

**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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Sankoh's hand and foot Paralysed

Awoko
Tuesday
February
2003



The medical condition of the detained former RUF leader, Corporal Foday Sankoh who was reported to have been

suffering from mild stroke has now seriously worsened. Prisons sources confirmed to Awoko's

Senior Correspondent that the rebel leader is now suffering from "stroke on both his right hand and foot,"

Accordingly "Sankoh's condition is more serious than what was reported of his health about four months ago." *Contd. Page 2*

Sankoh Paralysed

From Front Page
months ago." It was further revealed that "he cannot move from one place to another," adding that, "he also has serious mental imbalance." Sankoh is now undergoing medical attention from prison medical authorities, the sources further

disclosed. Meanwhile, sources close to the Attorney General's office have intimated that the reason for Sankoh's absence from court is due to the seriousness of his medical condition. Court sittings on his charges of murder will continue to be

adjourned until his condition improves. However, Political analyst are asking, that with the former RUF leader, Foday Saybana Sankoh, now paralysed and former junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma on the run, who will face the Special Court?

For di People
Tuesday, 25 February 2003

Kamajors Fighting With Lurd

Liberia Government Says

LIBERIA'S GOVERNMENT 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.

The Kamajor militia are traditional hunters who fought against Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels during the country's armed conflict (1991-2002). Liberian Justice Minister Lavela Koboi Johnson said they had reliable reports - confirmed by fleeing civilians - about the presence of ex-

Kamajor fighters within the LURD.

He described them as "hired killers".

Fighting between LURD and loyalist troops has intensified in recent weeks, spreading to the coastal town of Robertsport, 78 km south-west of the capital, Monrovia. Civilians fleeing Robertsport, which is the capital of Grand Cape Mount

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 that heavily armed

LURD rebels had abducted 25 civilians, mainly women and chil-

creasing daily. LURD and government troops have been fighting since early February. 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

The LRRRC had registered 25,000 IDPs by Thursday. 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. (IDPs) as a result of the renewed fighting was in- handle the influx on its own.

For di People
Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Concord Times
 Tuesday, 25 February 2003

Former 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 shel-

ter 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 again 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 Hinga 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

POLICE EVICT CDF AMPUTEES

The chairman of the CDF Teglonia Amputees and Dependants Association (TADA), Mr. Frank B. Asimi has intimated the New Citizen that certain OSD policemen led by S. [redacted] and Corporal James [redacted] invaded 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 9:00am, an

OSD LandRover, SLP 284 in 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 authorities concerned.

He noted that even 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

Why Johnny Paul Failed To Give Up On Sunday



Johnny Paul

Reports reaching The New Storm say that fugitive former junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma refused to give himself up on Sunday, because the police presence was too heavy for 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

to have surrendered together with some of his men. It is known who exactly were the men with the fugitive, but

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 up after indicating he wanted to do so. Some people are of the opinion that some body is playing games with the police.

*The New Storm
Wednesday February 26, 2003*

The African Champion
Wednesday, 26 February 2003

The African Champion
Wednesday February 26, 2003

Friend Of Johnny Paul's Wife Wanted!

Reports reaching this press have revealed that one Aminata Keita, a friend of Mrs. Makata Koroma, wife of fugitive Johnny Paul Koroma, is seriously wanted. According to the reports, Aminata Keita has been accused by youths in her locality that she knew about Johnny Paul's alleged coup, and the youths have alleged requested 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



Aminata Keita

Base in Wellington, East End Freetown, and the subsequent search at Johnny Paul's Luba resident by a team of OSD personnel occurred. Days after those ugly scenes, the reports stated, neighbours made a bitter 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 coup would have taken place

The New Pioneer
Thursday, 27 February 2003

The New Pioneer
Thursday February 27, 2003

Security Alertness On Border Lines...

RUF FIGHTERS BACK HOME AS REFUGEES!



Major-Gen. Tom Caraw

Rebel RUF fighters
being the intense fighting in
Liberia are filtering into the
border areas of Sierra Leone as
refugees.
The marauding rebels are
said to be those who bry-

coted the disarmament pro-
cesses in Sierra Leone and in-
turn sold themselves to AFL
fighters for a monthly recruit-
ment allowance of 500 United
States dollars.
Reports reaching the New

Pioneer from the LURC
Rebels held frontlines of Bo
Waterside last night, speak of
spate of malnourished youths
including women and children
travelling across the border
zones to sought refuge in the

nearby villages of Buedu, in the
Kalanun district and some
parts of the Bo district respec-
tively.
Over 500 refugees on that part
of the border zone have crossed
in our territory, a patrolling of-
ficer said.

It is reliable learnt that com-
bined patrolling officers, that
include members of the
RSLAF, UNAMSIL and the Police
are in a swift and robust
postures to pick on enemies at
any given time.

Reports also state that con-
firmed abductions, recruitment
and training of unsuspecting ci-
vilians along the border areas
of Sierra Leone, Liberia and
Guinea are in the making by the
AFL fighters for a monthly pay-
ment of 500 dollars.

Reports further states that
Sam Masikita Bockarie who
heads the mission for the AFL
has also recruited dozens of
ex-combatants for another
mission at a warring
neighbouring country.

It is reliably learnt that
abductees taking for the surrep-
titious training are forcefully
armed with AK47 rifles,
Greenade bombs, Greenade
launchers, Rocket Propelled
granades, outlasses and
jets etc to head on the battle
fronts.

At Mancovisanun village in
the Kalanun district where
AFL fighters bullocced their
stactes recently, the New
Pioneer recortadly learnt that
pregnant women, suckling
mothers were forcetaly col-
luctored and used as sex
slaves in their camps.

Items such as rice, palm oil,
salt, medicines, and clothing
were also acted by the rebels
and found to carry by their
abductees.

The New Vision
Thursday, 27 February 2003

Special Court Sittings May Delay

Indicting of suspects who bear the greatest responsibility in the decade long civil conflict may not start in June due to some reasons.

According to investigations, Norman and Dowban firm which has been awarded the contract, the designing of the courthouse will start end of April, while the

construction of the courthouse itself ends in September, ahead of the scheduled date of June when the court was expected to have started.

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 to the Chief Prosecutor David Crane to decide when the court

will start and that if he insists that he wanted to start indicting people before the completion date, he will have no alternative but to find a temporary place for the sittings, while the construction work goes on.

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.

The New Vision

Thursday February 27, 2003

The Exclusive
 Thursday, 27 February 2003

The Price Of Our Peace was Bloody...

VP Berewa

"We were so desperate for peace in Sierra Leone that we were prepared to appoint those who murdered, looted and raped,

as Cabinet Ministers," said Vice

President Berewa
Contd. page 3

From front page

in Botswana.

Speaking on "The Rule of Law and the Legacy of Conflict" at Gaborone, Botswana, from 16th-19th January 2003,

Vice President Berewa said that it was important to highlight "what we believe was the price of the peace and the lessons we learnt from the total experience of the war and the final attainment of peace."

"They (the RUF) also demanded a blanket amnesty for all members of the movement irrespective of the crimes they had committed," VP Berewa explained to the summiters.

What was baffling to VP Berewa was "that, at the Lome Peace Talks, the rebels had

fought their war in the name of liberating the people of Sierra Leone from a corrupt and inefficient APC regime. failed to address the welfare of the people."

Instead, the Vice President went on, "their demands (the RUF) were specifically for guaranteed Ministerial, Ambassadorial and Heads of Parastatal appointments for the higher echelon of the movement, the confirmed status of "equivalent to Vice President," plus chairmanship of the Commission for the Management of Strategic Resources, National Reconstruction and Development, for their leader."

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

old conflict,

"require(d) a great deal of patience and the making of concessions, especially political concessions to the rebels, which the population initially found unacceptable. This was the experience in Sierra

Leone," he revealed.

The blanket amnesty granted the rank and file of the ex-combatants robbed their individual victims of justice which form part of the price that we have had to pay for peace in Sierra Leone," the Vice President is quoted to have said.

*The Exclusive
 Thursday, 27 February 2003*

Standard Times
Friday, 28 February 2003

Standard Times
Friday, February 28, 2003

vows development Kono ex-combatants

BY TALKING DRUM STUDIO
CORRESPONDENT.

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 ex-combatants.

Very recently, NCDDR opened another training centre at Jiana Nimikoro chiefdom to train the ex-combatants in skills like carpentry, masonry and tailoring.

The vow, 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 re-

iterated 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 ex-combatants 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

The Democrat

Friday February 28, 2003

PLP Says:
Johnny Paul
Is Still
Our Leader
See Story On Back Page

From Page 1

The Peace and Liberation Party (PLP) has emphatically indicated that fugitive member of parliament Hon. Johnny Paul Koroma is still the substantive leader of the party.

"We want the public to know that Hon. Johnny Paul Koroma will remain the leader of the party until voted out at a party convention as stated by the laws of the party," a release from the party said Wednesday.

The party called on the police to expedite the on-going investigations, charge those found culpable and release the innocent. "The police is a custodian of the law, therefore we expect them to respect Sec 17(3) A, B of the Sierra Leone Constitution. The PLP also calls on the police to return all party documents that were confiscated."

The release further urged government to work within the ambit of the law to promote peace and justice.

"The party is not a warring faction, a pressure group or an NGO. The party has two honourable members of parliament therefore it reserves the right to assemble at anytime without hindrance to discuss matters of vital importance to the party and state."

Party supporters were asked to support the party without any intimidation because "there are no A.D. members in the party."

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For di People
Friday, 28 February 2003

For di People
Friday February 28, 2003

War Crimes And Other Violations Of International Humanitarian Law

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL), also known as the Law of War or the Law of Armed Conflict, is a body of rules which, in situations of armed conflict, seek to protect civilians and those who are no longer taking part in fighting (ie, the wounded, sick, as well as those detained in respect of the conflict). Part of the law deals with the methods and means of warfare.

The law of these rules has been developed out of the four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The ICRC distinguishes between war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and other grave breaches of the law.

The responsibility of national courts of States Party to the four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

The ICRC distinguishes between war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and other grave breaches of the law.

War Crimes

The most serious violations of humanitarian law are termed war crimes. A number of offences are specifically identified as war crimes under the statutes of the ICC and these include: rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy or other forms of sexual violence, using children under the age of 15 to participate actively in hostilities.

Grave Breaches

Grave breaches refer to the most serious violations of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. These include: willful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments, willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, and the destruction or appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly.

causing unnecessary suffering, extensive destruction and appropriation of property unjustified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly, willfully

The Special Court for Sierra Leone, like the ICC, has jurisdiction over crimes against humanity. Under Article 7 of its Statute, these crimes comprise any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population: murder, ex-

disappearance of persons, apartheid and other inhumane acts of a similar character causing great suffering, or serious injury to physical or to mental health.

Genocide

This crime is defined under the Statute of the ICC (article 6) and in the Convention on the Pre-

vention and Punishment of Genocide (article 2) as any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group: killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physi-



AMPUTEES LIKE THESE ARE CASES FOR THE IHL

depriving a prisoner of war or a protected person of the rights of fair and regular trial prescribed in the Convention; unlawful confinement of a protected person; deportation or transfer of a protected person to enemy territory or to another country, and the taking of hostages.

termination, enslavement, deportation or forcible transfer of the population, severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law, forced rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy or other forms of sexual violence, slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as debt bondage or other practices, forced labour or other practices, and other grounds.

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Standard Times
Friday, 28 February 2003

Standard Times.
Friday February 28, 2003

UN Special Envoy for Children visits Kono and Kailahun Districts

Continuing his week-long visit to Sierra Leone, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, Under-Secretary Olara A. Otunnu, yesterday flew to the eastern districts of Kono and Kailahun to witness first hand the conditions of children in the aftermath of the ten year conflict.

He called for efforts to break the cycle 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

and Children's affairs.

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.

Following his visit to a diamond-mining 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 February 28, 2003

Olara Otunnu shocked at child miners in Kono

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Under-Secretary-General Olara A. Otunnu, was Wednesday shocked at 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 diamond mining."

Mr. Otunnu said afterwards that 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 Representa-

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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 Maloma Kids Club in Daru who had gathered to discuss their problems with him.

He was accompanied by senior staff including a list of Outreach Manager Flovicki, representatives from National Commission for War Affected Children and some NGOs.