

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



A colony of weaver birds nests in a palm tree outside of Freetown.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Thursday, 29 March 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Independent Observer
Thursday, 29 March 2007

NO FOUL PLAY...

Hinga Norman's Autopsy Report Out

An autopsy to determine the cause of death last month of Special Court indictee Sam Hinga Norman showed he died of natural causes.

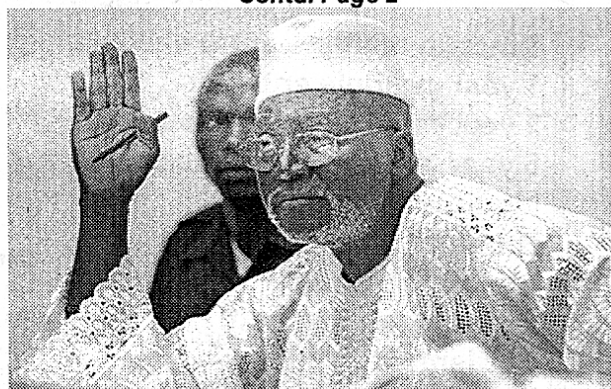
According to the autopsy report, Mr. Norman "died of natural causes from a myocardial infarction". The report was finalised this week after receipt of the results of toxicology tests.

The autopsy was conducted on March 5 by a four-member team of pathologists and medical experts led by Prof. Mendes of Senegal. One of the experts was selected by the Special Court, and one by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Former Vice President Dr. Albert Joe Demby, a medical doctor, observed the autopsy on behalf of the Norman family. Dr. Donald Harding, the Special Court's Medical Officer also attended as an observer.

In January, Mr. Norman was taken to Hospital Aristide Le Dantec, a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal, for a routine

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Norman Report Out!

From Front Page

medical procedure which was not available in Sierra Leone. The procedure was performed successfully on February 8. On February 22, Mr. Norman collapsed in his hospital room. Doctors tried unsuccessfully to revive him.

On February 22, former Special Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo SC, ordered an

inquest to determine the cause of Mr. Norman's death.

A separate inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his death was ordered by the President of the Special Court, Justice George Gelaga-King. That inquiry is being conducted by Justice Renate Winter of Austria.

A second indictee, Issa Hassan Sesay, also re-

ceived medical treatment in Dakar on the same day. Mr. Sesay was returned to Freetown on March 1 and is in good health. A copy of the autopsy report was sent to the Norman family. The results of the toxicology tests will now be made available to the family. *courtesy Special Court for Sierra Leone Press Release*

Sierra News
Thursday, 29 March 2007

Norman died of natural causes- Autopsy



An autopsy to determine the cause of death last month of Special Court indictee Sam Hinga Norman showed he died of natural causes.

According to a Special Court release quoting the autopsy report, Mr. Norman "died of natural causes from a myocardial infarction". The report was final-

See back page

Norman died of natural causes- Autopsy

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The autopsy was conducted on March 5 by a four-member team of pathologists and medical experts led by Prof. Mendes of Senegal. One of the experts was selected by the Special Court, and one by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Former Vice President Dr. Albert Joe Demby, a medical doctor, observed the autopsy on behalf of the Norman family. Dr. Donald Harding the Special Court Court's Medical Officer, also attended as an observer. In January, Mr. Norman was taken to Hospital Aristide Le Dantee, a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal, for a rou-

sent to the Norman family. The results of the toxicology tests will

tine medical procedure which was not available in Sierra Leone. The procedure was performed successfully on February 8. On February 22, Mr. Norman collapsed in his hospital room. Doctors tried unsuccessfully to revive him. On February 22, former Special Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo SC, ordered an inquest to determine the cause of Mr. Norman's death.

A separate inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his death was ordered by the President of the Special Court, Justice George Gelega-King. That inquiry is being conducted by Justice Renate Winter of Austria.

A copy of the autopsy report was now be made available to the family.

The Spark
Thursday, 29 March 2007

Special Court Result Out...

By Salifu Conteh

Since the mysterious death of Chief Samuel Hinga Norman former Leader of the Civil Defence Force, Deputy Minister of Defence and Internal Affairs Minister, on February 22nd this year at a military hospital in Dakar, rumours had been circulating far and wide as to the circumstances surrounding his death. Accusing fingers were pointed at both the government of Tejan Kabbah and the Special Court for his demise.

In a bid to quell all these rumours and ascertain the actual cause of his death, the Special Court has issued out the long awaited autopsy report.

The autopsy report as shown indicated that Chief Norman died of natural causes from a myocardial

Norman Died A Natural Death!!

Continued Page 7

Norman Died A Natural Death!!

From Front Page

infection which was finalised after the receipt of the toxicology test this week.

According to the report, the autopsy was conducted on 5th March by a four member team of pathologists and medical experts led by professor Mendes of Senegal.

One was selected by the Special Court and one from the government.

The family presence was felt during the exercise in the person of Dr. Joe Demby a qualified Medical Doctor and Dr. Donald Harding the Special Court Medical doctor also observed the autopsy.

The report further revealed that upon the demise of Norman an inquest was ordered by the former Registrar of the Special Court Mr Lovemore Munlo to determine the cause. The inquiry was ordered by the Special Court President Justice George

Gelaga-King and conducted by Justice Renate Winter from Austria.

Sources reveal that late Norman before he was flown out of the country, due to poor health, was an indictee of the special court for crimes committed against humanity during the war in Sierra Leone. He was flown together with Issa Sesay another indictee in January for a routine medical procedure at the Hospital Aristide Le Dantec, a military hospital in Dakar. After the medical check-up the patient collapsed in his hospital room, and subsequently died after all efforts by the doctors to revive him proved futile.

Chief Norman died as an indictee of the Special Court. His remains was handed over to his family and was later buried at his home town in Bo.

Issa Hassan Sesay was brought home in a good and healthy condition.

The New Citizen
Thursday, 29 March 2007

HINGA NORMAN'S AUTOPSY REPORT



LATE SAM HINGA NORMAN

An autopsy to determine the cause of death of special Court indictee Sam Hinga Norman showed he died of natural causes a press release issued by Special Court for Sierra Leone stated yesterday.

The autopsy report stated that he "died from a myocardial infarction."
Contd. back page

NORMAN'S AUTOPSY

From page 1

tion." The report was finalized this week after receipt of the toxicology tests.

The autopsy was conducted on March 5 by a four-member team of pathologists and medical officer, also attended as an observer.

In January, Mr. Norman was taken to Hospital Aristide Le Dantec, a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal, for a routine medical procedure which was not available in Sierra

Leone. The procedure was performed successfully on February 8. On February 22, Mr. Norman collapsed in his hospital room. Doctor tried unsuccessfully to revive him. On February 22, former Special Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo SC, ordered an inquest to determine the cause of Mr. Norman's death. A separate inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his death was ordered by the president of the Special Court, Justice George Gelaga-King. That inquiry is

being conducted by Justice Renate Winter of Austria.

A second indictee, Issa Hassan Sesay, also received medical treatment in Dakar on the same day. Mr. Sesay was returned to Freetown on March 1 and is in good health.

A copy of the autopsy report was sent to the Norman family. The results of the toxicology tests will now be made available to the family.

Awoko

Thursday, 29 March 2007

Norman died of Natural Causes

Barely one month after the death of Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, the Special Court yesterday made public the autopsy result.

According to the report, Chief Norman died of natural causes from a myocardial infarction. This report was finalised this week after receipt of the results of toxicology tests.

The post-mortem was conducted on March 5 by a four-member team of pathologists and medical experts led by Prof. Mendes of Senegal. One of the experts was selected by the Special Court and one by the government of Sierra

Leone.

Among the family members who were present when the autopsy was conducted were former Vice President Dr Albert Joe Demby, a medical doctor also observed the autopsy on behalf of the Norman family.

The Special Court's Dr Donald Harding and a medical officer were also in attendance as observers.

The late Chief Sam Norman was taken to HÃpital Aristide Le Dantec, a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal, in January for a routine medical procedure. The procedure was performed successfully on February 8 and on February 22, the former war

crimes indictee collapsed in his hospital room and was never revived by the doctors.

To find the real cause of his death, on February 22 the Special Court's registrar Lovemore Munlo SC ordered an inquest into Norman's death. A separate inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his death was ordered by the President of the Special Court, Justice George Gelaga-King. That inquiry is being conducted by Justice Renate Winter of Austria. A copy of the autopsy report has been sent to Norman's family and the results of the toxicology tests will now be made available to them.

Awoko

Thursday, 29 March 2007



Awoko Tok Tok **Of Contract Judges, And The Spirit Of The Constitution**

For the first time since the 1991 Constitution was enacted, the Chief Justice has decided to put into practice the provisions of section 136 of the constitution which allows him to appoint Judges (under contract) to fill in vacancies in the courts.

Though concerns are being raised in some quarters about this action – principally the fact that the Judges so appointed did not go through parliamentary approval – we believe the action was carried out in good faith.

Despite all of this however the question of whether the spirit of the constitution has not been violated has emerged as a serious concern.

This is because the Judges so appointed by the Chief Justice with the advice of the Judicial Service Commission are more likely to look on the Chief Justice as their boss and give him their unstinting loyalty, given the added fact that it is the Chief Justice who has sourced funds to pay them (DFID funded JSDP will pay and not from consolidated revenue fund).

We must make ourselves abundantly clear here that we do not in any way doubt the integrity of the three judges just appointed nor do we in any way intend to cast aspersions on their persons or their job – they are people of honour. We are merely complying with the dictates of our duty to question certain issues which in our opinion may affect the best interests of our beloved Sierra Leone.

Given the above however, though we are not lawyers and do not pretend to be, yet in our layman's view we believe that the constitution insists on parliamentary scrutiny of public officials in a bid to establish the independence of the different arms of government – in this case the judiciary from the total control of the executive. This is what we believe is the spirit or intention or call it whatever of the constitution.

This freedom or spirit of independence or constitutional checks are carried further by provisions which govern those who are paid from the consolidated revenue fund, like for example insisting that some group of people paid from the Consolidated Revenue Fund must not receive monies from other engagements.

Therefore, when the Chief Justice hires and pays Judges who are not subjected to all these controls, it is fitting to speculate on whether the situation of "he who pays the piper calls the tune" does not come into play.

In other words, the question is asked whether the Chief Justice will not exercise undue influence over the judges to the extent of interfering with the outcome of their cases?

The conspiracy theory stretches further when we consider that this is an election year, noting that this provision has not been used all these years except in an election year when we will surely have election petition cases – so what if the Chief Justice decides to panel his specially appointed judges to sit on the election petition cases are we likely to be 100% clear in our minds that the judgments delivered will be fair, given that the Chief Justice was appointed by the SLPP and he in turn has hired and pays the Judges who have not been subjected to parliamentary and constitutional checks?

Though we commend the Chief Justice for choosing local practitioners instead of importing Commonwealth nationals, nevertheless these are no doubt critical issues which beg the question – has our esteemed Chief Justice not violated the spirit of the constitution?

Concord Times
Thursday, 29 March 2007

Special Court fakes autopsy report

and undermines
ongoing
inquiries."

He complained
that the report
was prematurely
released while a
separate inquiry

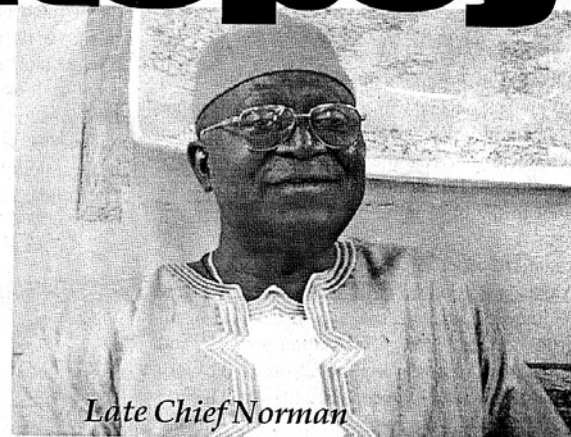
...Says Norman died of natural causes

By Tanu Jalloh

Son of the late Special Court
indictée, Sam Norman Jr. in
the UK Wednesday told

Concord Times in a telephone
interview that the Court's
autopsy report on his father,
Sam Hinga Norman "is a fake

into the circumstances
surrounding his father's
death is being conducted
Contd. Page 5



Late Chief Norman

Special Court fakes autopsy report

From page 1

by Justice Renate Winter on the order of the President of the Special Court, Justice George Gelaga-King. Norman Jr. also claimed that the family had hired the services of two English Forensic Pathologists, Professor Miller Roy and Mike Buller to represent it in the said autopsy but the Court refused.

Meanwhile, the Court's Press and Public Affairs Office earlier released a report of an autopsy to determine the cause of death on February month of Sam Hinga

Norman, erstwhile CDF Coordinator who has been in detention since March 7, 2003.

"According to the autopsy report, Mr. Norman died of natural causes from a myocardial infarction. The report was finalized this week after receipt of the results of toxicology tests," a statement revealed.

It also stated that the autopsy was conducted on March 5 by a four-member team of pathologists and medical experts led by Prof. Mendes

of Senegal.

One of the experts, it says, was selected by the Special Court, and one by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Former Vice President Dr. Albert Joe Demby, himself a medical doctor, observed the autopsy on behalf of the Norman family.

Dr. Donald Harding, the Special Court Medical Officer, also attended as an observer.

In January, Mr. Norman was taken to HÃ'pital Aristide Le Dantec, a military hospital in Dakar,

Senegal, for a routine medical procedure which was not available in Sierra Leone.

According to the Court the procedure was performed successfully on February 8 but on February 22, Mr. Norman collapsed in his hospital room and died after Doctors tried unsuccessfully to revive him.

The former Special Court Registrar, Lovemore Munlo immediately ordered an inquest to determine the cause of Mr. Norman's death, but resigned exactly 27 days later for

no good reason.

However, the Court conceded that a separate inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death Norman was ordered by the President of the Court, Justice George Gelaga-King and that it was being conducted by Justice Renate Winter of Austria while the report came out.

It also maintained that a copy of the autopsy report was sent to the Norman family and the results of the toxicology tests will also be made available.

The Special Court is an

independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone.

It is mandated to bring to justice "those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996."

To date, the Prosecutor has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

New Vision
Thursday, 29 March 2007

"My Dad Died Of Negligence"

-Cries Juliet Norman

The daughter of the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Juliet Hawa Norman claimed her father died of negligence.

Miss Norman who was reacting to the autopsy report which claimed the late Special

Court indictee died of natural causes dismissed the report, emphasising that so many

after the death of her father. "My sister, a nurse, who was there at the time can attest to the fact. In fact we understand daddy had two of his ribs
Contd. Page 9



Late Chief Sam Hinga Norman

"My Dad Died Of Negligence"

broken," she lamented.

Sam Hinga Norman Jr, who spoke on a telephone interview with New Vision from London yesterday said the family will take the autopsy report to a qualified medical doctor for further explanation.

When asked whether Dr. Joe Demby, the former Vice President, himself a medical doctor who was there as observer while the autopsy was being conducted could not explain the report, Sam Norman Jr. refused to comment.

When asked for his reaction, Dr. Joe Demby who represented the Norman family during the autopsy said: "My reaction is with the family." He then switched off his mobile phone.

The Special Court release issued yesterday says autopsy shows Chief

Norman died of natural causes.

According to the autopsy report, Mr. Norman "died of natural causes from a myocardial infraction."

The report which was finalized this week after receipt of the results of toxicology tests was conducted on March 5 by a four-man team of pathologists and medical experts led by Prof. Mendes of Senegal.

One of the experts was selected by the Special Court and one by the Government of Sierra Leone, the court release states.

Mr. Norman who was taken to Senegal for a routine medical procedure on February 8. He collapsed in his hospital room on 22 March, fourteen days after and died.

His body was handed over to his family for burial.

Awareness Times
Thursday, 29 March 2007

PRESS RELEASE

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

Autopsy Shows Sam Hinga Norman Died of Natural Causes

An autopsy to determine the cause of death last month of Special Court indictee Sam Hinga Norman showed he died of natural causes.

According to the autopsy report, Mr. Norman "died of natural causes from a myocardial infarction". The report was finalised this week after receipt of the results of toxicology tests.

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Doctors tried unsuccessfully to revive him.

On February 22, former Special Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo SC, ordered an inquest to determine the cause of Mr. Norman's death.

A separate inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his death was ordered by the President of the Special Court, Justice George Gelaga-King.

That inquiry is being conducted by Justice Renate Winter of Austria.

A second indictee, Issa Hassan Sesay, also received medical treatment in Dakar on the same day. Mr. Sesay was returned to Freetown on March 1 and is in good health.

A copy of the autopsy report was sent to the Norman family. The results of the toxicology tests will now be made available to the family.

#END

Standard Times

Thursday, 29 March 2007

The Courts in A Democratic State

OPINION

BY SAIDU KAMARA

The unnecessary delay in delivering justice by our judiciary system is giving a different interpretation to what the rule of law stands for in a democratic society. The court in any democratic nation is the last resort for redress, but alas, when the court which is expected to give to Caesar what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God is manipulated by the authorities, then the rights and freedoms of citizens are in jeopardy. The judiciary in Sierra Leone is not an exception to this that has gained strong tooting in our society. This state of affairs has exposed the judiciary to a barrage of criticisms and if not reviewed, may cost the third arm of government to lack public confidence.

It is expected that once a matter is brought before the court, justice should be dispensed speedily so that the rights of either parties concerned would be protected. When this is the contrary, the question is, where next to go?

This brings us back to the political will to ensure that there should not only be fair judgment but speedy conclusion of cases in the courts. Since the general election is just around the corner it is high time political parties tell electorates (the people) what their commitment to the justice system of the country is.

The reason is because we have heard a lot of promises on developmental programmes aimed at improving the status of the people but they were never honoured by the politicians after they have acquired political power.

What most people wish now is how can political parties guarantee us maintenance of our hard earned peace and to promote love and dignity amongst Sierra Leoneans. People want political commitment of the leaders to improve the judiciary and make it dispensable to justice in the country and that cases in the courts would be speedily investigated and prosecuted by the police and those found wanting charged to court in accordance with the law. It also

The courts in a democratic state



means that suspects charged to court will be given quick and full hearing to determine their innocence which if proven, must be acquitted and discharged while those guilty should be made to face the full penalty of the law or go to jail.

If this happens, it is said peace and stability in the country would start to bear fruits.

called that in November 2004, the General Manager Mr. Desmond Thomas told both Mr. Fatorma Mansaray and Mr. Anafieu Jalloh that he (Desmond Thomas) had two tankers for sale valued at Fifty-Six Million Leones (Le56m). According to the agreement, they gave him Le30m (Thirty Million Leones) and on 4th

Since solicitors closed their cases, it was expected that judgement would have been delivered in order to know the truth of the matter. But unfortunately this has not been the case up till now. Why judgement has not been delivered is yet a question for the magistrate presiding over the matter. Whether the delay is due

Delaying judgement for any other reason apart from the rule of law, could led to so many interpretations and assumptions.

Thirdly he should also realize that his reputation is at stake and the public is watching with open eyes to see whether or not he would bend the rules in order to satisfy who? There are so many cases that have been tested in the courts which judgements have never seen the light of the day. They are either locked up in the private closet of judges and magistrates or something else happened to them. This sad situation has pointed a very bad picture of the trial judges and the judiciary as a whole.

Let me hasten to say that we cast no aspersion on the magistrate but we are merely raising concerns over the delay in delivering judgment. In the case of Desmond Thomas, Fatorma and Anafieu, the delay has seriously impacted their operations as they have no tankers. Against this background, this medium holds the magistrate in high esteem and believes that he cannot trade with his reputation for either a future government contract or other consideration as we regard him above material benefits. Therefore in the interest of fair play and respect for the rule of law, let justice be done.

It is expected that once a matter is brought before the court, justice should be dispensed speedily so that the rights of either parties concerned would be protected

But when matters in the courts continue to be unattended to with no sign to pursue them, it leads to aggrieved parties lacking confidence in the system.

The issue of Fast Track Limited, an import and export company, situated formerly at 54 Wellington Street in Freetown had a business transaction with Mr. Fatorma Mansaray of 35 Sesay Lane, Calaba Town and Mr. Anafieu Jalloh of 44 City Road, Wellington. It would be re-

December 2004, an additional ten million Leones (Le10m) was also given as part payment of the said tankers which Desmond Thomas failed to fulfilled subsequently leading to the intervention of the CID who later charged the matter to Magistrate Court No. 3 presided over by Magistrate Bankole Shyllon. Since January 2005 to date, there is yet no headway to the matter as series of adjournments have been made any time the parties appeared before the court.

to fear or it is a ploy to frustrate the complainants (Fatorma and Anafieu), is any body's guess.

What this medium wants Magistrate Shyllon to know is that judgement should not be based on fear or favour that once it is delivered, their positions will be under threat by the powers that be. Secondly the magistrate should by now realize that he owes obligation not only to the state but to the people as well including the parties involved in the matter.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 28 March 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Government Sets Up Temporary Disaster Relief Committee

Monrovia, Mar 27, 2007 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The Government of Liberia has constituted a temporary Disaster relief Committee to visit several areas affected by recent natural and other disasters. The Committee is headed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Other members of the Committee include the Ministries of Finance, Planning & Economic Affairs, Education, Health & Social Welfare, Information and the General Services Agency. At an Emergency Cabinet meeting on Tuesday at the Foreign Ministry, it was decided that the Cabinet Disaster Relief Committee visits the affected areas including Nimba, Cape Mount and Margibi Counties. The Committee, according to a Joint Information Ministry/Executive Mansion Press Release will visit the affected areas to assess the level of damage in the areas.

International Clips on West Africa

Officers on trial over death in cell

Source: THE INDEPENDENT Date: March 28, 2007

DESSAU Two German police officers are on trial over the death of an asylum-seeker from Sierra Leone, who allegedly set his mattress alight in a cell. Charges of negligent manslaughter and bodily harm were filed. Prosecutors say the man's hands and feet were bound because he was drunk and resisting arrest. Charges of negligent manslaughter and bodily harm were filed. Prosecutors say the man's hands and feet were bound because he was drunk and resisting arrest.

Local Media – Newspaper

Government Sets up Temporary Disaster Relief Committee

(The Analyst, The Inquirer, Daily Observer and New Liberia)

- The Government of Liberia has constituted a temporary Disaster Relief Committee to visit several areas affected by recent natural and other disasters.
- The committee which is headed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs would visit the affected areas and assess the level of damage done.
- The constitution of the committee followed a tropical storm which swept through the City of Ganta in Nimba County, damaging more than 200 houses including public institutions last Wednesday.
- It can be recalled that fire recently gutted several homes in Venla Village in Kakata, Margibi County leaving many residents displaced and their properties damaged. Similarly, more than 125 persons were made homeless when fire destroyed 13 houses in Tewor District, Grand Cape Mount County.

Local Rights Group Says Inmates Languishing in Jail without Trial

(The News)

- A local human rights and pro-democracy organization said several inmates at the Robertsport prison and other prison centers in Grand Cape Mount County are said to be languishing behind bars without trial.
- The National Prison Monitor (NAPRIM) in a letter addressed to Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis said most of the prisoners have been in jail for more than six months now without pre-trial.
- The group said the lack of defense counsel in the county was responsible for the prolonged detention of suspects.

Another Lawmaker is Dead

(The Informer, Heritage, The News and National Chronicle)

- Grand Bassa County District number three Representative Edward Bueh Sundaygar of the Liberty Party is dead.
- Representative Sundaygar died early yesterday morning at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Monrovia following a prolonged illness.
- His death brings to three the number of lawmakers who have died since the inauguration of the Government.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 6:45 pm)*

Government sets up Temporary Disaster Relief Committee

- *(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

Press Union and Catholic JPC sign MOU

- The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) and the Press Union of Liberia yesterday renewed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide free legal services to the Liberian Media.
- According to the MOU, legal services will only cover bona fide and duly accredited press union institutions and individuals and in matters connected with the performance of their journalistic duties.
- The PUL will accordingly bring to the attention of the JPC any harassment, intimidation and physical abuse or threat of deaths made against the union and its individual members.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Opposition Liberia Unification Party Frowns at Bickering in Legislature

- The opposition Liberia Unification Party (LUP) has frowned at lawmakers for “arrogantly” ignoring the bribery claim before the house judiciary committee.
- According to LUP Assistant Secretary General, Miller Catakaw, the bribery issue should have superseded the election of a speaker and said the party considers the behaviour of the law makers as an attempt to evade justice and shield those who allegedly received bribe.
- Few Months ago, some members of the House of Representatives were accused of receiving US\$ 5,000 bribe each to remove former Speaker Edwin Snowe but the house judiciary committee said there was no evidence to carry out the probe.

Former AFL Soldiers Form Group to Ensure Peace and Stability in the Country

- In an interview, former Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) soldiers benefiting from the two hundred scholarships provided by government have organized a group that would work in maintaining peace and stability in the country.
- An official of the group, Jerry Kollie said the scholarship beneficiaries want to ensure that ex-AFL soldiers stay away from violence and channel their grievances through

peaceful means. He said the group was formed to encourage former soldiers to get actively involved in rebuilding the national.

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.

The New York Times

Sunday, 25 March 2007

Prosecutor Races to Complete Cases

Justice Hassan Bubacar Jallow, chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, ICTR, sits comfortably in his chair, like all men and women who are used to power. His CV runs to six pages recounting his many achievements, but giving nothing away about the private man.

Jallow, 57, has been in a number of jobs that called for strong leadership - justice minister and Supreme Court judge in Gambia; judge for the appeals chamber of the United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone; and an elected judge for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY. He also worked on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights which was adopted in 1981.

When he took the job at the ICTR in September 2003, he walked into an institution facing criticism for the slow progress of its cases, as well as the fact that there were no indictments against members of the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front, RPF, the ruling party, and President Paul Kagame in relation to their possible crimes committed by them during the 1994 genocide.

Nor did it help that his predecessor - Switzerland's Carla Del Ponte - was clearly unhappy that her contract with the ICTR was not renewed. Prior to September 2003, she was chief prosecutor for both the ICTY and the ICTR. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan then decided to split the jobs and brought in Jallow for the Rwandan tribunal.

Del Ponte said publicly that the UN had bowed to pressure from Rwanda. Kagame had called for her resignation, and she believed this was because she had started investigations against former RPF members.

The lack of indictments of RPF members remains a source of intense criticism.

Interviewed by IWPR in his sunny office at the tribunal in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha, with 3,000 metre Mount Meru in the distance, Jallow simply said, "The office of the prosecutor is working on the RPF cases. The work is ongoing."

The ICTR has not so far been able to prosecute RPF members because it depends heavily on the cooperation of the Rwandan authorities to pursue prosecutions.

Observers remain sceptical that anything will be done to bring alleged RPF perpetrators of abuses to justice, since the ICTR has to wrap up all cases by 2008 and its appeal cases by 2010.

Commenting on his experience working under both Del Ponte and Jallow, a prosecutor who wishes to remain anonymous told IWPR, "Del Ponte was used to making public statements. She was always running around. In contrast, Jallow is extremely calm. He is a diplomat, not just in the way he deals with the government of Rwanda, but also with people working under him."

Jallow laughed gently when asked about his management style. "I listen carefully before I take decisions. I may not make many public statements, but I do respond publicly when it is necessary," he said.

For Jallow one of the biggest challenges of the job is to bring witnesses to court to testify against those accused of the 1994 genocide, in which an estimated 800,000 to one million people - Tutsis and moderate Hutus - were systematically killed in just 100 days.

"It is especially difficult to deal with sexual-offence witnesses," he said. "There is a lot of reluctance among these victims to come to court and to testify. We have had to work very hard to make sure these witnesses are available and are brought to court.

"We work in an adversarial process, which can be extremely difficult for the witness. Every witness who has been subjected to a sexual crime knows that her evidence will be tested and challenged. For the duration of the trial, she will have to relive every moment of the ordeal over and over as she is questioned and cross-examined by the defence team as well as the prosecution."

It is difficult to persuade women who have since married to give evidence, and others may not wish to publicise their ordeal or simply want to look to the future rather than the past.

"I wish that we could have been more successful regarding sexual violence offences," he said. "There are difficulties in investigations, preparation and presentation of prosecution cases for all these reasons. The prosecution has consistently charged for rape where it believes there is evidence to support it. Of the 86 accused who have been indicted at the ICTR so far, 37 have been charged with rape and 22 are still on trial. Of the 12 completed rape cases, only four have been convicted on rape counts. The remaining eight were convicted on other counts."

He admitted that the rate of convictions for rape has been low, despite the fact that sexual violence was a widespread strategy used by perpetrators of the genocide. "We intend to improve on this in the remaining cases," he said.

Although the Rwandan government's cooperation is crucial to the functioning of the ICTR, relations have often been less than cordial. President Kagame has made scathing comments about the ICTR, claiming that the court was established "to do as little as possible", and accusing the West of allowing "French leaders" to get off scot-free even though he says they "directly took part in the genocide by aiding the Hutu militias".

When the inditees Emmanuel Bagambiki, a senior official in the former Hutu government, and André Ntagerura, former minister of transport and communication, were acquitted a few years ago, there were protests against the ICTR decision from Kigali. Ordinary people as well as government officials were unhappy with the acquittals.

Jallow visited Rwanda to explain the judicial process and managed to calm emotions. In an interview with the Rwandan news agency Hirondele, he said, "We need support and help from Rwanda in terms of providing us with evidence we can present to the court to make sure that we have a successful prosecution."

He says the relationship with Rwanda has improved dramatically. The ICTR is working closely with the country on many levels, including training lawyers and others in the legal fraternity.

"I empathise with the people of Rwanda," he said. "I listen to the government of Rwanda, and then I put forward my own position. I have tried to enforce a positive partnership which is both to the benefit of the Rwandan people and to the rest of the world.

"The ICTR owes it to the victims and survivors to make sure the process where perpetrators of the genocide are brought to justice is seen through and brought to a conclusion."

Jallow travels to Rwanda at least every six weeks to see government officials, and often meets Kagame. He has visited major massacre sites and most of the provinces, and speaks to survivors, potential witnesses and officials about possible co-operation with the ICTR.

"The Rwandans are trying to put in place witness protection programmes for witnesses testifying in national and gacaca courts," he said. "It is a big challenge for the community. Not only does justice have to be administered, but the witnesses later have to be re-integrated into their communities."

The 12,000 or more community-based "gacaca" courts work in the open air, using traditional rather than formal judicial procedure. They are being used as an alternative to courtroom trials because of the sheer number of cases - some predicted that these would have otherwise taken 150 years to conclude. The ICTR is involved in a skills-enhancement programme to help the authorities administer the gacaca courts.

Another challenge for Jallow has been to pare down the list of individuals to be brought before the ICTR.

"We investigated hundreds of people," he said. "Due to time constraints, the ICTR has to wrap up its trials by 2008 and complete appeal cases by 2010. We had to find other places to prosecute some of the perpetrators. We have handed over 30 files to Rwanda."

A lot of criticism against the ICTR has revolved around the huge amount of time spent on cases. Under Del Ponte, groups of indictees were thrown together and tried jointly. This has led in some cases to trials that have dragged on for years. A case in point is the so-called Butare trial, in which a former minister of family affairs, Pauline Nyiramasuhuko, is on trial with five others. The case has been going on for six years.

Since September 2003, the prosecutor's policy has been to proceed with individual cases. While existing multiple-accused cases have been allowed to continue, no more have been filed in the last three years. The statistics show that on average, the individual cases do not take more than four months to try.

In the trial of Tharcisse Renzaho, a former prefect of Kigali charged on six counts of genocide, complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity, murder and rape, the prosecution recently completed its case in just 12 days.

Negotiating guilty pleas has also been an important part of the completion strategy. Of the cases concluded, seven have been guilty pleas.

After nearly four years as the chief of prosecution at the ICTR, Jallow concluded, "I have learned more about law. I have learned about the intricacies of prosecution and the investigation of genocide crimes, and I have had to deal with many technical and logistical challenges."

He is certain the world needs preventive measures to ensure that genocide never happens again.

"This can be achieved by creating a good-governance environment in each country where core values like human rights and the equality of all people are respected," he said. "As a community and as individuals, we have to go back to basic values where people are taught to respect each other, to love their neighbours and to be forgiving. If there is respect, other things flow from that.

"Some may think the idea of love and respect for neighbours is naive, but in Rwanda - where these elements were lacking neighbours turned against neighbours, religious leaders against their flocks and family members against each other."

Asked about the charge that international tribunals are "western" judicial systems alien to Africa, Jallow replied, "The tribunals have been established by the Security Council of the United Nations, which represents the international community. Rwanda requested a tribunal to be set up, and the standards and laws of the (Rwandan and Yugoslav) tribunals are universally accepted ones."

Rumour has it that the ICTR will close its doors at the end of 2008, and the appeal cases will move to The Hague. Jallow's appointment runs until September 2007, but it seems reasonable to anticipate that this will be extended.

He himself was non-committal when asked whether he wanted to stay on until 2008 or even 2010.

"The prosecutor is appointed by the Security Council of the UN. The decision lies with them," he said.

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Guinea's leader names government

Guinea's president has named a new government, a month after appointing a consensus prime minister to end a series of crippling strikes.

Lansana Conte's decree was announced in a television broadcast to the West African nation.

It came after consultations with Prime Minister Lansana Kouyate.

More 100 people were killed during a seven-week period of unrest earlier this year in the country. Most were shot by Guinea's security forces.

A broadcast by Mr Kouyate accompanied President Conte's decree.

"I have formed a government team which the president has seen fit to accept, and which will immediately tackle the problems we face," it said.

The prime minister said that tackling high unemployment was his government's priority.



President Conte won a third term in 2003 elections despite poor health