

**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:

Tuesday 4-Thursday 6 February, 2003

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

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The exclusive
Tuesday February 4th 2003

BLACKMAN'S VOICE

BY FRANCIS COOPER

The disappearance of Johnny Paul is a security threat

One of recent utterances of Johnny Paul Koroma was on 8th May 2002, when he thwarted an RUF coup plot against Sierra Leone. Those who could recall those feverish days, when our country was almost engulfed in another chaos, cannot but say if we are enjoying peace today, praises must go to Johnny Paul.

Those he (Johnny Paul) arrested are yet to be tried for treason, though some of those RUF Ministers have since been released. Only the bearded rebel leader is still behind bars.

There seems to be a new twist in this soap opera - Johnny Paul, the 'savior' yesterday, is today the fall guy, accused of plotting against the state, though charges are yet to be brought against him. Ironically, the fugitive Johnny Paul has called on UNAMSIL and the international community to intervene, though claiming to be innocent. Those he arrested the other day did not cry foul neither did they call on anyone to mediate. They say what goes around comes around. Johnny Paul arrested his former 'comrades-in-arms' even though there was (is) no substantial evidences against them: Was Johnny Paul ever competent to have arrested people for subversive activity in the first place? Perhaps he ought to be reminded that what is good for the goose is good for the gander.

We are not ascribing any wrong doing to Johnny Paul. Those who believe that Johnny Paul saved them let them save that in their memory. That is a point for his defence, whenever he comes out or is apprehended by the police.

It is but prudent that Johnny Paul comes out to defend himself and thus rubbish the official version of the police accounts. That is, if he is hundred percent not guilty. The number of discrepancies in the police edited version leaves a lot to be desired. The only road left open to telling the truth is that Johnny Paul Koroma has to give himself up, unconditionally.

At the moment nobody is accusing Johnny Paul of any wrongdoing, though he has been declared wanted by the state. The police are yet to make public their findings. The multiple arrests should not be dismissed without an indictment.

Above all, we seem to be sitting on a volcano, ready to ignite. Our security is very vulnerable. We tend to be heading for the unpredictable. For Johnny Paul Koroma to be on the run is something our security operatives should view with the greatest concern. With the formal end of war, the greatest threat to our peace is posed by some miscreants in society scheming sinister plots against the state, against us.

Things have terribly gone wrong. No diplomacy can amend it. Those who want to make the state ungovernable must face the full penalty of the law.

Standard Times
Tuesday, 4 February 2003

P.L.P. members conspire against Johnny Paul



Johnny Paul Koroma

News filtering into Standard Times Press over the weekend intimate that plans are well underway to replace the leader of Peace and Liberation Party (PLP), Hon. Johnny Paul Koroma by some of his party members.

PLP sources reveal that since the news of Hon. J.P. Koroma's alleged involvement in the subversive ac-

tivities and his unceremonious disappearance broke out, some power-thirsty people within his party have been jumping from one point to another in a bid to replace their leader.

Some disgruntled PLP members particularly have expressed gross

dismay at the way one Dr. Baba Kandeh is now eager to be in parliament to occupy the place of the wanted leader.

"But even if he is the right person for that position, he must wait for the party's collective decision," a member of the Public Relations wing reportedly suggested.

Our sources have however revealed that the decision has already been reached within PLP to have Hon. Hassan Kamara to replace the leader of the party in parliament, if Johnny Paul fails to report in time to occupy his seat in the House.

Information further reveals that the party seems to be split about the issue of Dr. Baba Kandeh.

"He is too eager to become a parliamentarian, and he is always criticizing the leader, Hon. J.P. Koroma of ungratefulness for engaging in subversive activities," a PLP source told this press.

Meanwhile Standard Times has learnt that parliament seems to be widely divided on the issue of Hon. J.P. Koroma's alleged involvement in subversive activities.

Reports state that while some members argued that Hon. J.P. Koroma has not been proven guilty of the said allegation and is therefore

expected to be still covered by all parliamentary immunities and privilege.

Our parliamentary sources have further intimated that others believe Hon. J.P. Koroma was not treated as a parliamentarian.

Reportedly, the concern of some parliamentarians is that even if Hon. J.P. Koroma was alleged to have done wrong, the speaker of parliament should have been contacted and some responsible senior police officer ordered to effect his arrest.

"This was however not the case," our source confirmed.

Report however state that Parliamentarians are in a state of quandary by the degree of silence the speaker of parliament has maintained over this matter.

Standard Times
Tuesday February 4, 2003

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2003

THE DEMOCRAT

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My Views Alone

With

Chairman Baimba

Where Exactly Is Johnny Paul Koroma, My People?

The whereabouts of Johnny Paul Koroma remains a mystery and a big headache for the security forces of this land. No specific and reliable information has been advanced with regards to the actual location of the man and his eight buddies. Rumours doing the rounds have suggested several locations.

Sierra, British High Commission, England

The first set of rumours pointed fingers at the West African State of Ghana. The reason for that, I want to believe, is that when Johnny Paul Koroma seized power by force of arms in May 1997, the first country they ran to was Ghana, during the days of J.J. Rawlings, in fact they named their so-called revolution (AFRC) after J.J. Rawlings. In fact AFRC in order to gain quick recognition from the international community, in fact most of their operatives were constantly in and out of Ghana and Togo. But those were the days of Rawlings, also a military man. That of course, could be understood. I would not want to believe President John Kufuor, a past civilian president would condone what his military predecessor condoned in the past. There are, in fact, rumours that Johnny Paul's children who were hurriedly shipped to that country have been repatriated back to Sierra Leone. That is yet to be confirmed. Next, we hear, the man is in the British High Commission, seeking pro-

tection. We then hear he is in Lungu, where he surrendered to UNAMSIL. Some local tabloids have carried stories about a search for Johnny Paul in the mountain district. And now, the latest rumours say, Johnny Paul gave himself up to the British Military training team, (IMATT), who are said to have flown him to England. These are the rumours thus far?

Escape

But the big question on the

lips of many here, is where exactly is Johnny Paul? What we currently hear are more rumours. We want to know from our security forces why and how Johnny Paul left the shores of this land if at all he has done so. A senior police commander has told this nation that indeed Johnny Paul's escape was aided and abetted by officers sent to effect the arrest. But he put it rather diplomatically - "professional misconduct." That's right, OBM. But what we know, after partially decoding your "professional misconduct," is that the police let loose Johnny Paul. Some green envelop must have changed hands in the event. That may be quickly denied. But pua, this is Sierra Leone where anyone reigns supreme. Now, Johnny Paul has escaped with eight desperados. Our security is very much at stake.

Loyalty

We must not forget the fact that in this country, loyalty is to individuals rather than the constitution of the country. From the days of Strasser when our army became polarized into factions like the

Liberia

Sierra Leone is about half the size of neighbouring Liberia. The two countries are situated along the West Coast of Africa - meaning that they both have ocean borders through which anybody can escape after committing crime, by the local out board boats or dug out canoes to safety. They both have forested land borders. In fact Liberia is more forested than Sierra Leone because of their low population. In fact in lower Lofa County, one can travel from one village to the next in the thick dark forest for about four days, before getting there. That is never possible here in Sierra Leone. Somebody may want to know the reason(s) for my analogy. Well, if you care to know, during my days in Liberia, I witnessed two failed coup d'etats involving two Commanding Generals' both of whom were arrested in less than forty-eight hours following the incident. In 1995, Lt. General Thomas Quiwonkpa staged a coup that almost succeeded but failed, due to lapses here and there. General

General Charles Julu, attempted to overthrow an interim or Transitional government put together to oversee disarmament and elections. That coup failed. Julu and his men escaped at about 6:30 pm. By 6:30 am the next morning, Julu, dressed in full female attire, was nabbed by security forces, on his way to the American Embassy. And remember, the two generals in question were Three Star or Lieutenant Generals. My question now is, if security forces could easily nab these two generals, what about Johnny Paul Koroma, who is an ordinary major? Don't tell me he is Lt. Colonel. He bestowed that title upon himself. Generals escaped and

were easily nabbed. Now, a major has escaped as far back as mid-January, and is yet to be arrested. Why? Lip-Service

The reason is, all of us seem to be paying lip-service to this country. We always grumble about low salaries. But tell me, which country in the entire sub-region has a well-paid army or police? Look at the Nigerian soldiers serving here in Sierra Leone. They are on international (UN) mission. But they sometimes grumble about non-payment of their salaries. Compare a soldier Sierra Leoneans. I want to believe many army and police officers have houses and cars. I have been in the houses of several police

constables and sergeants. And believe me, very few cabinet ministers can challenge such a life style. There are several police constables with big houses, transport and private vehicles. The problem here is loyalty and dedication to national duty. There are new teachers who have not been paid for the past five months, yet they go to school everyday. Let us stop compromising our security for personal gains. That will help you alone but not the nation, including your children.

Salaries

Time and again, I have informed government about the low salaries in this country. We need to go back to

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JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA

From Front Page

the drawing board and see what we can do about the low salaries to especially our security forces. We also need to warn the commanders against this culture of "HOLD UP." A lot of ordinary soldiers and police are grumbling about the non-payment of most of their entitlements by their commanders. These commanders must be made to understand that what belongs to ceasar is ceasar's. We must realize that the only way we can command respect from our subordinates is to avoid tampering with their entitlements. Instead of do so, I believe you are supposed to augment their salaries and allowances. But cutting on the little offered them amounts to stealing. And believe me, much of the problems we face with junior officers come from their bosses. These bosses need to be watched with keen eyes.

Sea, Tiger, Elephant, Giraffe, Ant-ele, the loyalty of the army switched from state to individuals. Johnny Paul Koroma had his own group (now the West Side Boys) Strasser had his, Bio had his, SAJ Musa had his own group, Kambo had his, and even the then disposed Momoh had his, etc, etc. The poor civilians were left at the mercy of these gun-toting boys. Some of the factions joined ranks with the Sankoh rebels to reign

went into hiding. Believe me, compatriots, within a space of few hours, all the security forces galvanized efforts, sealed everywhere and carried out massive man hunt for the then commanding general of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Thomas Quiwonkpa. In less than three days, Quiwonkpa was arrested and dragged out of an unfinished building in the outskirts of Monrovia's paynesville suburb. Then in 1995, another General, Lt.

The News
Tuesday, 4 February 2003

Wednesday February 5th 2003
The News

As Parliament Resumes Sittings...

MPs Cheer Johnny Paul's Party

Members of parliament burst into spontaneous laughter yesterday as Peace and Liberation Party (PLP) Member of Parliament Hassan Kamara, walked into the chamber. He is the only MP now representing his party after the escape recently into hiding of the PLP leader Johnny Paul Koroma. The MPs cheered Hassan Kamara and struck their desks, creating an uncontrollable noise in the house. The Peace and Liberation Party was spearheaded by Johnny Paul Koroma in the May

elections last year. He also represented the party as its presidential flag bearer but lost woefully, winning only two seats in the parliamentary polls. Recently, the police declared him wanted after arresting scores of other people close to him at his Juba Hills residence in connection with a shooting incident at an army base outside Freetown.

**JOHNNY PAUL:
SMALL OSAMA?**

Ha! ha! ha! ha! Motuba wonders whether the police's most wanted man, Johnny Paul Koroma, has any access to internet services, so that he could e-mail Motuba, at: motubacorner@yahoo.com.

Johnny Paul has become Sa. Leone's small Osama. How long do you intend to be on the run? Do you intend to be in hiding until the TRC or Special court begin sittings?

Or are you waiting for the police to increase the price tag placed on your head before you could eventually surface?

Certainly no, because wherever you may be hiding, the court would definitely get you.

The civil society has asked that you come out, if you believe you are innocent. But the saying goes that, "the guilty are always afraid."

"Bo yu sef yu pas mak. Den gee yu amnesty, gee yu CCP Chairman, gee yu bux fo tinap elektion.

**WHO IS MBALU
SANKOH?**

Motuba read a story in one of the local tabloids which claimed that one Mbalu Sankoh, one of the purported daughters of detained RUF leader; Foday Sankoh, wanted to access fifteen million U.S. dollars from an Ivorian bank which money she alleged was reportedly deposited on their behalf by slain former Ivorian Junta leader General Robert Gue.

According to reports, Mbalu Sankoh only wanted part of that sum which she intends to use together with her two other sisters to possibly vacate the shores of africa.

The balance sum, according to Mbalu, could be used on charity. But if this lady is thinking about charity, why doesn't she give to the amputees who were dismembered by her father's fighters.

Motuba even wonders whether this so-called Mbalu is in fact a true off-spring of Sankoh. And if there is any element of truth in that story the government has every right to order that account frozen and the said amount forfeited to the state.

After all, it is blood money which has been accumulated through sales of conflict diamonds by Mbalu's father.

The News
Wednesday February 5 2003

Sierra News

Wednesday, 5 February 2003

Sierra News
Wednesday February 5 2003

Johnny Paul don't rush for power at country's detriment

By Fode Kande in USA

Head of state of an illegal military junta. Chairman of an important post in the SLPP regime after being generously rehabilitated by the President after a peace accord, founder and member of parliament of the Peace and Liberation Party and presidential candidate. Wow, all these accolades on one man called Johnny Paul Koroma, a man who had vowed to be fully involved in the peace process in Sierra Leone. He once told the people he was not interested in political leadership, even though it is said that an Evangelist had predicted that he would rise to the pinnacle of head of state of Sierra Leone some day. He made no secret of his backing for Kabbah.

But look at the events of the past two weeks. They have shown that JPK is not only a fake but is trying to outrun himself. Indeed JPK had been held in high esteem in Sierra Leone for his support of the peace process.

Now for JPK to make a 360 degree turn, doing

or plotting all what he had preached against. Is like betraying the trust people bestowed upon him.

This brings us to the million dollar questions: Does

JPK love Sierra Leone as a true patriot? Well we cannot rush into making any judgment, but from the look of things he seems to be drifting away from that direction. We are thus tempted to say a big fat 'No' unless he otherwise convinces us.

Johnny need not be told what a civil war can do to a nation, he has seen it all the material, physical and moral, educational, health, infrastructural, economic and political damage the 11-year old civil war did to the country, tens of thousands of innocent civilians our families, parents, our sisters, brothers, relatives friends etc-were murdered in cold blood, our sisters and children raped and killed, our young children abducted and turned into drugged killers. The country's economy and human development have come tumbling down to the bottom of the United Nations rankings. Hundreds of thousands of Sierra Leoneans have fled their homes, some with and others without some of

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Jonhny Paul don't rush for powers at country detriment

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their family members to neighbouring countries, some of which had been hostile. Our refugees the longest time around. Our dear country's development has been put 30 years back. Many died in and out of Sierra Leone from heart attack due to the stress of the effects of the war, as many lost their houses and their property and now cannot afford to rebuild because the cement they bought for 50 cent a bag now goes for as much as twelve thousand leones a bag and labor costs have gone up sky high. So, the stress of not being able to enjoy the good life one used to have before causes a big stress resulting in cardiac arrest. Johnny Paul, do you want to take your people through this again? Don't you love Sierra Leone more than you love power? Well, to be frank with you, any attempt to start a rebellion will not be embraced by peace-loving Sierra Leoneans. We are sick and tired of all this. Let's not slide back to thearchy. If that happens, the end of Sierra Leone is because it's not

President Tejan Kabbah you want to overthrow. If a Sierra Leone you want to destroy.

Afterwards, Tejan Kabbah is not bigger than Sierra Leone. There can always be another President, but there will never be another Sierra Leone. So, please reconsider. Long lives Sierra Leone! Long live power through

the ballot, not through the bullet! In your quest for power Johnny Paul please don't mortgage the lives of innocent Sierra Leoneans again. After all President Kabbah is not doing a bad job at all. If we lose him now, its clammy for the country."

Continues

Awoko
Wednesday, 5 February 2003

On Johnny Paul's escape... Police to release findings Friday

By Samuel John

The report of the internal investigation carried out by the Sierra Leone Police Force pertaining to the mysterious disappearance of fugitive People's Liberation Party leader, Johnny Paul Koroma would be released latest Friday. The Force disclosed this to journalists at the weekly press briefing yesterday. Speaking at the briefing, the Senior Commissioner



Senior Commissioner of Police, Professional Standards, Oliver Somasa

of Police, Professional Standards, Oliver Somasa maintained that the delay in their investigation was due to the fact that "one of the key officers for questioning was on official duties in the provinces." He went on "now that he is back we are on track in concluding our investigations and by Friday, the report will be out." He also stressed that, definite instruction was given to arrest all those within the
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premises of Johnny Paul Koroma, but that instruction was flattered. On the present state of the security in the country, the Professional Standards Chief stressed "there was no major report on the

general security situation in the country." He however emphasized, "we are doing everything within our powers to avert what we witnessed during the last ten years." On Johnny Paul's escape, he said, "we definitely want to arrest

him, but his absence would not deter our investigations." At present the number of suspects that are in police custody is 77 and it is most likely that conspiracy charges may be brought against those who are the actors.

Awoko

Wednesday, February 5 2003

Salone Times
Wednesday, 5 February 2003

Police Report On Johnny Paul, Friday

By Mohamed Mansaray

Senior Police Commissioner for Professional Standards Oliver Somasa has said that the Internal Committee set up to investigate the officers that effected the arrests at the residence of Johnny Paul Koroma would be made known to the public on Friday this week.

Commissioner Somasa, yesterday spoke on the disappearance of Peoples Liberation Party Leader and Hon. Member of Parliament Johnny Paul Koroma at a press briefing at police headquarters, George Street in Freetown.

He re-admitted police

mistake leading to the recent escape of Johnny Paul Koroma during the execution of an arrest warrant.

According to Mr. Somasa a team of police officers were given "specific instructions" to arrest anybody who was found at Johnny Paul's No. 7 Shepkendeh - Drive Juba

Hill residence. He told journalists that the men were wanted for questioning in connection with the shooting incident at Wellington a fortnight ago.

Commissioner Somasa further said that although he could not say whether the action of the police team was criminal or a mistake, he however ex-

plained that all the officers sent on that mission are currently being investigated. The outcome of that investigation would be made known to the public on Friday," Mr. Somasa said.

Asked whether he was worried about the disappearance of Hon. J. P. Koroma, Mr. Somasa replied that he was not wor-

ried. "What we are investigating now is conspiracy to destabilise the democracy in Sierra Leone." He added that he was sure Johnny Paul Koroma would be arrested.

Meanwhile, police have contacted the office of the Attorney General for further advice and recommendation.

2/4/03, 8:55 PM

Salone Times
Wednesday February 5 2003

Public Notice

It is announced by the information of the general public that following revelations from the ongoing investigation into the shooting incident at Wellington on 13/01/03. The following people are wanted by the police:

Johnny Paul Koroma of
7 Skekpendeh Drive , Juba
Reverend George Bai -Marrow
of 23 Syke Street, Freetown
Hector Bob Lahai
of Juba Estate, Juba Hill,
Fayia Kennedy of Devil hole,
Sidique Jah of Jah Compound
Wellington,
Samuel Kargbo, alias Sammy of 83
Bass Street, Brookfields,

Abdul Mansaray, alias Rambo
of Devil Hole,
SLA1816554L/CPL. Sesay, alias
Ranger

A handsome reward of Ten Million leones will be awarded to anyone who gives useful information leading to the arrest of Johnny Paul Koroma. A reasonable amount will be provided for any of the other named herein. Any information given in this regard will be treated in confidence. All information should be channelled through Telephone nos. 225899 and 220069. Please, help the Police to help you

Johnny Paul replaced in parliament

Concord Times
Wednesday
February 5
2003

By Regina Thomas



Johnny Paul, still at large

When parliament resumed yesterday at Tower Hill after its festive break in Christmas, conspicuously absent was Peace and Liberation Party (PLP) leader, Hon. Johnny Paul Koröma.

However, his number two man, Hon. Hassan

Kamara was there with an empty seat that Johnny Paul should have occupied.

Instead, Kamara used the absence of his leader to place a black bag on his seat.

Kamara had a field day in fact as he was given a big applause by colleague parlia-

mentarians when he entered the house to take his seat.

Reasons for the applause was not made known.

However, it could not be unconnected with the absence of Johnny Paul at yesterday's sittings.

He could not hold his breath, as he too joined his

colleagues in the fun.

A member of parliament who prefers animosity said that he commended Hon. Kamara for his neutrality in the absence of his party leader.

Hon. Hassan Kamara now steps in the shoe of Johnny Paul in parliament.

Eddie Turay prays for leadership

By Regina Thomas

Hon. Eddie Turay's visit to Nigeria recently was for the All Peoples Congress (APC) to have a leader.

He disclosed this to colleague Parliamentarians during his personal contribution

in Parliament yesterday.

"My trip to Nigeria was to pray for a leader of the party," he said.

He could not react to under comments from the chambers that the APC has a leader.

Turay was reacting to a



Another Disruption Looms This Nation

Forget About Special Court.....

THE SETTING up of a Special Court in Sierra Leone for those who "bear the greatest crime" during the ten years of devastation on the lives of innocent civilians has been viewed by some political pundits as another disruption that looms this nation in the not too distant future.

The newly installed DEEN of the CATHEDRAL, His Worship, Adjai Nicol, usually known as Rev. Cannon Adjai Nicol, said in Freetown on Sunday Janu-

Says Adjai Nicol

ary 26, 2003 that President Kabbah, his Government and the people of this nation, as a whole must forget about the setting up of a Special Court

to try those involved.

Delivering his maiden sermon on a live broadcast on the SLBS National Service (FM 99.9) DEEN . Adjai Nicol called on President Kabbah to play another political Tom Foolery to enhance continued peace.

In his sermon, he told his large stunned congregation, that when President Kabbah signed the LOME PEACE AC-



President Kabbah- Man of deen
VP Solomon Berewa- Nationalist
Eka Tallorway- AG. & Minister of Justice

tained rebel Leader, Corporal Foday Sankoh to the status of a Vice President, many saw Pa Kabbah as a "Fool", little did they realize, that it enabled the disarmament process to go unhindered.

The DEEN of the CATHEDRAL also said in his sermon, that

Forget About Special Court

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by forgetting about the Special Court, looms disruptions of civil unrest and semblances of coup d'etat for fished.

He said that the international community will stand to benefit from even re-

asons. The of judges etc and those found guilty by the trials of the Special Court, will be sent to Hotels as Prisoners yard to serve their jail terms instead.

The DEEN also cautioned in his sermon that perpetrators of the heinous war

crimes must be seen carrying their own sinful loads. How many mind men do you see around Freetown? He queried.

A pointer of God's faithfulness in the making, he concluded in his awakening sermon.

The New Pioneer
Tuesday
February 4
2003

Will President Kabba Face The Special Court?

By *Sheka Tarawalle (Shekito)*

That RUF leader Foday Sanyala Sankoh will appear before the specially constituted court to try those most responsible for crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone's war is no longer news. That many fingers have been pointed at fugitive leader of the Peace and Liberation Party (PLP) and former junta boss Johnny Paul Koroma as a potential candidate for the Special Court cannot be news to many either. Also, that former Kamajor co-ordinator and now Minister of Internal Affairs Sam Hinga Norman will be one of the indicted is a

matter that many tongues have been wagging about. That Issa Sesay could muster sufficient authority to have commanded the RUF rebels to disarm meant he also had sufficient authority to have ordered them to fight during the war time - meaning he was in a command position responsible enough to bear the greatest responsibility in the war. However, one person that some people are still not sure about his possible indictment is President Kabbah. Sure enough some

speculative writers have made mention of Kabbah's role in the war as being tantamount to bearing or sharing the greatest responsibility. Standard Times newspaper in one of its mid 2001 editions with the headline "Kabbah not above Special Court" clearly stated that the president also had a hand in furthering the 'cause' of atrocities in Sierra Leone. PEEP magazine! of April 16 2002 had in its Political Soundbites' the screaming title of "Kabbah must face War Crimes Tribunal", giving enough reasons why the



president himself should not be excluded from the list of those to stand before the court. But many - particularly wu-teh-teh die-hards - believe that (as president and as the constitution states) the head of State is immuned

against prosecution. They feel -as president, albeit an overthrown president - even if Pa kabbah had ordered, as it were, the killing of all Sierra Leoneans for him to be restored to power, then

he should go scotch free and rule the chickens - if their lives were spared by gluttonous Nigerian soldiers. If we talk about addressing impunity, President Kabbah should not be brought into the picture - so the loyalists argue. Even the president himself, from his speeches and arguments, has taken himself off the situation and acts as if he was not a participant in the war mongering. His Mayoung Day speech to members of the Sierra Leone Army - an army he disbanded at a time we needed reconciliation - thereby exacerbating the war - indicated that Pres Kabbah is directing - or wants to direct - the attention of the Special Court away from himself to those 'ringleaders' of the AFRC/RUF.

The Democrat
Thursday, 6 February 2003

Special Court Investigations End In June

The prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone David M. Crane has told residents of Port Loko that his team of investigators could complete their investigations by June of this year.

His visit to Port Loko was part of a number of community meetings he and his staff have been holding in various parts of the country since August last year to solicit views on how he should undertake his mandate of prosecuting those who bear the greatest responsibility for violations of international humanitarian law committed during the

country's decade-long civil war.



David Crane

He has visited eleven out of the twelve districts in the country.

Later this week, the Prosecutor is scheduled to make the second in a series of diplomatic missions

in support of his work. Travelling to Europe and North America, Crane will hold talks with senior government officials and human rights leaders regarding cooperation and coord-

ination with his office. Additional trips are planned for

late-February and throughout March.

*The Democrat
Thursday February 6, 2003*

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2003

THE NEW FRONTLINE

PAGE 6

The Special Court and the Brutal Murder of Late Hon. B.S. Massaquoi.

Report reaching this Press disclosed that the late Hon. B.S. Massaquoi of No. 4 Jenneh Street, Kenema was brutally murdered by the RUF Commander, Sam Bockarie, alias Mosquito and his combatants in Kenema town during the wake of the AFRC bloody rule.

The late Hon. B.S. Maskita was arrested some time in December 1997 by the RUF after taking over the township. He was initially detained at the Kenema Hangha Road AFRC Secretariat for some weeks and later transferred to the Kenema Brigade where he was perpetually kept until his brutal execution, the report

states. An eyewitness who was in captivity together with Pa B.S. an ex-serviceman, is one MRS SOLOMON BOCKARIE of Tissor village near Kenema. He may know all those who were involved in the torture and execution of this Statesman for the

information of the Prosecutor of the Special Court.

It all happened after pro-government militia, the Kamajors attacked the township in February 1998 to liberate the town and it's people.

Failing to accomplish their objective, after being repelled by the rebels, the RUF Sam Bockarie and his colleagues decided to crush all pro-government supporters already in custody with them, including late Pa B.S. The late man

being a pro-SLPP member was brutally murdered along with eight others.

Report reaching this Press therefore strongly suggests that with the establishment of the Special Court, which has the powers to investigate and punish leading pioneers of atrocities in this country, like Sam Bockarie during the ten years brutal war, should be brought to justice in respond to the needs of victims or relatives, and to prevent a repetition of the violations and abuses caused during the war.

B.S. Massaquoi Dead But Still Alive



In loving memory of our dear father, grandfather, brother, uncle, husband and friend.

Hon. Pa. B.S. Massaquoi Who died on February 3, 1998 at age 75. Five years have

rolled away since your seat became vacant.

We miss you dearly everyday and in every way. May your soul continue to rest in perfect peace.

From Friends and Relatives at Home and Abroad.

Associated Press
Wednesday, 5 February 2012

Yahoo! News - Michael Douglas Ends Sierra Leone Trip

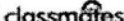
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Michael Douglas Ends Sierra Leone Trip

Wed Feb 5, 2:04 PM ET

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone - Actor Michael Douglas ([news](#)) wrapped up a trip to war-ravaged Sierra Leone on Wednesday, checking out vast stockpiles of surrendered arms and talking with victims of the ruthless 10-year conflict.

Douglas, also a U.N. peace envoy, is producing a film with the United Nations ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) on the West African child soldiers.

"I am impressed with how many kids are keen on getting back to school, in places really war-torn," the 58-year-old actor said.

Sierra Leone is recovering from one of Africa's most brutal wars — one that saw tens of thousands killed, raped and maimed as rebels battled to gain control of the nation's diamond fields and government.

Sierra Leone authorities declared the war over in January 2002, after deployments by the United Nations, former colonial Britain, and neighboring Guinea finally broke the rebel movement.


Douglas arrived Saturday and has spent most of his time in the eastern Kono diamond-mine district. His work is mainly focused on the wartime role of child soldiers, and their reintroduction back to their families and communities.


UN Wire

Wednesday, 5 February 2012



**SIERRA LEONE: Actor Michael Douglas Ends
Visit For Film On Child Soldiers**

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U.S. actor Michael Douglas, a U.N. Messenger of Peace, ended a five-day visit to Sierra Leone yesterday as part of work on a film he is producing about child soldiers.

Douglas' visit included a survey of surrendered weapons and interviews with victims of the war. He spent most of his time in the eastern Kono diamond-mining district.

"I am impressed with how many kids are keen on getting back to school, in places really war-torn," he said.

Some 7,000 children were engaged in Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war when it ended early last year. The youngest was age 6 ([Associated Press/Yahoo! News, Feb. 5](#)).

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