

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Wednesday, November 03, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914

CONCORD TIMES

Excellence and Objectivity

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Special Court indictees demand compensation



David Crane -
Special Court Prosecutor

By Joseph Kamanda

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) indictes Santigie Bobor Khanu, Ibrahim Kamara and Tamba Brima has demanded compensation from the Special Court for what they described as a violation of their fundamental human rights, a letter dated 25 October 2004 and signed by the trio states.

According to the letter, they were arrested and unlawfully detained since 10 March, 29 May and 17 September 2003 respectively by the Court.

"We are still being held in indefinite detention without trial, which amount to the violation of our fundamental human rights and

also a violation of our constitutional rights as Sierra Leoneans. We have as at the date of this letter (25 October 2004) not been informed of our trial," the letter said.

In the light of the above, the letter noted, the indictes are calling on the Court to set a date for their trial or immediately release them without any precondition.

SLPP has no links with Al-Qaeda

**Kabbah: has clean record**

...US Embassy refutes allegation
By Abayomi Tejan
The Political and Economic specialist of the United States Embassy in Freetown, Abdul Kpaka Massally, has expressed concern over reports that the US State Department recently issued a press release condemning the Sierra Leone government for registering

planes operated by Al-Qaeda terrorists. "We have no such information, and if the US State Department issued such a release we would have been informed," Massally is reported to have stated to offi-

cials at the transport ministry shortly after a story was published in the African Champion newspaper on November 1. The political and economic specialist also requested for

the full list of aircraft registered in Sierra Leone to cross check with the US state Department if any of them is included in any list of banned, terrorist aircraft operatives it might have. The US Embassy official also indicated that they might issue a counter press release on the matter shortly.

Neither the police nor government has issued any statement lending substance or credence to a story that has been making the rounds for the past two months.

This latest report of an alleged US State Department press communiqué has raised the dust again and the Minister of Transport and Communications, Dr. Prince Harding, is under intense pressure from government to vindicate himself of the allegation. Dr. Harding has also been targeted by some sections of the print media that are linking his assets to

SLPP and Al-Qaeda

From front page
funding derived from his association with terrorists. This has changed the climate from one of genuine concern over our security and relations with the US, to what has been perceived as a political crusade against the Secretary General of the SLPP, a position that is being hotly pursued by others.

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Awoko

Motto: Service To The People

Established: 1998

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INDEPENDENT

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AFRC detainees demand release for detention without trial

Former AFRC and Santigie Kanu Commanders Alex (Brigadier 55) who are Tamba Brima (Gullit) presently detained by the Ibrahim Kamara (Bazzy) Special Court have in a

letter dated 25th October and captioned "Indefinite Detention Without Trial" called on the Special Court

Registrar to "release (them) immediately without any precondition". The three

say they were arrested and detained unlawfully since 10th March, 29th May and 17th September 2003 respectively, and that they are "still being held in indefinite detention without trial." The three, who signed the letter by

affixing their right thumbprints; say this action by the Prosecutor of the Special Court "amounts to violation of (their) Fundamental Human Rights and also a violation of (their) Constitutional Rights as

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AFRC detainees demand release

From Front Page

Sierra Leoneans." They maintained that they have still not been informed of a date for their trial. It is in this

The Registrar

Special Court For Sierra Leone

Jomo Kenyatta Road

Freetown

25th October, 2004.

light that they are demanding an unconditional release and "compensation for the violations against (them) and any continued violation."

When contacted officials at the Public Information section of the Special Court say "such matters can only be addressed through their lawyers."

Dear Sir / Mdm:

Re: INDEFINITE DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL.

1. We the SLA / AFRC Detainees, names listed below, write in respect of the above mentioned subject.
2. We were arrested and detained unlawfully (taking the Lome Agreement signed on July 7th 1999 into consideration) since 10th March, 29th May and 17th September, 2003 respectively by some one referred to as Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. We are still being held in indefinite detention without Trial, which amounts to violation of our FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS and also a violation of our Constitutional Rights as Sierra Leoneans. We have to the date of this letter (25th Oct; 2004), not been informed of our trial.
3. In light of the above we the undersigned are demanding that you set a date for our trial on the receipt of this letter without delay or on the alternative, you release us immediately without any precondition.
4. We are also by this letter demanding from you, compensation for the violations against us and any continued violation of our Fundamental and Constitutional Rights.

Faithfully yours,

a). Tamba Brima - RTP

b). Ibrahim Kamara- RTP

c). Santigie Bobor Khanu - RTP

Copies - on the attached page.

...and who supplied weapons to Kamajors

As the Special Court witness- TF2-021 continued his evidence-in-chief yesterday at the Trials Chamber, he disclosed how the Militia acquired weapons to fight against

the rebels. At Base Zero where he said he was deployed after going through the Kamajor initiation ceremony successfully, the witness disclosed that he saw Chief Norman, Moinina

Fofanah, Allieu Kondewa who he said was the Chief Initiator of the Kamajor Militia, Kosseh Hinda amongst others. Chief Hinga Norman he explained, at a point in time at Base Zero, which

is the Headquarters of the Militia, landed with an Helicopter loaded with.
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and who supplied weapons to Kamajors

From Front Page

arms, and ammunition; adding that they then carried the weapons on their head to the armoury store at the Base. "Chief Norman said that the arms were to be used to proceed to Korigbondo, as he said it is a place occupied by rebels who perpetuate all manner of evil," the witness told the Court. He went further to explain that at a village called Gbendema which was a Kamajor base, Chief Norman went there again from Liberia to supply them with arms and ammunition to be used for the planned advance on the township of Keneima; adding

that the arms were handed over to their Commanders whom he named as Eddie Massalay, C.O. Kallon, Orjallay and Colonel Hooper. Earlier on while recalling happenings at Korigbondo, the witness said that Chief Hinga Norman gave them an order to kill everyone they happen to meet at Korigbondo and burn all houses. At their Base the Prosecution witness went on, their Commander, CO Gobeh informed them that they would be proceeding to Freetown to fight, as instructed by Chief Hinga Norman during a meeting in Bo. "We were

flown aboard a chopper from our base to Cockeril during the January 6th invasion of Freetown. The Secretary of Chief Hinga Norman called Moses registered us upon disembarkation and we were later handed weapons. I had a ULIMO AK47 rifle which I fought with first at Congo Cross and later at Brookfields Hotel," the witness disclosed; adding that during the battle to push the rebels out of Freetown, 10 Kamajor Militia fighters were deployed alongside 10 ECOMOG soldiers as a fighting team.

Amiko

(Wednesday) November 3, 2004

LAST OF THE CARNIBALS EXPOSED

By James B. Sawyerr
CDF indictees, Samuel Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondewa have refused to attend court sittings at the Special Court when the CDF trials resumed yesterday as a witness. TF 2-021, made startling revelations about a Kamajor slaughtering base known as

Yamortoh base' at Yandeyama, in the Kenema District, where RUF and their collaborators were killed and subsequently eaten. The witness, TF 2-021, led in evidence by Special Court Prosecutor, Miss Palmer, informed the court that he was part and parcel of the Kamajor outfit when

Masiaka Town was attacked in 1998 and that many civilians were shot at point blank range while properties including bicycles, tape recorders among others were looted by the civil militia.

He further confessed that he shot a woman

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FROM PAGE 1

CARNIBALS EXPOSED

dead and looted the entire township while four girls between the ages of 17-18 years were captured and abducted to Base Zero in Moyamba.

TF 2-021 also stated that in a village at Moyamba, CDF indictee, Allieu Kondewa forcefully took the four girls from him and initiated them into the Bondo society after which the girls became his 'wives' in the jungle.

At this juncture, defence Lawyer, Charles, for Hinga Norman and other CDF indictees, raised objection on the grounds that the Prosecutor was misleading his client.

But this was over ruled by Trial Judge Benjamin Itoe who later warned the Prosecutor not to mislead the CDF witness.

The witness also revealed that much atrocities were perpetu-

ated against the civilian populace and that at Basé Zero, Hinga Norman brought arms and ammunition in an helicopter to the CDF commanders, Allieu Kondewa, Moinina Fofanah and Kase Hindo to fight the RUF.

The witness further testified that at the Court Bari, Hinga Norman told Kamajors that the arms and ammunition were to be used to fight against the RUF and their collaborators in Kenema District and that CDF Commander, Joe Temini, was appointed at the time to lead the militia men, adding that everybody should be killed and that all houses must be burnt down at Koribondo where Sam Bockarie alias 'Mosquito' was reported to be hiding.

He went to state that

CDF Commanders such as Eddie Mansaray, Kallon Orshaley and Colonel Hooper were present in a town called Gendema where Hinga Norman later addressed them to invade the Kenema Township and set free B.S Massaquoi from the hands of the RUF rebels.

Witness TF2-021 also told the court that the Kamajors came under heavy attack from the Sierra Leone police operatives at an S.S camp near Kenema, which propelled the militia men to subsequently invade the Kenema township and captured many collaborators as prisoners of war.

He further stated that the police barracks in Kenema was searched and that some police personnel were found hiding under their beds but such police personnel, including so called collaborators were taken to the Kenema football field and set ablaze.

The Court was adjourned to today.

The New Citizen
Wednesday 3 2004

revealed at Special Court...

How Kamajors ate people

By Tamba Borbor
TF2-021- the code number of the witness who is presently testifying at the Trials Chamber of the Special Court, has disclosed how members of the Kamajor Militia

allegedly ate people whom they captured. Lead in his evidence-in-chief by Counsel for the Prosecution - Sharon Palmer, the witness who is a Muslim and testified in Krio said that he was at his village called-

Pendembu, which is in the Kailahun district, when rebels attacked; capturing himself and other boys of his age. On how he became a member of the Kamajor militia, the witness, who is presently aged 18 and the 19th in a row of witnesses

presented by the Prosecution Team since the start of the CDF trials, went on to explain that they were then taken to Ngehun where they stayed with the rebels. At Ngehun he said, Kamajors

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AWOKO NEWSPAPER

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How Kamajors ate people

From Front Page

attacked the rebels and seven of them (boys) were captured including three women. The three women were killed and thrown into the Moa River, as the Kamajors claim they are wives of the rebels, he explained; adding that upon reaching Kenema town, they were then taken to the base of the Kamajors at Kaisamba Terrace, where his captor 'German' took him to his village called - Talia Yawbecko. At this village the witness further explained, he was initiated in to the Kamajor Militia during

which he including other initiates were marked all over their bodies with a razor blade and a black-coloured "thing" smeared on their bodies. "We were told not to wash for a week and after the time had elapsed, we were taken to a graveyard at around 2:00am and told that anyone who falls asleep would see a relative of his who had died, handing "something" over, which would then make us powerful in battle," he disclosed. After this episode, 80 men lined up with 40 on each side and we had to pass

through the long line between them, the witness recalled that some of them collapsed while he sustained a swollen jaw after going through the exercise. Sent on a mission to Kenema to free a man identified as B.S. Massaquoi, the witness explained that after successfully driving the rebels from the township during their second attempt, they started searching under the beds in the Police Barracks, where they

captured a number of Policemen and killed them. Their bodies he said were burnt with a tyre and mattress placed on them. "There was another group among us called- "Yamortor" who were cannibals. A Colonel Biko was the Commander, and he ordered the men to capture some

people and take them to the swamp where they would tie them to a thorny stick and stab them to death. After they have been killed, the remains would be placed in a boiling pot of water to peel off the foreskin. Their hearts, liver, two legs and other parts in the stomach would be

removed and the remaining part of the body immersed into a very hot cooking oil to prepare 'gravy' which some members of the Militia would eat with bread or rice," the Prosecution witness recounted how the head would be cut off and placed on a stick to be erected at a checkpoint. The trial continues today.

Handwritten signature

11/03/2004 NOVEMBER 3, 2004

KAMAJOR TESTIFIES IN SPECIAL COURT

WHY WE KILLED POLICEMEN IN KENEMA TOWN

By Mohamed Mansaray

A prosecution witness in the trial of CDF Special Court indictees, TF2-021 told the court yesterday that Kamajors (including the witness himself) murdered scores of Police officers in Kenema between 1997 and 1998 when they captured the town from rebels.

The witness testified that the purpose of the attack was to secure the release of the former Kenema Town Council chairman, BS Massaquoi, who according to the witness had been arrested and kept in the Kenema Police Station. Led in evidence by a prosecution lawyer, Sharan Parmar at Court Room No. 1, New England in Freetown, the wit-

ness testified that they were initially fired upon by police officers when they approached the station, which forced them to retreat to Ngegbema where Karmoh Brima (Kamajor initiator) was based. He informed the court that the orders to go to Kenema and set free Mr. Massaquoi was given by Karmoh Brima.

Testifying in Krio through an interpreter in English, the witness told the court that they launched an attack on Kenema for the second time in a bid to free Mr. Massaquoi and succeeded in over-powering the

SEE BACK PAGE

Kamajor Testifies On Kenema Attack

rebels. We mobilised on Kenema in fours and the rebels retreated because we were in possession of many artilleries which the enemies did not possess at the time of the attack", he said. The witness informed the court that when they captured Kenema, Kamajors entered the police barracks and searched for officers whom they (Kamajors) perceived as rebel collaborators.

He told the court that during the course of the searching, they entered rooms and shot in the ceilings of houses as well as under beds for officers who were in hiding. "We killed some police officers under the beds", he said and added that Kamajors equally targetted rebel collaborators during that attack. The witness did not however give figures as to how many police officers in all Kamajors slaughtered during the attack but he did testify that he himself dragged an officer to a nearby football field and burnt him alive using petrol and tyres.

He went on to tell the court that the second Kamajor attack on Kenema was preceded by a meeting at Ngegbema, at which the witness quoted Karmoh Brima as accusing police officers and other young people in Kenema of collaborating with rebels and gave orders for them to be killed. The witness told the court that the attack on Kenema was led by three senior commanders and named Eddie Massally, CO Kallon and Col. Hooper as those who carried out the attack, all of whom he said, commanded a group. "CO. Kpotei was my immediate commander", he further told the court.

The witness went on to cite the first CDF accused Samuel Hinga Norman as supplying them with weapons at Gbendema (a kamajor base) in the Pujehun district from Liberia for the Kenema mission. He also quoted Mr. Norman as supplying weapons to Kamajors at Base Zero in the Bonthe district to attack Koribondo in the Bo district.

In his testimony earlier, the witness testified that he was nine years old when he was captured by the rebels in Pendembu, Kailahun district between 1995 and 1997 and taken to a village called Ngiehun. He told the court that the village was later attacked by Kamajors who also captured him. "Six other boys and three women were also captured", he told the court and further testified that the women were murdered and their bodies dumped in the Moa River accusing them of being rebel wives whilst they were being led to the CDF office in Kenema.

The witness also testified that Kamajors went on a looting spree in Ngiehun before they burnt down four houses in the town.

The trials continue.

Salome Time

Wednesday November 3

2004

Norman's Case A Minefield For Kabbah Gov't

Disturbing angle

There is a disturbing angle to the Hinga Norman story being peddled by some SLPP stalwarts who believe there is a conspiracy by the present government to put paid to Norman. Many agree that the Special Court with its mandate probably had no other option but to arrest Norman.

MAVERICK

Pro-Norman SLPP stalwarts point out that the President and Vice President have never been really that comfortable with Norman who has an independent streak about him. He had in fact supported Demby for the VP position at the last election and gets along fairly well with Charles Margai, they claim. They fear that the government may in fact be glad to hand Norman out to dry. Many say the electioneering for the

SLPP leadership has already started and Norman may be a sacrificial lamb. Some other strong stalwarts who played a role in the Civil Defence Force and whose political inclination within the SLPP is towards a leadership at poles with the

down a lot of people with them.

SLPP, KEEP OUT!

Norman himself has given specific instructions he does not want the party to contribute to his defence fund. "Chief Sam Norman, through his Counsel has indicated that he will

officials or accept any funds or legal assistance from the same. Chief Norman has indicated that he will rely entirely on support from his friends and relatives at home and abroad to finance his legal defense," a press release from the

disgraced. They cite Harry Will's case as one in which the government disgraced him for political reasons. Scarier is their claim that AFRC Junta associated elements within the police (who ironically have been catapulted by this govern-

the government for its apparent abandonment of a "hero". There is so much sympathy for Norman even among non SLPP folk that if he is not found guilty and returned to normal life his political fortunes may be greatly enhanced. On the other hand, a guilty verdict for Norman will be a good campaign platform for a dark horse within the party to launch a leadership campaign against candidates from the present leadership. It will be easy to brand them as people who abandoned a hero in the hour of need. I don't think we have seen the last of this Norman issue yet.

MINEFIELD

The government may not be guilty of these accusations but it cannot deny it is walking a minefield if it does not handle the fallout from the Norman indictment well. Ponder my thoughts!

VERBA MEA AURIBUS-Ponder My Thoughts

The government may not be guilty of these accusations but it cannot deny it is walking a minefield if it does not handle the fallout from the Norman indictment well.

present one are running scared. They fear that as much as the Special Court is independent the government may want to use it to hit at opponents within the party by distancing itself from the actions of these individuals. They go one step further to say that if they are touched they will bring

not accept any aid - financial, legal or otherwise - from the government of Sierra Leone or the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP). Mr. Norman has also advised friends and organisations working on his behalf not to collaborate with any government or party

Hinga Norman Defence Fund stated last year.

WIN, WIN FOR NORMAN

The other angle that is not good for the country is that strong SLPP people from the South and the East are complaining that the government always allows one of their kind to be

ment to senior positions) tipped off Johnny Paul Koroma to allow him to escape. All of this does not bode well for the SLPP and some people are predicting the Norman issue will break up the party into more factions. News from Bo and Kenema is that people are irked with

Salome Times

Wednesday November 3 2004

The OSWALD HANCILES Column

The Re-Education Of The Racist David Crane

The chief prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, David M. Crane, has been referred to as a racist.... That is to say, Sierra Leoneans attached to the prosecutor's office are given strict orders and shouted at as if they were in a military barracks.... Aside from the fact that some Sierra Leoneans working there are far more experienced than many of the white folks (most of whom are having their first ever practical experience in an actual trial), reports indicate that Sierra Leoneans are only restricted to office jobs like filing and report gathering.... (All) the sensitive sections of the court, excluding the outreach section, are headed by money-grabbing white folks...."

--"Special Court...Prosecutor Practices Racism". By Theophilus S. Ghenda, STANDARD TIMES, October 21, 2004

I have been writing all along that the very essence of the Special Court reeks with racism - in their dare to prosecute our Kamajor War Heroes, Chief Hinga Norman, et al. The Messianic pronouncements of David Crane, Special Court Prosecutor, when put in the context of relatively peaceful justice-filled Sierra Leone history; and when this is juxtaposed with the genocidal history of the United States (near annihilation of 'red indians' in America; four centuries of the Atlantic Slave Trade and slavery in America!), the bully tactics of the United States in global affairs today, manifest such travesty of justice, that only a hypocritical racist American like David Crane would spout soundings of "Justice"....and "The End To Impunity" in Sierra Leone...with a straight face. Yes, David Crane needs to be re-educated. But wait, a minute!! We must intensify the re-education of the Sierra Leonean elite. First!!!

How can Sierra Leoneans expect to be respected by racists like David Crane when too many of the cream of our elite betray such intellectual cowardice, such intellectual shallowness? Here we were in the year 2000. Our capital city in January 6, 1999, had been sacked by beasts in human form: the RUF and AFRC. Our infants and grandmothers gang-raped. Our

boys crudely amputated. Our historic houses torched in their thousands. A form of 'institutional referendum' was conducted to determine whether we would capitulate to have "power sharing" with the monsters who had so dehumanized us. Almost 99% of us crescendoed: "No Power Sharing!!!". Then, the Americans, and the British....said: "Power sharing with the RUF/AFRC demons would be the best solution to our problems....". And we agreed. Voite face!! We meekly signed the Lome Peace Agreement. We brought Foday Sankoh to town and gave him the status "equivalent to a Vice President" - and being master over our mineral wealth. We made RUF child monsters like Eldred Collins and Mike Lamin MINISTERS in government. Sat with them in cabinet meetings. My mind reels in incredulity at what our elites cave in to in recent times!!!

Imagine: British government in 1944 making Goebbels and Himmler cabinet ministers! Or, Osama bin Laden the Secretary of State in George Bush's cabinet! Then, another group of white men came and told us: "Foday Sankoh is bad. Mike Lamin is evil". And we agreed to the Special Court to try them for War Crimes. So, imagine: what if Sankoh had not tried to topple President Kabbah's government? And May 8, 2000 and the 'People's March' had not taken place? Would we have had a Special Court - trying our 'Vice President Foday Sankoh' and cabinet minister Mike Lamin for "war crimes"?

Do we bristle today as we are smacked with racist insults from white people?. That reminds me of a white German I talked with in Liberia in the 1980s. She told me that before she went to Liberia she was not a racist. But after a few years in Liberia she became a racist. Why? She was appalled by the sheer laziness of Liberians; their propensity for hedonism, and their beggarliness.... I guess, if that lady had come to Sierra Leone, she would have felt the same way. Why is it that nearly all our big money areas - in mining, in import, in construction - are being controlled by non-Sierra Leoneans? Look, my compatriots, if we want to

fight against racism, then, we must learn the Laws of God...Laws of the Human Mind....Laws of Human Society....

That would mean studying very hard - and obsessively. Thinking to solve problems. Workaholicism. Learning to cooperate with each other. A willingness to fight against injustice in our society. And giving support to those who fight injustice. We must not just wail at, and denounce, the David Cranes who debase us as we make a mess of organizing our human society. We lend credence to the Crane's racist insults in the manner in which we have organized a rotten society in Sierra Leone. This does not mean we must not re-educate the David Cranes.

Crane: why not you use this opportunity of being here to learn the history and culture of some of the people you are now prosecuting, especially the Kamajor Mendes. I cannot speak authoritatively for the other ethnic groups in Sierra Leone (others can do that). What I know is that the Mendes have evolved a civilization hundreds of years old: a civilization comparable to the most civilized ones - from the Aztec, Egyptian, Japanese, Chinese, German, to the British...even, American. The Mendes who spawned the Kamajor leaders you are now prosecuting are highly legalistic, pacifist, fervently religious.... So, what happened that some of these very Mendes took part in some of the horrors that you are now emblazoning for the world to see? Because they are men. In every period in human history, men have always kindled the devil within (and buried the divinity within) and unleashed horrors on other men - when pushed to a corner; when their survival as a group is threatened by outsiders. All men, if we are to believe the 'truths' of anthropologists, emerged from Africa...and spread to the rest of the world. You have lighter skin, Crane, but, you 'ancestors' once had dark skin...were Africans. Welcome back home, David Crane. Your education continues....

How Hinga Norman Attacked Koribondo



David Crane



Hinga Norman

By Joseph Turay

An 18 year old former Kamajor fighter yesterday revealed to the special court that he was stripped naked with over 400 people that were captured by the

Kamajors.

The witness who was led in evidence by prosecution counsel, Sharon Palmer, earlier disclosed that he was born in Pendembu, Kailahun district and was living with his

parents where he was captured by rebels which separated him from his family.

He was taken together with other captives to a Kamajor base in a village called Ngeihun where they lived

with the Kamajors.

Sometimes the Kamajor commanders sent them to forage for food. Civilians they abducted were given head loads to carry. Witness code named TF-1021 explained

... Witness Reveals

that at one time Kamajors at their base captured seven person who included child combatants and three women. They were given looted prop-

erties to carry. When they reached a river called Moa, the three women were a shot dead before they crossed in a

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How Hinga Norman Attacked Koribondo

From front page

boat to the Kenema side of the river. They were taken to the CDF office at Kai Samba Terrace in Kenema town by a commander called Jahman who later told them that they were going to be taken to a village for them to be initiated into the Kamajor society.

Witness said when they drove them in vehicles to the village, they were taken into a bush where about 400 other people who were also going to be initiated.

Suddenly they were all tripped naked with razor blades and their captors rought in a black coloured aterish substance they neared on their bodies.

Witness revealed that their initiator called Papay onday ordered them not rub off the substance from their bodies until after one week, after which witness stated that they were taken to a cemetery at around 2 p.m. There they spent some time and later returned to the bush where they had their

initiation. TF-1021 told the court that they were lined up in groups and were beaten with sticks by the Kamajors he said instructed him to do so.

Witness TF-1021 further stated that during this initiation session, most of the captives had wounds on their

bodies and some of them fell unconscious. Later they were all given a black liquid substance called "manessi" in containers that the Kamajors said they should smear on their bodies whenever they go to the battle field.

He added that they were also given 'Ronkos' which they were ordered to put on. Later their names were all registered by one commander Dr. Gibao.

Witness further narrated that before he was deployed at their Base Zero under the command of Jahman who he said taught him how to fire a two grip pistol. Later they gave it to him to be used with other captured and trained fighters to attack surrounding villages and capture civilians.

His first mission was at Masiaka where they attacked RUF rebels in a fight that lasted for about two hours. In that attack one of his comrades was shot dead. The Kamajors panicked and eventually shot dead a woman. After much exchange of fire they succeeded in capturing the town and started looting household properties.

TF 2-021 explained to the court that when they were in the bush he saw Kamajor big men like Moinina Fofana, one Kosseh Hinda and Hinga Norman who he said at one time came with arms and ammunition in a helicopter

they transported to their arms store.

Witness said Chief Norman summoned a meeting the day of his arrival and instructed all the commanders including Joe Taeminda to use the arms and attack Koribondo town which he (Norman) said was full of rebels and that when they captured the town they should kill everybody and burn down all the houses.

The witness further told that at Gbendema town again Chief Norman went with arms in a helicopter where he (Norman) called one Eddie Masallay, C.O Kallon, Col. Hooper and one Ojallay and handed the arms to them.

TF 2-201 narrated that at Gbendema when they heard that rebels had captured one of their commanders, B.S. Massaquoi, in Kenema, they went to attack the rebels and the police deployed their opened fire on them. They retreated and later attacked the police again. Having overrun them, they started searching for police officers in the barracks. Many were captured and shot dead, while some were burnt alive in a field. He concluded that they also captured police collaborators who were later shot dead and burnt with tyres and mattresses while some others were taken alive to one of the Kamajors group which he called "Yamantor", meaning to eat succulent human flesh.

The
Exclusive
Wednesday
November 3
2004

CDF Indictees Damn Special Court

By Joseph Komeh

The trial chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, presided over by trial judge Honourable Benjamin Mutanga Itoe, yesterday resumed the third session of the CDF trials with the prosecution leading in evidence the 19th witness TF2-012. However all three CDF indictees did not show up in court for the trials. The absence of the CDF

indictees was not a surprise to the chamber, the defence counsels, the prosecution and the public since the indictees have



David Crane: What is going on?

earlier snubbed the previous day a status conference that was supposed

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CDF Indictees Damn Special Court

From front page

to organise exchange between all the parties so as to ensure expeditious trial proceedings. The status conference with reference to Rule 65b (ii) of the Rules of procedure and evidence is designed to review the status of their case and to allow them the opportunity to raise issues in relation to what bothers them as the trial progresses.

The Chamber on its part, enforcing rule 60 (A), has long ago passed a ruling indicting that accused persons may be tried in their absence as long as they have made initial appearance and have been afforded the right to appear in their own trial, but refuses to do so.

The prosecutions witness TF2-021 during his testimony said he was a native born of Pendembu in the Kailahun district. The 18 years old witness said rebels captured him in 1995 alongside many other boys at a time he said he was just 9 years when the rebels attacked Pendembu Town. He told the court that they were taken to the rebels at Ngehun base where they usually go out on food finding missions. He said he was in the hands of the rebels in the base when Kamajohs launched an attack there. According to him, after the attack the Kamajohs captured seven of them, including little boys and three women. He said the Kamajohs gave

them looted properties to take to Kenema.

TF2-021 said at a river-side called Moa along the road leading into Kenema, the three women were shot and thrown into the river. In Kenema, they were taken to a Kamajoh base called Tahia Yawbecko before they were later taken for initiation to a near by bush. After the initiation, they were all taken to a cemetery by 4:00 am before returning, but in the morning, 80 people, 40 on both sides were lined up and were beaten with canes as they passed through their initiators. He told the court that after going through the initiation they were taken to Kamajoh Base Zero where he was given two pistols.

The New Horn

Wednesday November 3 2004

<http://www.keralanext.com/news/index.asp?id=61939&pg=1>

03/11/2004

Africa ; Calm returns to Liberia after factional violence and looting – UN

2 Hour ago

Africa News, Rivals within a former Liberian rebel group were responsible for last week's flare-up in violence which was calmed after United Nations forces deployed throughout the area, a spokesman for the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) said today.

While previous reports blamed the violence on religious differences, James Boynton told the UN News Service that some members of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) wanted to hold onto their weapons while others are ready to go forward with the political process.

"The facts that have come to light since [the start of the violence] don't point to a religious conflict at all," he said. "We believe that the conflict arose over property issues, and from that there were others that jumped on board with their own issues to incite riots and commit arson," he said, naming LURD members who targeted those within a splinter of the group.

Some LURD members wanted to see the disarmament process continue while others "thought it was wise to bring it to end," he said.

The situation has remained "very calm" over the last 24 hours, the spokesman reported. Some 250 people were arrested, 208 were reported injured and 16 died during the violence.

Community meetings held in the flashpoint areas – including Jacob's Town and Paynesville – were broadcast by UNMIL radio and aired on local television stations as part of the UN's effort to restore calm.

Most of the deaths, according to Mr. Boyton, resulted from "blunt force trauma from clubs, sticks or rocks and [injuries from] machetes." One individual was burned to death while two others were reported shot.

Asked whether the low proportion of injury by gunfire in a country which had been awash in weapons was a reflection of the UN's just-concluded disarmament campaign, he replied: "We would like to think so."

While cautioning that it would be "naïve" to think all weapons have been collected, he added, "We do term the disarmament programme to be a success."

The UN appeal for humanitarian aid to Liberia is set to fund projects to help former fighters rejoin society. In his latest report on Liberia, Secretary-General Kofi Annan noted that the "ex-combatants constitute a highly volatile group" who need urgent education, training and job opportunities.

But the appeal faces a roughly \$200 million budget gap. Mr. Boynton called this a "real concern" as the UN seeks to reintegrate demobilized soldiers back into a society already suffering from an 85 per cent unemployment rate.

In order to support the UN's efforts to achieve sustained peace in Liberia, donor countries should "make good on their pledges" to help fund the humanitarian appeal, he said.

Alerting Humanitarians to Emergencies

LIBERIA: Disarmament to carry on in some corners despite end of programme

02 Nov 2004 18:36:08 GMT

Source: IRIN

MONROVIA, 2 November (IRIN) - UN peacekeepers will continue disarming former fighters in some remote corners of northern and south-eastern Liberia despite the end of the official disarmament programme two days ago, UN special envoy Jacques Klein has said.

Ex-combatants in south-eastern parts of country, near the border with Cote d'Ivoire, and northern areas close to the Sierra Leonean and Guinean borders, will still be able to hand in their weapons and qualify for a \$300 resettlement grant.

"We are aware there are still caseloads of combatants in some areas... that we were not able to reach because the roads were not motorable during the raining season," Klein said in a radio address on Monday.

"We have made arrangements to fly mobile disarmament units into these areas in the coming days to conduct the disarmament and demobilization operations."

Klein singled out three towns in the northern county of Lofa -- Foya, Kolahun and Vahum -- as places where large concentrations of former fighters could be found. Lofa is a former stronghold of the main rebel group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD).

He gave no specific locations in the south-east, which was controlled by the second rebel group, the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL). But last month, a top UN commander said former rebels in the port town of Harper were proving slow in coming forward with their guns because they hoped to get more money by turning them over across the border in Cote d'Ivoire.

While disarmament will carry on in pockets of Liberia, which has enjoyed 14 months of peace after 14 years of civil war, Klein was keen to stress that anybody found with a weapon outside the targeted areas would be arrested and prosecuted under Liberian law.

It was a message repeated by the head of the country's transitional government Gyude Bryant.

"This government will not take the issue of illegal possession of weapons lightly and there will be no preferential treatment. Everybody was given sufficient time to hand over the weapons," he told reporters on Tuesday.

The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) says 95,378 people -- including women and children -- had been disarmed by Sunday, when the official programme closed.

Critics of the programme have long argued that only a fraction of those disarmed have actually handed in a weapon and they suspect ordinary civilians have been posing as ex-fighters to grab the cash handout.

UNMIL said that by Sunday 27,000 rifles had been collected -- roughly one for every four people. It added that 29,000 rounds of heavy weapons ammunition and almost seven million rounds of small-arms ammunition had also been turned in.

Riots that killed 18 people last week in Monrovia have raised fears in the capital. The city is under curfew from 4.00pm to 7.00am and schools remain closed following running battles involving youths wielding sticks, knives and broken bottles who also set fire to cars and buildings.

"The cause, we believe, was a property dispute in the market area. Then other elements took advantage to press their own agendas," UNMIL spokesman James Boynton told IRIN on Tuesday.

Some ordinary Liberians have called on the UN peacekeepers to conduct immediate house-to-house searches for weapons after some of the arrested rioters were found to have arms hidden in their homes.

Witnesses told IRIN that UN peacekeepers had arrested some 80 people from the home of Philip Kamara, a former senior commander within LURD, and taken away rifles and petrol bombs.

"There are factions of LURD that, we believe, don't want to see an end to DDR," UNMIL's Boynton said.

Liberia's police chief, Chris Massaquoi, told IRIN that more than half of the 250 people arrested in connection with last week's flare-up were foreigners.

"They are currently being processed jointly by the Liberian national police and the bureau of immigration," he said.

IRIN news

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Building a Future for Liberia's Children

★ WASHINGTON, DC



UN Mission Chief Says Robust Peacekeeping Patrols Enforcing Liberia's Curfew

UN News Service (New York)

NEWS

November 1, 2004

Posted to the web November 2, 2004

The United Nations mission chief today said relative calm has returned to Liberia after "robust" peacekeeping and local police patrols responded to incidents and enforced the curfew countering the violence that started last Thursday in the West African country.

"Our coordination and communication with the government, the Liberian National Police and religious leaders continued throughout Sunday to ensure that wanton looting and arson are brought to a stop," Jacques Paul Klein, chief of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), told a radio audience.

"Robust UNMIL military and police patrols have responded to incidents throughout the day" and have enforced the 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew, he added.

In his third broadcast on UNMIL Radio since the unrest began, he said "anyone found with a weapon will be considered an extreme threat" and punished accordingly. He also appealed to Liberians to inform the police about criminal acts and hidden weapons.

Sixteen people have been killed and 208 injured, of whom 47 are critical, and schools have remained closed, UNMIL said.

"Let us continue the good work of the international community to bring the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees home, to rehabilitate communities and reintegrate former combatants as productive members of society," Mr. Klein urged.

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Saddam's legal team sacks top man

The head of the defence team for the former Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, has been dismissed by his family.

A spokesman for new lawyers appointed by Saddam Hussein's wife, Sajida, has said that Mohammed Rashdan was dismissed more than six weeks ago.

But Mr Rashdan, who is Jordanian, had not complied with the family's wishes until Tuesday, the spokesman said.

The former Iraqi leader is accused of war crimes and genocide and is expected to stand trial some time in 2005.

Mr Rashdan has now handed over all the documents relating to the trial to the new defence team.

Other members of the team have accused him of attempting to act alone for Saddam Hussein.

Saddam charges

Saddam Hussein and an unknown number of former Baath regime officials will be tried by a special Iraqi court set up for the purpose by the now-defunct Iraqi Governing Council.

The court has been given jurisdiction to try crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during Saddam Hussein's rule.

At the preliminary trial hearing in July, Saddam Hussein was told he would face charges relating to the gassing of Kurdish villagers in Halabja in 1988, the alleged ethnic cleansing of the Kurds during the so-called Anfal campaign in 1987-88, the suppression of the Kurdish and Shia uprisings that followed the 1991 Gulf war and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Story from BBC NEWS:
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