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 Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Tuesday 25 - Friday 28 February 2003

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

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Awoko Tuesday, 25 February 2003



medical authorities, the

sources

further

Special Court?

continue to be

The Kamajor mili-

tia are traditional

hunters who fought

against Revolution-

ary United Front

(RUF) rebels during

the country's armed

Liberian Justice Min-

ister Lavela Koboi

Johnson said they

had reliable reports -

confirmed by fleeing

civilians - about the

Kamajors Fightii Cheesemanburg, where creasing daily. h Lurd LURD and government The LRRRC had troops have been fightregistered 25,000 ing since early February. IDPs by Thursday.

ia Government Says

LIBERIA'S GOVE RNMENT said on Thursday that former Kamajor militiamen from Sierra Leone were fighting alongside the rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) in the western part of the country.

> Kamajor fighters within the LURD.

He described them as "hired killers", Fighting between LURD and loyalist troops has intensified in recent conflict (1991-2002). weeks, spreading to the coastal town of Robertsport, 78 km south-west of the capital, Monrovia. Civilians fleeing Robertsport, which is the capital of presence of ex- Grand Cape Mount that heavily armed

County, have been arriving by canoe on the New Kru Town beach in Monrovia. They confirmed that LURD had captured Robertsport on Monday and abducted more than 100 residents, while many others were stranded in the town. A group of 15 elders from nearby Bomi County were said to have reported to the government LURD rebels had abducted 25 civilians, mainly women and chil-

The executive director of the Liberian Refugees, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), Sam Brown, told IRIN on Thursday that the influx of internally displaced people

Brown called on international humanitarian organizations to help Liberia to address "the alarming humanitarian crisis", saying the government could not



KAMAJORS: accused of aiding LURD rebels to oust Taylor from power

dren, in the towns of (IDPs) as a result of the Kley, Dewoin and renewed fighting was inhandle the influx on its own.

Tuesday February 18, 2000

rormer Kamajoh amputees abandoned

By Jemilatu Nababa

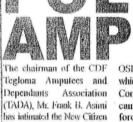
Amputees of the defunct Civil Defence Force who were evicted from Brookfields Hotel in Freetown and relocated to Jui transit camp say government has abandoned them.

Their secretary General. Mr. Andrew Allie told Concord Times that those who were heading CDF (a former pro-government militia) including Hinga Norman have earlier announced that, there were no CDF amputees and that they (the amputees) were not under their protection. He said they are not happy over the discriminate treatment they receive. He noted that whilst government was providing shelter for war-wounded amputees, they who fought for the government were never included in the list of amputees. He said it's only recently that government through NaCSA provided humanitarian aid for them.

Allie further said that on the 27th January, they were asked to quit the Jui transit camp agin after they had been evicted from Brookfields hotel last year. "We have no where to go and government should provide shelter for us", Allie said.

The amputees said they are appealing to government to provide shelter for them and strictly warned CDF authorities including Hinha Norman, Moynina Fofana and Charles Moiwo to stay away from the organization adding that any assistance for them should go

New Citizen Tuesday, 25 February 2003



that certain OSD policemen v. J and led by 5. Corporal James sensed their premises at Jui former arms store and took away their personal effects.

In a letter written to Police Commissioner A.S. Munu, by the chairman, Frank Asimi stated that on 7th February, 2003 at around 9:00nm, an- authorities concerned.

OSD LandRover, SLP 284 in He noted that even the which were Sergeant Kuray and Corporal James invaded their camps and that they were forcefully evicted from the building by the police. The letter further stated that

the policemen told them to quit the building because the authority had to use the building. Mr. Frank Asimi said that they slept outside for three days by the seaside with their wives and children so they decided to make a formal complaint to the

gardens which were used to generate funds for them in the camp were destroyed by the police during the raid. The CDF amputees who are mostly young men have plans to pursue their education but now that the authority, Mr. Asimi explained, had swooped on them, their vision of sustaining themselves is questionable.



Some of the evicted CDF amputees

The New Storm Wednesday, 26 February 2003

Why Johnny Pa Failed To Give a Sunday



Johnny Paul

Reports reaching The New Storm say that fugitive former junta leader Johnny Paul lice presence was too heavy for men with the fugitive, but playing games with the police. his comfort. Some body claiming to be Johnny Paul Koroma had called police boss and some other security top officials indicating willingness to surrender around Jui.

Police boss Keith Biddle had marshalled his men and they flooded the entire Jui area. Johnny Paul was to have surrendered between 2-3 pm on the said day Sunday February 23. The police awaited for hour unend but there was no Johnny Paul Koroma or traces of him. According to the report, he was

Koroma refused to give himself, with some of his men. It is to do so. Some people are of up on Sunday, because the po- known who exactly were the the opinion that some body is

speculations are that some of his die hearted supporters were with him in hiding.

Reports now say somebody claiming to be Johnny Paul called again later on the same day saying that the police presence was too heavy and that they were afraid to give themselves. Up to the time of going to press, it was not known what moves the police were making to re-establish links with the man claiming to be Johnny Paul. Residents of Freetown are worried as to why some one would be afraid to give himself to have surrendered together up after indicating he wanted

> The New Storm Inlednesday February 26,2003

The African Champion Wednesday, 26 February 2003

The African Champion Wednesday Filmany 26, 2003

Friend Of Johnny Paul's Wife Wanted!

Reports reaching this press have revealed that one Ammata Kenta, a Iriend of Mrs. Makata Koroma. wife of fugitive Johnny Paul Koroma. 18 seriously wanted. According to the reports, 'Ammata Keita has been accused by youths in her logality that she knew about Johnny -\ Paul's. alleged coup, and the touths have lleged remated

the matter to one

of the four police divisional headquarters in Freetown

The reports have it that. Aminata left the shores of Sierra Leone for the United Kingdom a few days after the attack on the Military Engineers



Base in Wellington. East End Freetown. and the subsequent search at Johnny Paul's Juba resident by a team of OSD personnel occured. Days after those ugly scenes, the reports stated, neighbours. a bitter made complaint to the authorities against Aminata Keita that she knew about the attack. They said she was sponsored by Johnny Paul Koroma to leave the country until after the alleged comp would have taken place

Aminata Keita

The New Pioneer Thursday, 27 February 2003



Thursday, 27 February 2003



the greatest responsibility in the decade long civil conflict may not start in June due to some reasons.

According to investigations, Morman and Dowban firm which has been awarded the contract. will start end of April, while the

Addressing a news conference last Thursday, the Registrar of the Special Court Robin Vincent said they needed the court as soon as possible, latest August.

Vincent maintained that it is up the designing of the courthouse to the Chief Prosecutor David Crane to decide when the court

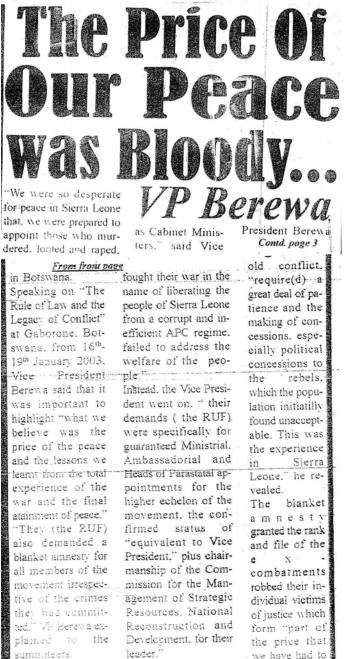
ple before the completion date," sittings, while the construction

Vincent mentioned that they have gathered a lot to kick-start the job.

The chairperson of the Special Court management committee Deborah Chatis said she was impressed with the amount of work done so far since august.

--- New Film 1---- day Eliminary 27, 2002

The Exclusive Thursday, 27 February 2003



What was baliling to VP Berewa was "thei, at the Lome Peace Talks, the flourish in Sierra the nad cebe'

Vice President Berewa told the conference that for peace to again Leone, after a decade-

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the

we have had to pay for peace in Sierra Leone." the Vice Presi-

dent is quoted to have said.

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Standard Tunes Friday Flomany 28,2003

vows development Kono ex-combatants

<u>BY TALKING DRUM STUDIO</u> <u>CORRESPONDENT.</u>

There are many efforts put together in mending Sierra Leone after the brutal senseless war, which lasted for years.

The NCDDR like many other organizations who are undertaking this effort is now actively embarked on the reintegration of Ex-combatants to their communities.

In the Kono district, there are many skills training centres that are for eas-combatants.

bery recently, NCDDR opened another training centre at Jiama Minikoro chiefdom to train the excombarance in skills like carpentry, masonry and tailoring.

The new, which they made, was

that, after their training, they will surely work towards the development of their community.

The zeal of the ex- combatants for skills training is enormous.

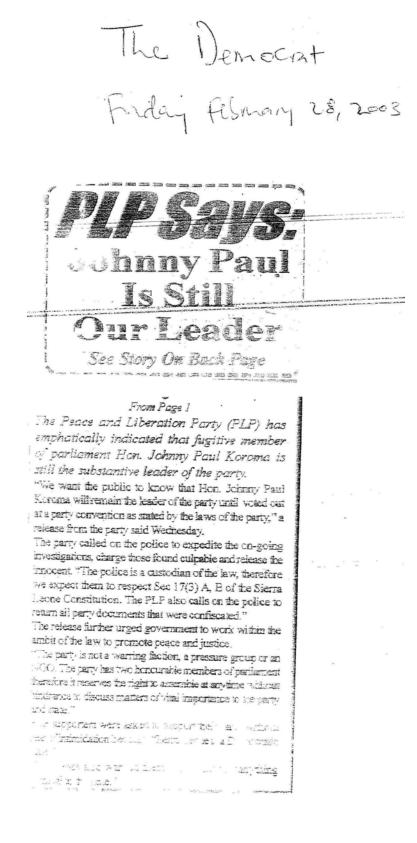
In Nimikoro alone, more than one hundred of them have already registered at the centre.

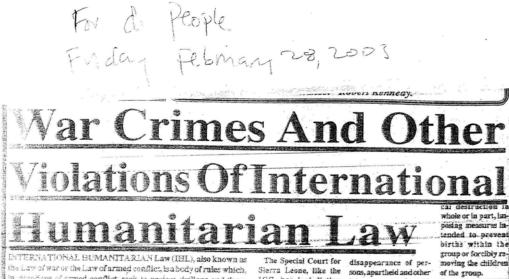
The ex-combatants are very much enthusiastic about the centre, as their trainers applauded them for their co-operation towards the training.

The ex-combatants vowed that, after their training they will in turn train their fellow Kono youths so that they will not get involved into things which will destroy their future and consequently set the country behind progress. They also reiterated their determination to open up centres in Kono, so that the skills that they would have acquired will be exhibited within the district; and also promised to work hand in glove with their chiefs towards the development of their communities.

Chief Kai Bufa of the Nimikoro chiefdom confessed that the excombatants are very much instrumental in his chiefdom as they assisted manually in the construction of the Nimikoro market.

They therefore appealed to their fellow former fighters throughout Sierra Leone to make good use of the opportunities given to them for the development of themselves and their communities. The Democrat Friday, 28 February 2003





in rituations of armed conflict; seek to protect civilians and those work the no lenger taking part in fighting fie, the wounded, sick, as Pin a blose detained in respect of the conflicty. Part of the law Said to methods and means of warfare.

training of these mais is the responsibility real and regime of nuclonal courts of lng, extensive destruc-tional proved out to States Party to the four tion and appropriation the Four Gamera Geneva Conventions and of property unjustified a sente-us of their Additional Prote- by military accessity and if they their a decision and carried out uniawfully

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The most serious violaions of-humanitarian law are termed war crimes. A number of oflences are specifically Mentified as war crimes $1 \ge -1 \ge -11$ onder the statutes of the :CC and these include: tane, sexual slavery, enprostitucion. forced pregnocy or other forms of second violence. using children under the ate of 12 to participate and my in heistilling.

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ICC, has jurisdiction of its Statute, these ing unnecessary sufferthe following acts when committed as part of a widespread or system-

inhumane acts of a simiover crimes against hu- lar character causing manity. Under Article 7 great suffering, or serious injury to physical or crimes comprise any of to mental health.

Genocide

This crime is defined atic attack directed under the Statute of the against any civilian ICC (article 6) and in the population: murder, ex- Convention on the Pre-

From ICRC NEWS LETTER SIERRA

LEONE

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AMPUTEES LIKE THESE ARE CASES FOR THE IHL depriving a prisoner of termination, ensurement, vention and i vention and Punishment war or a protection per- deportation or forcible of Genocide (article 2) as one of the signas of fair cransfer of the population. any of the following acts and regular trial pre- severe deprivation of committee with the intertibed in the Conven- onysient fiberty in violatent to destroy, in whole homounicwild confine-tion of Lundamental rules or in part, a sational sch-mens of structed per-of international law, for-alcal, racial or relations tera, unit, with deportu- Title, type, sexual slavery group: killing moderers the second state of the second prostitution of the group means of the group means of the second prostitution does many or apake of a manufacture of the second prost o

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Standard Times Friday, 28 February 2003

UN Special Envoy for Children ono and Kailal hun Districts Continuing his week-long visit to and Children's affairs.

Standard Times.

Sierra Leone, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and Armed conflict. Under-Secretary Olara A. Otunju. vesterday flew to the eastern disriets of Kono and kailahun to witness first hand the conditions of indren in the aftermath of the ten vear conflict.

He called for efforts to break the evene of poverty, which caused children to miss out on education and engage in dangerous activities such as diamond mining.

Mr. Otunnu was accompanied on his trip by officials from the UN peacekeeping mission, UNAMSIL, UNICEF, the National Commission for War Affected Children, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender

Friday Feismany

Speaking to journalists following his tour of the diamond-rich town of Koidu, Mr. Otunnu said he was "horrified" by what was going on in diamond mining sites in the district. "So many children have been forced to labour. None of them want to be in the mines," he said. "But they have told me that they have no alternatives"

The Special Representative, however, said it was encouraging to note the numbers of children, particularly child ex-combatants, who had been able to return to school and were "no longer a destabilizing factor".

He stressed that everything should be done to improve conditions for education.

"I am happy most of them are in school even though some are sitting on rocks, instead of at desks with chairs." he said after touring the Roman Catholic School in Koidu, which has an enrolment of more than 1,400 children, 43 of whom are former child ex-combatants

28,2003

Following his visit to a diamondmining site in Koidu, Mr. Otunnu held several interactive discussions with children in the city and in Daru, Kailahun district.

They stressed that although primary education was free, they were required to buy books and uniforms, which their parents could hardly afford.

He advised them to concentrate on their studies and to refrain from mining.

"They spend weeks digging and probably get very little money after a long time. Don't do it, it's not worth it. You should all go to school," he told children of the Muloma Kids Club in Daru who had gathered to discuss their problems with him.

The Special Representative said his visit to the eastern districts had made him "acutely aware of the needs of children".

He expressed the hope that UNAMSIL. UN agencies operating in Sierra Leone, non-governmental organization and the National Commission for War Affected Children would do their best in addressing the pressing needs of the children.

Concord Times Friday, 28 February 2003

Concord Times Friday Flomany 2'8, 2003

Olara Otunnu shocked at child miners in Kono

The Special Representative of the Scientary-General for Children and Amed Conflict, Under-Sceretary-General Olara A. Otumin, was Wednesday shockethat the growing number of child miners in Kono.

Unamsil press release states, Otunnu "called for efforts to break the cycle of poverty which caused children to miss out on education and engage in danger- •

ous activities such as diamondmining."

Mr. Otumu said afterwards that he was "hotrified" by what was going on in diamond mining sites in the district. "So many children have been forced to labour. None of them want to be in the mines," he said. "But they have to alter natives." The Special Representative, however, said it was encounging to note the numbers of children, particularly child ex-combatants, who had been able to return to school and weie "no longer a destabilizing factor." He stressed that everything should be done to improve conditions for education. "I am happy most of them are in school even though some are sitting on locks instead

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