

**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 at:**

Thursday, 27 July 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Exclusive

Thursday, 27 July 2006

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# IS NORMAN

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The people of Bo District where chief Sam Hinga Norman hauled are asking whether Chief Norman is dead or critically ill. The Special Court is yet to come out with a press release to make sure the people of Bo are pleased.

Indicted

It could be recalled that Sam

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# DEAD?

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Hinga Norman, once a people's liberator was for Tejan Kabbah in the 1998

restoration drive, but is now dying in jail for his role in that

Contd. page 2

# IS NORMAN DEAD?

## From front page

obstructing the democracy of this country.

### Family

The family members of Sam Hinga Norman are up to press time not satisfied over the fate and conditions under which their patriarch is being held.

Since his indictment, government has failed to come up with a press commique elucidating its role in the saga. It is not known whether the SLPP is keeping tight lips in order to save the day for Sam Hinga Norman's release and ac-

quittal or whether it is out of any malicious vindictiveness.

### Aged

The generation of Sam Hinga Norman and Sankoh are now almost dead or vanishing. That is why the people of Bo are worried that their near 70 years old father may die in jail.

Meanwhile as we go to press, we have learnt that Charles Margai of the new found PMDC is canvassing that should he win the 2007 elections, he will set Sam Hinga Norman free and decorate him accordingly.

Observers have noted the dishonesty of Charles Margai who happens to ignore international protocol and treaties as if they were a card of games. They say he knows too well that the Norman Special Court case is far above him but he is fooling the illiterate and gullible countryside people in order to gain political benefits.

By all indications, Sam Hinga Norman is next to Chief in the Special Court jail after Foday Saybana Sankoh, of the RUF outfit-cum rebels.

Exclusive

Thursday, 27 July 2006

*Special Feature*

By Nana Kofi Sarpong

The United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, recently made a historic visit to the West African sub-region. Mr. Annan and his entourage were with hopes and aspirations to acquaint themselves with latest developments in the sub-region.

In his deliberations, he took time off after the African Union Summit or convergence in The Gambia to visit Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and his motherland, Ghana.

In Sierra Leone, the expectation of the Secretary General's visit was too high, given the propensity of prevailing politics and the harsh realities of the ugly epoch, in the aftermath of the bloody civil conflict. The reality is that it was not the first time Mr. Annan visited Sierra Leone. But the negativity permeating the corridors of the country's politics is also too high: that opposing groups bent on dragging the image of the ruling government into the dust of history had wanted Mr. Annan to suffer fools gladly, and to outrightly tell the government or president Kabbah in his face that he had woefully failed the nation.

Introspect, however, the Secretary General who believes in the intrinsic value of long-term development and the structure of infrastructural development ongoing in Sierra Leone did not hesitate to shower encomium of praises on the ruling government for the positive strides to economic expansion including sustainable peace and stability in the country. At the same time, Mr. Annan hit hard on corruption in state governance and youth unemployment and implored the government to create avenues to minimize "chronic" youth unemployment.

So far, so good! The Secretary General did a great job like a trained journalist who is well intoned with the rudiments of journalism, with a focus on objectivity and as always looking at both sides of the coin. Yet, controversies still swirl around his visit to Sierra Leone as discerning minds continue to peddle caustic criticisms against Mr. Annan for praising President Kabbah and his government. Some schools of thought suggested that a good number of Sierra Leoneans go to bed and hardly afford two "square" meals a day, while others whiningly complained about the perpetual darkness in Freetown and environs as a result of lack of power supply.

These have been the bone of contention for Mr. Annan's criticisms. What opposing groups fail to realize is that the Secretary General did not come to Freetown to give electricity supply neither did he come along with ship loads of imported rice, onions, tomatoe paste, cooking oil to supply those who cannot afford two meals a day. His attention was focused on United Nations long-term development plan that encompasses infrastructural and human development such as road network, schools, hospitals or

# Annan's visit and the controversies

clinics and institutional capacity building.

At this point, those who felt uneasy because Mr. Annan did not go round to ask people how they are coping with the harsh realities of the economic woes should still sit aloof, fold arms and do absolutely nothing and wait for the UN Secretary General's ship loads of imported food items in the coming months. Never in the history of Britain, America, Germany, France, China, Japan and other developed nations have they depended on imported food from Africa to feed their peoples. So the Blackman, with "vast" arable lands still relies on the dependency syndrome, yearning for imported food items. This is ironic joke!

The other controversy has something to do with Mr. Annan's snap visit to the Special Court, where he reportedly criticized or made snide remarks about the court's operations. Now critics are making a mole out of his praises showered on the ruling government and the criticisms against the special court's operations. Even at that, I hear Mr. Annan said the work of the special court is commendable. Yet, if one is to go into the nitty-gritty of the court's operations the major question that crops up is, what is so special about the special court that it seeks to enjoy immunity from criticisms?

It must be emphasized that this is not the first time the special court has been criticized by no other person than the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, His Excellency Peter Penfold. Mr. Penfold wrote stinging articles in British newspapers, criticizing the court's operations and the loopholes in the matter of jurisprudence involving the detention of Chief Hingha Norman. Did anybody raise a hell or simply because he is a white man. Besides, other local writers or journalists in the past criticized the court's operations, mindful of the substantial sums poured into its coffers and also looking at the drain on the country's economy as the people continued to face the prism of poverty and need huge investment in both infrastructure and human development build up.

Statements made in certain quarters suggest that the special court is being used as one way turnstile to siphon sub-

stantial sums to benefit few individuals, mainly foreign expatriates who enjoy a close-knit relations within the court's ambit. One is inclined to believe that this assumption is partly true, looking into the "swift" changes in the workforce of the court, with special reference to the number of Registrars, Chief Prosecutors, Presidents and Spokespersons who have come and gone. This also brings to the fore, another question as to what the special court has achieved, since its establishment.

The fact that four prime "war crimes" suspects in the persons of Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie, Johnny Paul Koroma, and Charles Taylor are not in the confines of the special court give descriptive features of the court as having outlived its usefulness. Since the inception of the court, most Sierra Leoneans have expressed latent worries about other key players of the bloody war who joined the fray of looting, killing, maiming, amputation and burning of both state and private property but parading the streets, without paying penalties of 'incendiarism' bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes. So, what actually has the court achieved?

Observers believe this group of people still engage in wrecking havoc, pointing to the consistent robbery with aggravation going on in many parts of the country because they still wield weapons. All these lapses form the basis for the criticisms levied on the court. Most people believe that, it would be less cost-effective to allow the other detainees at the special court to face trial at The Hague now that Charles Taylor also faces trial there.

The argument posed is that it would help reduce substantial sums channeled through the court's operations as against additional spending on the defence counsel and judges sitting at the Hague. The conclusion is that huge sums spent on the Special court could now be diverted into development projects to sustain the lives of about 95% of Sierra Leoneans who are still wallowing in extreme poverty.

It is not fair to suggest this?



Independent Observer  
Thursday, 27 July 2006

# Iraq trial resumes without Saddam

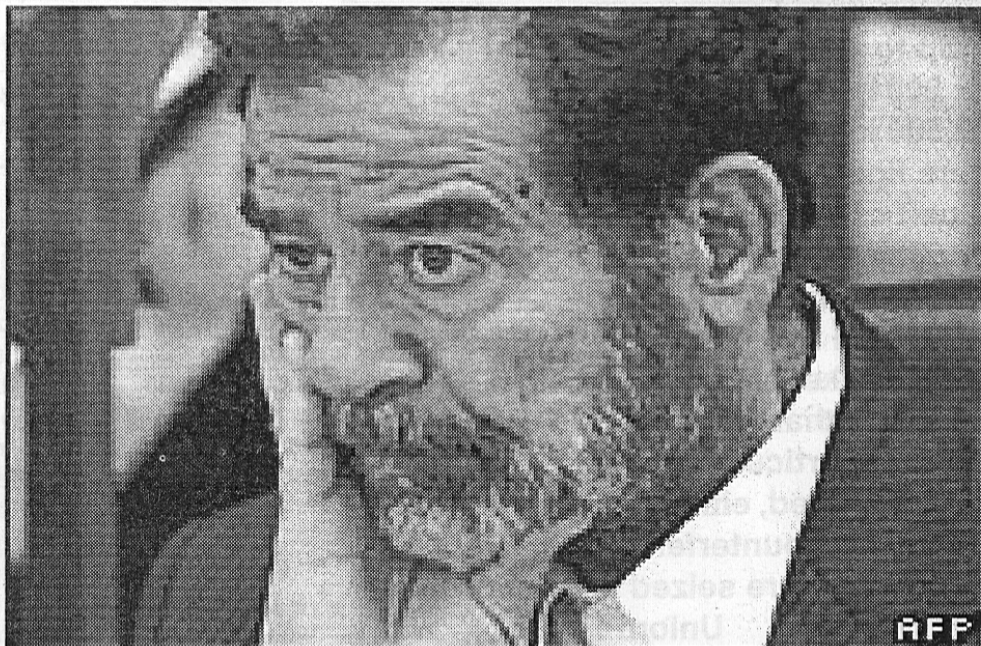
The trial of Saddam Hussein has resumed in Baghdad without the former Iraqi leader who is ill in hospital.

Saddam Hussein was taken to hospital on Sunday as a result of a hunger strike, which he reportedly began on 7 July in protest at the murder of his lawyer.

Chief prosecutor Jaafar al-Moussawi has said the 68-year-old ousted leader is being fed through a tube. He and seven co-defendants are on trial charged with crimes against humanity. They all deny the charges.

In court, the lawyers acting for co-defendants Taha Yassin Ramadan and Awad Hamad al-Bandar were due to begin their final summations, followed by those acting for Saddam Hussein and his half-brother Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti.

Lawyers for the four other defendants have already presented their summa-



tions.

#### 'Stable condition'

Once the final statements have been made the trial will be suspended while the five-judge panel considers its verdict, which is expected by mid-August.

Three defence lawyers have been murdered during the trial

Court spokesman Raed Juhi said Saddam Hussein's condition was

stable.

Saddam Hussein and three co-defendants are believed to have begun their latest hunger strike more than two weeks ago. They are protesting against procedures at the tribunal, and also demanding better security for defence lawyers.

Three members of the defence team have been murdered during the

course of the trial - most recently senior lawyer Khamis al-Obeidi, shot dead in June.

The prosecution has called for the execution of the former president and two others for the deaths of 148 villagers during a crackdown in the village of Dujail after an assassination attempt in 1982.

Independent Observer  
Thursday, 27 July 2006

## SPECIAL FEATURE

After hearing presentations from United Nations officials about the 250,000 boys currently exploited as child soldiers and tens of thousands of girls subject to sexual violence, the Security Council today called for a "reinvigorated effort" to protect children in areas of armed conflict.

Through a statement read out by its July President, Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sablière of France, the 15-member body praised the implementation of its landmark 2005 Council resolution that called for the monitoring of violations of children's rights and well-being in seven conflict zones.

The mechanism has already produced results in the field, but more must be done, including the pursuit of efforts to reintegrate child soldiers into their societies, the Council said, and it called on national governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to contribute to that effort.

In the preceding Council discussion, UN officials and delegations had also called for greater efforts to protect children, including measures to prevent impunity on the part of government forces and rebel groups who persist in exploiting and abusing them.

"The initial phase of the monitoring and reporting mechanisms is now over," Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of Secretary-General Kofi Annan for children and armed conflict, said, "It is now time for the Security Council to take action against repeat offenders."

Resolution 1612 takes account of recruitment of child soldiers, killing and maiming children, rape and other sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement, denial of humanitarian access to children, attacks against schools and hospitals, as well as trafficking, forced labour and all forms of slavery.

It calls for such crimes to be monitored in the pilot countries of Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic

# Security Council calls for greater effort to protect children in wartime

of Congo (DRC), Nepal, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan. Ms. Coomaraswamy thanked numerous actors at the local, national, regional and international level for their assistance in putting such monitoring mechanisms in place and noted that the first country report, on the DRC, had been submitted in June.

However, recounting the story of a Sierra Leonean boy she called "Abou" who, since being abducted at the age of 11, had fought with rebels in his own country, in Liberia and in Côte d'Ivoire, she said that the monitoring had served to confirm "that there are far too many Abous out there, and we are compelled to protect them." Ann Veneman, head of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) drew attention to the fact that over the past decade some two million children have died as a result of war, while countless others have had to flee their homes.

"For centuries, children have been victims of conflict and their tragedy has been largely unrecorded and unnoticed," Ms. Veneman said. "Now, with the support of the Security Council, we are finally able to monitor the true scale of the impact on children so we can act."

In a report released today, UNICEF said that every day 1,200 people, half of them children, are killed in the DRC because of violence, disease and malnutrition.

Also making a statement to the Council today, Ad Melkert, Associate Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), said strong policies needed to be put in place that make young people active agents for peace. As an example, he said youth could be trained as election observers or peace monitors.

In the open meeting that followed those presentations, 36 speakers, representing Council members and other nations, affirmed that protecting children from abuse during conflict was a responsibility of each State and the entire international community, with many proposing mechanisms to follow up on resolution 1612.

## Associated Press

Wednesday, 26 July 2006

### **UN urged to boost monitoring of children in war zones**

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

UNITED NATIONS -- More than 250,000 children are fighting in wars around the world, while tens of thousands of girls are sexually exploited by combatants, a senior UN official said.

Many young fighters are recycled from conflict to conflict, Undersecretary-General Radhika Coomaraswamy told the United Nations Security Council on Monday.

She urged the Security Council to expand its monitoring and reporting program.

"It is now time for the council to take effective action against repeat offenders," she said.

Children caught in conflicts need education, job training, psychological support and protection against persecution after the fighting ends, Coomaraswamy told the council.

"Tens of thousands of girls are being subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence. Abductions of children are becoming more systematic and widespread," she said.

She spoke at a Security Council meeting to examine the impact of a resolution adopted last year to stop the exploitation of youngsters in war zones by governments and insurgent groups.

The resolution established a system for reporting on the recruitment of child soldiers and the killing, maiming, rape, abduction and sexual abuse of children in conflicts.

It reaffirmed the council's intention to consider sanctions against parties that violate international laws protecting children in conflict.

More than 14 million children, meanwhile, have been displaced by conflict since 2003, while land mines kill or maim between 8,000 and 10,000 each year, she added.

However, Coomaraswamy singled out Sierra Leone and Liberia as countries where the situation for children has improved.

Civil wars in both west African countries ended in recent years.

In the past decade, 2 million children have died as the result of war, at least 6 million have been injured and 12 million have been left homeless, UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman said.



## BBC Online

Thursday, 27 July 2006

### Liberia probes presidency blaze

**Liberia is investigating the causes of the fire that engulfed the presidential building on Wednesday, as a meeting of regional leaders was about to begin.**

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was hosting the leaders of Ghana, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone when the fire broke out, but all escaped unharmed.



Firefighters had managed to put out the blaze by late Wednesday afternoon. The fire damaged the president's offices

The fire marred independence day celebrations, which had included the restoration of electric street lights.

"The situation is now under control and investigations are underway to determine the cause of the incident," presidential spokesman Cyrus Badio told AFP news agency.

"Considering the seriousness of the fire, there is no doubt that the president's office will be affected," he added.

The blaze at Monrovia's Executive Mansion came just after the president switched on generator-powered street lights in the capital, which has lacked electricity for 15 years.



On Tuesday, piped water was made available in the capital for the first time in many years.

“ As lights dispel darkness, so with the restoration of power to

”

Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf won presidential elections last year that ended a brutal 14-year civil war and promised to rebuild the resource-rich country.

## The Patriotic Vanguard

Wednesday, 26 July 2006

### "Sierra Leone Judiciary is Not Independent"--Ansu Lansana

By Gibril Koroma

The Secretary General of the PMDC, Mr. Ansu Lansana has told the Patriotic Vanguard in an exclusive interview that the judiciary in Sierra Leone has become an appendage of the government in power.

He said the PMDC would therefore not appeal the recent decision of the Political Parties Registration Commission which states that Vice President Solomon Berewa is eligible to contest the forthcoming elections.

The PMDC recently wrote a petition to the PPRC claiming that the Vice President violates the constitution by being both Vice President and party leader.



Ansu, who was speaking from Freetown Wednesday July 26 said the next step for the PMDC would have been the Supreme Court but he said his party has little confidence in this body and would rather prefer to meet representatives of the international community and lodge a complaint because they (international community) have spent a lot of money in the country and would like to see true democracy at work. Appealing to the Supreme Court will be a waste of time, Ansu said.

On the decision by the PPRC, he said the document itself is very unprofessional.

"It contradicts itself in many instances and it's not even written in legal language as it should be. Also the signature of the Chairman of the Commission is absent. Christaina Thorpe is an ad hoc member, not a full member of the Commission", Ansu said.

The chairman of the commission, Justice Abdulai Timbo, is in London allegedly for health reasons. The National Electoral Commission's Christian Thorpe signed as chairman.

During its upcoming meeting representatives of diplomatic missions in Freetown, Ansu said his party(which has already met with other opposition parties) will stress that the SLPP's "incumbency excesses" may not lead to free and fair elections in 2007 and that they are a recipe for chaos.

"However, I would like PMDC supporters everywhere to know that the SLPP's excesses will not prevent a PMDC victory in 2007. We are quite sure of victory", Ansu declared.

The American ambassador in Freetown, Mr. Thomas Hull, recently observed that there are a lot of problems with the way the judiciary does its work in Sierra Leone.

Photo: Dr. Ade Renner-Thomas, Chief Justice (head of the judiciary) of Sierra Leone.

## Special Court Supplement Satellite Photos of Freetown and Environs



Aberdeen and Freetown



The Special Court complex in New England



The National Stadium



Aberdeen Bridge, Murray Town, Kingtom and Freetown



The UNIOSIL helipad.



Lungi International Airport





Parliament



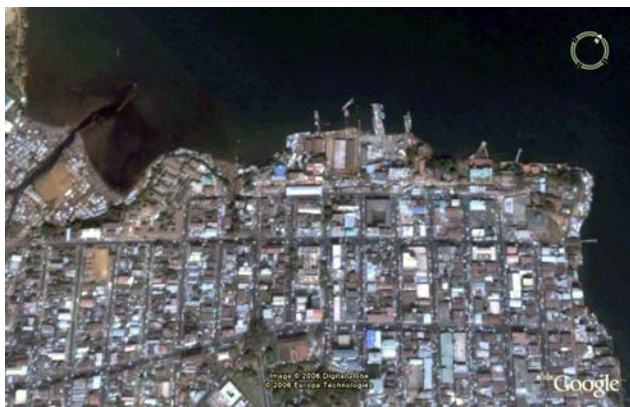
Fourah Bay College, atop Mount Aureol



Queen Elizabeth II Quay, Cline Town



Babadorie Dam, Regent



Central Freetown, Government Wharf



Sierra Leone Grammar School, Murray Town