

**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:

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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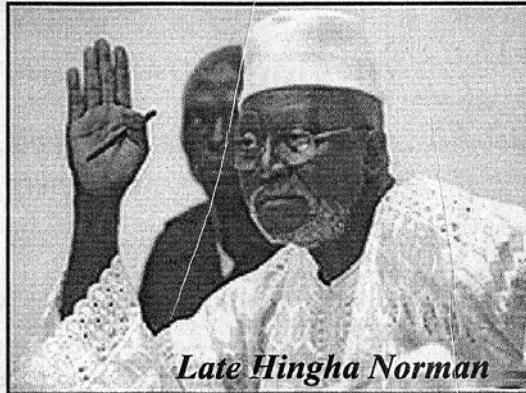
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Awareness Times
Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Kabbah Regrets Norman's Death

His Excellency the President Dr. Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah has said up in Bo, Southern Sierra Leone that he deeply regrets the death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman. The President made this statement last Saturday 24th February 2007 during the conferment of degrees and award of diplomas, certificates and other distinctions to graduands of the Njala University College.

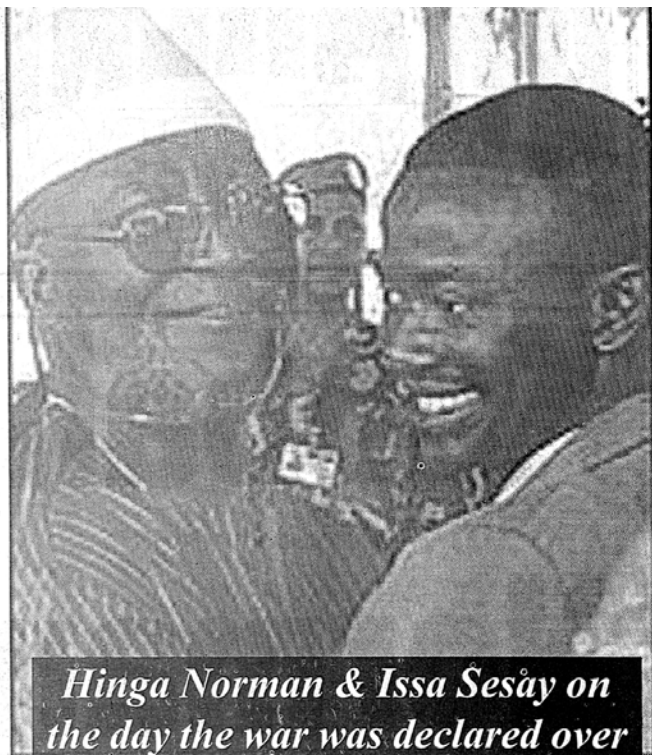
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Late Hinga Norman

**Former British
High Commissioner
Peter Penfold flies
in to assist with
Norman Funeral**

See Page 5



Hinga Norman & Issa Sesay on the day the war was declared over

Kabbah Regrets Norman's Death

Contd from Front Page

According to the President, he was on his way to Kambia on an official duty when he had a call telling him about Norman's death. He expressed how saddened he was to hear of such a report whilst assuring that the late man was not only a friend and brother to him but a truly patriotic citizen of the country with prominent positions attained.

According to Pa Kabbah, Hinga Norman was arrested due to his indictment by the Special court. He said he was unaware of the arrest until later when the former Inspector General of Police, Keith Biddle called at his office to inform him. The President said that the Special Court is an independent body over which was had no political influence.

President Kabbah explained that to maintain the country's image, nothing could have been done by the Government about the indictment.

The President further informed that as a sign of how committed he was to the late man, as soon as Keith Biddle informed him, he immediately called on Hinga Norman's wife to discuss matters about her husbands arrest.

According to Pa Kabbah, Madam Norman explained her plight to him stating that the arrest was untimely as her husband left nothing at home to sustain the family. President Kabbah elaborated further that he immediately dispatched food and money to continue to take care of herself and the Norman family.

Meanwhile as they were waiting for further judgement from the Special Court over Norman's indictment, the Special Court informed the government that the late man was sick and should be taken to Senegal for hip replacement operation which operation, the president said was done successfully only for them to be informed two weeks later of the very sad news that his friend and brother, Hinga Norman had died in hospital.

President Kabbah described the hospital where Hinga Norman died as one of the most renowned hospitals in Senegal where most of the Ministers and other prominent people go for medical check up.

In an emotional mood that was sad but at the same time strict, Pa Kabbah said he wanted to warn all Sierra Leoneans that Hingha Norman did not die as a war criminal and therefore anyone who was caught describing the late man in such terms could be prone to prosecution for which the President stated that if such persons were found guilty, the law will heavily deal with them for defaming the late man's name.

The President asked for the late man's soul to rest in peace and at this juncture President Kabbah commanded all those present to observe a one minute silent prayer for the late man. He assured of his Government's fullest support for the Norman family at this difficult time of theirs. He informed that a Government representative will witness the post-mortem to ascertain the cause of death of the late Hinga Norman.

REVD SAM FORAY, HINGHA NORMAN'S SPOKESMAN SPEAKS ON ARRANGEMENTS

FUNERAL COMMITTEES

Preparations to receive the final remains of former Regent Chief, Sam Hinga Norman, from Senegal are well under way in Sierra Leone. Funeral committees have been formed in Freetown, Bo and Mongere in the Valunya Chiefdom, Bo District. The Registrar of the Special Court is yet to determine how long the proposed autopsy on the late Chief will take and when the body will be returned to Norman's family in Sierra Leone.

TENTATIVE TRAVEL PLANS

As such, travel plans by the family from various parts of the world are tentative as are the funeral programs. Teams of forensic pathologists representing the UN and the Norman family are expected in Senegal possibly some time next week to perform a court-mandated autopsy.

Following the autopsy, the body will be handed over to the family's designated representative, former Vice President, Dr. Albert Joe Demby. Dr. Demby and another family member will join Norman's eldest son, Sam Norman, Jr. and the family's forensic pathologist in Dakar to take part in the autopsy.

PETER PENFOLD

Meanwhile Norman family friend, confidant and former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Chief Peter Penfold, has arrived in Sierra Leone to assist the family.

VIEWING OF BODY

It is expected that the body will lay for viewing at the home of Norman's other children, Juliet Norman and Mohamed Jawara, to give the public in Freetown a chance to say farewell to the Late Chief. Following the rites of Christian burial and a public viewing at a location in Bo, members of the Kamajor, Poro, Wunde and allied societies will convey the body for burial at Mr. Norman's family plot near Mongere.

NO SLPP OR GOV'T WANTED

The funeral programs do not include a state funeral or any other government sponsored activities, funding or participation in Freetown or Bo where the funeral itself will take place. Additionally, contributions from or on behalf of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) will not be accepted in accordance with Chief Norman's instructions. Officials of the Sierra Leone government, the SLPP and the special court are strictly advised to give due diligence to the instructions of Mr. Norman and the wishes of the family as well as the customs and traditions of our people.

This includes the prohibition of the transfer of Mr. Norman's body to any person or group not designated for that purpose by the family or the Society of the Kamajors and allied societies.

DONATIONS WELCOMED

Friends and well wishers in North America who wish to contribute to the funeral fund are directed to the SLAM account # 0047 - 7650 - 0267 at the Bank of America or mail to:

SLAM,
4222 Crystal Lane,
Garland, TX 75023,
ATTN: Mr. Reuben Ndomahina.

Information for those wishing to transfer funds via electronic means will be posted later. Those in Europe or the UK are asked to contact Mr. Harold Saffa at +44-795-027-1429 or Ms. Florence Norman at +44-207-394-1397. Sierra Leone residents are to contact Dr. Joe Demby at 076-616555.

We will keep you informed of other developments as they become available.

With Kind Regards,
Alfred SamForay,
Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund
Tel: +1-812-841-1000

Awoko

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Kabbah praises Norman

While officially opening the second congregation of the second university in Sierra Leone, Njala, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah made a sombre speech.

Though not an occasion for that the president asked the people's forgiveness for him to pay tribute to a fallen

hero, and called the late internal affairs minister and special court for Sierra Leone indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, "a friend and brother".

The president described his relationship with the late man as "very close" and that it dated years back while they worked at the "ministry". Chief Norman, he told the mammoth gathering, was "an

outstanding minister" while he worked for his government. He continued to state that, "Hinga Norman was a very good collaborator of mine" and that the man's death touched him more than anyone else.

He however went on to explain how the then Inspector General of Police, Keith Biddle, went to his office one day to break the news of Chief Norman's arrest by the special court,

and that ever since he had not been able to recover from the tidal waves of that message.

President Kabbah went on to state that his government could do nothing about the arrest even though the man was a minister in his ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) government, as it was clearly stated in the statutes of the special court that "the government should not interfere with the workings of the special court."

Awoko

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Special Court is not helping the peace process – PMDC Scribe

By Abibatu D. Kamara

Secretary General of the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) Ansu Lansana has said in Freetown that the Special Court is not in any way helping the peace process in the country by trying pro-government militia.

He noted that the Special Court coming after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is to a large extent a duplication. "If we were not going to have the TRC, then the Special Court may have served the purposes but even at that I am of the strong opinion that the Civil Defense Forces (CDF), the pro-government militia that fought very very hard to restore democracy in Sierra Leone, should not have been indicted before the Special Court" he maintained

The Secretary General echoed that Norman is a hero at the time when the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) rioted out the legally elected democratic government, most of the Ministers at that time left the shores of the country Norman stayed and organized a stiff resistance against the juntas.

Mr Lansana went on "he risked his life, paid personal inconveniences and sometimes slept in the bush in wild places to make sure the juntas did not have their way and the

country had its legally democratic government restored and I really think he is a hero and he ought to be

he was supposed to be very depressed when he was incarcerated at the Special Court but he would joke with



PMDC Scribe Ansu Lansana

given a hero's treatment and not the type of ignominy that he was subjected to."

On his reaction to Norman's death Ansu Lansana said "indignation and one of shock and one that saddened me extremely to the fact that it gave me an indication that I live in a country that does not glorify its heroes."

He went on "I regard Norman as a man who is steadfast - in the face of atrocities he held on to the view that Sierra Leone should have peace and he also held the view that his indictment was not the end of his life but unfortunately and ironically it turned out to be the end of his life."

Mr Lansana recalled that Chief Norman "was a very jovial man, at a point in time

visitors cite stories and could explain about his past and he was emotionally very strong."

Arguing that the Special Court was not necessary, Lawyer Ansu Lansana said "That is not to say one or two Kamajors did not inflict injuries and did not kill innocent civilians but to say that they should be tried before the special court means that they have criminal intent or criminal agenda to wreak havoc on Sierra Leone, that is not correct," he noted explaining that "the collective mentality of Kamajors was to restore the democratically elected government and not to wreak mayhem and carnage on Sierra Leone, that was not there collective intention so to say they have joint criminal enterprise to commit war crimes" as is stated in the

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Awoko Tok Tok

Appreciating Kabbah and Berewa's Crocodile Tears

If there has ever been a time in Sierra Leone's history when the English idiom: "shedding crocodile tears" is in currency, that time is now. And if there ever is a time when our politicians exhibited their mastery of hypocrisy, Chief Sam Hinga Norman's death is a case study of how politics could be a two-tongued affair.

We could not comprehend how the former coup-plotter, deputy defence minister, national coordinator of the kamajors, internal affairs minister and later war crimes indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, has become on his death "a friend and brother" of President Tejan Kabbah who says his relationship with the deceased was "very close" and that the dead man was "an outstanding minister" while he worked for his government.

But if that has been the end of the hypocrisy, we would have shrugged it off like the usual 'Kabbahian' mumbo-jumbo. But when Vice President Solomon Berewa, Kabbah's anointed successor, joins the two-facedness of the whole sympathy charade by stating that Chief Sam Hinga Norman was "a hard working colleague," and that his death took him aback "like everybody's reaction," we realized that the dead is being mocked.

Now our hypothesis on why we are appreciating Kabbah and Berewa's crocodile tears. It were, and still are, President Kabbah and Solomon Berewa who transformed Chief Sam Hinga Norman from a respectable government minister whose democratic credentials were intact into a potential war criminal. Many Sierra Leoneans were satisfied with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in their bid to know what happened during the eleven years war and how the wrongs could be righted.

But Mr Berewa, while Attorney General and Justice minister, allegedly convinced President Kabbah to write to the United Nations asking that a Special Court for Sierra Leone be set up. So on 12 June 2000, President Kabbah wrote a letter to the then UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, asking the international community to try those responsible for crimes committed during the war. Our president said that he believed the crimes were so grave as to be "of concern to all persons in the world. [Courtesy the Special Court web]"

And that was how President Kabbah roped in his "very close... friend and brother" who was "an outstanding minister," while Mr Berewa was scheming on how to be the next president of Sierra Leone when "a hard working colleague" was perishing in incarceration. And now they are professing to be grieving at Chief Norman's death. They are lucky that the dead do not speak!

It is now unconventional wisdom that Chief Norman died broken hearted despite the fact that he underwent a hip replacement surgery which we are yet to ascertain whether it was successful or not. He would be going to his grave with the thought that President Kabbah and Solomon Berewa gave him the Brutus' stab.

And if Chief Sam Hinga Norman was given the Brutus' stab by his "very close... friend and brother" and another colleague, then why are President Kabbah and Vice President Solomon Berewa playing Job's comforters?

Dear Sir,

"As a government, we could do nothing when Chief Hinga Norman was arrested, but only to wait and see what would happen".

"Norman was one of my best Ministers"

Mr. President these two statements coming from you upon the death of the "neglected hero Hinga Norman" were most unfortunate.

Firstly what you and your government should have done was to have ensured a more dignified and respectful arrest rather than the disgraceful and humiliating episode which your government sanctioned.

You should have told the Special Court that as "one of my best ministers". I shall see that he is available whenever you require him but not to authorize that he should have been totally surprised at his office whilst working and thoroughly humiliated and handcuffed.

Do you think your English or American counterparts Blair or Bush would have permitted even their worst Minister to be so treated? No No because they are STATESMEN which you definitely are not.

Secondly when Norman desired that you should be a witness for him you deliberately, defiantly, resolutely refused to do so- and it suits you now to call him "one of my best ministers":

Why Alhaji Kabba did you not go forward like a man and testify on his behalf?

People are now conjecturing that if you had come forward as you should have done you would have been viciously exposed as equally "blameworthy". No doubt it is such a fate that you fought to avoid.

Mr. President this is one time when you should have kept your mouth firmly shut rather than make a sincere mockery of both yourself and your Government.

On the issue of blame for the fate of Hinga Norman you and your Government are firmly and squarely to blame. In today's Awoko's opinion poll-your government is 100% to blame.

As one writer put it your culpability will be determined in the BEYOND - maybe your biggest consolation today is that almost certainly you and HINGA will then be in different places- I leave you to guess the respective locations.

GOD shall be the judge

Yours faithfully

J. Campbell

Kissy Dockyard

Editor: This letter was published unedited

Awoko

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Sudan defiant on Darfur suspects

Sudan says it will not hand over two men named by prosecutors at the International Criminal Court as war crimes suspects in the Darfur region.

The ICC named Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Haroun and Janjaweed militia leader Ali Muhammad Ali Abd al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb.

Sudan said the ICC had no jurisdiction to try Sudanese and that its own courts were capable of prosecuting suspects.

Some 200,000 people have died in a four-year conflict in Darfur.

The two men are suspected of 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said.

They include crimes committed during attacks on villages near Kodoom, Bindisi, Mukjar and Arawala in West Darfur.

Sudanese Justice Minister Mohammed Ali al-Mardi said: "We are not concerned with, nor do we accept, what the International Criminal Court prosecutor has opted for."

He added: "All the evidence the prosecutor referred to is lies given to him by people who bear arms against the state, bear arms against citizens and kill innocent citizens in Darfur."

Sudan is not a signatory to

the convention under which the ICC was established and has repeatedly said it will not abide by any indictments or rulings.

The BBC's Jonah Fisher in Khartoum says Ali Kushayb was a leader of the Janjaweed during the early years of the conflict, which has forced more than two million people to flee their homes.

According to ICC prosecutors, he commanded thousands of men and ordered them to rape, torture and kill the local population. But our correspondent says it is the naming of Ahmed Haroun that will have wider repercussions.

Mr Haroun had responsibility for Darfur in 2003 and 2004 and according to the ICC was responsible for organising and funding the Janjaweed.

Mr Moreno-Ocampo asked judges to issue summonses for the two men, saying there was reason to believe they bore "criminal responsibility for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur in 2003 and 2004".

The attackers, he said, "did not target any rebel presence. Rather they targeted civilian residents based on the rationale that they were supporters of the rebel forces".

The strategy, Mr Moreno-Ocampo added, "became the justification for the mass murder, summary execution and mass rape of civilians who were known not to be participant in any armed conflict".

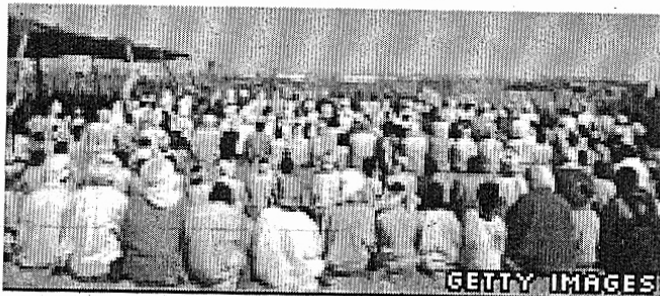
He said: "Ahmad Haroun visited Darfur on a regular basis and became known to people in Darfur as the official from Khartoum who recruits, staffs and arms the Janjaweed.

"The evidence shows that Ahmad Haroun provided arms for the Janjaweed from a budget that was unlimited and not publicly audited."

After Mr Moreno-Ocampo has filed the evidence of alleged war crimes with the court, its judges will have to decide whether to open an inquiry against the suspects with the aim of issuing international arrest warrants.

UN Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour said she hoped Tuesday's developments would be a "strong deterrent" against more bloodshed.

She said she expected more charges to be brought against both government and rebel officials.



Some two million have been displaced by the Darfur conflict

Concord Times
Wednesday, 28 February 2007

SAGELY ARCHIVES

By Tanu Jalloh

Apparently Samuel Hinga Norman's successful hip surgery he had in Dakar, Senegal was going to be used as a premise on which the Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) could base its raison d'être for celebration, in advance of an already perceived victory in the 2007 elections.

The party has, on several occasions, seemingly attempted at making public whatever private political arrangements that might have been discussed and or agreed upon by Norman/his representation and its interim leadership. This was evident in a press release said to have been signed by Chief Sam Hinga Norman of Valunia Chiefdom on 11 January 2007 in which he registered his intent to join the PMDC.

The release was said to have served as a formal notice of "his resignation from the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and his wholehearted and unconditional acceptance of the invitation to join the PMDC."

However, to many analysts, the said effort was in a desperate bid to influence the political decision of then

Norman: a loss to PMDC or SLPP?

before his death, at the Special Court, he could still not fathom the cause of his ordeal; a seeming political duplicity that slowly ate him up.

Some one week or so before the death of Norman in Dakar, the Committee to Elect Hinga Norman informed the public on the outcome of a meeting between Norman, other members of the CDF in detention and Charles Francis Margai of PMDC. It claimed that an agreement was reached on matters of mutual interest to both groups with respect to the 2007 elections. Hence a PMDC/CDF coalition has been formed.

Consequently all speculations, following previous statements made by or on behalf of Chief Norman and others with regard their political affiliations, were supposed to have been dismissed by now. Norman has formally made his political beliefs known. For this reason, it is obvious that the PMDC would forever consider Norman's death as one of the biggest loss they've ever had.

However, understood in the context of traditional party politics in this country, the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) is perceived to be the most indebted and still owing the late Norman an explanation. This explanation, it is believed, could have helped in determining his fate -at least following his stint as Deputy Minister of Defence, Internal Affairs Minister and National Coordinator of the paramilitary force that helped reinstate the ousted government of President Kabbah with regards party membership, loyalty and a humble pedigree. No matter what happened, the SLPP too consider his death a great loss regardless of the view that the party betrayed him while he was still a serving minister.

Norman served the SLPP government diligently. His supposed ordeal at the Special Court, which could largely be traced to the handiwork of the SLPP government -a party he fought so hard to reinstate- was therefore a surprise to many people, including his family members; a myth he died trying to unravel.

The African Champion

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Opinion

Special Court Should Pack and Go

The United Nations, steered by the invincible hands of the almighty USA, has taken the dispensing of international justice as another of its global peace keeping efforts. Since the Nuremberg trial of Nazis after the Second World War for war crimes and crimes against humanity, international justice has focused on using the International Court of Justice based in the Hague as a means of preventing further incidences of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Such tribunals have been set up in Yugoslavia to try Slobodan Milosovic who died in custody before a verdict could be rendered in his case. Another such court was instituted in Rwanda where over 800, 000 people were massacred in inter-tribal conflict. Yet there is genocide going on in Daffur, Sudan, with the UN powerless to intervene, stop the genocide or for that matter bring the perpetrators to book.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was also constituted along the same line that the Rwanda tribunal was set up – to bring to justice to those bearing the greatest responsibility for the carnage that took place between 1991 and year 2000. Four years after its constitution, with

no verdict yet arrived in the cases of the nine men on trial before it at a whopping cost of over \$100 million to set up the court's facilities and trial of the men, many people are asking what is the continued relevance of the Special Court? Is it to waste money or to have its under-worked officials loafing on our sunny beaches enjoying their tax payers' money at this country's expense? Those who bear the greatest responsibility according to the Special Court are mostly dead. Foday Sankoh the leader of the RUF is dead; so too his deputy Sam Bockarie. Johnny Paul Koroma another suspect who was wanted by the Court is presumed dead. And now Chief Sam Hinga Norman is dead. If then the principal accused persons are no longer alive to be tried, why continue to waste so many millions of dollars to try the rest who were just junior men in the command structure of their different armies? Another reason why the Special Court should not continue to exist is that the constituting of the Court went against one of the fundamental clauses of the 1996 Lome

Court officers enjoy fantastic salaries and other fringe benefits, including ideal working conditions, magistrates and judges in the Sierra Leone judiciary are lowly paid, have no official vehicles and quarters in the provinces. Looking back, many Sierra Leoneans now say it would have been better if real justice is to be done for the \$100 million used for the Court to try a handful of men used to reform the entire justice system in Sierra Leone. This is clearly a case of neo-imperialism continuing as our governments cannot determine on their own, what is good and not good for us. It is a mark of great respect to the leadership of neighbouring Liberia that they did not allow themselves to be railroaded into setting up a Special Court which would have only served to reopen old wounds or to keep open ones festering. "These are all just ways of employing their own people (the donors) at the expense of funds for real human development needs," opined a law student in Fourah Bay College. According to another school of thought, there are more pressing issues of law reform

Those who bear the greatest responsibility according to the Special Court are mostly dead. Foday Sankoh the leader of the RUF is dead; so too his deputy Sam Bockarie. Johnny Paul Koroma another suspect who was wanted by the Court is presumed dead. And now Chief Sam Hinga Norman is dead. If then the principal accused persons are no longer alive to be tried, why continue to waste so many millions of dollars to try the rest who were just junior men in the command structure of their different armies? Another reason why the Special Court should not continue to exist is that the constituting of the Court went against one of the fundamental clauses of the 1996 Lome Peace Accord which granted an unconditional amnesty to all combatants in the interest of peace and reconciliation.

Peace Accord which granted an unconditional amnesty to all combatants in the interest of peace and reconciliation. The whole idea that the setting up of the Special Court will improve the dispensation of justice in Sierra Leone by the international standards it will set do not now sound convincing. While Special

and codification that have been left unattended to by this government and its international donors. The feeling is that the Special Court was set up to victimize those who the system saw as a threat because the real architects of the war who supplied arms and ammunitions and gave orders from behind the scenes have all gone scot-free.

The African Champion
Wednesday, 28 February 2007

NORMAN'S DEATH IS DISASTER FOR SLPP

There is now a big split existing within the SLPP over the recent death of former deputy Defence Minister and Kamajoh chieftain Sam Hinga Norman. *The African Champion* has reliably been informed.

A source within the SLPP reveal the conflict has become so serious that some supporters have decided to hand over their party membership cards in protest and have vowed not to take part in any voting exercise. "We are tired with this kind of stain on the party," one supporter of the ruling party said.

Blames continue to be placed on Vice President Solomon Berewa as the main personality responsible for the establishment of the Special Court, and therefore the detention and death of Norman. "It was Berewa as Attorney General and Minister of Justice who worked tirelessly to bring the Special Court here even though the United Nations was against the whole deal in the first place," said Joseph Momoh, a teacher from Kenema. The recent

humiliation suffered by SLPP MP Ansu Kaikai who was thrown out by Norman's family when he went to express condolences in Bo has already sent signals to other ruling party stalwarts that they are not wanted. The Norman family has stated that they will not welcome anyone claiming to be a member of the SLPP during the burial.

In another development, the PMDC presidential leader Charles Margai has been asked by members of the Norman family to serve as chief mourner. Former Vice President Dr. Joe Demby will serve as a member of the delegation expected to go to Senegal and bring back the corpse of the late man for eventual burial in his home town.

Reports further reveal that there is such a big split that President Kabbah has not even been contacted by the family of the deceased, who are said to have publicly stated that they will not ask either the party or the government for help. All

former Kamajors have also vowed not to vote for the SLPP in the forthcoming election but rather to give their overwhelming support to the PMDC. It could be recalled that a week before his death, Norman had sent out a release while in Dakar, Senegal, calling on all former Civil Defence Force members not to vote for the SLPP but to put their total support behind the PMDC. "The big split over the death of Hinga Norman will cause a disaster for the SLPP in the coming elections," Pa Sowa, a staunch member of the old guard of the party predicted recently to *The African Champion*.



Independent Observer
Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Special Court Principal Defender Regrets the Death of Samuel Hinga Norman

Statement Attributable to Principal Defender Vincent O. Nmehielle

The Defence Office of the Special Court for Sierra Leone was informed yesterday that Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, a CDF indictee at the Special Court for Sierra Leone passed away at 11:15 am in Dakar, Senegal where he was recuperating from surgery.

Chief Norman, former Deputy Defence Minister and later Minister of Internal Affairs, was indicted on 7 March 2003 on an 8-count indictment for crimes against humanity, violations of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Chief Norman had been experiencing health problems that were not life-threatening but needed treatment. As result, he was taken to the Lâ™ Hospital Aristide Le

Dantec (a military hospital) in Dakar, Senegal on 17 January where he successfully underwent a medical procedure. Chief Norman had been in good spirits after the surgery until 22 February when he collapsed at about 10:55 am. Efforts to resuscitate him failed and he passed away at about 11.15 am.

Chief Norman was a great friend of the Defence Office in its duties to facilitate and ensure the rights of accused persons before the Special Court. His death therefore is a tragedy not only to the bereaved family but also to the Special Court and in some particular way to the Defence Office. We express our sympathy to the bereaved family and friends with whom we share this loss. The Defence Office is closely working with the Registry in all the arrangements to deal with this tragedy.

Special Court President Orders Investigation into Death of Hinga Norman

The President of the Special Court, Justice George Gelaga-King, today ordered an inquiry into the death of indictee Sam Hinga Norman.

The order was issued pursuant to Rule 22 of the Rules of Detention, which allows the President to order an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of any detainee.

The inquiry will be headed by Appeals Court Justice

Renate Winter of Austria.

Mr. Norman died on Thursday at the Hospital Aristide Le Dantec, a military hospital in Dakar Senegal. His death came two weeks after he received medical treatment which, although considered routine, is unavailable in Sierra Leone. The procedure was performed successfully, and Mr. Norman had been receiving post-operative care.

Positive Change
Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Totally Ungrateful Government!!!

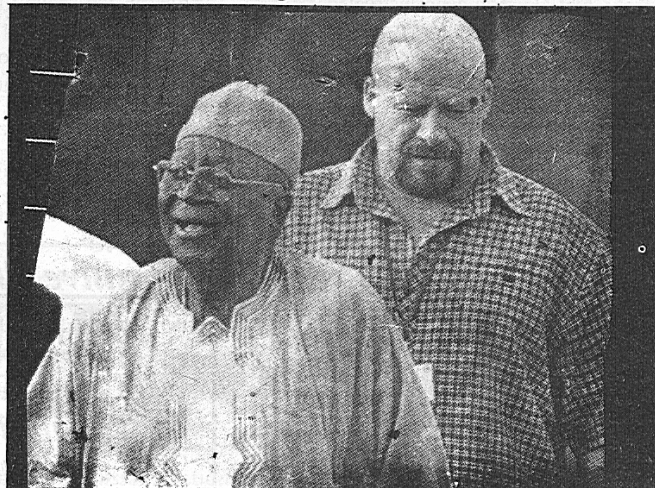
Norman Hounded To Death *-Who Benefits???*

By Theophilus S. Gbenda

Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, the much acclaimed hero, was pronounced dead on Thursday 22nd February, 2007, at about 11:15, in a military cell in Senegal.

Chief Norman was taken to Senegal on 17th January 2007, purportedly for medical procedures that were thought to be absent in Sierra Leone.

Chief Norman underwent a surgical operation on his hip on 8th February 2007, and according to accounts, the operation



Continued page.9

Late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman: Killed???

Norman Hounded To Death

From front page

was successful.

It could be noted that Chief Norman's hip was displaced during the time of his arrest, in March 2003.

According to reports, the situation became serious following his long detention and lack of necessary gadgets for exercise. This was evident by his use of a walking aid.

Despite frequent reports about persistent pain by Chief Norman, our investigations have shown that the authorities at the Special Court did not bother to treat the matter with the seriousness it deserved.

Our investigations have also proved that Chief Norman was only taken to Senegal when his condition became too serious.

Accordingly, the operation for which Chief Norman was flown

to Senegal would have been better performed in Europe or America, but because of the cost implication, the Special Court authorities thought it fit to have it performed by mediocre medical doctors in Senegal.

While the Special Court is of the view that the operation was successfully performed, the death of Chief Norman a few days after the operation has proved otherwise.

According to reliable sources, Chief Norman started bleeding profusely moments after the 'killer' operation, and that he bled up to his time of death.

Sources further maintained that Chief Norman was not given the post-operation care he required, giving that he was hospitalised in a kind of prison cell.

Independent accounts have

revealed that even while Chief Norman was in his hospital bed, he was subjected to persistent harassment and intimidation by operatives of the Special Court, as evident in the rude interruption of his last-ever interview with the British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC).

Accordingly therefore, some critical minds have attributed Chief Norman's death to conditions not unrelated with trial-surgical operation, poor medical care, excessive bleeding and perpetual stress.

Chief Norman's remains will be flown into the country later this week, and is expected to be buried in his home town.

Meanwhile, the bereaved family of Chief Norman has turned down offers made to them by SLPP government functionaries including Prince Harding and

Hon. Ansu Kai Kai.

Reports say the two missed being mobbed.

Meanwhile further, Chief Norman's family has reacted angrily to a condolence message that was sent to them by the SLPP, pointing out that when he was arrested, the SLPP government did not come out with a single statement - even though he was arrested while performing his official ministerial duties.

"Why are they now sending us a condolence message after they have succeeded in hounding our benefactor to death?"

Family sources have confided in this press that the postmortem examination will be performed today Wednesday 28th February, 2007.

The sources maintained that the mortal remains of the late Chief will be flown in latest Fri-

day 30th February, 2007, and would be conveyed directly to the premises of the Special Court.

The Special Court, according to reports, will make a final examination of the corpse and then hand it over to the SLPP Government, who in turn will hand it over to the bereaved family for onward burial.

Observers see this as indeed a fitting arrangement, since it was this same SLPP government that provided security for his arrest. "This has plunged the SLPP headlong into yet another difficulty ahead of the July 28th Presidential and Parliamentary Elections", observed one political pundit.

The million dollar question now is, "Who does Chief Sam Hinga Norman's 'state-manipulated' death benefit?"

Positive Change

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Kabbah Mocks Hinga Norman

...Says "He was my Friend"

By Theophilus S. Gbenda.

This press has been inundated with calls from several quarters regarding recent pronouncements by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah at the

graduation ceremony of N'jala University students in Bo; that the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman was his 'intimate friend', and that the government is putting modalities in place for a spe-

cial investigation team to probe into his death.

One such person that stormed our office with his reaction to what he referred to as "bullshit" is Moijue Kai-Kai, a staunch member of the People's Move-

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Kabbah Mocks Hinga Norman

From front page:

ment for Democratic Change (PMDC), based in the United Kingdom and a key Hinga Norman supporter.

"This is not only an insult, but a show of indecency by no less a person than the President", Mr. Moijue Kai-kai retorted.

According to him, Kabbah did not play any helpful role since the arrest of his so-called friend by the Special Court, and yet claiming only after the man had died that they were best of friends.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed", Mr. Kai-Kai said, add-

ing that if at all Kabbah recognised Chief Norman as his friend, he should have played a pivotal role in averting the unfortunate situation that subsequently led to his untimely death.

Mr. Kai-Kai went on to state that even some of them who were not necessarily friends of Chief Norman, paid dozens of visits to him whilst in the custody of the Special Court, and that even when he was admitted in Dakar, they made frequent enquiries about his condition and wished him speedy recovery.

Kabbah, Mr. Kai-Kai noted on the contrary, never visited Chief

Norman in detention, not to talk about any moves he took to restore his freedom.

He pointed out that even when Chief Norman called upon him (Tejan Kabbah) to testify in his defence before the trial chamber, he (Tejan Kabbah) outrightly refused.

He asked, "What kind of friendship is Kabbah talking about?" According to him, Kabbah also referred to Chief Norman as "an outstanding minister in my government".

"If that was true, why was Kabbah not generous enough to let the world know what kind of

person Chief Norman was, before now"? Moijue asked.

Asked whether the family will welcome moves being taken by the government to institute an enquiry into the death of Chief Norman, he answered in the negative, saying the late man made it clear before his death that the family should not accept any offers from the government in relation to his burial and so on. He referred to such a move as an attempt by the government to hide behind its guilt, insofar as the death of Chief Norman is concerned.

On the circumstances sur-

rounding the death of Chief Norman, Mr. Kai-Kai maintained that the late man had complained of severe pain around his hip for more than two years now, but that the Special Court did not treat the matter with seriousness.

He blamed the Special Court for taking Chief to Senegal, noting that he could have got a better treatment in either Ghana or Nigeria.

He concluded by sending condolences to the bereaved family, to which he is a trusted and dependable friend, not the Tejan Kabbah type.

Positive Change

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Voice From The Diaspora: Who Killed Hinga?

Was it a Foul Play or Did His Luck Run Out?

Former Deputy Defense Minister, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, first stuck out like a sore thumb in Sierra Leone's post-independent elections in 1967. Then a junior army officer on a semi-administrative appointment as ADC to the office of the Governor-General between 1966 and 1967, Norman felt duty bound to carry out the command of his then force commander, Brigadier Lansana, when he held the Governor-General under house arrest in the wake of the close-call elections outcome that year between the then ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and the opposition All People's Congress (APC); that sparked controversy and political crisis in that nation.

A marshal law ensued in a coup and counter coup within days between Brigadier Lansana and his junior officers in which the latter formed the National Reformation Council. When the dust settled down, an APC civilian government was restored that saw the technical defeat of the SLPP and the exile of its leader, Sir Albert Margai. This situation despite its humps and bumps still is considered the first time a ruling party had been defeated in an election in post-independent Africa.

But that was just the omen for his fulfilled tragic ending: It was the beginning of Sam Hinga Norman's 40-year span ending, in a spate of cheating death between 1967 and 2007 that seemed to have come to a final end this February.

It also set the stage for Siaka Stevens' 17-year rule of manipulative politics, assassinations of political opponents, reckless budgetary spending and unaccountable squandering and raping of the national economy, when Brigadier Lansana and others were executed for treason.

In his Special Court testimony in January 2006, Norman painfully told the Special Court judge, "... arms and singing around me, and were just holding me from all sides and I was being led. And then suddenly we ran into gunfire and eventually I never saw those who were carrying me and just saw myself alone and I had to just dive for cover and I survived." To which, the judge responded, "You must be very lucky." Norman was explaining to the Special Court how lucky he had been despite the many times he had cheated death. He was agreeing with the Special Court judge in his own words: "I count myself very lucky. In Sierra Leone that luck had earned me very miraculous issues, and names."

In 1968, Norman was charged with treason for his role in the 1967 election incident. His death sentence was later set aside on appeal after spending four years on death row at the notorious

Pandemba Road prisons. He counted himself lucky because many senior military officers, police officers and politicians were executed. That luck was put to test again soon after he was released in 1972 to walk the street as an unemployed man and later a businessman. In 1974, while on a business trip away from Freetown, he learned of a coup attempt on the government, Norman returned to Freetown to be with his family only to be arrested by Siaka Stevens' Special Forces on suspicion of treason. In another painful narrative, Norman told the Special Court:

"Not long after my return, I was picked up as one of the suspects. I spent 14 days at the CID in a very terrible condition. That was from the beginning of August 14 almost to 1 September 1974 I was transferred from the CID to Pademba Road and I was placed in the solitude confinement with just one blanket and one cup of water. I was there in my cell for 13 months without leave my cell or taking bath. I had fleas, in Sierra Leone I referred to them as karangbas. Eventually, I was released, and there was no case for me, no question, nothing."

But he still counted himself lucky to walk out of a case that ended up in another execution spree of Siaka Stevens' political opponents. In 1977, Norman narrowly escaped death in a campaign rally with other political activists for the SLPP in which APC trained hit men assassinated two of his compatriots.

Norman knew then that if he were to live it was time to leave the country. He went into self-exile to Liberia. He knew he was now on the APC-led government's Special Forces' radar for any suspicious subversive political activity. In Liberia, he accepted demeaning jobs as low as a houseman.

Just when he managed to become a poultry farmer in Liberia another misfortune befell him - A civil war broke out in Liberia that spilled into Sierra Leone.

The Sierra Leone and Liberia civil wars have been characterized as some of the most atrocious wars in recent war histories. For his role in the civil war in Sierra Leone, Norman became a prisoner of the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone for being one of many war leaders allegedly charged for bearing the "greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity" committed in the civil wars before his mysterious death this February in the custody of the Special Court. The most infamous prisoner presently in the custody of the Special Court for crimes against humanity in these civil wars is former rebel leader and former leader of Liberia, Charles Taylor.

Norman returned to Sierra Leone where he was shortly once more haunted by the civil war in his own country, the war he had fled from in Liberia, when Charles Taylor ordered some of his notorious commanders to attack Sierra Leone ahead of plan. It was understandable that once Charles Taylor was to have had a good grip on Liberia, Sierra Leone was next according to that plan. Liberia had become the staging ground for rebel take-overs in the West African region all-loyal to Libya's colonel Muammar Ghaddafi and France.

To espouse a synopsis for the latter being a figment behind many civil wars in Africa, Western Europe is in a struggle over its former colonies for the spoils of Cold War victory. Sierra Leone's APC-led government leaders who were busy rapping their country and suppressing opposing views by intimidation, marginalization and executions carried out by special security forces, were to be overwhelmed by Foday Sankoh, leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) on that front. It was this plan that Charles Taylor double paddled to forestall the building up of the Economic Community of West African States-ECOMOG forces in Sierra Leone that Charles Taylor and his backers saw as detrimental to the marshal plan of rebel takeover of the region.

Norman was now in the middle of the conflict at a stage he could not resist joining in. The war had reached home. For the sake of a better understanding for the heroic angle many Sierra Leoneans are espousing in honor of late Sam Hinga Norman, we must shed some light on the motivation behind his actions in the civil war.

Norman had fled from the war in Liberia at a time when Charles Taylor and his backers were in search of war mongers; where the spoils of war was a profitable enterprise for soldiers of fortune; where Foday Sankoh, whose reason for self-exile could be stacked up against Norman's, he had also been released from prison for treason, an embittered man, unlike Norman who had always looked at the good side of every misfortune that had befallen him, had been recruited.

Hinga Norman quietly returned to Sierra Leone to settle in his village away from national politics; became an interpreter and a spokesman for his Valunia chiefdom. He was later appointed regent chief for Jaima Bongor chiefdom, Bo district in 1994. By then, the civil war in Sierra Leone was in its third year. The National Patriotic Reformation Council (NPRC) had overthrown Siaka Stevens' pre-ordained successor,

late President Joseph Saidu Momoh, from power. But Foday Sankoh's rebels remained a challenge for the young military regime that had been showered with praises for gallantry by the marginalized and politically suppressed, wearied society for removing the APC from power.

Norman's chiefdom headquarters town of Telu-Bongor had been saturated with displaced people from war affected surrounding chiefdoms and refugees from Liberia. He knew his chiefdom was next, and in preparedness for such onslaught he narrowly survived according to his Special Court narrative, he helped to form a coalition of chiefs that offered seventy-five young, energetic and civic competent chiefdom men to defend his people. This is the coalition we now know as Kamajor in Mende, meaning hunters, that was emulated across the country as a defense mechanism against rebels we know as the Civil Defence Forces (CDF).

In the first attack on his chiefdom, Norman counted fifty dead of his seventy-five young men he had submitted to the coalition of chiefs for the purpose of self-defense, that were hastily trained and armed by the NPRC military regime. Although he counted himself lucky again, it suffices to state that he was the best trained former army officer of the lot; yet many have called him a warrior with magical powers that protected his body from bullet penetration.

He left Telu-Bongor and settled in Bo. He never returned in Telu-Bongor until he helped to reinstall civilian rule. He continued to organize the CDF nationally from between Bo and Freetown without any evidence of another live encounter with rebels. In that respect, many Sierra Leoneans are saying that Norman was as guilty as President Kabbah's guilty. He organized the CDF in his capacity as the deputy defense minister. Such was how Norman and his CDF fighters helped to restore civilian rule in Sierra Leone. President Kabbah and his army had disappeared upon being demoralized by rebel onslaughts. The people were now left at the mercy of rebel fighters known for hacking off limbs of their victims in the cruelest way akin only to the ironic King Leopold's Congo Free State of colonial Congo.

Norman's luck started running out when through his knowledge of military intelligence knew there was going to be another political crisis in Sierra Leone before President Kabbah was overthrown in about a year after the 1996 elections by Johnny Paul

Koroma's AFRC rebels. Norman did his best to give President Kabbah early warning signs of the looming political crises in vain. "And I was told that there was an imminent coup, but that with those parts of the weapons absent the coup may not be deadly and destructive. And so they were giving it to me for safekeeping. I took it from them. And as soon as they left, I also left and took this bag to my boss."

That boss that Norman was referring to in his testimony was President Kabbah, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Instead of taking action, Norman became the one who was now on President Kabbah's radar as a suspect of a coup until he was overthrown only for Norman to stay behind with his CDF fighters to restore him.

Norman had become an enigmatic figure in Sierra Leone for treading where no other politician dared. He took both weapons and orders from President Kabbah who was in Guinea and worked in collaboration with the UN-peacekeepers throughout the process of restoring civilian rule to Sierra Leone.

Vice President Berewa who was the Attorney General with his eyes on the succession of President Kabbah's leadership, according to some speculations, signed the Special Court deal that fell short of accommodating the protection of late Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who many Sierra Leoneans have called a First Class National War Hero #1. This in itself contravened the Lomé peace accord and the Truth and Reconciliation submissions that indeed advocated amnesty for all. In fact, the Lomé peace accord was ratified in the Parliament of Sierra Leone.

Once the Special Court was instituted, Hinga Norman was arrested from his office. According to the spokesman for the CDF, Rev. Sam Foray, "President Kabbah called Hinga Norman for no reason apparently other than making sure he was in his office. Few minutes after he hung up, officers were in Norman's office and he was arrested by the Special Court."

Norman's family and supporters held controversial position over his transfer to Senegal for medical treatment. Rev. Sam Foray had stated that Norman told him in a telephone conversation that he was surprised that he had been taken to Senegal to be locked up in yet another prison that was worse than the Special Court prison in Sierra Leone. Juliet, Norman's daughter who

Continued page 3

Positive Change

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Exhortation To Kamajors

By Chief Samuel Hinga Norman

1. I have been a MEMBER of the SIERRA LEONE PEOPLES PARTY (SLPP) since 1972, and up until today I still am. And a fully paid-up Grand Chief Patron at that for several years now.

2. I have suffered immensely in my time, in one way or another, for the SLPP. I was charged with treason and sentenced to death in the early years of APC power for allegedly participating in activities in support of the SLPP during the crisis years of 1966 to 1972. I spent a total of four (4) years in prison before my release on winning my appeal; and nearly another two (2) years' detention in solitary confinement (1974 to 1975).

3. And when the SLPP government was overthrown in May 1997 after only fourteen (14) months in office, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah fled into exile and made a passionate plea to the people of Sierra Leone to do everything in their power to restore his government back to power. You and many others, including my humble self even as his Deputy Minister of Defence, eagerly took to the bush for several months and finally succeeded in bringing back the President and his government in March 1998, a job we selflessly did without any prior conditions of remuneration or other reward.

4. The government subsequently made an agreement with the United Nations to establish a Special Court for Sierra Leone. And today, three of us who were among the most instrumental in securing that restoration are standing trial before that Court

right in the heart of Freetown, where we have been detained for over three (3) years now, all in proxy for your own alleged activities during the war.

5. Neither the Party (SLPP - Palm Tree) nor you as its members are responsible for what is happening to me and my two colleagues. The Party, as a party, has not done anything to hurt me. And so I will never take any action against the Party or anyone who has not hurt me. Our reward lies in the bosom and contemplation of the Lord Allah, and will surely come one day.

6. You may be aware that I have taken two judicial actions in recent months in respect of the Party, one of which is still pending in the Supreme Court. Time will tell that both actions were taken for the protection of the Party itself, so that other political parties do not invoke the national Constitution against it at an inauspicious moment to the detriment of the Party, especially considering its twenty-nine (29) years in the political wilderness from 1967 to 1996. After the Supreme Court decision, hopefully in the next few weeks, you will hear again from me as a matter of URGENCY.

7. Until then, PLEASE, in the name of God and the dear lives that were lost in the defence of our country and our Party, I repeat PLEASE, DO NOT JOIN ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY (new or old) for the purposes of the next general elections.

8. WAIT! BE PATIENT AND STEADFAST!!

DATE: 26th August 2006.

Positive Change

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

POEM CORNER

Sam Hinga Norman

By Roy Kosseh

Popular household name in this land of
ours,

Who always stand to defend the right.

There in exile, exiled by junta,

Fight from exile to bring back rulers.

Convinced his countrymen to join him
fight,

Succeed he was, they join his cause.

Victory they made to restore democ-
racy,

Democracy we see succeed at last.

Sam Hinga Norman indeed a hero.

Betrayal we know among the rulers,

Arrested and charged with war crime
charges.

Point of attraction he then becomes,

Endless trial continued to linger.

Sam Hinga Norman still stands a hero.

There stood him standing before the
court,

Ready to defend the way democracy
restored.

"Is this the price one pays for this?"

Heroically asking someone to answer,

Sam Hinga Norman indeed a hero.

Born in January, indicted in March, died
in February, a hero ever shall he be.

Positive Change

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

Chief Hinga Norman dies ...

Kabbah, Berewa and SLPP Succeed

We take this opportunity to officially announce the death of one of our cherished members, in the person of Chief Samuel Hinga Norman JP, who until his death, was in the custody of the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. The late Chief Sam Hinga served this country in various capacities. He first served as an operative of the Sierra Leone Army and rose to the rank of Captain. He was made Deputy Minister of Defence and later Minister of Internal Affairs, under the present Tejan Kabbah administration.

When the Kabbah administration was kicked out of office by junta elements in May 1997, Chief Hinga Norman, in league with other patriotic and SLPP loyalists, formed the Kamajor militia to counter the coup and restore the duly elected SLPP government back to power. At the helm of affairs was Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Many observers have the view that the Kamajors played a pivotal role in reversing the coup. In the cause of reversing the coup, a number of Kamajor fighters lost their lives, while others sustained severe wounds.

As a way of rewarding them for their efforts, the SLPP government brought the so-called Special Court for Sierra Leone, purportedly to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the heinous crimes committed during the war. This was how Chief Sam Hinga Norman (the former National Coordinator of the CDF), Moinina Fofana (the former Director of War of the CDF) and Alieu Kondewa (the former Chief Initiator of the CDF), found themselves in the custody of the Special Court. Chief Norman and his co-CDF Defendants had maintained their innocence throughout the trial which began in June 2004.

The verdict in the case was pending before Trial Chamber I of the Special Court when the need arose for Chief Norman and Issa Sesay, an RUF Indictée of the Special Court, to be flown out of the country for what the court's officials referred to as routine medical procedures which were unavailable in the country. The two left the shores of Sierra Leone for Senegal on 17th January 2007, and according to reports, they were hospitalised in a military hospital in that country.

Special Court accounts intimate that Chief Norman went through a successful operation on 8th February 2007, and was recuperating. Special Court accounts further intimate that Chief Norman, in the early hours of February 22, 2007, while talking with his doctor suddenly collapsed and died. Initial reports, according to the Special Court, intimate that Chief Norman died of heart failure. While we will not question the views of the Special Court on the matter, we are however concerned that the appropriate measures that would have saved the Chief's life were not taken, or even if they were actually taken, they were not in his best interest. While the Special Court claims that Chief Norman and Issa Sesay were hospitalised in the VIP section of a military hospital in Senegal, it has emerged clearly that such an account is far from being the truth. Even before Chief Norman died, he kept saying that he was held in a cell, and that the facilities accorded them were minimal, contrary to the bogus account of the Special Court. We have all reason to believe Chief Norman's account because he had been behind bars at least on two different occasions, and hence can distinguish between a cell and a VIP hospital for that matter.

A few days before Chief Norman gave up the ghost, his interview with the BBC was rudely interrupted by an operative of the Special Court, on grounds that he had no right to talk to that medium. The phone was forcefully removed from him. It could be noted that Chief Norman

was taken to Senegal for an operation on his hip. While contending with the fact that the said operation was long over due, let us trace the root cause of Chief Norman's hip condition. Reports say when Chief Norman was picked up from his ministerial office on March 10th March 2003, he was handcuffed and thrown at the back of a stationary utility vehicle like a cow being taken to a slaughter house that arrest was effected by Tamba Gbekie of the Sierra Leone Police in concert with Special Court guards. Accordingly, as Chief Norman was thrown into the utility vehicle, the driver violently drove off which resulted in the Chief falling on his hip, thereby sustaining an internal injury in the hip. Again, while the Special Court is claiming that Chief Norman died of heart failure, our investigations have proved that he bled to death ... it is therefore obvious that Chief Norman was not taken to the right hospital where he could have got a better or superior treatment.

This is so because before an operation is performed on an individual, pre-operative procedures must be observed by a trained and qualified Medical Doctor to ascertain whether the patient is diabetic or had suffered from any cardiac problem. We are yet to be told whether these formalities were observed ... because if they had been observed, the doctors would have detected any eventual cardiac arrest. Because Chief Norman was placed in a kind of detention facility, we cannot say whether in fact he was accorded an adequate medical attention, before and after the operation.

Even the cell which he found difficult to describe, could have served as a source of frustration for a patient about to be taken to an operating theatre.

If our account and that of the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman are anything to go by, then it is only safe to conclude that the latter was taken to Senegal to be slaughtered. Chief Norman, before his departure to Senegal, told his wife, Mamie, and those who had gone to visit him at his Special Court detention yard, to pray for him, saying, if he did return they would all smile; but that if God took his life, then the parting was well made.

We are told that Chief Norman even instructed his wife not to accept a single cent from any SLPP operative, in an event that he does not survive the operation. It is therefore obvious that Chief Norman was suspicious about his being taken to Senegal, but had no option. We therefore hold the Special Court for Sierra Leone and their backers (the SLPP Government and the United Nations), totally responsible for the untimely death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, and submit that posterity be their judge.

What is even suspicious is the manner in which Chief Norman was abandoned by the SLPP government during his difficult days behind bars. If not for any reason, Chief Norman found himself behind bars courtesy of the role he played as National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force (CDF) to restore the SLPP government back to power, after being prematurely overthrown by misguided junta elements. In view of that, it was expected that the government (since it proved handicapped to protect Chief Norman from being arrested especially in his capacity as a government minister at the time), should have shown solidarity by hiring or assigning two or three astute lawyers for his defence. Unfortunately however, the SLPP decided to abandon Chief Norman to his fate, and up to his death, no single government or SLPP functionary ever paid him a visit to console him or show solidarity.

Of course his troubled family members were harassed by government officials to quit the official residence Chief Norman occupied, shortly after his arrest. Chief Norman therefore felt dejected by the very ones he had selflessly

defended. This situation left Chief Norman with no alternative but to address a strong worded letter to President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, registering his disappointment and dissatisfaction, and asking for compensation for him and the rest of the former CDF operatives (See letter on back page). Up to press time, Tejan Kabbah has not responded to that letter - this shows how insensitive and ungrateful a man could be. It could be noted that Chief Norman, in his capacity as paid-up patron of the SLPP then, declared by proxy his intention to run for the leadership of the party in the Makeni 'ConBENtion'.

Although he was never nominated, the message however went down well that the SLPP was in for a very difficult situation. It could be recalled that after the 'ConBENtion' that saw Vice President Berewa being catapulted as leader of the party (contrary to the provisions of the 1991 Constitution which clearly stipulated that a serving vice president cannot double as leader of a given party), Chief Hinga Norman, despite his predicament, challenged the outcome of the 'ConBENtion' in the courts of law.

Although the High Court denied him the right to proceed with the matter on grounds that he lacked locus standi, he still took another step in the Supreme Court. The ruling was still pending when Chief Norman addressed what was known as 'Exhortation' to all former CDF fighters and his sympathizers across the country, asking them to stay away from any political party (whether old or new) until he gets back to them (See Exhortation on page 5).

As God could have it, Chief Norman, alongside the rest of the other detainees at the Special Court on Thursday 11th January, 2007 (exactly 41 days to his death), issued a joint press statement declaring their unflinching support for the PMDC, and damning the SLPP (See press statement on page 8). God, they say, works in a miraculous way his miracle to perform.

The question is, what would have been the fate of the former CDF fighters had their former Coordinator not told them the way forward? It would therefore be crazy for any former CDF fighter to choose to do otherwise, considering the fact that the death of Chief Norman could not have materialised (at least by now) had he not been rewarded in the fashion in which the SLPP chose to.

On behalf of the entire membership of the PMDC, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, and to assure them that we are firmly behind them in this difficult moment. We call on all former CDF fighters sympathisers of Chief Sam Hinga Norman to keep their cool, and allow posterity to hold those responsible for his death accountable. May his blessed soul rest in perfect peace!!!



The late Chief Hinga Sam Norman and his CDF fighters during the hot days of the war. He is shown wearing a safari suit with battered pair of shoes - all in defence of the SLPP and mother Sierra Leone.

BBC Focus on Africa

Thursday, 22 February 2007

Transcript

LEAD-IN: You may have heard in the news: Sierra Leone's former Defence Minister Sam Hinga Norman who is an indictee of the UN backed Special Court in Freetown, has died this morning in a military hospital in Senegal. He was 67. Mr. Norman had been flown to Dakar with another war crimes indictee, Issa Sesay, formerly of the rebel RUF, for medical treatment on the 17th of January. Our correspondent in Freetown, Lansana Fofana reports.

FOFANA: A Press Release from the Special Court early this afternoon confirmed the death of indictee Sam Hinga Norman at a military hospital in the Senegalese capital Dakar.

The Court's Chief of Press and Public Affairs Peter Andersen gave me this reaction: "Well the death of an indictee is about the worst possible outcome of a trial. You want to see for better or worse whether the verdict is going to be innocent or guilty, you want to see the trial completed and this is a great tragedy, we know for the family. It's with great regret that we heard the news that came out of Dakar today".

FOFANA: According to the Court, Mr. Norman suffered heart failure during post operative care. He is reported to have collapsed at 10:55 this morning, and died twenty minutes later. Reactions back home have been swift and mostly sympathetic, as I discovered on the streets of Freetown:

"It's actually a shocking news to me because as a Sierra Leonean, this was a man that stood by this present government to fight against the rebels, he was awaiting final verdict from the Special Court, the fact that we get it from the Special Court itself that this man has died is actually very, very surprising to me.

"It is very disheartening as a Sierra Leonean, we are not happy about the death of Hinga Norman, because he did a very good job, but for now he has died as if he is a pauper."

"It's shocking; it's unfortunate that somebody can be held for such a long time with a long procedure of trial like this without any sort of verdict passed against him; it's a complete shock, we've just lost an intelligent man, somebody who fought to save this country."

FOFANA: The Court's Registrar, Lovemore Munlo, has ordered an independent investigation by international medical experts to determine the exact cause of death. It is not immediately known when Mr. Norman's remains will be flown home, but Court sources say his eight count indictment for alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes may be dropped. Chief Norman headed the Civil Defence Force, a locally recruited militia that fought on the side of the government during the civil war of the nineties. He also served as Deputy Defence Minister in the current government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

That's Lansana Fofana reporting there from Freetown, and we would bring you more reactions this time from Mr. Hinga Norman's family later on the program.

And indeed you have also been commenting on that report. Jacob Baba in Freetown Sierra Leone says, "Hinga Norman will always be remembered as a hero in the history of Sierra Leone, but the government paid him with injustice. May his soul rests in peace."

And Samu Massaquoi also in Freetown says, “I really regret the death of Chief Hinga Norman, rest in peace hero.” Well, Peter Snell who is also in Freetown, Sierra Leone, says “Mr. Norman was not yet found guilty. He should have been allowed to talk to the media.”

The former Sierra Leonean Defence Minister Sam Hinga Norman who has died in custody in Senegal. He was indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Hinga Norman has been ill and consistently requested to be flown to the U.K. for medical treatment.

Well his son, also named Sam Norman gave, me this reaction to his father’s death.

SAM NORMAN: “I’m really sad this morning, I’m just like composing myself because I’m in tears right now, I’m in serious tears, I don’t know what to do, I’m really confused.

BBC: What information do you have about his passing?

SAM NORMAN: Well. I’ve just spoken to the doctor, and the doctor said to me that they were all sitting down this morning talking and then the doctor came to check him up. When he got up from where he was sitting to go to his bed, he just collapsed. They put him on the bed tried to resuscitate him, he was dead.

BBC: What else the doctor said could have caused his death?

SAM NORMAN: Well at the moment they don’t know, because I tried to ask him what actually will happen. He just gave me what I said to you, but they’re trying to find out what happened.

BBC: What about the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone under whose jurisdiction your father was? Have you spoken to them to find out exactly what happened and whether it is confirmed that he is dead?

SAM NORMAN: Well, I called them this morning in Senegal. I spoke to one of the securities that was there, and then he confirmed with me that he is dead, but I have my cousin who flew from Freetown to go to Senegal to go be by his side. So he was the one that phoned us this morning to tell us that he is dead.

Transcribed by the Press and Public Affairs Office

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 27 February 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Awareness Times February 26, 2007

Liberia's No-Nonsense Iron Lady Accepts Resignation of her able Lieutenant Willis Knuckles

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has returned back to Liberia from a working visit to Rwanda. Upon her return, she has accepted the resignation of her Chief of Staff, Minister of Presidential Affairs, Willis D. Knuckles. Knuckles washer most trusted lieutenant. "Finally, Fellow Citizens, I accepted today, with regrets, the resignation of my Acting Chief of Staff, Minister Willis Knuckles. I accepted his resignation, which he offered not because of demands from those who sought to use this unfortunate situation for blackmail and who should probably review their own moral probity. Rather, I did so because first, I have sworn to uphold high standards in my own behavior and have made it clear to my staff and others that they will be held accountable for the same standards, and second, because I am in full agreement with those who do speak with moral authority that the behavior of Minister Knuckles, while not illegal is improper and inappropriate for a public servant." she stated.

VOA 27 February 2007

Liberia: Former Leader Charged With Corruption

The Liberian government says it has formally charged Gyude Bryant, the former chair of the last national Transitional Government of Liberia. The charge alleges that Bryant misappropriated \$1.3 million dollars during the two years he served as head of the interim government. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf addressed the country Monday, promising to prosecute those involved in corruption in her government and former administrations. The president's speech came on the day that her embattled minister of state for presidential affairs, Willis Knuckles, resigned amid accusations of immorality.

International Clips on West Africa

BBC Last Updated: Tuesday, 27 February 2007, 12:25 GMT

Guineans back to work after deal

Guineans are returning to work after the trade unions and President Lansana Conte agreed on the ending of weeks of unrest and a damaging strike. Ex-diplomat Lansana Kouyate was chosen as a new prime minister on Monday night from a list supplied by unions and the opposition after a deal at the weekend. He replaces Eugene Camara - a close aide to the president whose appointment sparked the violence. On Monday, commemoration services were held for the 110 victims of the unrest.

Local Media – Newspaper

Presidential Affairs Minister Resigns over Sex Scandal

(Daily Observer, The News, The Informer, National Chronicle, The Inquirer, The Analyst, New Vision, The Liberian Diaspora, Heritage, The Independent and New Democrat)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf announced in a live radio broadcast last evening, the resignation of Acting Presidential Affairs Minister Willis Knuckles who has been at the center of a sex scandal.
- Despite accepting Mr. Knuckles' resignation with "regrets," the President however said her regret cannot extend to condoning "improper behavior" by a public servant who swore to uphold the tenets of the code of conduct."
- Meanwhile, the Liberian leader said that she was uncomfortable with corrupt practices in public life and assured Liberians that she would ruthlessly deal with the menace by prosecuting those involved in the act in the current Government and former administrations.

Former Liberian Leader Charged with "Property Theft"

(The News and New Democrat)

- Justice Minister Counsellor Frances Johnson-Morris said former transitional chairman Charles Gyude Bryant has been formally charged with "property theft" and would be indicted for supposedly misappropriating more than US\$1 million during his two-year tenure.

"UNMIL Disrespects former Liberian Envoy in Accident Case"

(The Liberian Diaspora)

- [sic:] Over a month ago on January 25, at about 10:45 am, Liberia's eminent statesman, Ambassador T. Ernest Eastman was involved in a near fatal automobile accident with an UNMIL Toyota truck with license number UN 6167 veered into his lane and rammed his vehicle damaging it in two places. The accident occurred on the Tubman Boulevard just in front of the Atlantic Insurance Company. Liberia National Police investigation of the accident in the presence of UNMIL traffic investigators found the truck driver, Nelson Sharp, responsible for the accident. Since then, the Accident Claims Section of UNMIL has dribbled Ambassador Eastman and disrespected him when he contacted them in an attempt to have the matter settled.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

Minister Resigns over Sexual Impropriety

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Justice Charges former Head of State with "Property Theft"

- Justice Minister Frances Johnson-Morris announced that the former National Transitional Government of Liberia Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant has been formally charged with "property theft" and would be indicted, having allegedly pocketed and misappropriated over US\$1.3 million dollars during his two-year tenure.
- Minister Johnson-Morris refuted that the entire amount in question was used for national security as professed by Mr. Bryant. She added that the former Chairman told investigators that he used over US\$200,000 for national security. "But if said amount is deducted from the US\$1.3 million, he was still liable to prosecution", the Attorney-General mentioned.

United States Committed to Reconstruction of Post-war Liberia

- United States Ambassador Donald Booth said that America was committed to the reconstruction efforts of post-war Liberia and described as "outstanding" the Liberian Government's presentation at the Partnership Forum on Liberia in Washington D.C.
- Addressing a news conference, Ambassador Booth stressed that his Country would provide more money to help Liberia realize the objective of the Forum and added that besides the waiver of Liberia's bilateral debts, the U.S. would lobby for the waiver of Liberia's multilateral debts.
- Meanwhile, Ambassador Booth announced that the U.S. Government was providing US\$15 million to service Liberia's arrears at the African Development Bank, US\$35

million to international financial institutions, and that talks had ended to provide US\$150 million to settle Liberia's arrears at the International Monetary Fund. This move, he stressed, was indicative of America's own way of helping Liberia settle the over US\$3 billion owed the international community.

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. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

BBC

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6402363.stm>

Sudan defiant on Darfur suspects

Sudan says it will not hand over two men named by prosecutors at the International Criminal Court as war crimes suspects in the Darfur region.

The ICC named Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Haroun and Janjaweed militia leader Ali Muhammad Ali Abd al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb.

Sudan said the ICC had no jurisdiction to try Sudanese and that its own courts were capable of prosecuting suspects.

Some 200,000 people have died in a four-year conflict in Darfur.

'Rape and torture'

The two men are suspected of 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said.

They include crimes committed during attacks on villages near Kodoom, Bindisi, Mukjar and Arawala in West Darfur.

Sudanese Justice Minister Mohammed Ali al-Mardi said: "We are not concerned with, nor do we accept, what the International Criminal Court prosecutor has opted for."

He added: "All the evidence the prosecutor referred to is lies given to him by people who bear arms against the state, bear arms against citizens and kill innocent citizens in Darfur."

Sudan is not a signatory to the convention under which the ICC was established and has repeatedly said it will not abide by any indictments or rulings.

The BBC's Jonah Fisher in Khartoum says Ali Kushayb was a leader of the Janjaweed during the early years of the conflict, which has forced more than two million people to flee their homes.

According to ICC prosecutors, he commanded thousands of men and ordered them to rape, torture and kill the local population.

But our correspondent says it is the naming of Ahmed Haroun that will have wider repercussions.

Mr Haroun had responsibility for Darfur in 2003 and 2004 and according to the ICC was responsible for organising and funding the Janjaweed.

'Criminal responsibility'



Some two million have been displaced by the Darfur conflict



Mr Moreno-Ocampo asked judges to issue summonses for the two men, saying there was reason to believe they bore "criminal responsibility for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur in 2003 and 2004".

The attackers, he said, "did not target any rebel presence. Rather they targeted civilian residents based on the rationale that they were supporters of the rebel forces".

The strategy, Mr Moreno-Ocampo added, "became the justification for the mass murder, summary execution and mass rape of civilians who were known not to be participant in any armed conflict".

He said: "Ahmad Haroun visited Darfur on a regular basis and became known to people in Darfur as the official from Khartoum who recruits, staffs and arms the Janjaweed.

"The evidence shows that Ahmad Haroun provided arms for the Janjaweed from a budget that was unlimited and not publicly audited."

After Mr Moreno-Ocampo has filed the evidence of alleged war crimes with the court, its judges will have to decide whether to open an inquiry against the suspects with the aim of issuing international arrest warrants.

UN Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour said she hoped Tuesday's developments would be a "strong deterrent" against more bloodshed.

She said she expected more charges to be brought against both government and rebel officials.

The United States has urged Sudan to cooperate fully with the ICC.



“ We hope that the work of the entire court will help to ensure the end of impunity for the crimes committed in Darfur ”

Luis Moreno-Ocampo
ICC chief prosecutor

BBC

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6402985.stm>

Ugandan ceasefire due to expire

by Adam Mynott

BBC East Africa correspondent

A ceasefire in a 20-year civil war between the Ugandan government and the rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army is due to expire.

A fragile truce has been in place for the past six months and there have been largely futile attempts to make progress in peace talks.

The LRA says the Ugandan government has violated the ceasefire, and says it will not renew the truce.

But the rebels also say that they will not resume hostilities.

Sticking points

In August last year when the Lord's Resistance Army and the Ugandan government agreed to stop fighting, hopes were high that one of the most deadly and savage civil wars in Africa might be coming to an end.

The two sides agreed to meet and talk in southern Sudan.

But negotiations soon stopped because of fundamental disagreement on vital areas like power sharing and reform of the Ugandan army.

International Criminal Court indictments against the LRA leadership for human rights abuses proved another obstacle. Now the LRA claims the Ugandan government has violated the ceasefire.

The Ugandan government alleges that LRA fighters have gone back into the bush in the Central African Republic and the eastern Congo.

It is hard to escape the conclusion that a conflict that has caused the deaths of tens of thousands of people may be on the brink of reigniting.



Rebel leader Joseph Kony is wanted on war crimes charges

