

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Friday, 27 January 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
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## More revelations...

# Norman explains hierarchy of CDF War Council

Quee who was the Chairman, Section Chief Combey- Kajue, Charlie Tucker PC from Gbap, the host Chief GB Moranah and representatives. There were three Walehuns  
*Contd. Page 2*

By Betty Milton  
L ed in evidence by defence lawyer Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman yesterday explained the hierarchy of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF).

He said in Talia Yorbeko, also known as Base Zero, there was a war council and also three directors. They



Chief Samuel Hinga Norman and Kelvin Lewis

were Paramount Chief (PC) Charles Caulker who was for welfare; Chief Police Officer M.S Dumbuya (Training) and Alhaji Daramy Rogers Appointments who therefore automatically became members of the War Council.

Chief Norman explained that the members of the War Council were from all districts except Kono. For Moyamba was Chief G. W.

*after three years of existence*

**NASSIT receives is**

*Special Court: Carew answers Norman*

## Kabbah can't testify

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice Frederick Carew has replied the arguments put forward at the Special Court by the defense teams of Chief Sam Hinga Norman and Momina Fofanah for a subpoena to be issued to President Kabbah so that he testifies in the ongoing trials. Both defence teams had  
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# Norman explains hierarchy of CDF War Council

*From Front Page*  
(meeting places), the witness 1, with Walehun I the code for war council meeting. Walehun II for he [Norman] and Walehun III for appointments. The indictee explained that he only decided to go to Talia after traditional investigations had been carried out. Before he could move, he was told that Talia

in the Bonthe District had been selected for him. Eventually, he travelled by road and then was airlifted with the aid of senior officers of the ECOMOG Nigerian Contingent in Liberia on to Gendema and then to Talia

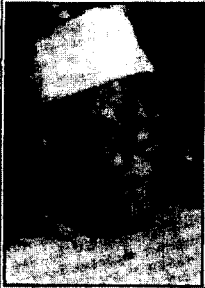
He said the code-name Base Zero meant a place that never existed, and that the place was used to host people mainly chiefs and

important people they wanted to protect or hide.

Chief Norman disclosed that he was not a member of the War council but that he was invited to meetings of the war council where they offered him advice.

He also disclosed that he had two journalists with him in Base Zero, one of which Prince Brima is dead and the other he named as Kelvin Lewis.

# NORMAN FIGHTS TO FREE HIMSELF



Hinga Norman

Special Court indictee. Sam Hinga Norman, who is testifying as a witness in his own defense, told the court yesterday that during the war years, while he was fighting to uproot the illegal RUF and AFRC regime, journalists were also

part of the group of people who witnessed the operations of the CDF, especially when they held meetings at the CDF headquarters based in Zimmi.

Led in evidence by his defense counsel, Bu-buakei Jabbe, Hinga Norman also

informed the court that after a meeting convened in early October 1997, the War Council that resisted the RUF and AFRC requested for combat weapons from the late General Maxwell Kobi, ex-ECOMOG Major General

and from President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. The weapons, according to Hinga Norman, were meant to equip the Kamajor hunters of the Civil Defense Forces so that they could be able to fight the RUF rebels,

especially since the rebels had already acquired very sophisticated weapons.

"In late October 1997, I was invited by General Maxwell Kobi who instructed me to travel to Lungi to inspect weapons that had arrived at Lungi Airport," Hinga Norman revealed.

Earlier, Sam Hinga Norman informed the court presided by Judge Boutet and Judge Thompson and Judge Benjamin Itoe that President Kabbah at a cabinet meeting had appointed him to head the Civil Defense

Cont. back page

## NORMAN

AFRC regime and the RUF forces in order to restore the legitimate government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah

Hinga Norman further told the court that after his forces in Liberia had mobilized and captured the Mano River Bridge, and the highway to Jinnini, he further stated that it was the traditional leaders who in

1997 chose Talia as the headquarters for the War Council and that the War Council itself was formed after a meeting in Walehun.

He stated that the journalist, Mr. Kelvin Lewis who was also correspondent for the VOA and Radio France International and the BBC Southern Province correspondent, Prince Brima were always aware of their

activities and that two journalists represented the print and electronic media adding that during the war years, the journalists were usually picked up at the Hastings helipad to be taken to Base Zero to attend meetings.

Members of the War Council, according to Hinga Norman, also included Chief Charles Caulker, Vandy Jambory and J. W. Quee.

# Hinga Norman Continues Defence

## FROM LAST ISSUE

In 1996, Norman became deputy minister of defence and in 2002, he visited together with President Kabbah and Unamsil personnel his chiefdom where they saw mass graves and became Internal Affairs minister that same year. As deputy minister of defence, Norman said he usually reported to his boss president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

He said at the time he took up as deputy minister of defence, the office of the Chief of Defence had more respect than the deputy minister of defence and that directives which came from the government were not wholly accepted by the army.

Norman said long before the CDF came into being and he was made national co-ordinator, there was an organisation called Civil Defence Unit led by MS Kallon and because of the intention of the Charles Taylor government at the time, he asked leave of president Kabbah to relocate in mainland Sierra Leone.

He said during this time there were other groups of Sierra Leoneans in Liberia who were not fighters but actually working with Ecomog in the interest of Sierra Leoneans. That when the Mano River Union bridge was captured from the AFRC-RUF, he was invited to the Sierra Leonean side to celebrate the victory with some top Ecomog officers. Also that traditional investigation concluded that until Norman moved to mainland Sierra Leone the entry by Ecomog will be a stalemate.

Norman finally moved from Liberia to Talia on September 15, 1997 facilitated by the Ecomog army chief of staff in Liberia who provided land transport and later airlifted in a helicopter to Jendema and Talia where for the very first time he met a man called Kondewa who advised he should move to Talia if the

war should end. That he also met with the elders, the paramount chief who was blind and the acting paramount chief called Moinina. Norman later organised a closed-door meeting with elders in a secluded part of the village called Base Zero, a safe haven for those fleeing from abduction and elimination and also residence of traditional fighters where General Maxwell Khobe usually visited him.

On arrival at Talia, Norman said there were hunters well organised in readiness for any eventuality and that two days later, he met with the blind chief Joe Jangbo and shook hands and after pouring of libation handed him to his deputy chief Moinina.

Norman said the name Base Zero was adopted at a general meeting of chiefs, elders and local councillors and head of administration was Baimba Jobai who lived in Nyandehun. Then security arrangements for civilians and prominent people, training of hunters for combat readiness, communication arrangements to other regions, ngos operating within the country and communication with the outside world were all issues discussed at the meeting.

That after discussion with Khobe, he was privileged to have two reporters from the print media, Kelvin Lewis managing editor of Awoko newspaper and BBC stringer Prince Brima and soon after they started receiving paramount chiefs and elders from almost all parts of the country. Then Chief George Jambawai arrived at Base Zero from Guinea and explained to Norman how he got a supply of arms and ammunition from president Kabbah.

That the formation of a War Council was suggested by Chief Jambawai to Chief Quee to assist him as national co-ordinator. Eventually, a meeting of chiefs and elders was conveyed where it was agreed that a war council be formed and the venue for the meeting was named Walahun which was Norman's place of contact and for training and welfare.

Norman said Mr Caulker was in charge of wel-

fare, training was Mr Dumbuya and appointments, Alhaji Daramy Rogers.

Members of the Moyamba War Council, Moyamba district were Chief VW Quee of Nyama, section chief, Combay Kajue of Mano Dase chiefdom, Chief Charles Caulker of Bumpeh chiefdom, Shenge Lamin regent chief of Kagboro chiefdom.

In the Bonthe district, paramount chief of Nogoba-Kpa Charlie Tucker, Speaker of Kwamobai-Krim of Bendu-Cha, the host chief JB Moinina representing the chief of Yorbeke, Chief Momoh G Collier, woman paramount chief Shebora of Bum chiefdom and Chief Baiba Jobai.

Bo district were Chief Nghiteh Aruna, section chief FM Kanneh representing Jaiama Bongor chiefdom, assistant secretary Kobic representing Njala Komboya chiefdom, Alhaji Daramy Rogers allowed to represent religious leaders in Bo district and Director of Appointments.

In the Kenema district, chief Pa Vandi Zoka, Kailahun district Chief George Gambawai representing Sally Genidemeh, Kandeh Samai later became administrator for CDF Kailahun. Norman said there was no representation for Kono and the entire western area. That he was not a member of the War Council but that he received advice from them and that he was grateful for their advice.

That when he received a report at one time that one of the fighters, Vandi Vangawai had become violent and the evidence adduced found him guilty and the penalty was death. But the War Council reversed the death sentence and instead he was stripped of his rank and removed from his area of command.

TO BE CONTINUED

# Trouble For SLPP



President Kabbah



VP Berewa



Momodou Koroma



Hinga Norman



Prince Harding



Sama Banya

## \*Hinga Norman To Reveal More Secrets

By Foday Fofana

The political waters have in recent times not been very calm for the SLPP as the party's

chief executives continue to be tossed from one head ache to another. With accusations

of deliberate feet dragging in the registration process of Charles Margai's PMDC still fresh

in the minds of the people and the threat of the APC's Ernest Bai Koroma's merger/coali-

tion with the PMDC against the ruling party and lately, the testimony at the Special Court of

Sierra Leone by the indicted former Deputy Defence Minister and Coordi-  
*Cand. page 2*

# Hinga Norman To Reveal More Secrets

*From front page*

nator of the 'kamajor militia, Chief Sam Hinga Norman. All these according to intelligence reports, have already sent chills down the spines of some highly placed people in the SLPP government. There are very strong indications that the SLPP's prospects of selling Mr Berewa as the next Chief Executive are getting very remote.

## **SPILLING THE BEANS**

Chief Norman through his defence headed by Dr. Bu-buakei Jabbie, have started spilling the beans on the hierarchy of the present government.

On Wednesday this week, Mr Norman in his testimony, implicated President Kabbah and other senior state functionaries in the SLPP government, who he alleged, played an active role in the setting up of the Civil Defence Force (CDF) of which the Kamajor Militia was most prominent in trying to prosecute the war.

Chief Norman recalled vividly that the then Minister of Transport and Communications, Dr. Prince Alex Harding, the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Momodu Koroma, Hon. Momoh Pujeh, Hon. Ansu Kaikai, Hon. M.S. Kallon, Dr. James Jonah, Thorlu Bangura, T.K. Vandy, the late R.U.S. Lagao and an endless list of others did play an active role in providing logistics for the CDF and were also members of the 'Kamajo' War Council.

## **KABBAH NAMED**

The former Deputy Defence Minister singled out the Head of State, Minister of Defence and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah as being the then Chairman of the 'Kamajor' War Council while in exile in the Republic of Guinea.

Chief Norman told the Special Court that all those named above were executive members of the war council of the CDF in Guinea in 1997, contributing arms, ammunitions and various logistics towards effort to prosecute the war against the AFRC/RUF.

Mr Norman said he escaped to Guinea after the AFRC coup and secret meetings were held with HE and his team of civilians that were recruited into the CDF and that Kabbah appointed him, National Coordinator to be based Guinea and coordinating from Monrovia with ECOMOG and Nigerian General Abdul Wan Mohamed for "a mission of military intervention in Sierra Leone."

"The then ECOMOG Field Commander in Liberia, Gen. Victor Malu, okayed a secret meeting on June 17th 1997 between senior ECOMOG officers and traditional hunters from here, deployed at Bo Waterside and represented by Eddie Massaly and Mr. Tucker," Norman said.

"All along, President Kabbah was being briefed timely in Guinea and he assured us of General Sani Abacha's fullest support to reinstate the SLPP government by military means ... I always relayed my reports via ECOMOG's telephone line to His Excellency in Conakry for which, 'good work' I was always commended," he went on.

## **STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**

Continuing his testimony, Chief Norman named the then President of the National Union of Students (NUS) Egerton Marcathy and Sannoh his vice as having travelled to Monrovia to meet him and pledged manpower support.

"Members of the War Council were dispatched to convey military logistics for the militia. One of them was, former Deputy Minister of Finance, Hon. Pujeh, who paid the fighters in raw dollars and other items... as well as Dr. Prince Harding, Thorlu Bangura and Hon. Ansu Kaikai," the testimony went on.

## **BATTLE FOR MANO RIVER**

Chief Norman "vividly" recalled being showered with praises when the 'kamajors' dislodged the RUF and the AFRC at the Mano River Bridge near Monrovia.

On fleeing the death threat from President Charles Taylor and setting up a shop at "Base Zero" in Kailahun, he said he received a special telephone from President Kabbah and delivered by Dr. James Jonah to Hon. Pujeh who finally by helicopter from exile in Conakry, handed the communication set to him at "Base Zero."

Chief Norman, without much explanation, testified that he was not in "good terms with President Kabbah by May 1997 as he puts it, "after I had helped airlifted him (Kabbah) in a Conakry bound helicopter after the AFRC/RUF coup."

He said it took the tireless mediation of the then British High Commissioner, Peter Penfold, and American Ambassador John Hirsch, Nigerian High Commissioner Alhaji Abubakarr and H.E. Bananu Dimka of the UN to bring Norman and Kabbah back on speaking terms.

# Hinga Norman Talks of CDF

*Breaks silence on formation and activities*

*By Tom E. Tonny  
& Saffia Kabbah*

Chief Sam Hinga Norman yesterday continued his defense at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone with an expository on how the Civil Defense Force was formed as well as its activities. The Civil Defense Force, he said, came about after

the reinstatement of the President and the government of Sierra Leone. It was during this period he met with Maxwell Khobe and it was unanimously agreed that there should be a joint body of all the hunters (Kamajors). According to him, the Civil Defense Force came into



*Norman: Saying it all*

full operations in mid March 1998 after all arrangements were put in place for the maintenance of the Hunters by the government, since they were no longer reliant on ECOMOG for such support. Modalities, he said, were then put in place for food, weapons, training and other logistic as support to keep the Hunters going.

Later, he said, he found out that there was provision for the Civil Defense Force in the laws of war under the Geneva Convention's Operational Protocol, which according to him is under Protocol I, Article 61 of the Geneva Convention. Chief Norman maintained that he was appointed as

National Coordinator of the Civil Defense Force by the government of Sierra Leone through the President with the responsibility of coordinating all forces that were of civilian character for the national good. The hunters, he said had good relationship with the

*Contd: page 2*



# Hinga Norman Talks of CDF

*From front page*

forces they worked with since the formation of the CDF. He noted that the hunters in all the district they operated had either an ECOMOG or UNAMSIL contingent. The role of the hunters then, he went on, was to render every possible assistance to the forces that had accepted to render their own assistance to the government and people of Sierra Leone.

He said that since the formation of the Civil Defense Force to the date

when the "War Don Don" pronouncement was made by the President of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah on 18 January 2002, the hunters were very hopeful and played a pivotal role towards the attainment of peace and democracy in the country. The hunters by then, he said, were under the direct control of the Chief of Defense Staff (CDS) until the "War Don Don" pronouncement was made. In brief, he said, the hunters (Kamajors) were the product of the people,

pointing out that the villagers themselves wholeheartedly accepted the formation of the force when they were consulted to give their own views. The hunters, he went on, never attacked or killed any innocent civilian. He went on to assert that after the "War Don Don" pronouncement was made, the hunters returned to their respective villages to form what he referred to as "Preemptive Defense Structures for the defense of their various towns and villages." The testimony continues.

# Norman testifies he escaped Taylor's death threat

*Story: Tanu Jalloh*

First accused in the Civil Defence Forces in the ongoing trial at Special Court has testified how he escaped former Liberian President, Charles Taylor's death threat in Monrovia and moved to Base Zero in mainland Sierra Leone as National Coordinator for the Civil Defence Forces at Gendema.

"After my verbal report of activities in the military operation

areas to President Kabbah and the War Council in Conakry, Guinea I personally told the President that Charles Taylor was harassing my life and I would want to move into mainland Sierra Leone to which he consented," Norman explained.

"After the Mano River Bridge had been captured by ECOMOG and local hunters from the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and

*Continued page 3*

## Norman testifies he escaped Taylor's death threat

*From page 1*

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) forces and a protection cordon established to keep Gendema (from the Atlantic) Sulima, Fairo (inland main road) to Zimi, Bomborhun safe between July and August 1997, I traveled to Talia on September 15, (codenamed Base zero)," he recounted alleging that Taylor still interfered in his operation.

"Each time ECOMOG Liberia and local hunters, mainly Kamajors captured the Mano Bridge I would go on

the BBC and each time the RUF AFRC retook the Bridge he (Taylor) would go on the BBC to make such announcement too," he testified adding that it was necessary that only the Chief of Staff of ECOMOG and him self knew about his movement from Monrovia to Talia.

"At Talia we almost crash landed for want of proper preparation. It was only after we'd landed that the place around the helicopter was brushed to allow it take off," Norman said.

*Special Court: Carew answers Norman*

# Kabbah can't testify

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice Frederic Carew has replied the arguments put forward at the Special Court by the defense teams of Chief Sam Hinga Norman and Moinina Fofanah for a subpoena to be issued to President Kabbah so that he testifies in the ongoing trials. Both defence teams had

*Contd Page 2*

Text: The Attorney General and Minister of Justice Frederic Carew has replied the arguments put forward at the Special Court by the defense teams of Chief Sam Hinga Norman and Moinina Fofanah for a subpoena to be issued to President Kabbah so that he testifies in the ongoing trials.

Both defence teams had (Contd Page 2)

# Kabbah can't testify

*From Front Page*  
argued that the President is in possession of certain information highly relevant to the charges contained in the prosecution's indictment against Norman and Fofanah.

They argued further that "The President's failure to testify in these proceedings would deprive the trial chamber of the evidence necessary to arrive at a comprehensive and considered decision in the instant case."

The defence lawyers also maintained that the President's testimony would serve to enlighten the trial chamber on the activities of the CDF during the periods listed in the prosecution's indictment as well as to provide evidence concerning the crucial issue of command responsibility, a theory of liability with which all three accused persons have been charged."

In response the Attorney General has stated that the motions "have no material effect and relevance in proving the accused's

innocence or guilt in respect of the charges contained in the indictment against them, because at the time, "the President was because of the activities of the RUF, CDF/AFRC, outside of the jurisdiction in a neighbouring country."

The Attorney General argued further that "whatever evidence The President may give if the requested subpoena is issued, it is unlikely that such evidence would have a direct and important place in the determination of the issues before the trial chamber" adding that "The mere assertion that the evidence may have some bearing would not be enough."

Furthermore the Attorney General submitted that the subpoena requested "is irrelevant, fishing, speculative and oppressive" and should be refused.

Lastly the Attorney General argued that if all the above do not serve to convince the Judges then "The President is not compellable as President

and Head of State by reason of the fact that a subpoena requires a judicial penalty to enforce it were it to be disobeyed."

Citing section 48(4) of act no. 6 of the 1991 constitution, and a decision taken by the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY), where it was held that the Court "cannot issue a subpoena in the sense of an injunction accompanied by the threat of penalty - to States or States actors, as it does not possess any power to take enforcement measures against States" the Attorney General argued that since "The President is the embodiment of the State of Sierra Leone and ... a subpoena cannot be issued against him and a penalty cannot be ordered and enforced against him were he as Head of State to disobey it." For these reasons the Attorney general called on the Judges to deny the motion. The two defence teams of Hinga Norman and Moinina Fofana on the one hand and the Prosecution and the Attorney General on the other hand now await the ruling of the Judges on this matter.

# WHO'S ARMSTRONG & BOMBLAST IN GOLLEY COUP AS PUBLIC AWAIT POLICE TO OPEN CASE!



KOROMA:had meeting with Norman made public

AS THE public awaits the trial of Omrie Golley and two others for treason to kill vice-president Solomon Berewa based on police evidence, FDP learnt that those that would be used by the state to testify against the former Ruf strongman would include two soldiers called Bomblast and Armstrong who work at the military dump at Wilberforce.

by OUR DOWN BELOW CORRESPONDENT

Bomblast was among 18 soldiers held illegally by the Kabbah government at Pademba prisons under safe custody for four years until FDP launched a campaign for an end to their unlawful incarceration leading to their release about a year ago.

He was a former

loyalist of fugitive Special Court indictee Johnny Paul Koroma but later played a major role in pushing the rebels from Masiaka under the erstwhile army command of Fred Carew but like the Ruf and the Akim group, were seen as a threat since they constitute the best fighters in the Sierra Leone

army to this day.

Armstrong is said to be a keeper at the Wilberforce dump who it is alleged was approached by the driver of Golley, Mohamed Bah, a foulah and who is alleged not to understand krio perfectly but who actually went to confirm that indeed, they could get arms

since Armstrong has the key to the dump.

That Golley had allegedly planned to give Bomblast and some unknown persons USD 6000 to carry out the mission and that a meeting was held at Golley's Mammy Yoko hotel and that he bought mobile phones for them.

It is also alleged that the army chief Sam Mboma was well ahead of the alleged plot after being briefed earlier by Bomblast that Golley had

Continued Page 9

# GOLLEY COUP?

From Front Page

approached them but were no longer interested in destabilisation attempts and had provided his own keys to the dump to convince Golley that all is okay.

That the rumour of a curfew about two weeks ago was the very day that the driver was actually to go to the scene to verify the arms purchase.

Also, the talk by Special Court indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman to president of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, Ibrahim Ben Kargbo that he would arrest ministers January 14 was aimed as part of the coup plot. And that it could possibly incriminate among others, the leader of the new APC party, Ernest Koroma who also visited Norman and welcomed the visit only later to back-pedal after the coup was announced.

Newspapers have been divided about the coup not necessarily because of sympathy for Golley but because of this government's record of incriminating perceived enemies for crimes they fabricate using professional witnesses that abound in our courts.

President Kabbah immediately announced over radio about Golley's plan to overthrow his government but that the situation is under control. The police charged two other individuals with Golley-Mohamed Alpha Bah and David Kaitongi but the police is also known to have charged a single individual Sidiq Jah with treason who was recently released after four years in unlawful incarceration.

In the past the government also known to concoct coups and examples of former APC vice-president Francis Minah, also former APC Finance minister Dr Sorie Fornah and journalist cum Information and Broadcasting minister, Ibrahim Taqi respectively, executed by that brutal regime. The SLPP like the APC being part of the same train have always relied on Public Order Act legislation that are anachronistic to nip all forms of opposition in the bud inspite of their passivity and illegality.

It is believed that Bombblast and other soldiers who had lost hope of getting their terminal allowances have suddenly been approved for payment, according to inside military sources.

## Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/news\\_plus](http://www.cocorioko.com/news_plus)

### **Hinga Norman spits fire at Special Court**

By Chernor Ojuku Sesay

Cocorioko Correspondent in Freetown

Friday January 27, 2006

Chief Hinga Norman, the former SLPP Deputy Defence Minister, Internal Affairs Minister, National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces and now an Indictee of the Special Court for crimes against humanity continued his self defence which he started last Tuesday at the Special Court in Freetown.

Chief Norman informed the court on Wednesday that after the overthrow of President Tejan Kabbah on 25th May 1997, the entire SLPP government including himself went into exile in Conakry, Guinea.

He explained that when he realised that President Kabbah was residing at Bellevue in Conakry, he attempted to see him on seven consecutive days but was not permitted to see him. He said he therefore decided not to see him again.

A day later, according to Norman, he received a telephone call from someone whom he later identified as President Kabbah who told him (Norman) that there is only one Captain to a ship and that he (President Kabbah) was that Captain. Chief Norman said in response, he told the President that "if I'm aboard a ship that is about to sink and I have one or two things to do, I will do all I could to help it not to sink".

Norman said two days later he was reached at his Novotel hotel by four foreign diplomats who were in Sierra Leone at the time of the coup namely; Ambassador John Hirsch of the American Embassy, Peter Penfold, the British High Commissioner, Berhanu Dinka, the UNDP Resident Representative and Chief Alhaji Abubakarr, the Nigerian High Commissioner.

Their mission, according to Chief Norman was to broker reconciliation between him and President Tejan Kabbah which was not cordial at the time.

Norman said during the meeting with the four diplomats, Chief Alhaji Abubakarr told him that their countries were ready to assist Sierra Leone from sinking further but that assistance would depend largely on the combined efforts of all including himself and President Kabbah.

Norman further disclosed that he was further reassured that the former Nigerian Head of State, Gen. Sani Abacha was prepared to convince other ECOWAS Heads of State to assist Sierra Leone and have the government re-instated. Norman then said that it was then that President Kabbah directed that they would need the hunters of the country to

help in that respect with the assurance that arrangements had already been made for Norman to be flown to Liberia to meet with some ECOMOG military officers.

Chief Norman said after the reconciliation between him and President Kabbah, he was later appointed as the National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) comprising of all the local militia fighters in the country with President Tejan Kabbah as the Chairman of the War Council which also comprises of other notables like Dr. Prince Harding, Momodu Koroma, Momoh Pujeh, Ho. Ansu Kaikai, late R.E.S.Largao, Thorlu Bangura and T.K. Vandy.

Norman said he was sent to Liberia on the 17th of June where he met the then ECOMOG Commander, Gen. Victor Malu and the other day they held a meeting alongside other Kamajor Commanders.

He added that ECOMOG promised to support the Kamajors with food, medicines, arms and ammunition and cash. He added that he was constantly in communication with President Kabbah reporting to him every moment on the progress since the President was the Defence Minister and Commander-in-chief and therefore his immediate boss.

Hinga Norman further testified that following verbal reports he made to President Kabbah, the hunters of Sierra Leone were supplied between 500 to 5,000 pieces of short guns and cartridges as well as oil, rice and dollars. Norman continued his explosive testimony by revealing that Mr. James Jonah, who was then Minister of Finance, sent him a satellite communication set which was delivered by Mr. Momoh Pujeh.

Hinga Norman said he was sent the equipment after he moved to the BASE ZERO Camp of the Kamajors in Sierra Leone following threats by Liberia's then President Charles Taylor that if he did not stop moving into his country to and from Guinea, he will have him arrested.



## Liberia: New President Must Act Now on Taylor

26 Jan 2006 22:47:15 GMT

Source: Human Rights Watch

(Monrovia, January 27, 2006) – Liberia's new president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, should take prompt action to ensure that former Liberian President Charles Taylor is surrendered to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Campaign Against Impunity said today in an open letter to President Johnson-Sirleaf, who was inaugurated on January 16. The Campaign Against Impunity is a coalition of some 300 African and international civil society groups that was formed to press for Charles Taylor's surrender to the Special Court. Liberian partners in the Campaign are holding a press conference today in Monrovia at 2 p.m. GMT to further demonstrate their support in the fight against impunity in the sub-region.

"President Johnson-Sirleaf said her presidency will stand for accountability and the rule of law," said Ezekial Pajibo, executive director of Centre for Democratic Empowerment, a Liberian organization that is part of the Campaign. "Now she has a major opportunity to do just that. We hope she will seize this chance by requesting Nigeria to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone."

The Special Court was set up in 2002 to try those most responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's armed conflict. Charles Taylor has been accused of 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity against the people of Sierra Leone by the Special Court. The crimes include killings, mutilations, rape and other forms of sexual violence, sexual slavery, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, abduction, and the use of forced labor by Sierra Leonean armed opposition groups.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has thus far refused to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court since 2003 when Taylor went to Nigeria. However, President Obasanjo has indicated since then that he would consider surrendering Charles Taylor upon a request from a duly-elected Liberian government.

The Campaign Against Impunity welcomed President Johnson-Sirleaf's comments to reporters on January 20 that she would ask for Charles Taylor's surrender to the Special Court. Liberia's new president said she would ask for Taylor's handover in due course in consultation with regional leaders.

President Sirleaf-Johnson urgently needs to demonstrate leadership on this issue now. The Special Court indicted Charles Taylor almost three years ago, and it is already advanced in its operations, faces major funding difficulties, and will confront increasing international pressure to complete operations.

"A request from the new Liberian president for Charles Taylor's surrender to the Special Court should not be needed given Taylor's outstanding indictment," said Aloysius Toe, founder and director of the Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy, a Liberian organization that is part of the Campaign. "But it could prove determinative. We are looking to President Johnson-Sirleaf to manifest the leadership needed to ensure that justice is done."

The Campaign stressed that Charles Taylor's trial must take place in accordance with international law and international standards for fair trial, including the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

"The Special Court won't be around forever," said Sulaiman Jabati, executive secretary of the Coalition for Justice and Accountability, a Sierra Leonean organization that is part of the Campaign. "Time is of the essence for President Johnson-Sirleaf to act. The victims of war crimes in Sierra Leone deserve nothing less."

For a copy of the letter sent to President Johnson-Sirleaf, please go to: <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/26/liberi12538.htm>

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HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

## Prompt Action to Ensure Taylor's Surrender Needed

### *Civil Society Coalition Letter to New Liberian President Johnson-Sirleaf*

January 26, 2006

H.E. Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf  
President of the Republic of Liberia  
Executive Mansion  
Monrovia, Liberia

Dear President Johnson-Sirleaf,

We are writing on behalf of the Campaign Against Impunity, a coalition made up of some three hundred African and international civil society groups, to urge you to take concrete steps to ensure Nigeria promptly surrenders former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Campaign Against Impunity believes your urgent action on this issue would not only help consolidate political stability in Liberia, but would also send a strong message about the importance of establishing the rule of law in West Africa.

We welcomed news reports last week that you would ask Nigerian President Obasanjo to surrender Charles Taylor following consultation with regional leaders. The Special Court has a mandate to prosecute those bearing the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed during Sierra Leone's armed conflict, while ensuring a fair trial for all those who stand before it. Charles Taylor has been indicted on seventeen counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his alleged role in atrocities committed during the Sierra Leone armed conflict.

While a request from you for Taylor's surrender to the Special Court should not be needed given his outstanding indictment, it could prove determinative. As you know, President Obasanjo has thus far refused to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court. However, President Obasanjo has indicated that he would consider surrendering Taylor upon a request from a duly-elected Liberian government.

The Special Court will only operate for a limited time. It is already advanced in its operations and will confront increasing international pressure to complete its mandate. As such, this valuable window of opportunity for bringing justice to countless victims of atrocities in Sierra Leone and for helping to set a precedent for the fight against impunity is rapidly closing. Of course, Charles Taylor's trial by the Special Court would not preclude trials for the many war crimes for which he has been implicated in Liberia. The Campaign Against Impunity also urges you to ensure that Liberian authorities will promptly investigate all accusations of crimes in the country with a view to bringing those responsible to justice.

The Campaign Against Impunity looks to you, as Liberia's president, to demonstrate your commitment to fighting impunity and to manifest the leadership necessary to ensure that justice is done. We believe the victims of the crimes committed in Sierra Leone – including murder, rape and other sexual violence, mutilation and widespread use of child soldiers – deserve nothing less.

We appreciate your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Ezekial Pajibo  
Executive Director  
Centre for Democratic Empowerment  
(Liberia)

Aloysius Toe  
Founder and Director  
Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy  
(Liberia)

Atty. Alfred Brownell  
President  
Environmental Lawyers Association of Liberia  
(Liberia)

Shina Loremkin  
Director of Programmes  
Committee for the Defence of Human Rights  
(Nigeria)

Sulaiman Jabati  
Executive Secretary  
Coalition for Justice and Accountability  
(Sierra Leone)

Kolawole Olaniyan  
Director, Africa Programme  
Amnesty International

Richard Dicker  
Director, International Justice Program  
Human Rights Watch

Brima A. Sheriff  
Acting Section Director  
Amnesty International-Sierra Leone

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 26 Jan 2006

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

### International Clips on Liberia

#### **UN arrests recruiter of Liberian mercenaries for Ivory Coast**

Monrovia\_(dpa) \_ The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) confirmed the arrest of an unidentified man in connection with the recruitment of Liberian mercenaries to fight in troubled Ivory Coast, Liberian media reported Thursday. UNMIL spokesman Anders Johansson told reporters the recruiter was arrested in the Liberian town of Tappita which borders Ivory Coast in north-eastern Nimba county.

BBC News, Monrovia 26/01/2006

#### **Liberia recruits a new army**

By Elizabeth Blunt

Every morning at the moment there are two small near-riots in the centre of Monrovia. One is outside the barracks, where a heaving, jostling queue of young men and women are trying to get inside to join the new army. The other is at the defence ministry, where almost everyone who ever served in the old army now seems to be trying to sort out their paperwork and claim a pension.

**THE IRISH TIMES** January 26, 2006

#### **Liberian president's focus on former warlord Taylor**

Rob Crilly in Monrovia

LIBERIA: Liberia's new president has given the clearest signal yet that she wants to hand over Charles Taylor, the exiled warlord, to an UN-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone.

#### **Annan Appoints Five-Member Panel of Experts Monitoring Liberian Sanctions**

Jan 25, 2006 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan today appointed a five-member Panel of Experts to monitor the renewed sanctions regime the Security Council imposed on Liberia after receiving reports that the West African country's natural resources were not being used to benefit its people. The latest Panel of Experts comprises Arthur Gregory Blundell of Canada, who will be the chairman, Damien Callamand of France, Caspar Fithen of the United Kingdom, Tommy Garnett of Sierra Leone and Rajiva Bhushan Sinha of India, Mr. Annan said in a letter to the Council.

BBC Monitoring Africa, 26 January 2006

#### **Liberia: Arrested Israeli arms dealer linked to Charles Taylor**

*Excerpt from report by Radio France Internationale on 26 January*

An Israeli arms dealer, Simon Rosenblum, has been arrested in **Liberia**. He is suspected of having sold arms to former President Charles Taylor. He was also allegedly involved in the

training of **Liberia's** Anti Terrorist Unit [ATU] and the rebel Revolutionary United Front, RUF, of Sierra Leone. [Passage omitted]

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **U.N. evacuates some Ivory Coast staff after riots**

ABIDJAN, Jan 26 (Reuters) - The United Nations is evacuating around 100 of its staff from Ivory Coast, a U.N. official said on Thursday, a week after riots targeted the world body's bases and property in the war-divided West African country.

### **United States Concerned About Violence in Cote d'Ivoire**

Washington, DC, Jan 24, 2006 (United States Department of State/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The United States expressed concern January 24 about the effect of recent violence in **Cote d'Ivoire** on the peace process under way in the country and on the provision of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations.

### **Exiled opposition leader returns to Ivory Coast**

By Peter Murphy

ABIDJAN, Jan 25 (Reuters) - The leader of one of war-divided Ivory Coast's main opposition parties returned to the West African state on Wednesday, quietly ending more than three years of exile in Paris with a call for unity. Former Prime Minister Alassane Dramane Ouattara heads the Rally of Republicans (RDR) party and is hated by supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo.

I would like to make a call for unity, a call for calm and to say it is with a lot of love that I come back to my own country," Ouattara told reporters after arriving.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Security Forces Apprehend Mercenary Recruiter**

*(Liberian Express)*

- United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Chief Military Public Information Officer Cdr. Anders Johansson said yesterday that an unknown man has been arrested in Toe town, Grand Gedeh County in connection with recruiting Liberians to fight in Côte d'Ivoire.

### **UNMIL Quick Reaction Force Ends Reconnaissance Mission in Freetown**

*(Daily Observer and The Independent)*

- The Quick Reaction Force of UNMIL will today end its reconnaissance and patrol mission in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The force comprised of nearly 700 Irish and Swedish troops based in Monrovia, has the new task to exercise command and control and provide any needed reinforcements in support of the Mongolian Guard Force protecting the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

### **Labour Minister-Designate Pledges to Continue Human Rights Advocacy**

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

- During his acquaintance visit at the Ministry of Labour yesterday, Labour Minister-designate Samuel Kofi Woods said that he will continue his advocacy for social justice and equal rights.

## **Anti-Corruption Forest Program Coordinator Calls on Government to Review Concession Agreements**

*(The News and The Analyst)*

- In an open letter to President Johnson-Sirleaf, Anti-corruption Forest Program Coordinator Getrude Korvayan urged the government to implement the recommendations of the Forest Concession Review Committee which include the cancellation of all existing forest concessions.

## **Central Bank Mints Souvenir Coins for President**

*(The News)*

- The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has produced and released a number of gold and silver coins commemorating the inauguration of Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as Liberia's 23<sup>rd</sup> President and Africa's first woman President, a CBL press release said yesterday. The coins, which were produced POBJOY MINT, the largest private mint in Europe, bear the portrait of President-Johnson-Sirleaf.

## **Senator Says Cabinet Nominees Ingratiating Lawmakers**

*(The Independent)*

- Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson said at the Capitol yesterday that nominees for cabinet posts had begun offering lunch to senators ahead of confirmation hearings by the Senate. He criticized those involved in the practice and said it was the beginning of bad governance as was seen in the past. He promised to name names shortly in a press release.

## **Former Soldiers to Forfeit Ranks in New Army**

*(Liberian Express)*

- Addressing the UNMIL weekly press briefing yesterday, the Public Affairs Officer of Dyncorp (the firm contracted to restructure the Liberian army) Renee Hubka said that no member of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) will be directly retained in the new army, emphasizing that there is absolutely no guarantee that a former AFL member will be enlisted into the same rank he or she had in the former AFL.

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

### **President Returns Home from African Union Summit**

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and her entourage returned to Liberia yesterday following a summit of African Union leaders in Sudan.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Security Forces Apprehend Mercenary Recruiter**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **UNMIL Quick Reaction Force Ends Reconnaissance Mission in Freetown**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Mob Justice Remains a Problem in Monrovia**

- Speaking at a news conference yesterday, UNMIL Spokesman Douglas Coffman lamented that mob Justice was a serious problem in Monrovia and a threat to the rule of law. He said that only the Liberian National Police should identify and apprehend suspects.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Labour Minister-Designate Pledges to Continue Human Rights Advocacy**

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Liberia Petroleum Refining Company Says Criminals Tap its Products**

- Conducting a tour with the new Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) Managing Director Harry Greaves yesterday, the Company's Operations Manager Aaron Wheagar said that thieves were using canoes to steal oil products from waterside tanks.

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

### **Independent National Human Rights Commission Accuses Former Transitional Government of Neglect**

- In an interview yesterday, Independent National Human Rights Commission Executive Director Bestman Chappay accused the National Transitional Government of neglecting the Commission.

### **Anti-Corruption Forest Program Coordinator Calls on Government to Review Concession Agreements**

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

### **UNMIL Rehabilitates Magisterial Court in Tubmanburg, Bomi County**

- A source at UNMIL Quick Impact Project Services Division said that UNMIL has completed rehabilitation work on the Magisterial Court in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.

### **Energy Minister Calls for Youth Empowerment Program**

- Speaking at a ceremony to honour him as "Minister of the Year 2005" yesterday, Lands, Mines and Energy Minister Jonathan Mason called for a comprehensive program to develop the youth for future national duty. He said that the young generation of Liberia needs adequate preparation for the reconstruction of the country.

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at [armahj@un.org](mailto:armahj@un.org).*



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**NEWS24.com**

**'A man-made tragedy'**  
The collapse of a building has shocked Kenya, spurning officials into examining building practices.

**Building collapse**  
A building has collapsed in Kenya's capital, killing 14 people. View the gallery.

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**Decision on Habre's case 'OK'**  
26/01/2006 21:12 - (SA)

Dakar - African rights groups have welcomed a decision by the continent's heads of state to set up a commission to examine the case of exiled former dictator of Chad, Hissene Habre, faced with an extradition request.

**Related Articles**

- Chad battles bloody history
- Ex-dictator remains in exile
- Court won't rule on Habre
- Senegal to rule on ex-dictator
- Senegal may not extradite Habre
- Senegal asked to hold Chad's Habre
- Senegal to hold Chad ex-leader

Habre was wanted in Belgium for alleged atrocities committed during his 1982-1990 reign, but a court in Senegal where he had lived since he was ousted, had refused to rule on the request.

African heads of state and government ended a two-day summit in Sudan on Tuesday with the creation of a commission of legal experts and gave it six months to examine "all aspects of the case" and made "concrete recommendations".

**Fight against impunity**

Habre's fate would be taken up for discussion again at the next African Union summit to be held in July in Banjul, Gambia.

Sidiki Kaba, president of the International Federation of Human Rights, which represented 141 rights groups worldwide, said: "This is the first time that the heads of state have strongly affirmed that it is necessary to fight against impunity ... that appears to me to be helpful."

Kaba said: "However, it is hoped that this is not a diplomatic flippancy to circumvent the international obligations imposed on these states under the international convention against torture", which compelled countries sheltering perpetrators of torture to either try them or extradite them.

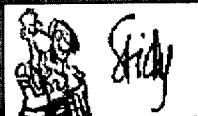
**Legal systems**

Alioune Tine, secretary-general of the Dakar-based African Assembly for Human Rights, said: "It is a very positive action for us, which goes even beyond our expectations. It is a good resolution."

Maina Kiai, president of the Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights, said: "It is necessary to make an effort to reinforce the legal systems in Africa in an effort to end impunity. It is a true challenge."

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8 14 18 36 39 45

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18 21 30 37 40 45

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- Bus
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- Cell
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- Medl

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4		9	6		
	2		4		1
3					

**Afrikaans**

- Beeld
- Die Burger
- Volksblad
- Rapport
- Sake
- Finweek
- Landbou
- Litnet
- Jip
- netAfrikaans
- Streekkoerante

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- Fairlady
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**Inteken**

- Die Burger
- Beeld
- Volksblad
- Weg
- Huisgenoot

African human rights and civil society organisations had appealed to the AU to either extradite Habre to Belgium for trial on human rights abuses or set up a court to try him itself.

**Mass murder, torture**

Habre, 63, known as "Africa's Pinochet", had been wanted for trial in Belgium after three nationals of Chadian origin filed suit in a Belgian court in 2000 for arbitrary arrest, mass murder and torture.

An official truth commission report in 1992 accused Habre's regime of committing some 40 000 political murders - among whom only 4 000 victims had been officially named.

Georges-Henri Beauthie, the Belgian lawyer representing the plaintiffs, believed that the commission "will decide in favour of lawsuit in Belgium".

Kaba said it was important that the commission ensured the right to justice and reparation for the victims and guaranteed fair trial for Habre.

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