

**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:

Friday, 30 March 2007

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

Dancing With Hinga Norman's Soul / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
Why Lovemore Munlo Quit the Special Court / <i>PEEP!</i>	Page 4
Autopsy Result on Norman's Death / <i>For di People</i>	Page 5
Justice Delayed is Justice Denied / <i>New Storm</i>	Page 6
Special Court Registrar Was Fired / <i>Awareness Times</i>	Page 7

International News

No Compassion for Sierra Leone's Amputees / <i>Worldpress.org</i>	Pages 8-12
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 13-15

Awoko

Friday, 30 March 2007



Awokó Tok Tok **Dancing With Hinga** **Norman's Soul**

Many of those who believe in the hereafter believe that the soul of the late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman should now be at that place where the weary are supposed to be at rest.

But those who the former war crimes indictee left behind are still looking out for a fight or fights.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone, under whose watch Chief Norman gave up the ghost, surprised us this week by making public the autopsy result. It says Norman died of natural causes. Full stop!

And before we could digest that, the former Deputy Defence Minister—cum-head of the Kamajors—cum-Internal Affairs Minister's family members searched their arsenal and fished out some few salvos. His daughter, Juliet Hawa, said her father died of 'negligence' from the Special Court. And her brother, Sam Norman Jr, footnoted that statement by describing the result as a "fake".

It's like a replay of the whole Norman saga all over again and again. Accusations. Counter-accusations. Denials and more denials. But one thing we want to make clear here is that, no amount of digging the truth or circumstances surrounding Chief Norman's death can bring him back to life. The fact is, he died. Whether of neglect or of betrayal or of this or that reasons, he can't be with the living anymore.

The best thing we believe will up keep the memory of Chief Sam Hinga Norman is to leave him to rest in peace. He now deserves the much needed eternal rest after struggles, humiliations, trauma and other hurdles he went through while trying to make the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) what it is today.

We want to ask the Chief's family, friends, sympathizers and others to let him rest in peace. Because flying his name around is like dancing with his soul.

PEEP!

Friday, 30 March 2007

why LOVEMORE MUNLO quit the Special Court



1. Overcome with remorse at the death of Hinga Norman...

2. Overcome with embarrassment at only having ONE high profile indictee left (*i.e Charles Taylor*).

3. Overcome with shame that International Criminal Court Registrar basically told him to *F*** off!* by refusing to remove surveillance cameras from Taylor's briefing room..

4. Not getting enough *love* - contrary to his name... Not *nearly* enough compared with other senior Special Court personnel whom we could mention

(*but won't! ha! ha!*)

5. Tired of being the only Token Black in the entire Special Court Registry (*apart from messengers! ha! ha!*)...

6. Tired of inane jokes from Special Court public relations guy, Peter Anderson...

7. Scared that a certain newspaper proprietress would start threatening him the way she's **BLACKMAILED** UNDP'S VICTOR ANGELO...

8. Having done all the restaurants and clubs in Freetown, has suddenly realised "Hey, this city is really expensive!" (*even on a Special Court salary*).

9. Wants to be well away from here by the time the SLPP tries to rig 2007 elections...

10. TENTH REASON Lovemore Left.... 'Hey,

why not hit IRAQ where they hang 'those most responsible for crimes against humanity' in a few months... instead of wasting my time here?' (Special Court funding go dae for 2008? ha! ha!)

For di People
Friday, 30 March 2007

Autopsy result on Norman's death

A RELEASE from the Special Court on the autopsy to determine the cause of death of late Special court indictee Sam Hinga Norman states among other things that, he died of natural death.

by
SU THORONKA

The release further states that the autopsy report clearly showed that Mr Norman died of natural causes from a myocardial infraction. That the autopsy was conducted on the 5 March 2007, by a four-member team of pathologists and medical experts led by one professor Mendes of Senegal.

According to the same release, those who observed the autopsy on behalf of the Norman family were the former vice president of Sierra Leone Dr Albert Joe Demby and a medical doctor. It would be recalled that in January 2007, Mr Sam Hinga Norman was taken to

a military hospital in Dakar for medical treatment which was not available in Sierra Leone.

According to the Special Court report to the nation the treatment on the 8 February 2007 was successful but that on 22 February, Mr Norman collapsed in his hospital room and later died after doctors tried to save his life.

However, members of his family are skeptical about the autopsy and continue to suspect foul play on the part of the Special Court.



NORMAN: controversy

COURT DELAYS STILL COMMON

AMNESTY International Report 2006 titled the State of the World's Human Rights launched at Peter Beneson House on Tuesday March 27 indicates that legal delays in trials remain common.

The report states that reform of the Justice sector is slow although there are improvements to infrastructure with the building of courthouse. "Shortage resulted in delays in the formalization of draft laws to protect women's human rights, marriage, succession, inheritance and sexual offences drafted by the Law Reform Commission," the report states.

It further states that there was little opportunity for convicted prisoners to lodge appeals. The report also states that chiefs and local court officials often give rulings and adjudications in

Says Amnesty International

cases outside their jurisdiction, contributing to the denial of justice to a large proportion of the population.

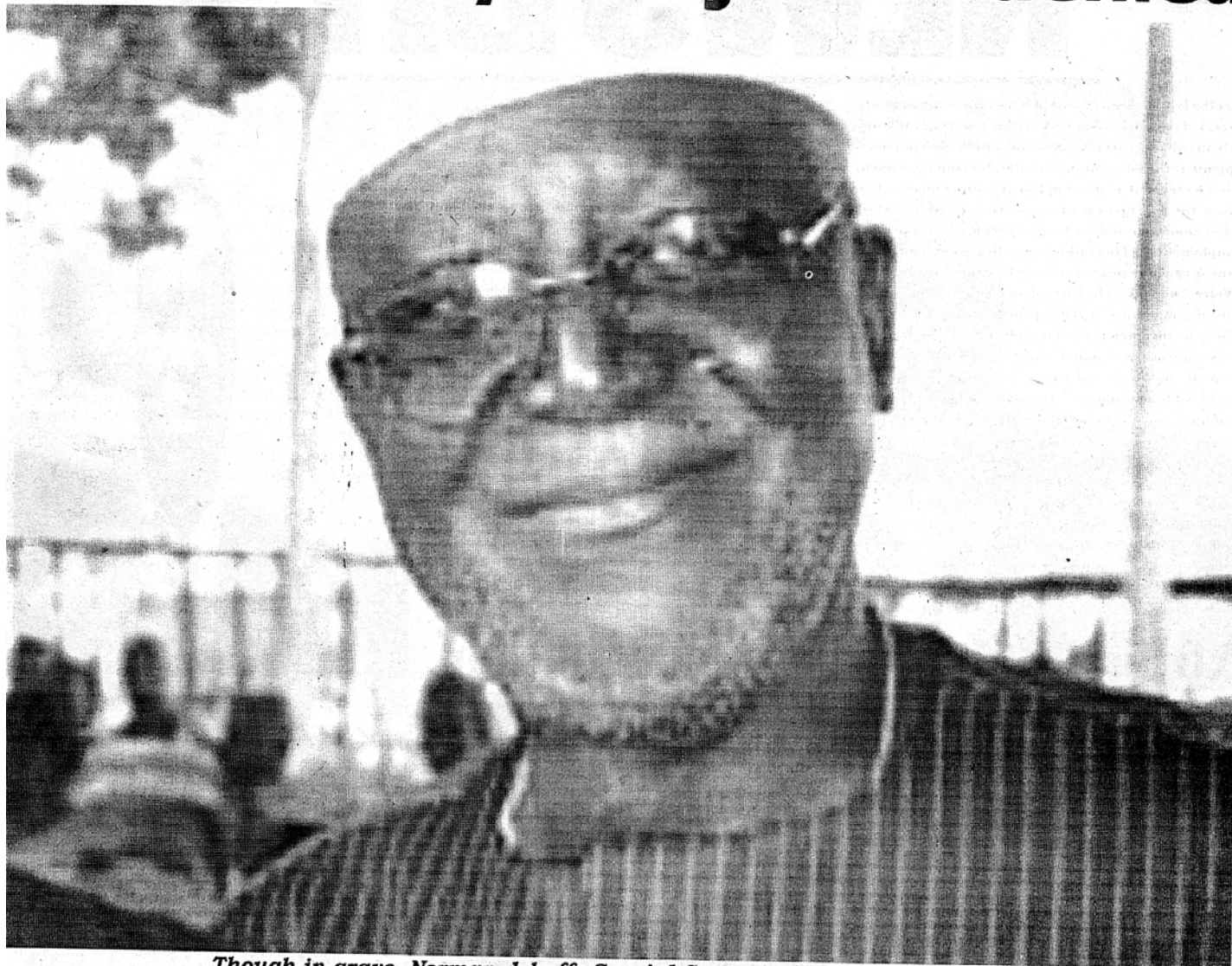
The report indicates that the security situation in the country remains generally stable and government assumed further responsibilities for maintaining security

and consolidating the peace and extending its authority. "Sierra Leone remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with 70 percent of the population living on less than one USD a day and high illiteracy rates. There is little progress in addressing other factors contributing to

human rights violations, particularly widespread poverty, severe youth unemployment and lack of basic services," the report states.

New Storm
Friday, 30 March 2007

Justice delayed is justice denied



Though in grave, Norman debuffs Special Court delayed autopsy report

Awareness Times
Friday, 30 March 2007

Special Court Registrar was “fired”

According to reports, former registrar and Chief Administrative Officer of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Lovemore G. Munlo, was sacked with immediate effect, although Munlo has earlier claimed that he voluntarily resigned. Local news houses alleged that the United Nations Secretary General refused to renew the contract of Mr. Munlo because of the conduct of the court during the transfer, incarceration, surgical operation and subsequent death of Chief Hinga Norman about a month ago.

Worldpress.org

March 29, 2007

<http://www.worldpress.org/Africa/2733.cfm>

No Compassion for Sierra Leone's Amputees

Roland Bankole Marke

Worldpress.org correspondent



Mamusu Thoronka is a 41-year old trader in Sierra Leone who was brutally disfigured during the country's civil war. (Photo: Joseph Winter — BBC African Service)

A harrowing, decade-long civil war endured by the citizens of Sierra Leone is now over, but many scars still remain. Top United Nations emissary Carolyn McAskie, responsible for peace-building, said: "The war has been over for five years. The peace has held; I think that's a Gold Standard. ... There is still a lot to do though."

President Ahmed Tejan Kabba has publicly told the nation that his government is bogged down with other overwhelming national priorities; therefore he could not address the individual needs of his people. He advised every Sierra Leonean to start helping themselves.

But thousands of amputees in this tiny nation barely the size of Maine cannot do that. Their personal battles with trauma have only intensified. The amputees' traumatic experiences have caused more emotional, mental and psychological nightmares than their physical wounds could communicate. Presently, the government is busy with its pending presidential and parliamentary elections that are just a few months away. However, elections are not a curative measure for the thousands of amputees, such as Mamusu Thoronka and Tamba Ngaujah, who are still languishing in Sierra Leone's wilderness, handicapped and in destitution and despondency. They simply cannot fend for themselves. The disturbing and graphic practice of mutilation and amputation germinated from the seeds sown during the 1991 civil war in the nation's eastern border town of Bormaru.

Sierra Leone shares close proximity and commonality with neighboring Liberia, where the diabolical genesis of dehumanization and brutality started. The government discounted the rebels, who migrated to

Liberia to execute heinous crimes with the aid of Liberia's then-president Charles Taylor, as mere rabble-rousers. But history has come to quite a different judgment. Dire warnings fell by the wayside, to be trodden on or ignored. The government assured its citizens that the dreadful situation was under control, but innocent, peaceful Sierra Leonean civilians would encounter a bizarre, barbaric and innovative surgical nightmare.

The psychology behind the amputation of limbs, tongues or ears is the intent to instill panic within the government and in its citizens. In a previous election the people had voted overwhelmingly for President Kabba. Since they used their hands to vote, dismembering their limbs will prevent them from casting another ballot for a democratic government. The rebels' propaganda campaign of fear has been utilized to impose their will on the people of Sierra Leone, just like terrorists in the Middle East.

The United States recently opened a large, newly built embassy in Sierra Leone with C.I.A. and F.B.I. facilities on-site to help combat terrorism in all its forms.

Mamusu Thoronka, the 41 year-old trader shown in the pictures, is among thousands of amputees living in Freetown, Sierra Leone today. She is struggling to support her family of six children on her own. Her husband is in a transition into another relationship and is distant from the family. Welfare services don't exist and no form of help comes from the government.

According to Mamusu: "On January 22, 1999 when the capital city Freetown was attacked by rebels, I attempted to take refuge in a building to escape their vengeance. But they found me, and put my hand on a table and were ready to cut it off with a machete like a butcher would sever animal meat. I begged for mercy asking them to respect God and me, being His child. They told me to point to God with my right hand which they also tried to chop off. They tried three times but failed; the hand of God probably helped or saved me. I still can't use three fingers on my right hand."

"The rebels said that I should get another hand from President Kabba, who had several to spare. I was in agony and the thought of death crossed my mind. I was later taken to hospital but the doctors, too, had fled for their lives. Freetown was infested with hundreds of corpses scattered all around its perimeter. My dangling left hand held by a film of skin had begun to decay. It took a week before I was able to see a doctor who treated my wounds."

"My husband is still distant; I'm sure he has another wife without my knowledge. I persevere to support my children by buying goods like palm-oil in the countryside to resell in Freetown. My responsibility is too much for me. I cannot afford to pay school fees for my six children, as the fees are beyond my reach. I'm appealing for help from the international world, as my two oldest children have dropped out of school."

With her tenacious spirit Mamusu refuses to give up her fight for survival or self-sufficiency. She does cross-border trade between Guinea and Sierra Leone. In Guinea goods are cheaper but a recent embargo put on Guinean goods could threaten her future. She still sells vegetables, such as beans, to enable her to buy clothes and household necessities for her large family. Goods and service are now going at more "cut throat" prices upcountry than in Freetown. Mamusu also rears a few chickens for subsistence and sometimes sells some.

"Rebels have threatened to end our lives," she said. "They say, if the government will not stop talking about amputees and the rebel atrocities that created them, they will get rid of us all. I fear the advent of another war."

Mamusu keeps the welfare of her children paramount in her mind. She is not seeking vengeance or retribution towards her assailants, but instead has offered forgiveness to them, despite the institution of the War Crimes Court to help bring justice to people like her.

"I want someone to take care of my children," she declared. "The former rebel fighters are being well looked after, with skills training and free education for their children. The Truth and Reconciliation

Commission said we amputees should get a pension but we have seen nothing." It was a Norwegian charity that helped to house her.

She continued: "There is discrimination against amputees at all levels. I cannot cook for myself; I have to direct my daughter Bonki to do the cooking for me. When my children run into disagreements in school their peers tell them, 'Your mother is a half-person.' It is so demeaning and painful for me since I'm a victim of my circumstance. We amputees are really discriminated against in Sierra Leone."

Tamba Ngaujah has a similar story to tell the world, but lacks the megaphone to communicate to the international community his destitution and abandonment by the society that he once served. He had enlisted in the Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces (RSLMF) to defend his country against all internal and external aggressions, serving his country diligently and honestly to the best of his ability. When other soldiers defected from the army, he stayed on.

It was in his line of duty that he was captured by the rebels, at the genesis of the warfare in 1991. Tamba suffered double amputation in captivity, becoming the first among thousands of amputees. After surviving his ordeal he was kicked out of the Wilberforce Barracks where he lived in the military quarters. It was during the heavy rainy season when massive flooding is common. His condition did not deter military officials from putting out an evacuation order on his apartment.



Tamba Ngaujah: ex-soldier — Sierra Leone Military Forces. (Photo: *Standard Times Press*, Freetown, Sierra Leone)

Tamba is now languishing in the streets with his family parading as beggars. No plans have been made to provide him with alternative accommodation. He is appealing to the international community to at least provide him a shelter, considering his current status.

Help for amputees does not seem to be moving on a fast track. There are many NGO's in Sierra Leone, but aid received through them does not appear to trickle down fast enough. It's a deplorable situation. The

Human Rights Declaration and The Truth and Reconciliation do not seem applicable to them. Even though a recent United Nations assessment gave Sierra Leone high marks for keeping the peace, a nation that does not take care of its disabled or less fortunate subjects is doomed.

A comprehensive read on the Sierra Leone civil war and its effects on other ordinary people can be found in my book: "Harvest of Hate: Stories and Essays 'Fuel for the Soul'." An extract, "Harvest of Hate- Mary's Saga" has been published on Worldpress.org.

Photo-journal: Sierra Leone Amputee



Mamusu Thoronka. (Photo: Joseph Winter — BBC African Service)



Mamusu Thoronka. (Photo: Joseph Winter — BBC African Service)



Mamusu Thoronka and daughter Bonki. (Photo: Joseph Winter — BBC African Service)



Mamusu Thoronka utilizing the two functional fingers on her right hand to cook. (Photo: Joseph Winter — BBC African Service)



Mamusu Thoronka and family. (Photo: Joseph Winter — BBC African Service)

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 March 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Condoleezza Rice Reiterates U.S. Government's Support

Monrovia, Mar 28, 2007 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --U.S Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice says last Month's Liberia Partnership Forum in Washington is an important step toward the economic recovery of the country. In a letter to American Billionaire George Soros, the Senior U.S. State Department official said the United States looks forward to its work to booster President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and help Liberians secure lasting peace, prosperity and freedom.

UN to Extend Stay in Cash-Strapped Country

United Nations, Mar 28, 2007 (Inter Press Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --As Liberia's post-war, cash-strapped economy continues to threaten its political stability, the United Nations is planning to extend the mandate of its four-year old peacekeeping force through March next year. The proposal to continue U.N. operations, recommended by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a report to the Security Council, has been prompted by the political and economic insecurity shadowing the West African nation, which is struggling to recover from 14 years of civil war.

International Clips on West Africa

Sierra Leone court says former militia chief died naturally

FREETOWN, March 28, 2007 (AFP) - A Freetown court announced on Wednesday that former Sierra Leonean defence minister Sam Hinga Norman, who was on trial for war crimes, died in February of natural causes. In a statement, the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) said the autopsy into the 67-year-old's death in a military hospital in Dakar on February 22 revealed he died of a myocardial infection. Norman had been transferred from his prison cell in Freetown in January for medical reasons, and underwent surgery on February 8.

Local Media – Newspaper

UN Security Council Poised to Review Diamond Sanctions on Liberia

(The Analyst, The News, The Informer, Liberian Express and National Chronicle)

- The United Nations Security Council is gearing up to review Liberia's compliance with its diamond sanctions next month.
- The papers quoted a Liberian online news magazine, *Frontpage Africa*, as saying that a forecast of the Council's decision indicated that the review would take place on 20 April.

- The United Nations Security Council following a review last year maintained the ban on Liberian diamond exports and said more was needed to be done in reforming the diamond mining industry before lifting sanctions against the country's export of rough diamonds.

UNMIL Report Documents Abuses against Children

(The News and The Inquirer)

- A recent human rights report released by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on the condition of Liberian orphanages has documented abuses and violations of children's rights.
- The report highlights key findings from a survey conducted on 97 orphanages in 11 counties and recommended urgent action to protect separated children who continue to live in unacceptable conditions in orphanages, despite the progress made since 2003 in the establishment of peace and stability in Liberia.

US State Department Report Accuses Police of Taking Bribes

(New Democrat)

- A US State Department Human Rights Report for 2006 accused the Liberian Police of engaging in extortionist practices, including taking bribes from travelers at checkpoints. According to the Report, corruption is endemic in Liberia despite the Government's pronouncement of combating it.

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

Dutch Group to Provide Steel for Bridges in Liberia

- During his visit to the Office of Vice President Joseph Boakai, the Project Sales Engineer of Dijkstall, a Dutch Company, Mr. Raymond Schuijt yesterday said that his Company would provide steel for the construction of bridges, help rebuild infrastructure and feeder roads in Liberia as it is currently doing for Ghana. As a result, the Company's team toured collapsed bridges in Monrovia.
- For his part, Vice President Boakai said that the team's visit was timely as the Country was poised on reconstructing roads and bridges across the Country.
- Meanwhile, Vice President Boakai lamented over the porous state of Liberia's border posts, stating that they not only pose security problems but also economic constraints as goods that could generate revenue came into unchecked.
- The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization on Tuesday announced that there were about 140 unmanned border posts across the Country.

Kenyan Airways Makes Debut Flight to Liberia

- Speaking at a ceremony when the Kenyan Airways yesterday made its debut flight to Liberia, Roberts International Airport (RIA) Managing Director Julius Duncan outlined the various challenges facing the Airport in its drive to meet international standard.
- Mr. Duncan noted that with the dawning of a new day in Liberia's aviation industry, the need to improve the RIA was increasingly clear to meet the standard set by the international civil aviation authority.
- Kenyan Airways Africa Regional Manager Robert Owusu stated that the airline was determined to connect travelers from Liberia to, not only the rest of Africa, but also to the rest of the world and appealed for Liberians' support to make flights from Liberia more frequent.

Police Arraign Alleged Child Traffickers

- Police in Monrovia yesterday arraigned John Badio, Morris Kamara and Mohammed Fahnbulleh for allegedly attempting to steal a 12-year-old boy, Eric Dennis and sell

him for US\$75,000. The Police stated that the accused were arrested last week at "Bounoway" near the Division #6 at Firestone.

- One of the accused, Mohammed, reportedly said during Police investigation that he was given 500 Liberian dollars (about US\$8) by John to get a child for him. After receiving the money, he came to Monrovia and went to the Chicken-Soup Factory Orphanage and stole little Eric Dennis.
- Mohammed told the Police that after stealing Eric he told him to join him (Mohammed) to a nearby coal burning site near the 15 Gate where he turned the child over to John. Then, the next day, he(John) and another suspect, Morris Kamara went to Bunnoway to sell little Eric at which time they were arrested by Court officers of the Bunnoway Magisterial Court.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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.