

**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:**

Thursday, 4 October 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Premier News  
Thursday, 4 October 2007

# Special Court THE CHAMBERS

**T**he Special Court has two Trial Chambers and one Appeals chambers. Each Trial Chamber comprises three Judges: two of whom are nominated by the United Nation Secretary –General and one of whom is nominated by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Justice Pierre G. Boutet (Canada), justice Benjamin Itoe (Cameroon), and Justice Bankole Thompson (Sierra Leone) sit as Trial Chamber I, which hears the CDF and RUF trials.

The judges of trial Chamber II, Justice terse Doherty (Northern Ireland), Justice Richard Lussick (Samoa), and justice Julia Sebutinde (Uganda) were appoint at the beginning of 2005 and have been assigned to the AFRC and Tailor trials.

## TRIAL CHAMBER I

### CIVIL DEFENCE FORCES (CDF) TRIAL NORMAN FOFANA AND KONDEWA

Defence Case and Completion of the CDF trial

The CDF commenced on 3 June 2004, proceeding on an alternate basis with the RUF trial, and total of eight trial sessions were held. In 2006, the sixth trial session took place between 19 January 2006 and 23 February 2006, the Seventh trial session took place between 3 May 2006 and 16 June 2006, while the eighth and final trial session took place between 15 September 2006 and 18 October 2006, when the Defence closed its case. In total, 75 witnesses were called by the prosecution, while the Defence called 44 witnesses over 159 days of trial. In addition, 204 exhibits were tendered by the parties during the proceedings.

The witnesses called by the Defence were divided as

follows: 23 witness by Defence for the First Accused, seven witness by Defence for the first Accused and nine witnesses by Defence for the Second Accused. In addition, one witnesses was called on behalf of all the accused, while four other witnesses were called on behalf of the First and Second Accused. In particular, the first Accused, Samuel Hinga Norman, opened the presentation of his Defence case, appearing as a the witnesses in his own defence. The other two accused opted not to appear as witnesses in their own defence.

The CDF trial resumed in January 2006 with the presentation of his Defence case, and was completed on 30 November 2006, after closing arguments were heard by Trial Chamber I over a three-day period.

A majority of the Prosecution witnesses who testified during the trial were protected by the Court, through the use of pseudonyms, and a screen separating them from public view when testify in the courtroom. There were also some insider witnesses whose identifies and safety were further protected by testifying in closed session. None of the Defence teams sought protective measure from the court for their respective witnesses and, accordingly, all Defence testified publicly at trial.

The trial is currently adjourned for deliberation on the judgment.

## DEATH OF ACCUSED NORMAN

On 22 February 2007, trial Chamber I was informed that the First Accused, Samuel Hinga Norman, had died after undergoing medical treatment in Dakar, Senegal. On 7 March 2007, the Chamber invited the Defence and

*Continue Next Issue*

## The Patriotic Vanguard

Tuesday, 2 October 2007

### **CDF Sentencing Postponed – Again**

Commentary

By Alfred Munda SamForay

Sentencing in the CDF Accused trial has once again been postponed to next Tuesday October 9, 2007. The on-again, off-again sentencing was originally scheduled for Monday, September 24, then postponed to today, Monday October 1 according to the court's own calendar. Family and supporters of Second Accused, Moinina Fofana, and Third Accused, Dr. Alieu Musa Kondewa, have now been informed that the sentencing has again been postponed another week. No reason has so far been given for the postponement.



Mr. Fofana and Dr. Kondewa were both found guilty August 2, 2007 on four counts each of violations of protocols of war under Article III Common to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols collectively known as war crimes. Additionally, Dr. Kondewa was found guilty on one count of international humanitarian laws for recruitment and enlistment of child soldiers. Neither of the CDF Accused was found guilty of the most serious offence of Crimes Against Humanity. The lone Sierra Leonean jurist on the Trial Chamber, Professor Roslo Bankole Thompson, rejected the majority verdict with a strongly worded dissenting opinion in favour of a not-guilty verdict for the CDF Accused. His two foreign colleagues, Canadian jurist, Pierre Boutet, and Cameroonian, Benjamin Mutanga Itoe, ruled against the CDF.

The prosecutor on September 24 asked the court for a thirty-year prison sentence for each of the CDF leaders. Counsels for Dr. Kondewa and Mr. Fofana, Charles Francis Margai and Michael Pestman, respectively, had asked the court for lighter sentences including four years for Fofana and three years for Kondewa. The three-judge Trial Chamber was to have ruled on those motions today.

Despite all the predictions and assurances by Sierra Leone government and some diplomatic officials, it is quite evident based on the guilty verdict for the remaining CDF Accused that had he lived to see the final verdict, former CDF National Coordinator, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, would also have been found guilty of war crimes and possibly other offenses. Chief Norman and the government-sponsored Sierra Leone Civil Defence Forces (CDF) twice took up arms alongside the West African defense force, ECOMOG, to restore the now defeated and disgraced SLPP government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, who later turned Norman and the CDF over for prosecution for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Members of Kabbah's government, possibly including Kabbah himself, were over the weekend ordered by newly elected President, Ernest Bai Koroma, not to give any thoughts about leaving the country without prior clearance by the Inspector General of Police. Perhaps it is a matter of poetic justice that Tejan Kabbah and his ministers are now subject to restricted movement similar to, though not as constrained, as the people whom they betrayed to foreigners.

Meanwhile, the Hinga Norman family through its representative, Rev. Alfred SamForay, has submitted a formal request to the court for the expeditious return of all personal effects of the Late Chief that are believed to be in the custody of the court or detention officials. These include the Command Staff of the Kamajors taken by the court during the trial supposedly for evidentiary purposes. The family is also seeking the return by any person or persons of all such personal and official objects that may be of historical significance to be preserved for posterity. All such items are to be returned to the family's sole designated custodian, Mr. Mohamed Lansana Jawara, of New England, Freetown.

Alfred Munda SamForay  
CDF Defence Fund.

Photo: Alfred Munda SamForay.

Editor's Note: We have been informed by the Special Court that the delay or postponement is to give the defense sufficient time to present their final arguments.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 3 October 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

10/03/2007 05:58:58

#### **Mano River Resources says to progress Putu project after positive report**

LONDON (Thomson Financial) - Exploration and development company Mano River Resources Inc said it will progress its Putu Range Iron Ore project in eastern Liberia after positive conclusions of an independent technical report. The company also said it plans to start a 4,000 meter resource and grade delineation drilling programme in the fourth quarter of this year.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Ivory Coast PM vows pre-vote ID scheme will be clean**

ABIDJAN, Oct 3, 2007 (AFP) - Ivory Coast's prime minister has allayed fears that a contentious pre-poll population identification scheme to update voters rolls ahead of long delayed elections could be fraught with fraud. Prime Minister Guillaume Soro assured the restive population that strict measures had been put in place to ensure that the crucial exercise renewed in the West African country will be free of chicanery.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **New AFL Soldiers Complete Combat Medic Training**

*(The Inquirer, The News, Daily Observer and The Informer)*

- Nineteen members of the first batch of the new Armed Forces of Liberia have completed the required training as combat medics. The soldiers are due to be assigned at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center and the Edward B. Kessely Medical Clinic to get adjusted to the treatment of patients and other practical work as combat medics.
- According to the Chief of Office Defense Cooperation at the US Embassy near Monrovia, Col. William Wyatt, the 19 soldiers were selected for the training based on their performance in the aptitude test administered to them.

#### **UNMIL Force Commander Reaffirms Mission's Commitment**

*(The News and Public Agenda)*

- Speaking in Sinje during a handover ceremony where Pakistani UN Peacekeepers assumed the security responsibilities previously handled by the Namibian Contingent, UNMIL's Force Commander Lt. Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor reassured the people of Grand Cape Mount County of the mission's commitment to sustaining the peace and security across the country.



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

**New AFL Soldiers Attach to Medical Centers**

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

**President Sirleaf Challenges Churches to Lead Moral Lives**

- Addressing the closing session of a Church National Leadership Conference, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf challenged Church leaders and churches in Liberia to set moral standards and practice what they preach by living exemplary lives. She stressed that people look up to the Church for moral authority and credibility. The Liberian leader encouraged Church leaders to point out the wrongs in Government.
- Information Minister Laurence Bropleh earlier lamented that large numbers of Church members live in poverty while churches were amassing huge bank accounts with interest accrued on Church monies, pointing out Methodist, Catholic and Baptist Churches have monies in the Banks that they give as loans to foreigners mainly Lebanese and not ordinary Liberians.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

**Senate take Exception to Ministry's Call for Accountability**

- During its Plenary Session, the House of Senate described as a "gross insubordination" a Finance Ministry letter requesting members of the Senate to account for allowances they received from the Ministry, and has directed its Committee on Ways, Means and Finance to invite Finance Ministry officials to explain why members of the Senate should account for the use of the allowances.
- The Senate said that the Finance Ministry authorities' request is an "insult to the First Branch of Government" stressing that the House is neither answerable nor accountable to the Executive Branch of Government.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

**UN Peacekeepers Commit to Ensuring security**

- UNMIL Force Commander Lt. /Gen. Chikadibia Isaac Obiakor assured the people of Grand Cape Mount County of the Mission's commitment to sustaining the peace and security in the entire Country.
- Speaking at a ceremony when the outgoing Namibian contingent handed over the security of Grand Cape Mount County to the Pakistani Peacekeepers, Gen. Obiakor said that the Mission will institute careful planning and monitoring of the security situation so as not to risk the peace that has been achieved.
- Recounting the valuable contributions of the Namibian battalion, Gen. Obiakor pointed out that the Namibians served Liberia and UNMIL in various capacities to ensure the safety of the communities they served.
- The Commanding Officer of the Namibian Contingent, Lt./Col. Kondjeni Haikokola thanked the UN for giving the soldiers the opportunity to serve humanity. He expressed gratitude to the people of Liberia and Grand Cape Mount County in particular for the support during their tenure of duty.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS 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](mailto:karpeh@un.org).

## UN Integrated Regional Information Networks

Wednesday, 3 October 2007

### **Cholera Deaths Surge**

Freetown

A deadly cholera epidemic has broken out in several regions of Sierra Leone.

Since the first week of September at least 523 people have been infected in Kambia district in northern Sierra Leone close to the border with Guinea, and in the eastern town of Kenema, and Newton on the outskirts of the capital Freetown, according to the Ministry of Health.

Cholera can be easily treated with a course of dehydration and local government authorities have been using FM radio to appeal to people to report cases of diarrhoea and vomiting to the nearest health centre.

"We have the personnel and enough drugs to quickly and professionally intervene," The Kambia District medical officer Joseph Kandeh told IRIN.

Nonetheless, 30 people died from the disease in September, the Ministry said.

The district medical officer for Kenema, Yankuba Bah, said that people are reluctant to seek treatment when they get sick as they do not have confidence in public hospitals. "Most patients only visit government hospitals when they are in a precarious condition," he said.

Bah also said that most of the people infected are women. They are more exposed to the disease, he said, because they fetch water from streams and work in crowded markets.

Cholera and other waterborne diseases occur each year during the rainy season as heavy rains lead to the contamination of streams and wells from uncollected garbage and effluent. Last year, 2,560 cholera cases were recorded in Sierra Leone during the rainy season between August and October, with 77 deaths.

Less than 50 percent of people outside Freetown have access to clean water and toilets, according to the UN, and most depend on streams and rainfall for their drinking water.

*[ This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations ]*



The Star (South Africa)  
Wednesday, 3 October 2007

**F**our weeks after Sierra Leone's people went to the polls to choose the former opposition leader Ernest Bai Koroma as their president, the daunting task that awaits him is probably still dawning on him.

He won 54,6% of the final vote against Vice-President Solomon Berewa's 45,4% in a tense run-off.

Five years after its devastating civil war came to an end, the country's largely peaceful and fair election marks an important step forward in its democratic development.

But this election occurred against an alarming backdrop of extreme unemployment, declining health and education services, and infrastructure as decrepit as anywhere in Africa.

Understanding what's gone wrong, why peace and stability have done nothing to alleviate the crushing poverty, is crucial not only for Sierra Leone's new president but also for the international community.

The election was, after all, much more than a referendum on the government's performance in this small, 6-million-strong West African state. It went to the heart of a dilemma that confounds aid activists and generals alike, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe: How to (re)build weak states.

The simple answer, at least from Sierra Leone, is: with difficulty.

The international assistance operation, under way on a grand scale since 2000, is led by Britain (former prime minister Tony Blair's father had a connection with Sierra Leone - he was external examiner at Fourah College for many years). Some 18 000 United Nations troops kept the peace there from October 1999 to December 2005 at a cost of \$2.4-billion (about R15-billion).

Over the past five years, Sierra Leone has frequently been cited as an exemplar of what could be achieved by focused, single lead-nation intervention and embedded support by foreign experts. Indeed most things done by the government and its international partners during this period conform to "best practice" in post-conflict peace-building.

Former combatants have been disarmed and rehabilitated. The 10 000-strong army has been reformed, trained and equipped by a skilled British-led International Military Assistance and Training Team (Imatt), and a 9 000-person police force has been established. The UN-backed war crimes court is now trying those responsible for the extreme brutality of the war, which left 50 000 dead and countless maimed. (A trademark of the rebel Revolutionary United Front was to hack off victims' limbs.) Extraordinary work has also been done by a host of NGOs in helping demobilised child soldiers to recover and reintegrate into their communities.

The international community has been generous, too, in embedding expertise within various key government ministries. There was a time this practice was so widespread that the former British territory was said, for all intents and purposes, to have been reconquered by its former master.

Sierra Leone's diamond industry, which for years helped fund rebel activities, has cleaned up its act through the Kimberley Process. Gem revenues should bring in \$175-million in foreign exchange in 2007, \$50-million up from last year, reflecting both higher production and much lower, illicit smuggling levels. The tapping of other rich mineral reserves - notably gold, bauxite and rutile (a titanium sand used for paint pigments and welding rods) -

# A new democracy spinning its wheels

*The social and economic crisis in post-war Sierra Leone reveals the challenge of getting weak and failed states to deliver public goods, write Greg Mills and Terence McNamee*

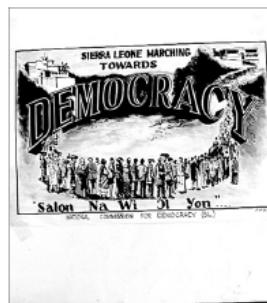
also have helped to stimulate the economy, which has been growing at near 7% for the past few years. This is, of course, off a low base and positively affects predominantly a tiny elite, their new palatial houses springing up on the hills of Freetown.

With foreign assistance, 24 parastatals have been earmarked for privatisation and new measures to promote investment and tackle corruption and money laundering drafted. The National Electoral Commission is a model institution, rightly praised for its organisation of this year's vote.

That highly-competitive elections could go ahead without any significant violence is testament to how far Sierra Leone has come since the dark days of the 1990s. But the acute social and economic crisis in which the country now finds itself is testament to the challenge of getting weak and failed states to deliver public goods. As it was for this reason that Sierra Leone failed in the first place and conflict erupted, devising new mechanisms and policies is more than an academic matter.

The civil war in Sierra Leone began in 1991, when former army corporal Foday Sankoh's RUF began a military campaign against the government capturing towns on the Liberian border and moving from there in on the capital Freetown.

The country did not suffer from any intense social (ethnic or religious) divisions. It possessed a high number of



**SUCCESS:** The National Electoral Commission oversaw a peaceful election.

well-qualified professionals, reasonable communications and a small and manageable territory.

But gradually the state was undermined by poor leadership, pervasive corruption, the crumbling of professionalism in the Sierra Leone armed forces, and an increasingly alienated youth population. As a result, government could no longer

provide public goods.

Outgoing president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah is credited with bringing stability to Sierra Leone. He could not have done so without the help of a British intervention force and subsequently UN troops, and lots of foreign aid, but in the main he deserves that legacy. Otherwise his record is poor.

In spite of dollops of development

assistance, there is almost no provision of electricity water or sanitation. Infant and maternal mortality rates are among the very highest in the world. By some estimates, unemployment hovers around 90%. The country produces few exports and possesses little manufacturing. Perceptions of elite mismanagement, corruption and enrichment abound.

It would be wrong to blame Kabbah for all the country's ills. Some of it is down to the way in which the international community has responded, in a piecemeal and making-it-up-as-you-go-along fashion, which is sadly characteristic of many international assistance missions.

Donors admit they erred in not focusing on the building of basic infrastructure - especially roads and energy - during the past decade. But no single country or international agency is to blame in this respect. The British, for example, were not to know that they would, in 2000, be the lead nation for the best part of the next decade.

In post-conflict situations, it is essential to plan comprehensively for economic recovery prior to (or immediately following) international intervention. This plan must be geared towards quick growth and employment creation, and include widespread and ambitious public works components. One of the most effective antidotes to future unrest or even insurgency, whether in Sierra Leone or Afghanistan

and Iraq, is jobs.

President Koroma (54), an insurance executive, has vowed to run the country like a business concern, stamping out corruption and the mismanagement of state resources. But the new president and the nation's international partners will need to do more than that.

They will urgently need to consider a "New Deal" for the country, which will help Koroma lift it out of the mire. It would need to include a widespread infrastructure rehabilitation programme, based around physical labour and aimed at key targets such as potable water delivery and electricity provision. And roads. In most places in Sierra Leone, roads are barely passable. The country cannot develop unless people and goods can move.

The huge potential for tourism in Sierra Leone is nothing new. For years investors have drooled over its beautiful beaches, stunning landscape and - critically - relatively short flight times from the European market. But visitors will never come so long as Lungi Airport remains so decrepit and until the unerring helicopter transfer to Freetown is a thing of the past.

Sierra Leone's New Deal must engage greater numbers of its farmers in export crop production. The presentation of two-thirds involved in subsistence agriculture is an impediment to growth. Today Sierra Leone imports food but was once the largest rice exporter in the region. At the micro-level, this New Deal strategy would establish recycling plants for rubbish and scrap collection, and any other employment generating activity including the restoration of Freetown's clapper-board houses, the setting of Graham Greene's *Heart of the Matter*.

Short-term growth and employment also deal with the conundrum besetting reforming and recovering states, how to match the promise of long-term growth and the necessary policies of fiscal rectitude with reducing the vulnerability to political unrest.

It is not too late to attempt this. But the world has moved on since 2000 when the international assistance mission for Sierra Leone began in earnest. With Iraq and especially Afghanistan attracting an increasing share of resources, the UK in particular cannot continue indefinitely its current level of support. The initiator and driving force of major UK engagement, Tony Blair, is no longer in office. The window of opportunity for external assistance is closing, no matter how slowly. Inevitably Sierra Leone will more and more be on its troubled own.

A big economic push requires a detailed external plan and a local partner capable of responding. The former should, in theory, be relatively easy to achieve given the high degree of extant donor co-ordination. The latter is much more difficult given ubiquitous government capacity problems. But a lot will depend on whether the new president has the necessary vision and commitment to economic reform.

Sierra Leoneans are entitled to expect more from peace and democracy. They have chosen ballots over bullets. To ensure it stays that way, Sierra Leone now needs a New Deal to stimulate recovery growth and prosperity Koroma will be thankful for such an approach. - Independent Foreign Service.

■ Mills heads the Joburg-based Brenthurst Foundation; McNamee is an analyst with the Royal United Services Institute in London. Both have recently spent time in Sierra Leone.



**SCRAPYARD:** Despite developmental aid, there is almost no provision of water or sanitation.



**'YOUR CHOICE':** An election poster on a roadside urges people to make their voices heard.



**THROWBACK:** Drivers navigate a treacherous Sierra Leone road. Donors now admit that they erred in not focusing on the building of basic infrastructure – especially roads and energy – during the past decade.

PICTURES: GREG MILLS