

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Thursday, January 27, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Thursday January 27, 2005

Special Court witness denies committing war crimes

By Abdul Karim Koroma

Special Court witness TF1-071 Wednesday denies committing war crimes.

The witness, who was crossed examined by Augustine Gbao's defence counsel Shekou Toure,

Continued page 3

He says this is the first project...

Special Court witness denies committing war crimes

From page 1

says he did not rape, abduct, amputate or commit any crime against humanity.

"During the reign of the junta Morris Kallon was not in Freetown," he said and added that he wasn't involved in the abduction of UNAMSIL peacekeepers in Makeni.

He said Foday Sankoh was in full control of the RUF at the time enjoying the status of a Vice President in the country.

"Members of the RUF took up appointments with the government," he said and named Mike Lamin, Peter Boson Vandy and Susan Lahai as examples.

RUF SENIOR COMMANDERS NAMED

Prosecution witness TFI-071 under cross-examination at the special court by the defence told the court that he was captured by the RUF but remained with them willingly.

The witness, however, agreed with defence counsel that it was as a result of the ideology of the revolution which was explained to him by Foday Sankoh and others that made him change his mind.

According to the witness, he was in Pujehun when he heard about the confrontation between Raschid Mansaray, a battle field commander and senior member of the RUF and Foday Sabana Sankoh

in Kailahun which eventually led to the death of the former. He said Mansaray had accused Foday Sankoh of appointing Liberians in key positions within the movement, leaving out Sierra Leoneans. This, the witness said did not go down well with Foday Sankoh who ordered his men to kill him.

The witness further told the court that both Mansaray and Mohamed Tarawallie were battle field commanders from 1991 to 1995 and that Gibril Massquoi was Ideology and Principal Training Instructure at Camp Niama.

He said Mike Lamin was area commander in

1996 but could not tell whether Elderred Collins was commander in Kailahun. Continuing his evidence, the witness also told the court that Foday Sankoh was later informed that the Liberian commandos were not treating the revolution in the best interest of the civilians." As a result, Foday Sankoh ordered an attack on the Liberian commandos led by Mingo who was based at camp Zogoda in Kenema district", he said.

Answering questions from the defence, the witness said he was aware of troops being deployed at Kangari Hills and Bradford in the Moyamba district but denied that Peter Vandy was the commander in Kailahun and named Sam 'Maskita' Bockarie as the commander. Su-

perman, he said, was commander for Westrn area and Isaac Mingo was commander North in 1996. In November 1996, the witness said the Kamajors attacked Camp Zogoda and also Mike Lamin's forces who were pushed to Liberia. Mick

The witness also identified Issa Sesay as one of the senior commanders in Kailahun, adding that Maskita became Chief of Defence Staff in 1997.

Before the junta rule, he said Superman, Mick Lamin and Sam Bockarie were the most senior commanders in control of the RUF and that promotion in the REUF was based purely on merit.

For the People

Wednesday January 27, 2005

Ex-RUF strongman denies committing war crimes

By Tamba Borbor

Prosecution witness TF1-071 has denied yesterday at the Trials Chamber of the Special Court that he did not commit war crimes. Being cross-examined by Defence Counsel Shekou Toure representing RUF's Morris Kallon, the witness said that he neither terrorised civilians nor looted properties; raped; abducted or burnt houses during his time with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) as a member. Asked by Counsel Toure whether there were others like him the RUF who did not

commit those crimes against civilians, TF1-071 disclosed that there were people like himself in the movement who did not undertake the commission of those crimes. The witness agreed knowing Morris Kallon whom he said was a Commander and a strict disciplinarian to the RUF fighters. Regarding whether he was paid during his tenure with the RUF, witness TF1-071 said that he and others in the RUF were not paid, as it was a self-reliance struggle, which had the RUF ideology serving as a sort of food to them. On whether Morris Kallon was

in Kenema when B.S. Massaquoi was killed by Sam Bockarie alias 'Mosquito', he said that he was not in the township and therefore could not have influenced any happening in the township.

Contd. Page 2

Ex-RUF strongman denies committing war crimes

From Front Page

The first time the witness said he saw Morris Kallon was in Tankoro in Koidu town where junta leaders held a meeting to put a stop to the atrocities committed by mostly fighters of the Armed Forces

Revolutionary Council (AFRC) during the retreat of junta troops to Kono district. On the reason for the setting up of camps in the Kono district after the ousting of the junta in Freetown, the witness said they were established for

food-finding, transportation and for the protection and safety of civilians captured by the RUF. He informed also that he was present in Makeni when the peacekeepers were captured and that they comprised of mixed nationals mostly from Kenya, Zambia amongst others.

Witness narrates how Senegalese boat attacked them

Awoko

Thursday January 27, 2005

RUF Indictee Exonerated

Prosecution Witness TF1-071, in the ongoing RUF trials at the Special Court, has described RUF

second indictee Morris Kallon as being a very considerate commander during the rebel move-

ment. Cross-examined by Shekou Toure, Morris Kallon's defence counsel, TF1-071 said Morris

Kallon was both a "commander and strict disciplinarian to the fighters". He
contd page 2

RUF Indictee Exonerated

From front page
cited an instance when Kallon expressed concern to a colleague, Maj. Rocky about the presence of a Nigerian woman at a camp manned by RUF in Kono. The witness, himself an insider, told the court that he was captured by RUF in 1991 and remained with them till 2001 af-

ter his disarmament. He said Cpl. Foday Sankoh first promoted him after receiving the 'RUF ideology' and that on various occasions, commanders including Sam Bockarie and Issa Sesay promoted him to various ranks. His last promotion was from Major to Lt. Col, which was done by Issa Sesay. He told the court that it was

only when Kallon became Battlefield Inspector – a position given to him by Battlefield Commander Issa Sesay from 1999 to 2001 – did he start receiving orders from Morris Kallon. This is day 47 of the RUF trials and all three indictees continue to boycott proceedings. Hearings continue this morning

New Star

Monday January 27, 2005

Halloran's counterparts speak from the dock

Sheka Fofanah and Abdul Fofanah, the second and third accused persons respectively, who are answering to charge of Conspiracy yesterday testified before Justice Ademusu in an alleged rape case. Their Lawyer, A. Kargbo told the Judge that they are not calling on any witness but that the accused persons will speak from the dock.

Sheka Fofanah in his testimony told the Court that Kadie Kabia- the alleged rape victim is his younger sister and that the first accused- Peter Halloran is his employer. He stated that when he heard about the rape allegation, he asked the girl if the incident actually took place. He said that the girl denied Peter Halloran touching her. Sheka informed the Court that he

urged the girl to speak the truth and that if the first accused did touch her, they will do everything to get justice. The girl he said, maintained that Halloran never touched her and that Mandy told her to say that Halloran did. Sheka also disclosed that he was arrested by Mr. F.U.K. Dabo and locked up at the Ross Road Police Station for two days after he had beaten him. He also disclosed that he was forced to make a statement and then charged to Court.

Contd. on Page 2

Halloran's counterparts speak from the dock

From Front Page

The third accused- Abdul Fofanah identified himself as the uncle of Kadie Kabia. He said he was innocent of the charges against him. He said that when he first learnt about the alleged rape

incident, he questioned the girl who outrightly denied the occurrence of

the incident. If it was true he continued, "I will fight Peter Halloran to any heights".

Awoko

Thursday January 27, 2005

The Courier-Mail

[Print this page](#)

Witness resigns in police sex trial

From correspondents in Freetown, Sierra Leone

26jan05

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

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

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

Court spokeswoman Alison Cooper said that Ms Cordwell worked her last day at the war crimes tribunal on Saturday, which had earlier disciplined her for "breaching the staff code of conduct on media policy".

"She was suspended in November last year by the court's registrar for allegedly violating the media and external relations policy of the court and was given a query to respond to by January 21 but it was on this date she sent in her letter of resignation," Ms Cooper said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Foday Sankoh's wife to build clinic

By Chris Kai
Foday Sankoh, erstwhile leader of the Revolutionary

United Front is dead but his wife Fatou Sankoh is here and has now en-

gaged in social development. She is presently preoccu-

pled with putting the final touches together for the construction of a clinic at Calabatown, east of Freetown, where she resides. She has told The Independent that she dreams of an educated nation with equal distribution of national wealth. "My intention is to let

the underprivileged Sierra Leoneans have better education, medical care and food at low cost", she says, adding: "This is to make Sierra Leoneans realize their potentials and the reality of the Lord". The 60-year-old Senegalese who is a naturalized American

citizen and who claims to be a lawyer by profession, says she has succeeded to acquire a piece of land at Calabatown for the construction of the clinic. Sources however say she is engaged in a tussle with the Freetown City Council on the land, which has been claimed to be a cemetery. The Temne tribal sub-chief Sorie Sankoh, on the other hand, says the land belongs to the community and not Freetown City Council and can *Cand., page 2*

Foday Sankoh's wife to build clinic

From page 1
therefore be used for development purpose. Residents at Calabatown have observed that the rela-

tionship between Fatou Sankoh and the community has been very cordial. A youth leader Samuel koroma says, "The people seem to have forgotten the

horrors and have forgiven the misdeeds of her late husband".

Thursday January 27, 2005
The Independent

Christina Martin

Thursday January 27, 2005

"Judge Paid Below Le300,000 Will Be Corrupt"

The Registrar of the Special Court, Mr. Robin Vincent has stressed the need to use the Court's premises properly and to maintain them when they would have been turned over to the government of Sierra Leone.

The Registrar who like Mr. Iscandi was making a statement at a two-day Victims Commemoration Conference in Freetown recently, added that the upkeep of the court's premises was a challenge, which should not be underestimated.

He expressed the belief that the Special Court is an important institution providing a stimulus for people to work.

He also spoke about a \$50m project package for the improvement of access to justice by 2010. He said the British Council will work with the Special Court to achieve this. He expressed

concern that the 15-20 per cent of the budget allocated to the court is not being used properly.

interests. He observed that most NGO's are either working in isolation or in duplicity.

A defence counsel of the Special Court in her presentation asked how ready we were to let the Rule of Law come into place. The supremacy of the Law is a characteristic of the English Constitution she went on. Rule of Law, she went on, is provided by the 1991 Constitution which she said, has fundamental provisions. Under the Constitution she said Section 25 Sub-section 1 provided for Freedom of Expression.

A prosecution lawyer from the Court said at a workshop recently that corruption has a link with not being paid enough and being overpaid. Iscandi said a judge paid less than \$100 (Le300,000/00) to judge a case was likely to be corrupt. He stressed the need to have a system in which

bribery can be discouraged.

Talking on the rights of the accused he pointed out that when a person is under arrest it was the most vulnerable time of that person's life. And that person had the right to bail although he pointed out that it is not an absolute right.

The accused person had a right to competent counsel of his or her choice as well as a right to 'trial by Jury.' But a police officer should not represent the state in any trial.

'The accused has a right to be informed of the charges against him or her, what he/she is brought to court for, the right to plead "guilty" or "not guilty" and the right to speedy and expeditious trial and within 45 days of arrest a person should be tried,' he stated. In other countries, he revealed, people are disbarred for staying away from court. Such lawyers should be

disbarred, he said.

A representative of the Campaign for Good Governance urged that government should take the lead for reparations. She pointed out that out of 6774 girls abducted only 510 were accounted for.

A participant at the conference the Rev. Kasho Wellington observed that people don't want to move away from the relief syndrome to the development syndrome. He said Sierra Leoneans should be given priority in the provision of facilities for business and trade like other neighbouring countries.

He also suggested that companies that come here to do business should be mandated to contribute to infrastructural development. Other topics discussed at the conference were Reconciliation after Violent Events and how communities can complement the work of the Special Court and the TRC.

Police detain RUF Spokesman in Kenema

By Abdul Karim Koroma

Police in Kenema have reportedly detained Revolutionary United Front Party (RUF) Spokesman Eldred Collins after local authorities in Kailahun allegedly ordered his arrest on Tuesday.

Collins was sent to Kailahun by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to help sensitize secondary school children on the Commission's essay competition but local authorities claim that he failed to report his presence in the township to Paramount Chief Kailondo Banya.

ACC Public Relations Officer, Emmanuel Aiah Senesie says the fact that Collins is doing a job for the Commission doesn't make it necessary for him to flout the laws governing the township.

"Collins is not the only person who volunteered to do that job for the Commission. We have Sandy Bockarie covering Kenema, Sahr Sandy is representing Kono whilst Father Joe Turay is in Makeni," he said, adding that if it is proven that Collins actually violated the laws of the township, the Commission would discontinue his service.

RUF Secretary General



Acha - Police boss

Jonathan Kposowa says the party is unaware that Collins was in Kailahun doing a job for the ACC.

"I can't comment on this issue. He's the person to explain well about his activities. I only knew about the issue today," Kposowa said.

Concord Times

Thursday January 27, 2005



We Are The World

Last Prosecution Witness Testifies Against Father Seromba

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

January 24, 2005

Posted to the web January 25, 2005

Arusha

A self-confessed killer and last prosecution witness in the genocide case against the former Catholic Priest of Nyange parish (Western Rwanda), Father Athanase Seromba, told the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) Monday that the accused was watching as the church was being demolished and Tutsis inside it killed during the 1994 massacres.

The witness code-named CNJ to protect his identity said he and his companions were asked by Father Seromba on the 15 of April, to remove the dead bodies from the parish secretariat and the following day he would observe how the "job"(killing) was being done.

He was responding to Alfred Pognon of Benin, lead counsel for the defence who wanted to know if Father Seromba gave the attackers any order to kill the Tutsis hosted in the church.

"Though he did not issue any order, we could see that he was cooperating with us fully during the killing that took place at the church on the 15th and 16th of April," the witness alleged.

Earlier, during examination in-chief, CNJ said he was in a group of eight people who went to the church to join other Hutus to kill Tutsis. "I had a club and a sword at my belt," he explained.

He elaborated further that about 4,000 Hutus attacked the Tutsis using stones, grenades, traditional weapons and a bulldozer killing about 2,000 of them.

"Watch out so that the wall does not fall on you," witness CNJ quoted Father Seromba as saying to the driver of the bulldozer as he started demolishing the church and crushing refugees to death.

He said as the driver was demolishing one wall after another, he, along with others, went in finishing off those who were still alive. All those acts, he said, were done with the blessing of the communal authorities and Father Seromba.

He further explained that they collected the dead bodies and dumped them into the pit dug by another bulldozer within the church compound.

During the 1994 Rwandan genocide, many Tutsis sought sanctuary in places like churches, but they were targeted and killed. The Rwandan government estimates that one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were exterminated throughout Rwanda in the genocide.

The Prosecution began their case on September 20, 2004. 41-year old Father Seromba gave himself up to the ICTR in February 2002. He is accused of genocide and crimes against humanity and has pleaded not

guilty.

This trial which is presided over by Judge Andresia Vaz of Senegal continues on Tuesday.

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We Are The World

Prosecution Witness Claims Sagahutu's Defence Attempted to Bribe Him

Hirondelle News Agency (Lausanne)

NEWS

January 24, 2005

Posted to the web January 25, 2005

Arusha

A prosecution witness in the trial involving four military officers of the former Rwandan army (Ex-FAR) on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on Monday accused the defence for the deputy commander of the reconnaissance battalion, Captain Innocent Sagahutu, of attempting to bribe him.

The witness code-named DA for protective reasons, was responding to Sagahutu's lead counsel, Fabien Segatwa of Burundi .

The 5th prosecution witness said that in 2002 he met an investigator who "informed me he was part of Sagahutu's defence and he requested I testify for Sagahutu". The witness added that during that encounter, the investigator "said many things to me that were frightening, I can not tell every one but there was a problem of money which was brought up and he suggested to me to flee".

Captain Innocent Sagahutu, dressed in a light purple jacket, black shirt, eye glasses and a long beard, watched attentively as his defence counsel complained before the court how, "the witness can't say prejudicial statements about the defence".

"He must withdraw his statement or be confronted with the defence investigator in question to prove his allegations", Segatwa said.

But the trial chamber presided by Judge Joseph Asoka de Silva of Sri Lanka denied the defence counsel from confronting the witness with the defence investigator. Judge De Silva said Segatwa may call his investigator at a later stage of the trial.

Cross-examination of witness DA continues on Tuesday.

This trial, known as "Military II", started on September 20, 2004. Captain Sagahutu is tried with his former boss and commander of the reconnaissance battalion Major François-Xavier Nzuwonemeye, the former chief-of-staff of the Rwandan army, General Augustin Bizimungu and the former chief-of-staff of the Paramilitary Police, General Augustin Ndindiliyimana. All have pleaded not guilty.

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Killers Must Confess - Transitional Justice Group Wants TRC Enacted

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

January 26, 2005

Posted to the web January 26, 2005

Monrovia

The 14-years civil conflict that plunged the nation into deaths and unimaginable destruction has gone down in history but its impact is still being felt. Those who bore the pains and the perpetrators might confess their actions before a Truth and Reconciliation Commission if enacted into law by the Transitional Legislative Assembly.

The Transitional Justice Working Group has drafted the TRC Act awaiting its passage into law. But to give the Act more weight, the TJWG is sponsoring a campaign for the urgent and successful passage of the TRC draft bill.

Already, the Transitional Justice Working Group has taken its campaign to several counties to get the views and solicit signatures from the people.

In continuation of the project, the Civil Rights Association of Liberia and National Human Rights Center of Liberia, the groups having oversight responsibility to campaign for the signing of the TRC draft bill, paid a visit Tuesday at the Paynesville community school to solicit the signatures of the students.

The Chairman of the Transitional Justice working Group, Mr. Ezekiel Pajibo told the students that TRC Act needs to be legislated because those who killed and maimed peaceful citizens must confess their actions.

"We need reconciliation but before that reconciliation, you must tell us your role in the destruction and deaths of about 300,000 persons who were killed during the war. Tell us why you raped our mothers and girls, killed and destroyed our people," Pajibo laments.

He stressed that the signatures of the students were important because it would pave the way for true reconciliation after perpetrators and victims have appeared before a Truth Commission.

The pro-democracy advocate indicated that Liberians need justice as such, those who mutilated pregnant women must give account and should not go free.

He recalled the gruesome murder of hundreds of Liberians at the Carter Camp and Duport Road, adding, "these culprits must confess before the TRC."

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by parties to the Liberian war on August 18, 2003 in Accra, Ghana calls for the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Liberia.