague; Netherlands, for perceived security risk in the sub-region is reportedly not enjoying his detainees rights at the Hague compared to Freetown.

Apart from the African diet he missed so much, Mr. Taylor's privileged conversations have been subjected to video surveillance at the ICC detention centre where he is incarcerated. It was also alleged that the ICC has imposed a plethora of unnecessary, unreasonable and discriminatory restrictions on Mr. Taylor, that are not applicable to other detainees in Freetown.

According to the lawyers, the problems occurred as a result of flawed Memorandum of

Understanding between the Special Court and the ICC that has in effect, ceded jurisdiction to the ICC over decisions pertaining to Mr. Taylor's conditions of detention.

The lawyers added that the financial and logistical problems presented by transferring the proceedings to the Netherlands would be alleviated if the trial reverts to Freetown, particularly with regards the most challenging logistical aspect of the operation.

Secondly, the political and security situation in Liberia and Sierra Leone has stabilized.

They maintained that the primary motive behind the special court in Freetown was to allow for a blend of international legal standards with local participation from those affected by the conflict.

For the above reasons, the defense

has submitted that the president's decision to change the venue of trial to The Hague cannot at the present time be justified as "necessary for the efficient exercise of the court's functions." The defense is therefore requesting that the president of the special court:

1) Reconsider his order Changing of proceedings of 19 June 2006

2) Invite representative from the Sierra Leonean and Liberian Governments, African Union, Civil Society Groups and other interested parties on the issue of venue on an expedited basis

3) Order that the Trial of Charles Taylor be held at the Special Courts premises in Freetown.

4) Make such other consequential orders as are deemed necessary.



The Exclusive

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

# Norman's Death Raises Concerns For Golley

**T**he sudden death last week of Chief Sam Hinga Norman in Senegal has heightened concerns for the safety of Omrie Golley, the former chairman of the Peace Council of the Revolutionary United Front, who is in detention in Freetown awaiting trial for alleged treason.

Norman, Sierra Leone's former Deputy Defence Minister and head of the Civil Defence Force during the civil war, was before the Special Court for Sierra Leone charged with war crimes. He was flown to Dakar for an operation in

January, but died two weeks after it was performed on February 8.

Now, lawyers for Mr. Golley are worried that the same fate might befall their client whose health is said to be failing fast. According to reports, it has now been a month since Mr. Golley's private doctor in Freetown recommended to the prison's authorities that he be admitted to the doctor's hospital so that he could supervise and monitor the new blood pressure drugs Mr. Golley has been prescribed.

The authorities at Pademba Road Prison have

submitted the medical report and the endorsement of the prisons' doctor to the government but are still awaiting confirmation for the admission to go ahead.

A similar situation was faced by the leader of the RUF, Foday Sankoh, who used to complain of poor medical treatment at Pademba Road Prison, where he died in July 2003. The prison is notorious for being overcrowded and unhygienic.

For further information, please contact James Oury at Oury Clark Solicitors on +44(0) 20 7067 4300.

The Exclusive  
Tuesday, 27 February 2007

## **As Kabbah Hits 75 ...**

### ***Norman Kicks The Bucket***

His Excellency the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has in pomp and pageantry, celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Congratulations His Excellency.

For one to live up to seventy-five in this poverty ridden country of ours, one really needs to consider himself blessed. Oh how I wish to live up to or even far more than 75 years.

Still fresh, strong and energetic, Kabbah has hit seventy five. Kabbah's journey through life in these 75 good and bad years was really not an easy one. Well, not that Kabbah was really an original 'Bobor Pain' but the fact is that it takes a MAN to attain what Kabbah has attained for all these years.

From the civil service, to the UN, to politics and now honourably bowing out as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone had not been an easy task.

Nevertheless, if Kabbah should count his blessings one by one, he will be grateful to God for what He has done in his life.

It is not about how long one lives on earth; it is not about the riches and wealth one acquires; it is not about how many concubines you line-up. It is about your contribution(s) to humanity.

Unlike Kabbah, Chief Sam Hinga Norman was rather unfortunate to hit seventy five, but no matter what one would say, Norman did make a mark. But that is a different piece all together.

No matter who or what you are if you die without making a mark (a positive one too) your years on earth are of no significance.

Kabbah would ever be considered as the architect of our hard won peace just as Norman would be considered a significant contributor to the same. Say what you may.

Though his more than a decade tenure in office had been a mixture of sweet and bitter for his people, but five lettered word - PEACE, he gave his people has neutralized all his many erratic approaches in his administration.

The fact is that Kabbah was just sent by God as a Peace Messiah, nothing more than that.

And as he bows out, we must thank him for the peace he gave this nation.

What's our worry? - Would Kabbah's Peace legacy be consolidated by whoever is going to take over from him? That is the million Dollar question every Sierra Leonean needs to ask him or herself. More so when we continue to see some of the things that provoked the decade long war happening - corruption, nepotism, neglect and what have you.

Kabbah we now know, but who will come after him, we know not. May God give us the right leader. 'Inshallah'!

**Unlike Kabbah, Chief**  
**Sam Hinga Norman**  
**was rather unfortunate**  
**to hit seventy five, but**  
**no matter what one**  
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*As SLPP awaits arrival of Norman's body...*

# Dr. Nyalle to appease Kamajors up-country

Ex-president of the US-based Teghloma organization, Dr. Lansana Nyallay, is expected to travel to the south-eastern part of the country to appease the ex-combatants of the Civil Defence Force (Kamajors) over the unfortunate death of their leader, Chief Sam Hinga Norman. As the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) awaits the arrival of Mr. *see page 2*

## Dr. Nyalle to appease Kamajors up-country

*From front page*

Norman's body home for what they describe as state funeral rites, there are reports that the ex-Kamajor-militia, particularly in the southern district of Bo are aggrieved with the Kabbah-Government over Norman's demise. According to our correspondent in the area, the Kamajors who are reportedly filled with rage may likely demonstrate their wrath in the streets of the country's second capital, Bo. Dr. Nyallay, who is said to have been a very close ally to the late Sam Hinga Norman and played a very pivotal role in the restoration of democracy in the country, may travel to address the ex-combatants against any public demonstration in respect of Norman's demise. Since seventy-five percent of the Kamajors are illiterate, the SLPP strongman, reports add, will also educate them about the good principles of peace and conflict prevention in post-war democratic society, thereby urging them to pay deaf ears to rumors by disgruntled politicians in the likes of the People's Movement of Democratic Change (PMDC).

It could be recalled that

representatives of the Kamajor Militia from Bo had reaffirmed their total support for the leadership of the Honorable Vice president, Solomon Berewa.

Speaking to the Chairlady of the SLPP of the York District Constituency, Madam Martha Kanargboh, during a courtesy call at Waterloo Street recently, the Kamajors said that they had come to Freetown to re-echo their words of support which they had earlier expressed in Bo. They condemned any information which purports that they the militia have joined the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), which they described as a composition of renegades and frustrated element that have broken away from the SLPP. Senior Security guards to Chief Sam Hinga Norman also confirmed that on the time he was going to Senegal for medical check-up, Chief Norman made it categorically clear that he had not left, and submitted would not leave the SLPP for any other political group.

Chief Norman was indicted on the 3 March 2003 with eight counts of war crime and crimes against humanity steaming from acts allegedly carried

out by forces under his command during Sierra Leone's civil conflict.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone intimated the press on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007 about Mr. Norman's death at a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal. According to the Special court, Mr. Norman and another special court detainee were taken to Dakar on 17 January for medical procedures which were considered routine, but which were unavailable in Sierra Leone.

Those procedures were performed on Thursday, 8 February, without complication.

At 10:55 a.m. Mr. Norman collapsed and, despite attempts to revive him, was pronounced dead at about 11:15. Initial indications, the Special Court say, are that Mr. Norman suffered heart failure during post-operative care.

Registrar, Lovemore Munlo, SC, has ordered an independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death. Mr. Munlo informed family members early in the afternoon on that day and expressed his deep personal regret at their loss.

A verdict in the case is pending before

the Trial Chamber.

Also, Stephen Rapp, the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, has expressed deep regret over the death of Mr. Hinga Norman and also sincere condolences to his family. Hinga Norman's death, he said, means that there will not be a judgment issued by the Trial Chamber in his care.

In a recent release issue to the press, the Prosecutor expressed that all parties to this case deserve to see a verdict rendered.

"Hinga Norman's death means that the people of Sierra Leone are deprived of their right to see justice done in an important and high-profile case before the Special Court," the prosecutor added.

"Our mission, our pledge and our duty have been and remain to bring justice to those who bear the greatest responsibility for the terrible atrocities suffered by the people of Sierra Leone. When an accused dies before judgment, then justice is denied". While they profoundly regret the death of Hinga Norman, Mr. Rapp expressed that they will continue their work to see that justice is done in the name of and on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone.

## ***Family members resolved...***

# Hinga Norman to be buried in Bo



Late Hinga Norman

BY IBRAHIM BARRIE

The late Samuel Hinga Norman will be buried in his village, Mongereh in the Bo district, a family source has disclosed to this press.

The source said the bereaved family has resolved at a meeting that only close family members and the Wonde Society, of which the late Chief Norman was a strong member, should take control of the

funeral service. The family agreed also, the source added, not to accept any gesture from the government and especially from the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) politicians, who the family considers as betrayers of the late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman.

"We have agreed that the funeral service will be solely a family affair and the late man's son, Samuel Hinga

*CONTINUED PAGE 15*

# Hinga Norman to be buried in Bo

FROM PAGE 1

Norman Junior will give directives on all arrangements of the funeral," our source revealed.

"We will not encourage any sympathy from the ruling government of President Tejan Kabbah and his party, the SLPP", the source added.

Asked about the People Democratic Movement for Change (PMDC), the source said the family holds no grievance against the PMDC adding that the interim leader of the PMDC, Charles Margai was the late man's lawyer. "PMDC is welcome", said the

source.

Plans are underway to relocate the Norman family from Spur Road to New England Ville where sympathizers would pay homage.

Already the family is waiting for the Special Court to facilitate arrangement to airlift the corpse from Dakar to Freetown.

The corpse, after being handed over to the family will be taken to the southern city of Bo, where the Wonde Society will perform their ritual ceremony before it is laid to rest in Mongereh village.

Late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, was facing trial at the UN backed Spe-

cial Court on eight counts charges stemming from war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Norman served the SLPP government as deputy defense minister and internal affairs minister; he was also the coordinator civil defence forces during the rebel war.

Norman was bitter against the SLP after being indicted by the Special Court, which is an agreement between the United Nations and the Sierra Leone government.

He died of heart failure, according to the Special Court, but the family and other Norman followers remain unconvinced as to the cause of death.

## Standard Times

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

### Allow Hinga Norman To Rest In Peace

#### BYSIA TIYAAMA

He was a hero to many Sierra Leoneans. Sadly those who lifted no finger to support and protect him are now the people making the most noise about his death. Those who genuinely grieve are the most quiet. In this writer's estimation, Chief Norman has to rest in peace.

Even before he lost the warmth of his body, people were already estimating how much political support they could benefit from him if he were to die as a special court detainee. Indeed, some people have tried to score political points even by bandying a press release, which Chief Hinga Norman did not author as if he had changed his mind from the firm public declaration he had made last year that he remains a member of the SLPP. But is it not nauseating that some of these people who never lifted a finger to protect Chief Hinga Norman are now trying to make political capital out of his death? This piece is both a tribute to Chief Hinga Norman and an advice as we mourn the passing away of one of Sierra Leone's greatest heroes, we must be aware of the political vultures for the vulgarity in exploiting the death of Chief Norman.

He was unflinchingly loyal to his country and party until his death. Some have faulted him for what they call "an unquestionable dedication to SLPP", but others actively worked for the divisive Special Court's prosecution team and called him a villain and a cannibal. How can such a dedicated hero be misunderstood and vilified? Yes, Chief Norman was dedicated to the SLPP until his death; but to say that he was unquestionably dedicated to SLPP borders on abysmal ignorance. Those who knew Chief Norman would tell you that he had a lot of disagreements with his party mates, but he always knew that the party is bigger than an individual. That was exhibited in the authentic press release he made through his lawyer Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie in which he told all his supporters to stay put in the SLPP and disregard all what other parties are claiming.

Call him what you may, but as far as I am concerned, he showed us all what national dedication and loyalty means. He stayed and fought the good fight for democracy while others were busy destroying the nation. Through his leadership of the Civil Defense forces, he cleared the Southern region of rebels. In 1998, he joined forces with the ECOMOG troops to drive out the murderous Johnny Paul Koroma and his blood thirsty AFRC/RUF coalition from Freetown. He was called upon again to help in driving out the drug-crazed AFRC/RUF coalition that entered Freetown in 1999. Tell me is this not pure, selfless heroism? So how can anybody in his

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right mind use Chief Hinga Norman's demise as a bad example of "unquestionable dedication"? Show me somebody who said that he would not defend Chief Hinga Norman in court except for a sizeable amount of money that Chief Hinga Norman could not afford, and I would show you someone who cared for Chief Hinga Norman in life. Show me somebody who as minister of interior refused to send food to the CDF at the warfront because he said that the CDF was an unconstitutional militia and I will show you someone who really cared about the CDF. For the love and dignity of Chief Hinga Norman, let us please stay quiet especially for those who are now presenting themselves as saints.

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### **LESSONS FOR ALL** **GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA**

Governments in Africa and Sierra Leone in particular must take seriously the saying that

global powers have interests and not friends. The arm twisting that may have taken place in establishing the Special Court for Sierra Leone did not have the country's interest at all. It is hoped that we as Sierra Leoneans have learnt a lesson. This may be another instance in which someone has to be a sacrificial lamb for us to see that the Special Court is divisive and should be shut down. When Chief Norman was fighting to rid the towns, villages, cities and country of rebels, the countries now supporting the Special Court evacuated their citizens.

The same thing happened in Rwanda. However, African leaders being dependent on donor funds accept almost anything presented to them. The countries that evacuated their citizens are the ones in whose custody a hero met his tragic death. Now that they have no big fish to use in their quest to keep their jobs, may be they should begin to pack their belongings and return to their respective homes and leave us alone. Let us resolve once more that never again should we allow this to happen.

In 1787, Naimbana received gifts and signed what he considered a treaty of friendship only to be told that the land belongs to Britain. Treaties of friendship and cooperation were signed on behalf of Sierra Leone by Chiefs only to be told later that they had given up their sovereignty to Britain. Beware of the treaties you sign with some Western institutions. If we had never learnt anything before, this should be a wake up call that one should not give a blank check to certain Western institutions because they will abuse it. Rest in perfect peace Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Rest in peace OUR HERO.

Awoko  
Monday, 26 February 2007

## Speaker breaks silence on Child Rights Bill

Speaker of Parliament, Justice Edmund Cowan, last Thursday in the House broke his long silence over accusations from many quarters including Children's Forum Network that parliament is refusing to pass the Child Rights Bill.

The Speaker said it was very unfortunate that parliament had been misrepresented and blamed this misrepresentation on the Ministry of Welfare Gender

and Children's Affairs. He said they never postponed the deliberations of the bill because it was in fact not on the Order Paper (the schedule of Parliament) for that day.

Justice Cowan pointed out that, "there are procedures to be followed by anybody for any bill to be enacted by parliament and obviously the Welfare Ministry lapsed on some of these basic procedures".

He said, "now people are

inciting the kids to look at parliament with inauspicious eyes and others are issuing press releases purporting that parliament is against the bill".

"We have not passed the bills and the children have started using words at us," the Speaker retorted, reacting to interviews given by children blasting parliament on Kalleone radio.

Justice Cowan condemned the people inciting these children and strongly warned

*Contd. Page 5*

## Speaker breaks silence

*From Page 4*

that, "one will never achieve anything by agitation."

He stressed that they were going to look at the bill in the interest of the children and Sierra Leone, adding that, "we are making laws for posterity"

He reasoned that if they made bad laws for the children today the children as adults tomorrow would point accusing fingers at them.

The Speaker pointed out that all the laws contained in the Child Rights Bill were nothing new but that they

were laws which had been enacted in the country's statutes books years ago.

He promised that indeed they would pass the bill as they did not have any reasons to do otherwise "because the children are our kith and kin."

## Christian Monitor

Monday, 26 February 2007

Editorial

[http://www.christian-monitor.org/cms/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=351&Itemid=39](http://www.christian-monitor.org/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=351&Itemid=39)

### **Outrage: Prosecutor Says No Verdict on Norman**

Family and friends of late Chief Hinga Norman have expressed outrage following the announcement by the prosecutor of the Special Court that Norman's case will be closed and judgment cancelled. Stephen Rapp said Norman's death last week means that there will not be a judgment issued by the Trial Chamber in his case.

A friend of the family said it is injustice and it makes mockery of international law. It is a wrong not only to the late man but the entire family he left behind and all those members of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF), who felt they were fighting a just cause.'

The former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone Peter Penfold, who is a known critic of the Special Court said, Norman's "arrest and incarceration for the past 4 years by the UN's Special War Crimes Court has been a grave injustice. His death, in peculiar circumstances, is not only a great loss to his family, his friends, and his country, but also a tragedy for all those who not only talk about peace and democracy but are prepared to fight and die for these causes".

According to the spokesman of the court, the decision not to issue a judgement would be determined by the judges of the Trial Chamber possibly next week and it is not the decision of the prosecutor nor should he pre-empt the Judges ruling on the matter. However, Peter Andersen said, there is the 'likelihood' that the judges may withhold and not issue a judgement on the matter in which both the defence and the prosecution have concluded their testimonies and final submissions.

In his statement, Rapp said 'all parties to this case deserved to see a verdict rendered' and that Norman's death 'means that the people of Sierra Leone are deprived of their right to see justice done in an important and high-profile case before the Special Court. Our mission, our pledge and our duty has been and remains to bring justice to those who bear the greatest responsibility for the terrible atrocities suffered by the people of Sierra Leone. When an Accused dies before judgment, then justice is denied'.

What and whose justice is this, a family friend questions. M. Kai Kai says a no-verdict decision is not satisfactory to anybody, a statement which the court spokesman agrees with. Anderson said a verdict would bring closure to the matter, for the court and the family as well. Justice would be seen to have been done even when the man is dead and gone. Consequently, a verdict whichever way it goes will be good for the image of the court in its avowed responsibility to bring to justice to those who bear the greatest responsibility for the 11-year war.

The Prosecutor indicted Hinga Norman in March 2003 with eight counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity stemming from acts allegedly carried out by forces under his command during Sierra Leone's civil conflict and since then has kept him in detention till his death last.

As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere'. It is in this spirit that friends and family members as well as those who not only talk about peace and democracy but are prepared to fight and die for those causes, call for and request a verdict from the Trial Chamber on the case of the late Chief Hinga Norman. The alternative as suggested by the prosecutor is a tragedy and a travesty of justice; of international justice.



## Voice of America

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

### **Autopsy and Inquest Set for Sierra Leone Kamajor Leader Chief Sam Hinga Norman**

By Joe De Capua  
Washington

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has promised there will be an autopsy soon to determine the cause of death of Kamajor militia leader Sam Hinga Norman. Norman died while in Senegal for routine medical treatment. He had been on trial for war crimes charges and crimes against humanity.

Peter Andersen is the spokesman for the special court. From Freetown, he spoke to VOA English to Africa Service reporter Joe De Capua about the pending autopsy, which may be done on Wednesday.

“The registrar, even on Thursday, the day that Chief Norman died, ordered an autopsy, an inquest, in fact, to take place. And we’re going to do that as soon as possible, as soon as logistically possible, because it means that some of the pathologists and doctors have to be taken to Dakar,” he says.

Andersen adds, “The immediate cause of death, as we said, was that Chief Norman collapsed and suffered heart failure. Now what caused him to collapse and what caused the heart failure is what we have to find out. So, it’s better to wait until the experts have looked, rather than to speculate. And so, after the autopsy has been performed, after the inquest, then we’ll know. And when we know, the family will know as well.”

Asked what happens next, since a verdict was pending in Norman’s trial, the special court spokesman says, “What is probably going to happen is that the judges are going to review that and they would have the discretion to remove it so that there would never be a verdict now. That’s what the prosecutor, in fact, has suggested would happen. There’s not a specific rule for taking care of that, but in other tribunals that’s been done under general rule, which gives the judges the powers to do things in cases like this.”

Because Chief Norman had been the head of the Kamajors, his trial was considered somewhat sensitive. Andersen says, “Many people...thought that Chief Norman was a hero during the war. So that trial probably has been watched with greater interest here in Sierra Leone than any other of the trials so far. I think there are a lot of people who are rather emotional about this and that’s only to be expected.”

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 26 February 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **UN praises Indian all-female peacekeeping unit in Liberia**

New York, Feb 25 (PTI) The all-female police unit from India serving in Liberia has come in for high praise for its peacekeeping mission in the country from a United Nations envoy. "The work being done by the first all female unit ever to be assigned to a UN mission shows the special contribution that women can make in maintaining stability," said Alan Doss, Secretary-General's special envoy in the country. The United Nations has been finding it very difficult to get all female units, essential in the light of alleged rape cases and other abuses by peacekeepers.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

AP 02/25/2007 11:48:18

#### **Guinea Leader Agrees to Appoint New PM**

ABOU BAKR

CONAKRY, Guinea\_Guinea's president has agreed to appoint a new prime minister amenable to the West African country's powerful union chiefs in an attempt to end a crippling strike and simmering unrest that has killed scores of people this year. One of the country's two main union chiefs, Rabiadou Serah Diallo, said Sunday that union official proposed five names for the post and President Lansana Conte was expected to choose one of them.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **Rwandans Honour President Johnson-Sirleaf**

*(The Analyst)*

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and delegation returned to Liberia from a visit to Rwanda during which she was honored by the Government of Rwanda for her contribution to that Country following the genocide, 10 years ago. The ceremony climaxed the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rwandan Women Parliamentary Forum.
- According to an Executive Mansion release, President Paul Kagame who received the Liberian leader upon her arrival in Kigali hailed her for her proud and outstanding leadership abilities exemplifying her as a true friend of Rwanda following the 1994 genocide.
- The Forum was climaxed with a major international conference of women leaders from the 5 continents of the world to celebrate Rwanda's record of high female representation in parliament.

#### **Vice President Hosts Visiting French Petroleum Investors**

*(The News)*

- During a meeting with a visiting delegation of TOTAL Company, a Paris-based petroleum giant, Vice President Joseph Boakai said that he was confident that operations of the entity would buttress efforts at restoring confidence in the Liberian economy and added that he was impressed with the activities of TOTAL in Africa and hoped that it would invest in Liberia.

- TOTAL Executive Vice President for Africa Jean Dennis Rearer disclosed that the gas company was currently constructing 20 filling stations in Liberia 7 of which would be located in Monrovia and 13 elsewhere as a demonstration of its confidence in the business climate and security of the Country.

### **UN Agencies Executive Boards Visit Liberia**

*(Liberian Express, The News and New Democrat)*

- A release issued in Monrovia said that the Executive Boards of the UNDP, UNICEF, UNPF and WFP will arrive in Liberia on Sunday for a week-long visit to assess, at first hand, how the agencies operate and deliver programme results at the national and county levels.
- Deputy Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance, Mr. Jordan Ryan said that the delegation's visit was a wonderful achievement for the entire UN family in Liberia.
- Also, the Executive Board members would meet with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, senior Government officials and officials from the Liberian private sector, the civil society and UNMIL.

### **SRSG Doss Cautions UNMIL Indian Formed Police**

*(Public Agenda, Liberian Express, The Informer, Heritage and The Analyst)*

- During a visit with the all-female UNMIL Indian Formed Police Unit, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss cautioned officers of the Unit to be ready for incidents of public disorder at all times as they are usual in countries emerging from long and violent civil wars.
- Mr. Doss noted that one of UNMIL's aims is to manage public order without resorting, each time, to a military response and was confident that with the help of Liberians, UNMIL could maintain a peaceful, stable and violence-free environment in Liberia.
- Meanwhile, Mr. Doss warned that troubles in neighboring countries should not be allowed to undermine the consolidation of the peace in Liberia because it was achieved at a high price.
- Mr. Doss issued the warning when he decorated officers of the Ukrainian Aviation Unit for their contribution to UNMIL and assured that the Mission would remain vigilant to ensure that security conditions enable the Government to carry out its programme of national reform. He called on the peacekeepers to abide by the Secretary-General's Policy of Zero Tolerance for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

### **Rwandans Honour President Johnson-Sirleaf**

### **Vice President Hosts Visiting French Petroleum Investors**

### **UN Agencies Executive Boards Visit Liberia**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **SRSG Doss Cautions UNMIL Indian Formed Police**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **President Johnson-Sirleaf Hails Libyan Counterpart for Aid**

- According to the Libyan News Agency, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, in a telephone conversation, commended Libya for the assistance it rendered to the people of Liberia including the donation of generators, tractors and agricultural equipment.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

BBC

Monday, 26 February 2007

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6399235.stm>

## Guinea PM named in strike deal

Guinea's President Lansana Conte has appointed a new prime minister, bowing to trade-union demands after a strike and violent protests.

Ex-diplomat Lansana Kouyate was chosen from a list supplied by unions and the opposition after a deal at the weekend.

He replaces Eugene Camara - a close aide to the president whose appointment sparked weeks of unrest.



Lansana Kouyate was among the figures favoured by the unions

The move came as Guineans attended commemoration services for the 110 people killed in the violence.

Businesses, schools and government offices in Guinea remained closed on Monday.

### 'Constant pressure'

Trade unions wanted an independent prime minister to carry out reforms, and President Lansana Conte agreed to end the crisis on Sunday.

Mr Kouyate is a former UN diplomat who once headed the Economic Union of West African States (Ecowas), a regional bloc.

The deal was struck after lengthy talks involving the unions, the president and West African mediators.

A union negotiator told AP news agency that although the strike ended at midnight on Sunday, Monday would be a day of prayer devoted to all those who died in the strike-related violence.



The deal emerged after days of intense negotiation

According to a statement, the unions "decided to suspend the strike call across the whole national territory and they urge workers to go back to work on Tuesday, 27 February".

Martial law was declared shortly after Mr Conte appointed Mr Camara as prime minister on 9 February. This proved unpopular and unrest spread. Despite the deal, the unions stressed the strike could still resume.

"We have to be careful and let him know the pressure is constant," opposition spokesman Mamadou Ba told AFP news agency.

"He's not in the habit of letting his prime ministers do their job."

BBC

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6399311.stm>

## Darfur war suspects to be named

Prosecutions linked to the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region are set to move a step closer, as evidence is presented to the International Criminal Court.

The chief prosecutor is expected to detail alleged war crimes and give the Hague-based court a list of suspects from the government and rebel sides.

Some 200,000 people have died since the Darfur conflict erupted four years ago.

Sudan's government rejects the ICC's authority, saying its own judicial system is capable of trying suspects.



More than two million people have been forced to flee their homes

### Denial

As well as thousands of deaths, Darfur has seen more than two million people flee since the conflict began four years ago.

Numerous international reports and experts have directly linked the brutal activities of the Arab Janjaweed militia to the central Sudanese government in Khartoum.

Our correspondent in the Sudanese capital, Jonah Fisher, says that joint attacks on villages have been well-documented and there is little doubt the militia have been given weapons and vehicles to fight rebels.

But Sudan's President, Omar al-Bashir, denies involvement and says the level of conflict in the region has been greatly exaggerated by the US and the West.



the entire court will help to



Luis Moreno-Ocampo  
ICC chief prosecutor

Chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has spent two years examining evidence gathered by a UN investigative team after the Security Council voted to forward him a list of 51 names suspected of crimes against humanity.

### Ending impunity

He said the crimes investigated included killings, tortures, rapes, looting, forced displacement and persecution.

"We hope that the work of the entire court will help to ensure the end of impunity for the crimes committed in Darfur," Mr Moreno-Ocampo told the BBC's Arabic Service.

"We also hope to contribute to the prevention of future crimes in the region," he added.

After Mr Moreno-Ocampo has filed the evidence of alleged war crimes with the court, its judges will have to decide whether to open an inquiry against the suspects with the aim of issuing international arrest warrants.

The BBC's Fergal Keane, reporting from The Hague where the ICC is based, says the presentation of evidence will be a highly significant moment in the Darfur crisis.

But the announcement is likely to infuriate the government of Sudan which continues to refuse to co-operate with the court.

As long as the current regime remains in power in Khartoum, our correspondent says, there will be a problem with going ahead with prosecutions.

Human rights groups have also been critical of the investigation which was conducted mostly outside Sudan due to security concerns.

## Reuters

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

### **ICC to Name Darfur War Suspects**

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (Reuters) -- The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor will name the first suspects accused of committing war crimes in Sudan's Darfur region on Tuesday and human rights activists hope he will pursue senior figures.

Chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo is expected to submit to pre-trial judges evidence against several individuals of war crimes and crimes against humanity to support arrest warrants or summonses. He is due to hold a news conference at 1300 GMT.

Moreno-Ocampo said in December his investigators had found evidence of rape, torture, murder and sexual violence in Darfur. His announcement will be closely watched to see if he charges government figures as well as rebels.

"We eagerly await the prosecutor's recommendations for holding those responsible for the gravest crimes fully accountable," said Sudanese human rights lawyer Osman Hummada.

Experts say some 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million others driven from their homes in Darfur since 2003, when rebels took up arms against the government, charging it with neglect. Khartoum says about 9,000 people have died.

In March 2005, the U.N. Security Council asked the ICC to launch an investigation into the violence in Darfur, which the United States has called genocide, a charge Khartoum denies.

"I hope the message that goes out from this action is that the days of absolute impunity that have existed for horrific crimes committed in Darfur are coming to an end," said Richard Dicker of New York-based Human Rights Watch.

U.N. and African Union observers blame pro-government militias, known as Janjaweed, for the worst atrocities.

### **Jurisdiction issues**

Sudan's Justice Minister Mohamed Ali al-Mardi was quoted as saying on Monday the ICC had no jurisdiction over its nationals and it would not allow anybody, including rebels, to be tried outside Sudan.

Sudanese media also reported Khartoum would put several people on trial next week, including military personnel and paramilitary troops, for suspected involvement in attacks in Darfur.

Moreno-Ocampo has said he would examine whether Sudan's government is conducting its own judicial proceedings over Darfur as the ICC is only supposed to prosecute when national courts are unwilling or unable to act.

Rights groups say Khartoum's own investigations and tribunals for crimes in Darfur have been largely for show.

Moreno-Ocampo has so far only charged rebels involved in conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

Some analysts suggest Khartoum has resisted pressure to authorize a deployment of thousands of U.N. peacekeepers to support a 7,000-strong African Union mission in Darfur because it fears U.N. soldiers might be used to arrest ICC suspects.

The ICC, the world's first permanent war crimes court, started work in 2002 and is now supported by 104 nations, although still not by big powers Russia, China and the United States. Washington fiercely opposed the creation of the ICC, fearing it would be used for politically motivated prosecutions of its citizens.

The Darfur case was seen as a turning point for the court as Washington refrained from blocking the Security Council referral.



## Newsweek

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17311798/site/newsweek/>

### **Khmer Rouge Trials Turn to Farce**

Thirty years on, the Khmer Rouge trials risk collapse.

By Erika Kinetz

Newsweek International

Nearly 10 years after the Cambodian government first asked for help setting up a court to try leaders of the murderous Khmer Rouge regime, it has yet to hold a single hearing. Washington refuses to fund the court on the ground that it's not up to international standards, and its ambassador, Joseph Mussomeli, says, "no trial would be better than a trial that will be a farce." The court's foreign and Cambodian judges are deadlocked over procedure, and the foreign judges have threatened to walk out rather than participate in what they fear could become an exercise in politics over justice.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. Since the Nuremberg tribunal after World War II, trials of brutal leaders have slowly become more common and established a moderately positive record. U.N. courts have convicted numerous individuals for the wars in the former Yugoslavia and the Rwandan genocide. A hybrid court under local and international auspices is slowly getting off the ground in Sierra Leone. But the Cambodia tribunal, also an experimental local-international hybrid, has gone nowhere—denying justice to the almost 2 million victims of one of the 20th century's worst acts of mass slaughter. Court insiders, who asked not to be identified for fear of retribution, now give the tribunal a 50-50 chance of collapsing.

Part of the problem is that, unlike the U.N. courts, Cambodia's tribunal is, at the government's insistence, mainly a national affair staffed mostly with Cambodian judges (though they are supposed to be guided by international principles). Hans Corell, who led the U.N.'s effort to help establish the court, says that he is "not at all convinced that this represents a good solution" to the problem of achieving justice in a local context. There's a certain emotional logic to prosecuting Cambodian crimes in Cambodia, and optimists hope a televised exercise in real justice will help break the cycle of violence and impunity that haunts the nation.

But that outcome looks unlikely. Hun Sen's government seems interested in the trial only to the extent it will vindicate its own anti-Khmer Rouge credentials—without dredging up awkward facts, such as current officials' own Khmer Rouge ties or the support that China, now a close ally, gave to the genocidal regime. There are other worrisome signs: one of the court's Cambodian judges has admitted taking bribes, and another once sent an opposition politician to prison after a one-day trial. An American watchdog group, the Open Society Justice Initiative, recently alleged that employees of the court were being forced to pay kickbacks to government officials (a charge Phnom Penh denies), and the U.N. is auditing the court's hiring of local staff. Sara Colm of Human Rights Watch says the Cambodian government "got cold feet" when it realized that working with foreign partners meant "it might not be able to control" the judicial process.

The government does look willing to let the trial proceed, albeit in a limited fashion. Part of Hun Sen's legitimacy comes from the fact that his Vietnam-backed government held the Khmer Rouge at bay during the 1980s even as the West backed remnants of the murderous regime. "Twenty years ago we fought the Khmer Rouge, and no one supported us except a few friends," says Prak Sokhon, the cabinet secretary. "Now the tribunal will show that [we were] right."

Even if it does move forward, however, it's unclear which kind of justice the court can deliver. The key suspects are old and, like Pol Pot, rapidly dying off. And though surveys show most

Cambodians support the tribunal, what they really want to know is what happened to their spouses and children. Moreover, traditional Cambodian justice usually involves simple retribution, using lynch mobs or cash compensation. The court's Canadian co-prosecutor, Robert Petit, maintains that no court can hope to deliver justice equal to the suffering of victims in such cases. But if Cambodia's court is transparent, he says, it could establish an "incontrovertible record about what happened."

Ideal or not, most agree that Cambodia's hybrid court is the country's last chance to exorcise its demons—and that time is fast running out. French judge Marcel Lemonde says that if procedures aren't adopted by this spring, it may, regrettably, be time to call it quits. International staffers are nearing their wits' end: "Nobody came here to move paper around," says Petit. But that's as close to justice as Cambodia is getting these days.

*With Joe Cochrane*

## United Nations News

Monday, 26 February 2007

### **UN World Court acquits Serbia of genocide in Bosnia; finds it guilty of inaction**

26 February - The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the main United Nations judicial organ, today overwhelmingly acquitted Serbia of committing genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Balkan war of the 1990s, but found it guilty of failing to prevent genocide in the massacre of more than 7,000 Bosnian Muslims in the town of Srebrenica.

At the same time the ICJ, also known as the World Court, rejected Bosnia's request for payment of reparations from Serbia, successor to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) of the 1990s, for the worst massacre in Europe since World War II. The judgment, which is binding and not open to appeal, called on Serbia to transfer Ratko Mladic and others indicted for genocide to the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), a separate judicial body with a mandate to try individuals.

"The Court observes that the FRY was in a position of influence over the Bosnian Serbs who devised and implemented the genocide in Srebrenica, owing to the strength of the political, military and financial links between the FRY on the one hand and the Republika Srpska (the Serb component of Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the VRS (Republika Srpska's army) on the other," the Court ruled by 12 votes to 3.

"The Court further recalls that although it has not found that the information available to the Belgrade authorities indicated, as a matter of certainty, that genocide was imminent, they could hardly have been unaware of the serious risk of it.

"In the view of the Court, the Yugoslav federal authorities should have made the best efforts within their power to try and prevent the tragic events then taking shape, whose scale might have been surmised. Yet the Respondent has not shown that it took any initiative to prevent what happened, or any action on its part to avert the atrocities which were committed" as required by the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The court also found, by 14 to 1, that Serbia violated its obligations under the Convention by having failed to transfer Mr. Mladic, indicted for genocide and complicity in genocide in Srebrenica, for trial by the ICTY.

But on the overall charges brought by Bosnia, the Court ruled by 13 to 2 that Serbia had not committed genocide, nor had it conspired, through its organs or persons whose acts engage its responsibility under customary international law, in violation of its obligations under the Convention. It found by 11 votes to 4 that Serbia had not been complicit in genocide.

While there is overwhelming evidence that massive killings throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina were perpetrated during the conflict, the Court said it was not convinced that these were accompanied by "the specific intent on the part of the perpetrators to destroy, in whole or in part, the group of Bosnian Muslims," although they may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

But with regard to Srebrenica, the Court concluded that the Main Staff of the VRS had "the necessary specific intent to destroy in part the group of Bosnian Muslims (specifically the Bosnian Muslims of Srebrenica) and that accordingly acts of genocide were committed by the VRS."

It noted that while there is little doubt that the atrocities in Srebrenica were committed, at least in part, with the resources which the perpetrators possessed as a result of the general policy of aid and assistance by the FRY, one of the very specific conditions for Serbia's legal responsibility was not met since "it has not been conclusively established that, at the crucial time, the FRY supplied aid to the perpetrators of the genocide in full awareness that the aid supplied would be used to commit genocide."

But the FRY was in a position of influence over the Bosnian Serbs who devised and implemented the genocide in Srebrenica, owing to the strength of the political, military and financial links between the FRY on the one hand and the Republika Srpska and the VRS on the other. On the issue of reparations the court determined that its findings "constitute appropriate satisfaction, and that the case is not one in which an order for payment of compensation... would be appropriate."

Since it had not been shown that the genocide would in fact have been averted if the FRY had tried to prevent it, "financial compensation for the failure to prevent the genocide at Srebrenica is not the appropriate form of reparation," the judgment said.

"The Court considers that the most appropriate form of satisfaction would be a declaration in the operative clause of the Judgment that the Respondent has failed to comply with the obligation to prevent the crime of genocide."

## Associated Press

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

### Serbia Hails Srebrenica Acquittal

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) -- Serbia on Monday hailed its acquittal before the World Court on genocide charges filed by Bosnia, saying it would help regional reconciliation. Bosnia's Muslims, however, expressed anger over the ruling.

The International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, judged Monday that Serbia was not directly responsible for the 1995 genocide that took place in the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Srebrenica.

But the court also said Serbia had not done all it could to prevent the massacre of some 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys there by Bosnian Serb troops.

The ruling triggered relief in Serbia and disappointment among the former wartime foes in Bosnia, where a 1992-95 bloody conflict left at least 100,000 people dead and millions displaced.

"I am speechless," said Fadila Efendic, whose son and husband were killed in Srebrenica. "We know that Serbia was directly involved. We saw Serbian troops shell us ... and kill our sons and husbands, we saw them commit genocide here."

Sehida Rahmanovic, another massacre survivor, added that "Bosnian Serbs could not have committed genocide without the help in arms, money, troops and everything from Serbia."

In Belgrade, Serbia's President Boris Tadic said the verdict "is very important for the Republic of Serbia and its citizens because it has determined that Serbia did not commit genocide in Bosnia."

He, however, added that "for all of us, the part of the judgment that said that Serbia did not do all in its power to prevent genocide against Bosniaks in Srebrenica is very hard."

The Prime Minister, Vojislav Kostunica said that the verdict will boost post-war reconciliation.

"Thank God," said Mirko Kocic, a 25-year-old economy student. "For once we are cleared of something!"

The World Court also said that Serbia, which was ruled by late nationalist President Slobodan Milosevic during the Bosnian war until he was ousted by reformist forces in 2000, has failed to comply with its obligations to punish those accused of the genocide.

The World Court ordered Belgrade to hand over suspects for trial by a separate U.N. court, also based in The Hague, singling out Bosnian Serb wartime commander Gen. Ratko Mladic.

Warning of "dramatic consequences" for the country unless Mladic is handed over as demanded by the World Court, Tadic also urged a "finalization" of the "cooperation" with the U.N. war crimes court.

Serbia has repeatedly said it was unable to locate Mladic, despite claims by U.N. court officials that he is hiding here.

Tomislav Nikolic, an ultranationalist leader, dismissed the World Court proceedings as "part of a conspiracy" to declare the Serbs a "genocidal nation."

Also indicted for genocide by the U.N. war crimes court over the Srebrenica massacre was the wartime Bosnian Serb political leader, Radovan Karadzic, and a number of Bosnian Serb military and political leaders.

But, Bosnian Serb Prime Minister Milorad Dodik rejected the responsibility of his mini-state for genocide, saying a "horrific" crime took place in Srebrenica, but that individuals should be held responsible.

The Muslim member of Bosnia's three-member presidency, Haris Silajdzic, however, suggested that the ruling, declaring the Bosnian Serbs guilty of genocide in Srebrenica, should lead to the abolishment of their entity.