

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

Wednesday 29 - Friday 31 January, 2003

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

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Gen. Issa *raises alarm*

BY PETER GOMA

This press has authoritatively learnt that the UN Peace Mission in Sierra Leone under the leadership of General Daniel Ishmail Opande deliberately refused to adhere to their promise of providing adequate security network to the RUF former field commander, General Issa Sesay.

In an exclusive interview with RUF leader Issa Sesay at the RUF office along Lightfoot Boston street in Freetown over the weekend, General Issa said that UN has deceived him greatly and expressed dissatisfaction in the UN mission, which he accused of not providing him with body guards as security for personal safety. He

added that now they have exposed him to several threats and humiliations from both the general public and ex-combatants who consider him to be the Judas of the movement.

General Issa reaffirmed that he is only interested in upholding and consolidating the peace so that total stability can prevail in this nation.

He disclosed that three months ago the UN withdrew the security personnel assigned to him without any prior notice, leaving him and his family at the risk of the public and his former boys. He recalled that when the 500 UN troops were held hostage, a 6-hour meeting was convened at the executive mansion in Liberia attended by six heads of states to deliberate on the peace

and the release of UN hostages.

They all he said agreed that RUF should see reason to disarm for final peace and transform into a political party, adding that he wholeheartedly welcome the idea as he stood to benefit nothing from the rebel war. He revealed that prior to this move, other ill-motivated people had contacted him to join forces together and promised a lot of offers to him, but gave them deaf ears. He said that he is not capable of ruling this country simply because he does not possess the capability, experience and age required, added to the fact that he can hardly read or write.

On the issue of Johnny Paul, he said that no level headed man or ex-combatant should think of a



coup when the government is having support from UN, ECOWAS, SLA, CDF and the civil populace. He denied having any knowledge

of the said coup and cannot be a party to it, as he prefers to be at liberty and not behind bars.

On the issue of three RUF ex-combatants involved in the Wellington shoot out, he said since the end of disarmament he has no control over any ex-combatant and that he has no association with any ex-combatant named in subversive moves against the state.

He appealed to government and the UN to provide him some assistance and security guards for his livelihood and safety in the country. On the issue of mining he said, "let's wait and see the Special Court as big heads have to rule from several quarters not expected to surface on such crucial matters".

Midweek Spark

Wednesday 27th January 2003

Awoko

Wednesday, 29 January 2003

Awoko Newspaper
Wednesday 29th, January 2003

Search for Johnny Paul goes countrywide

Police has disclosed that they are not limiting their search for Johnny Paul Koroma only in the Western Area, but throughout the country. The Senior



Snr. Asst. Com. of Police
Oliver Somasa

Assistant Commissioner, Professional Standards - Oliver Somasa, however confirmed at yesterday's Police Briefing that they indeed seized a boat named 'Fafa' for investigations at Tokel; relating to the escape of the fugitive PLP Parliamentary leader, Johnny Paul Koroma. The boat,

which belongs to ex-combatants, has since been released, as no relevant information was gathered from the investigations. The Professional Standards Police chief further disclosed that he had instituted an internal

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Search for Johnny Paul

From Front Page three Assistant Superintendents of Police and the other from the Military, led by a Major. He further told the briefing that already, there exists some professional lapses in their investigation as it could not be ascertained of the three ASP's of the OSD who was in control of the operation. Assistant Commissioner Soumasa also revealed that these officers were mandated to arrest all those they found

within the premises of the wanted Johnny Paul Koroma. The Assistant Commissioner went on saying, "we are embarrassed, so we would not leave no stone unturned to find out whether any professional lapses did occur; as our reputation is at stake." He maintained that the investigations would be carefully carried out devoid of tribal sentiments. The numbers of suspects currently helping the police in their investigations have risen to 70.

The New Storm

Thursday, 30 January 2003

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Thursday 30th January, 2003

THE NEW STORM

Rising Tides

WITH JOHN MOMOH

Johnny Paul Must Surrender

The former leader of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and parliamentarian on the ticket of the party he formerly to contest the elections as presidential candidate the peace and Liberation Party (PLP), Hon. Johnny Paul Koroma should take into account one salient point; that the war is now behind us and that the "fugitive" days are over.

During the war certain acts of recklessness and lawlessness were reluctantly permissible. The big excuse of the day was that the war was on-going and no one knows who was who. It was possible for rebel sympathisers and even rebels to dwell among us. This was the tempo of the times.

During the course of the war many things were taken for granted. But this was the price one has to pay for the sake of peace. For the sake of peace some of our brothers and sisters were trickling in from behind rebel-lines almost on a daily basis. And for the sake of peace little did people dared to check their records regarding the roles they are playing in the rebel war that has caused so much suffering to our people.

In other words impunity was the order of the day. A major climax of this impunity was evident when after the 1996 presidential and General elections that brought president Ahmad Tejan

Kabbah and the SLPP to power, a group of disgruntled and disillusioned army personnel led by the then Major Johnny Paul Koroma staged a military coup, thereby forcing an exodus of Sierra Leoneans including Pres. Kabbah to take refuge in neighbouring countries especially Guinea.

The toppling of the democratically elected Government in the very nose of the West African Peace Keeping Force (ECOMOG) and the UN Peace Keeping Mission (UNAMSIL) both of whom had a stake in the supervision of security in the country was the beginning of another long ordeal of displacement for Sierra Leoneans.

In those war years it was evident, as numerous report filtered in that people hardly knew the difference between the tactics of the rebels and the Sierra Leone Armed Forces. Even before the Johnny Paul Koroma army takeover the writing was already clearly written on the wall that it

was hard to find out where the loyalty of the army lies. Some people conjectured that the army was behaving like wolves in

This time around it would be hard for the escape of Johnny Paul to be accorded any drop of sympathy and sentiment.

sheep's clothing. For example, some common tales from the battle-front was that there were ample evident to show that certain soldiers were in the habit of not only leaving behind arms and ammunition but military uniforms and hardware as well to be picked up by the advancing rebels.

In some quarters people made

no bones of the fact that some unscrupulously battle-front commanders among the government troops were in the habit of paving the way and leaving it open for the advance of the rebels as they were heading towards the capital Freetown.

The bone of contention as was advanced by certain political analysts is that the SLPP Government of Pres. Kabbah was giving more preferential treatment to the Kamajors-civil Defence Force Military than to the national army. But should this have been any basis to create a cause for alarm? The army should always remain loyal and obedient to defend the government of the day and the territorial integrity of the country. This is a constitutional obligation of all military personnel upon their enlistment into the army.

But as destiny may have it president Kabbah made diplomatic entreaties to ECOWAS including soliciting the support of the late Nigerian Military-

Strongman Gen. Sanni Abacha a move that eventually led to the overthrow the John Paul Koroma lead AFRC Junta. The overthrow of the AFRC was mainly orchestrated by the recalcitrant of its leadership to every overtures for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The escape of Major Johnny Paul Koroma in those critical moment was bound to generate some sentiments. The fact remained no precedent had been set in the history of coup d'etats in Africa, from that of General Gnassingbe Eyadéma to the present, wherein a regional multinational force has reversed a coup. This was the first time! The escape of Johnny Paul Koroma at the time later got the blessing of a presidential clemency.

This time around it would be hard for the escape of Johnny Paul to be accorded any drop of sympathy and sentiment. For the nation have achieved a peace for which all stakeholders including Johnny Paul Koroma and the RUF have cooperated to construct. To hear then that a key player in the peace process like Johnny Paul Koroma was a party to a destabilization process leaves one to reflect that there is ample need for him to stand before the forces of law and order to declare his innocence. The days of wolves in sheep's clothing are over!

Concord Times
Thursday, 30 January 2003

Police given 72 hrs to capture Johnny Paul



Johnny Paul, still at large

By Rachel Horner

The Civil Society Movement of Sierra Leone has given the Sierra Leone police an ultimatum of 72 hours to capture and produce fugitive leader of the Peace and Liberation Party, Johnny Paul Koroma.

At a mass meeting yesterday at the Victoria Park in Freetown, CSM's president Hassan Barrie said they wanted to tell the nation and international community that "enough is enough". He expressed concern on the levity government treated the matter with, adding that government has a responsibility to protect lives and property.

CSM accused the police and government for allowing Johnny Paul Koroma to escape because of security lapses. CSM therefore gave police an ultimatum of 72 hours to find Johnny Paul Koroma. They also demanded that an inquiry be set up to find out who were responsible for Johnny Paul's escape.

Hassan Barrie also called for probity in government. He said, "president Kabbah

should tell the people what they are doing after every six months". He added that ministers should also tell the

nation what they do.

He however frowned on the tribalisation of the Johnny Paul saga. "Trib-

alism should be out of this, nobody from the north sent Johnny Paul" he said. He said Johnny Paul could

handover himself to civil society. "We will protect him" he said.

The president of Sierra Leone Motor Vehicle Asso-

ciation, Mr. Sillah said it was the first time he saw people giving their views about the government openly.

Concord Times
Thursday January 30, 2003

Awoko

Thursday, 30 January 2003

Awoko Newspaper
Thursday 30th January 2003

CSM demands from I.G. "We Want Johnny Paul"



I.G Keith Biddle being bombarded with questions by journalists
Hundreds of people who gathered at the Victoria Park yesterday morning answering to the call of the Civil Society Movement (CSM) to demonstrate on the current state of the security in the country. The people demanded from the

Inspector-General of Police- Keith Biddle the whereabouts of fugitive PLP leader- Johnny Paul Koroma. The crowd immediately burst into chorus singing, " we want Johnny Paul," no sooner they saw the Inspector General making an appearance at the platform. The Inspector General just gave a gentle smile to the crowd's request and never said a word to appease them. He

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AWOKO NEWSPAPER

Thursday January 30, 2003

CSM demands from I.G

From Front Page
however told some journalists, "The police have many things to investigate pertaining to Johnny Paul's case. He

went on, if anybody should be held responsible for now, "it should be me," and maintained that the Police Force is not divided in any

way on the matter." The Inspector General further warned people who are relating the escape to a particular individual or basing it on tribal grounds,

should desist forthwith. Inspector-General Biddle assured the populace through the press that the runaway Leader of the People's Liberation Party (PLP) would be surely arrested, noting that the police is doing everything possible to get to the bottom of the matter. He also assured the crowd

that he would make sure that justice is done to anyone that is involved in the investigation. Speaker after speaker at the gathering cast blame on the police for the escape of Johnny Paul Koroma. The Chairman of the Civil Society Movement, Hassan Barrie emphasized that

they are giving the Police a one week ultimatum to arrest the fugitive Johnny Paul and bring him to book for whatever crime he might have committed. The CSM demonstration disrupted commercial as well as schooling activities in the City yesterday.

Unity


Thursday, 30 January 2003

Unity
Thursday January 30, - Tuesday February 4 2003

Unity and the general trav- 1999. These events signify resource development, and crucial in our current drive to teases which will be distro- economic prices, and what? See page 5

C.S.M Condemns Johnny Paul Koroma

The Civil Society Movement (CSM) in Sierra Leone, Wednesday, January 29, 2003, condemned the recent abortive plot of Johnny Paul Koroma to destabilise this country again. The Civil society Movements through representatives, individually condemned Johnny Paul's action at a mammoth rally held at the Victoria Park in Freetown. Some of the speakers put the blame on the police for the escape of the fugitive. Most of them appealed to government to do its utmost to capture Johnny Paul Koroma and his fugitive associates. Meanwhile, there was heavy security presence at the Victoria Park, while schools and shops remain closed for the day. Food and other market stalls were empty and public transportations scarce.



Johnny Paul Koroma on the run

Salone Times
Friday, 31 January 2003

Salone Times
Friday January 31st, 2003

Why Johnny Paul Escaped Arrest

By Salamatu Turay

A senior police officer has said that the leader of the team of police officers, sent to arrest Peace and Liberation Party Leader (PLP) and Member of Parliament Hon. Johnny Paul Koroma and others at his No. 7 Shependeh Drive Juba Hill residence recently, might have misunderstood or misinterpreted section 100 of the Constitution; thereby facilitating Johnny Paul's escape.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officer went further to say that section 100 of the Constitution states that no member of Parliament shall be arrested or served a court notice whilst he/she is in parliamentary proceedings. According to the police officer, the leader of the

team O.C. Francis Bockarie Lebbie who is presently being investigated at the CID, made a mistake by not arresting

SEE PAGE 3



Johnny Paul Koroma

Johnny Paul's Escape

Johnny Paul Koroma although he met him at the scene. He went on to say that according to O.C. Lebbie, another reason why he failed to effect Johnny Paul Koroma's arrest is because the list of the names of those he was to arrest did not include Johnny Paul Koroma.

"However, O.C. Lebbie should have used his initiative" because, according to the police officer, the

former has been in the force for over ten years now. Meanwhile, the team of police officers sent to effect the arrest at Johnny Paul Koroma's residence are being investigated by CID.

"The statement that the police hierarchy is making that O.C. Francis Bockarie Lebbie and his team were ordered to arrest everyone including Johnny Paul is not true," the police officer said.

Standard Times
Friday, 31 January 2003

Standard Times Friday 31st January 2003

and favour to the pages, increase CONTINUED BACK PAGE

Student disappears with Johnny Paul

BY AUGUSTINE BEECHER

Reports reaching Standard Times has disclosed the disappearance of a nineteen-year-old student of St. Edwards Secondary School, Freetown, since the attack on the Wellington army depot and the subsequent hunt for the Peace and Liberation Party leader, Hon. Johnny Paul Koroma, former AFRC/RUF junta leader.

According to our reports, the student, Yusif Kagbawa, who was before his disappearance resident at Kissy Road unwittingly came upon the men currently being sought by the police for alleged subversive activities.

The report say Yusif's mother is dead and his father is an old man living somewhere in the Kono district, and

has been in the care of a Spanish business man who also recently returned to Spain after paying school fees for him and arranging for his care.

One of the suspects now being sought by the police was a kind of benefactor to him, and it was as a result of that relationship that he came upon the information that has now apparently led to his disappearance.

According to our sources, Yusif got wind of what the men were planning and told a friend about it, but the friend was afraid because the "matter was a state matter."

He was nevertheless advised to report the matter to the police, which he allegedly did.

Since then he has regrettably not returned home, leaving everyone in doubt about what might have happened to the young man.

He has not been declared missing by anyone because, as the story goes, he is staying here almost all by himself with friends, who are probably very scared and confused about making reports to the police.

All attempts to get the police to comment on this matter have proved futile, as there appear to be no record of the boy's initial report to the police.

The class teacher also at the boy's school refused to confirm as to whether he has a student who has suddenly stopped coming to school with the above name.

It however remains a fact that Yusif Kagbawa has dis-

appeared exactly during the period Johnny Paul and his alleged colleague conspirators were declared wanted by the police.

The word of the boy's disappearance was also mentioned by members of the Civil Society Movement when they met at the Victoria Park on Wednesday to discuss a way forward on the problem of Johnny Paul and the police.

Whatever may have happened to Yusif may happen to anyone who takes information to the police unaccompanied by a legal officer or someone who can raise hell if anything goes wrong.

The problem with Yusif was that he may have gone alone to make his report, and anything may have happened to him.



Johnny Paul

The New Citizen
Friday, 31 January 2003

HUNT FOR "ANGEL"

By James B. Sawyer.

At a national meeting organized by the Civil Society Movement of Sierra Leone at the Victoria Park in Freetown, Wednesday 29th January, 2003, the Chairman of the occasion, Mr. Hassan Barrie told the crowd that a few bad policemen had smeared the good image of the newly reformed Sierra Leone

Police Force.

Mr. Hassan Barrie, President of the Sierra Leone Labour Congress urged the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Keith Biddle to expose all police officers involved in the escape of PLP Leader, Johnny Paul Koroma.

Madam Isha Josiah of



Johnny Paul, on the run

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FROM PAGE 1

ANGEL

SLANGO informed everyone at the gathering to report to the Police clandestine movements of all wanted suspects.

Madam Josiah appealed to the government to empower the Civil Society Movement to organize a national search for PLP Leader, Johnny Paul Koroma.

The President of the Civil Society Movement, Mr. Mambu emphasised the fact that the protection of the lives and property of the citizens should not be toyed with by anybody, not even the government. He admonished the government to always keep the nation informed about the security of the country. Other speakers dwelt on the issue of silence by the government on national security matters. They alleged that such silence had resulted to rumour mongers claiming that Johnny Paul had been captured, thus hijacking communication with the people from the government

in an eight-point resolution issued jointly by Civil Society

Organizations in Sierra Leone and the media on the current security situation in Sierra Leone, the Civil Society Movement National Executives were empowered to implement the following:

1. That CSM -SL should visit Kailahun district to assess the damage to the area that recently suffered rebel incursion from Liberia.
2. That Government make a Statement with regards to the present national security situation.
3. That the masses be adequately educated on their civic rights and responsibilities.
4. That the leaders of today should protect and prepare a good foundation for peace, security, stability and development for the children of tomorrow.
5. That massive demonstration of Civil Society organizations be organized nationwide for Government and the international community to

know that enough is enough and that they have a responsibility to protect lives and property.

6. That CSM-SL establishes an intelligence network countrywide to enhance the dissemination of information for Civil Society work. The Inspector General Police, Mr. Keith Biddle and other important dignitaries were present at the meeting. About 200 anti-riot police were deployed around the vicinity of the Victoria Park. Hundreds of personnel of the SSD division of the Sierra Leone Police were also deployed in the heart of the business district of Freetown, covering Siaka Stevens Street, Wilberforce Street, Kissy Road up to Clock Tower and other strategic areas of Freetown.

In the business district of Freetown many business houses and shops were closed. Many commercial vehicles were kept in safer areas whilst many parents and school kids, especially those in private schools stayed indoors for security reasons.

The Judiciary and all the courts adjourned all court sittings whilst judges and magistrates stayed indoors. Even market stalls in the city were empty, as market women hid their wares from looters.

The News

Friday, 31 January 2003

CDU Vows To Grab Johnny Paul

A Senior Official of the Civil Development Unit (CDU) has said his organisation will go for fugitive former junta leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, if his hideout is made known.

Allen Greene told this press Wednesday, at the Victoria Park that Johnny Paul is a dangerous man and called on Sierra Leoneans to give vital information about his whereabouts. Greene also called on the International

Community to extradite the former junta leader, if he happens to be residing outside Sierra Leone. According to him, whether Johnny Paul is up in arms or not, wherever he may be hiding, the CDU will go for him if his



Johnny Paul - fugitive

location is made known.

"Johnny Paul should face the law. We are ready to protect him against any undue advantage," Greene

He added that

Cont page 4

CDU Vows

From front page

religious, tribal or political sentiment should be shelved for now and called on all to come onboard in the search for Johnny Paul in the interest of the country.

The CDU which metamorphosed into a local development

NGO, used to be a pro government civil defence unit responsible for intelligence gathering and monitoring the activities during the rule of Paul. He added that

The News
Friday 31st January
2003

For di People
Friday, 30 January 2003



Johnny Paul's Escape Is No Limba Problem

Parliamentarian did not inform his Limba tribesmen before taking any decision that he took, neither are



JP Kistill at large Limbas in supportive of any negative actions that might be inimical to national peace and stability.

Cont Page 2

THE CHAIRMAN of the Civil Society movement Mr Hassan Barrie has said that the escape of Hon Johnny Paul Koroma from the police drag net January 18 is no Limba problem, nor is it a northern one as some people might want to conclude.

Making a statement at the CSM Ecowas Street headquarter Sunday, Mr Barrie stated that

Johnny Paul's escape from jurisdiction is a national concern and that the fugitive par-

LIMBA

From Front Page

"That cannot be completely ruled out because a particular tribe or group has not been identified as the main problem. It is a national concern and that the fugitive par-

spector General of Police, Mr Keith Biddle also frowned at sections of the society trying to criminalise the Johnny Paul saga.

Mr Biddle denied reports that the Police is deeply divided along

tribal and regional lines, but said they are working as a unit.

Following the former junta leader's escape from the police drag net recently, many had attributed the police blun-

der on tribal and regional factors stating that the Acting Inspector General of Police, Mr Brima Acha Kamara is from the same village and tribe as the fugitive MP. And that many of the officers that went to effect his arrest were mainly members of his Limba ethnic group, thus the lapse.



BIDDLE:denounce tribalism

The Rural Network
Friday, 31 January 2003

THREAT TO SECURITY AS: JOHNNY PAUL'S "DIABOLIC" PLAN EXPOSED

THE fear of insecurity has once again gripped the nerves of many Sierra Leoneans following the recent shootout between government troops and what is described as "bandits" in the Wellington industrial area.

Many people are nervous and fear that another stampede and

trauma is in the pipeline, once names like Johnny Paul Koroma, Brigadier 55 and others who were very active in the January 6, 1999 invasion of Freetown have started to filter from the smoke screen of the official investigation.

Johnny Paul was hand picked by his colleagues in the infamous May 25,

1997 military coup whilst in prison for a pending treason trial. Once out of prison, Paul described himself as "God's anointed" leader. He predicted an imminent doom for Sierra Leone and added that he would not relinquish power to the democratically elected government of President Kabbah.



Johnny Paul Koroma

He was kicked out of power by (ECOMOG) Nigerian troops of Maxwell Kobia in February 1998.

Since then Johnny Paul has always been saying things which many Sierra Leoneans are not happy

about. In the Monday August, 2002 edition of this paper, this press produced J.P. Koroma's wishes of death for old politicians the BBC interview. For the benefit of those who missed the edition, we reproduce the article below:

"Koroma Wishes Death For Kabbah"

In a recent (17-07-002) BBC radio programme-ANALYSIS, PLP Hon. P.J. Koroma was reported to have wished death for "Those old men in power." This could mean President

See Page 2

payment.

JOHNNY PAUL'S

From page 1
could mean President Kabbah and other old politicians who are now about 70 years old. A palpably distrust voice said in an interview with the BBC reporter. I am not having any to do with you now. But can I have a conversation with the reporter question. Without the name of J.P. Koroma

A summary run down of this encounter shows Johnny Paul Koroma denying responsibilities for atrocities committed by his men in the AFRC/ RUF days in 1997 when he was the junta premier. I am the reason, not the one who was. Quizzed on his ambition of becoming head state, he is said to have wished God's intervention to stop those old men in power as God did

to Pharaoh and his people in Egypt in biblical history. He is reported as saying. He is said to be overzealous and burning with the desire to rule Sierra Leone. That come 2007, his PLP Party will win at the polls as "past May 14th election were rigged in favour of the ruling S.L.P.P." He added. I am not waiting long. Johnny Paul Paul is reported to have said. We are very

The Rural Network
Friday January 31,
2003

The Exclusive
Friday, 31 January 2003

The **EXCLUSIVE**

Vol: 1 No: 266 An Investigative Newspaper January, 2003 Le500

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8 LAWYERS FOR SANKOH & OTHERS



Sankoh: RUF leader

Sources close to International Human Rights Organizations abroad have intimated The Exclusive that the legal services of some eight international lawyers have been sought to represent

Foday Sankoh and others who are either standing trial for murder in the High Court in Sierra Leone or those who will face the Special Court. Foday Sankoh, the erstwhile mercurial leader of the now defunct

Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone is currently held at the Pademba Road Prisons on charges of mass murder, including other renegade members of both the SLA and the RUF for murder or related offences. It could be recalled that the

Special Court, an international court with wide ranging jurisdictions, was set up to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and human rights violations during the war periods. Meanwhile, our sources

maintain that the concern of International Human Rights organizations is to ensure that the accused persons receive fair and impartial trials, in accordance with natural justice.

Our sources further revealed that it is only a

matter of time for the international lawyers to start arriving in Sierra Leone and hence regularise their papers with the relevant judicial authorities and get briefings from those they would be defending.

Awoko

Friday, 31 January 2003

Sankoh's case adjourned again



Foday Sankoh
By Samuel John
The much-anticipated

public appearance of the sick detained former RUF leader-Foday Saybana Sankoh at the Freetown High Court yesterday did not materialize; as he was reportedly in an unhealthy position in Prison. In fact, the police had cordoned the court vicinity in anticipation of his first public appearance since he fell ill in Prison. But their presence did not last longer as they were seen moving away from the

court premises. After Justice Samuel Ademosu had adjourned the case to February 4, the police were heard blasting their sirens, bringing traffic to a temporal halt as they brought in the other accused persons in the murder case. The accused persons were heard chanting, "Jesus you know, you know our trouble" as the vehicle was parked inside the Law Court car park. After some few minutes at the scene where the prisoners were



The other prisoners in the Foday Sankoh trial heading back for Pademba Road Prisons singing, the police and Prison officers drove back the prisoners to the Central Prison in their singing mood; which attracted the attention of passersby.

Awoko Newspaper
Friday 31st January 2003

The News
Friday, 31 January 2003

Sankoh's Trial In March



Sankoh - call to justice

*From front page
the proceedings.*

Sankoh and forty nine westsiders are facing a seventy counts charge and were supposed to be in court yesterday, to continue their trials before Justice Samuel Ademosu.

Heavily armed police men with rifles besieged the courts building.

According to sources from prisons, Sankoh's health is deteriorating at an alarming state.

The same sources added that Sankoh sometimes behaves abnormally as if he is mentally deraigned.

The westside boys sang gospel songs as they approached the entrance to the court building onboard a prisons vehicle.

The matter had already been adjourned to a date in March, this year when the prisoners were brought in so court authorities had to return them to the central prisons.

The News
Friday 31st January 2003

Concord Times
Friday, 31 January 2003

Concord Times
Friday 31st
January 2003

In Court: Westside boys beg for mercy

By Rachel Horner



Johnny Paul, former godfather of the Westside boys

Former rebels deployed at Okra Hills, loyal to the Armed Forces Ruling Council, who later became known as West Side Boy's yesterday disposed repentance by singing solemn religious songs asking for mercy.

People jokingly said, "Pademba Road prison has now got a choir group". Their behaviour yesterday completely contrasted that of the past in which they usually use insulting and vulgar language whenever they enter the precincts of the court. Most of them shouted from the vehicle

that they should be pardoned.

Their case was not heard yesterday. They were driven back to Pademba Road prison, without being allowed to come down from the vehicle. There was tight Security in the court with Operational Support Division, the armed wing of the Sierra Leone Police on alert.

Meanwhile, the case has been adjourned to March 4.

Foday Sankoh on the other hand, is reported to be seriously ill. His mental capability is also reported to have degenerated.