

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Monday, April 05, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914

Salone Times

Monday April 5, 2004

UN TELLS ANNAN: 'NO MONEY FOR SPECIAL COURT'

By Miaga Solomon

Delegates to the UN General Assembly have rebuffed Secretary General Kofi Annan's attempt to secure emergency funding for the operations of the Sierra Leone Special Court.

Many were openly hostile when at the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Fifth Committee of the Fifty-Eighth General Assembly, Mr. Annan requested the committee to "subvent" its rules and provide the \$40 million shortfall in donor pledges paid so far.

Committee Chairman, Vladimir Kuznetsov described the Secretary General's request for

emergency funding as "unjustified and lacking detail."

Japan's Toshiro Ogasawara wanted to know why voluntary contributions were not forthcoming and wondered if the court had any idea how long it will carry out its work in Sierra Leone.

Park Yoon-Lee of South Korea expressed the view that lack of ac-

countability for the court will "negatively impact on member states decisions to establish such courts in the future." The court, he said, has too many chiefs and not enough Indians.

"With only nine people being tried, the court has far too many posts", he said. Mr. Yoon-Lee further wanted to be furnished with job descriptions of the court's staff.

Concord Times

Monday April 5, 2004

On Norman's freeze lift **Special Court overturns UTB's decision**



David Crane

Special Court's Judge Bankole Thompson has Friday ordered again gov-

ernment to freeze the Union Trust Bank (UTB) Account of war crimes indictee,

Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

Until, " a decision on the motion is

rendered."

The latest motion came in the wake of UTB's decision to lift the freeze on Norman's account even though the office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice had requested for such.

Judge Thompson's decision was issued after the office of the Prosecutor had filed an ex parte motion last Thursday to freeze Norman's account. UTB reneged on its promise to carry out the freeze as, according to a letter written by its Operations Manager, Mrs. Hasiatu Agbaje: "it was not an order by the Special Court directing the account of the above (Norman) name be frozen."

However, with this new twist UTB would now left with no alternative but to freeze the account as failure to do so may amount to an obstruction of justice.



KAMAJOR SPOKESMAN SAMFORAY AND SPECIAL COURT 'S PETER ANDERSEN DIFFER ABOUT CHIEF HINGA NORMAN'S BANK ACCOUNT

Saturday April 3, 2004

The Special Court Vs. Hinga Norman saga is becoming more dramatic by the hour, even before the start of the much-awaited trial. Contradictory declarations yesterday by Spokesmen for the court and Chief Norman added another layer to the already building drama.

Last week, Mr.Andersen declared that Chief Norman's account had been frozen in accordance with provisions stipulated in the Norman arrest warrant of March 7 , 2003 and the Special Court Agreement (Ratification Act)2002 , that the accounts of all indicted persons must be frozen with immediate effect. And yesterday, Mr.Andersen further informed this newspaper that Justice Bankole Thompson had issued an interim order freezing the Former Kamajor Commander account.

According to Andersen, "this is different from the provisional order which was included in the arrest warrant ". He went on : "This order came as a result of an Ex Parte motion filed by the Prosecution. " Mr Andersen further disclosed that there will be "an expected hearing on the matter , because all parties agree that they don't want Norman's family to suffer . It has to be done according to law."

However, the U.S-Based Spokesman of the Kamajor Defence Force and Scribe of the Hinga Norman Defence Fund , Rev. Alfred SamForay , called this newspaper yesterday afternoon to deny in no uncertain terms that Norman's account had been frozen. SamForay strongly refuted the freeze information and stated that Norman's account was active and running.

According to SamForay, the Hinga Norman Defence crossed swords with the government, not the Special Court, as the original order to freeze Chief Norman's account was given by the Attorney General and Chief Justice , Mr. Eke Hallaway . SamForay disclosed that Norman's lawyers filed a court motion in Freetown, asking that the account be unfrozen. The motion, he went on, was granted and the Operations Manager of the bank announced that Norman's account had been unfrozen. "So actually, we do not know what the Special Court is talking about. As far as we know, Hinga Norman's account is unfrozen and the matter is closed ," Rev. SamForay went on.



Entertainment: Man Shed Tears With 'Crimes Against Humanity'

Concord Times (Freetown)

NEWS

April 2, 2004

Posted to the web April 2, 2004

By Osman Benk Sankoh
Freetown

When the Special Court was set up to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for heinous crimes committed during the decade long civil war, little did they (perhaps) realize that some local artists were going to be inspired from that decision and make a song out of this venture.

While others are busy crying down the setting up of the court, Sierra Leone's upcoming reggae-ragga kingpin, Samuel Ngegba a.k.a Skinner Man has decided to lend his sweet voice to the court by presently working on an album which he hopes to name, " Crimes against humanity." Speaking to Gospel of Entertainment (G.O.E) recently, Skinner Man who carved a name for himself when he first released his hit gospel -ragga single, ' Church bell a fi ring,' said he decided to put this album together because of the role the Special Court is now playing to bring to book ringleaders of the various warring factions that were responsible for the country's woes for a whole decade.

He is presently working on his 10 track album at Forensic studios though he is however financially constrained to achieving this dream.

Apart from Crimes against humanity, he hopes to release another gospel reggae track, Pray Born-Again, Woman dem fine, Police, Good News, Love is not for money, Peace treaty, Church bell ar fi ring, gal hol tight and Revolution.

His major problem though is that of a promoter to help him complete his studio sessions at Forensics.

The artist told GOE that he has been in touch with officials from the court's Outreach and Public Affairs units but "this is yet to produce positive fruits." " Some of the guys have however listened and watched the clips and they say the song is good," Skinner man said.

Recently, Skinner Man created a sensation during the launching of Pupa Bajah's 'Half man half amazin' when he thrilled fans with his 'Crimes against humanity' track.

Local music promoters like King Millan, D.J Luz and Charlie Hinga among others have described Skinner Man as a star to watch.

He will be intruding for the very time, Iya Julia Sesay in his album.

For Julia, " I believe Skinner Man has the necessary musical talent and with me as back-up, we are soon going to thrill this nation to a musical warfare." Though she is still an SSS3 student of Government Secondary School, Iya told GOE that she still has time for her books while at the same time exposing her musical talents.

Born February, 1978, Skinner Man said it was guys like the late reggae exponent, Robert Bob Nesta Marley , Buju Banton and Lucky Dube that converted him into the musical game.

He says he has well over 200 tracks in store but he is however praying that the Special Court Prosecutor, David Crane or the Registrar, Robin Vincent would take some time off from their busy schedule and dance to Crimes against humanity.

He said he could be contacted at 18, Pratt Lane, off Pyke Street.

Concord Times

Monday April 5, 2004

Make no mistake with thin, big punch UNAMSIL

*** SRSG

United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) Special Representative of the Secretary General, Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago Friday warned that though the extension of the mission's mandate means a reduction of the mission's strength from 11,500 to something around 3,250 or more, this does not however mean security would not be assured.

"Make no mistake, it will be a thin UNAMSIL but with a big punch," he told journalists at a Press Conference held at the mission's Mammy Yoko headquarters.

The SRSG who just returned from the UN where the Security Council voted to

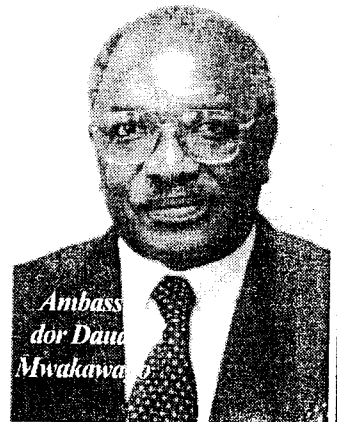
extend its mandates in the country said the force that will remain in the country would be deployed in Freetown and, the Eastern region will be left with strength of two battalions.

He said the extension of UNAMSIL's mandate is good for Sierra Leone and, "use it, guard it, protect it and don't play with it," he added.

The SRSG said peace is vital and assured the country of the UN's continued support.

He informed journalists that new benchmarks would be set in December for the period of January to June.

The SRSG also revealed that the Special Court's presence in the country was highly



Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago

considered by the Security Council for the mandate to be extended.

TRUTH
Accountability
is the key.....



RECONCILIATION
To the people...
what is theirs

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 10

Editor: Victor Sylver

APRIL 4, 2004

HOME

THE UN, TROOP REDUCTIONS AND THE SECURITY SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE

Contact Us

With a flourish and the usual fanfare associated with such announcements, the United Nations Security Council has, in a Resolution, stated the obvious - that it would have to do a re-think of plans to remove all its troops from Sierra Leone by end 2004.

Reminders

This decision has not come as any surprise to the Sierra Herald as this medium had constantly advocated for a true and honest appraisal of the security situation in Sierra Leone warning that despite all the efforts of IMATT, the international force training Sierra Leoneans to take up the responsibilities of state security, there appears to be a lack of appreciation about the seriousness of the security situation in Sierra Leone.

Links to other news sources

The Sierra Herald would again like to remind the international community about those election results which showed that a large section of the armed forces cast their ballot for fugitive war crimes suspect Johnny Paul Koroma. President Kabbah in an interview with Tim Sebastian of the BBC "Hard Talk" programme revealed just how elements of the military were fooled into such a vote as the wanted killer promised them the moon should he win the 2002 Presidential election.

Johnny Paul's campaign was not carried out by him alone. There are elements of the officer corps, still wearing the colours of the army who could have cajoled, threatened or coerced the other ranks into casting their vote for Johnny Paul Koroma's party and it was this same set of officers who were the brains behind the reign of terror unleashed by the RUF/AFRC coalition of evil junta forces. ECOMOG commanders at Jui can easily testify about the role of officers like S O Williams during the dark period after Johnny Paul unleashed his sobels and allied RUF forces on the civilian population of Sierra Leone. S O Williams is on record threatening ECOMOG that should they move out from their Jui base and attempt to head for the capital, "Freetown would be razed to the ground".

President Kabbah, failing to fully appreciate what happened when he escaped from his tormentors in the 1997 coup continues to demonstrate a lack of vision that is clouded by his untiring efforts to hold on until 2007 when he would leave an even greater mess that he inherited. The man had the nerve, the temerity to tell the world in a radio broadcast that he knew about the May 25, 1997 coup three days before it occurred and yet did nothing about it. What a lie!!!!

Then UK High Commissioner Peter Penfold who should have had his pulse on various aspects of Sierra Leone's security apparatus was forthright enough to admit in that BBC Radio Four interview with Fergal Keane that he was stumped that time round.

Fergal King: Did you see this coming? Did you have any intelligence to suggest that this was going to happen?

Peter Penfold: There was clearly signs of unrest within the army partly led by the corruption that was going on in the army. Indeed one of the projects in which the British government was involved when I arrived was the training of a new army. It was through that project we discovered that instead of the fifteen thousand strong army which is what the army claimed it had and therefore was drawing fifteen thousand salaries and rice rations, it effectively only had eight thousand people and therefore the rice ration ended up with senior officers being rice traders and only part time soldiers.

Fergal King: So you weren't surprised that people further down the line, as it happened in so many African countries, would have decided to mount a coup?

Peter Penfold: No it didn't surprise me. I'd seen it before. I'd seen coups take place in Uganda in the 80's when when I was there, I was in Ethiopia during the revolution in the 70's and indeed in Nigeria during the civil wars in the 60's. However I don't think anybody was prepared for it actually happening on that specific Sunday morning



The Editorial



Who hounded the late SLENA boss?



Is the President able and willing to tackle corruption?



When will ministers like Dr Prince Harding account to the people?



How did this man get into the Special Court?

Nailing one of the many lies of Expo Times editor Ibrahim Seaga Shaw

Smashing the Expo Times web of deceit, lies and outright dishonesty

A plaintive cry for justice and the truth for the people of Mabaylla over the September 3/4 1997 acts of murder

And yet President Kabbah would want to be believed when he stated that he knew...and did nothing, paving the way for the slaughter of innocent civilians!!!!

The Sierra Herald would again remind IMATT that President Kabbah is not only inept at managing national security, but should never again be trusted with the protection of ordinary Sierra Leoneans who have had to bear the brunt of the terror created because of his incompetence and inability to face the truth and tell it like it is.

The truth of the matter is - as long as the rogue elements within the officer corps are still there, no amount of cosmetic changes will suffice. The likes of Nelson-Williams, S O Williams, Komba Mondeh still wearing the colours of the national army does not inspire confidence and sends messages to the other ranks that it is business as usual in the army and that come the time, they will all pour out from the barracks and other areas again to unleash another cycle of violence in poor Sierra Leone.

Here is a Kabbah Tejan government, boasting of having control of national security allowing the mass murderer and rapist Johnny Paul Koroma to escape from right under its nose and such ineptitude combined with the government and international community's failure to achieve certain benchmarks in UN troop operations calls for a re-think of strategy.

Ordinary Sierra Leoneans do not trust the so-called restructured army called the Sierra Leone Armed Forces (SLAF) and would rather have a leaner and more reliable body of men and women under arms than the dishonest pack which at the slightest opportunity would be ready to go back to doing what they know best - corruption, murder and mayhem.

The Sierra Leone situation is not helped either with the volatile situations that exist in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and threatening neighbouring Guinea where the passing away of Lansana Conte would unleash a power struggle that would reduce that country to the Liberia scenario.

It is a fact, borne out by evidence on the ground, that certain elements of the RUF never took part in the disarmament and demobilisation programme of the UN and the government. Hard core killers and rapists who carried out the carnage in Sierra Leone have left their prints and signature in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia and are waiting within the sub-region for the right time to restart their murderous campaigns in countries that are saddled with corrupt and weak leaders as are to be found in Sierra Leone.

The BBC's Ben Andersen recently did a documentary that saw him visiting West African countries, trying to see if there is hope after UN interventions in such countries. Among the countries visited were Liberia and Sierra Leone. It is worth bringing to the attention of those who watched and perhaps those who did not see the programmes title "Holidays in the Danger Zone" something that could have escaped the casual viewer.

Here is the scene: General Opande the UN Commander in charge of overall operations in Liberia is seen talking to LURD fighters when he visited one of their bases in the north of the capital. the general was shown telling the fighters, all young and apparently highly charged on drugs, to prepare for disarmament and to lay down their arms and start a new and decent lifestyle far removed from drugs, murder and general violence.

"You can be a doctor, a pilot and a soldier like me", he told his audience one of them shown clearly more interested in rolling a joint and smoking it rather than paying attention to what the older man was saying.

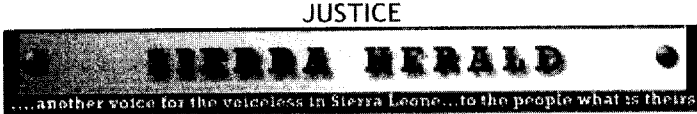
After that address, just as the camera was about to move away, some of the young men were heard saying "Una cam leh we go" in a language and tone that could only come from Sierra Leone. And these were LURD rebels!!!!

In another clip, Ben Andersen is threatened by a gun-toting rebel who fired off a couple of shots in the air as he asked the crew to move away. The man could not speak any of the local dialects and was described by his colleagues as "French", a notion confirmed when the man spoke, quite comfortable in the use of French.

The United Nations would therefore be advised that rather than having piecemeal operations, it should work out a grand plan that would address the security situation in the entire sub-region.

Bands of killers and rapists still roam the sub-region ready to rape, murder, plunder and commit any and all kinds of atrocities.

TRUTH
Accountability
is the key.....



RECONCILIATION
To the people...
what is theirs

JUSTICE

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 10

Editor: Victor Sylver

APRIL 4, 2004

HOME

LESSONS FROM RWANDA AND HOW SIERRA LEONE WAS SAVED FROM A SIMILAR FATE

Contact
Us

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.
Edmund Burke

Reminders

The United Nations in observing the tenth anniversary of the Rwanda genocide has dedicated April 7 as a Special Day to remember a tragedy that need not have happened. Indeed available records and eye witness accounts have now confirmed that had the international community taken the necessary action, such mass killings would never have taken place in a world that had promised that never again would mankind be exposed to the kind of horror visited on Jews by their Nazi tormentors.

Links to
other
news
sources

The words of British statesman and philosopher Edmund Burke quoted above ring ever so truly and forcefully even on to this day and age and his observation is concretised by a number of thinkers who insist that the good who are by far in the majority in their failure to act decisively more often than not, allow evil, represented by a minority to have its way carving huge swathes of death, destruction and unbridled chaos.



The Editorial

UN Secretary General Dr Kofi Annan, the world's top Civil Servant has added his voice too to the apologists who failed to take the appropriate action when the situation in Rwanda had not yet got out of control. As the then Chief Officer (Under-Secretary) responsible for Peace Keeping Operations, he too, has realised his part in somehow allowing the forces of evil to overwhelm the good. The role of Belgian and other peace keepers as they followed what they described as "their mandate" highlighted once more the need for the UN to be properly informed about the situation on the ground. Prompt action would have prevented the Rwanda genocide.



Who hounded the late SLENA boss?

The concluding paragraphs of a report by the human rights group Human Rights Watch express the need for the telling of the Rwanda story and to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the genocide has an update which reminds the world of the need to punish all those who perpetrated such bestiality on fellow human beings.



Is the President able and willing to tackle corruption?

It is worth recalling that while the UN hesitated even as the massacres began on April 6, 1994, a number of countries pressed for the mandate of the UN to be clearly defined, taking into consideration the real situation on the ground. Calls for more troops to be sent to Rwanda to enforce the peace and halt the genocide were ignored as the big powers like the United States and others gambled away the lives of nearly a million people. Among the countries calling for a bigger and no-nonsense UN contingent was Nigeria.

Nigeria had experienced the horrors of internecine strife and has seen what evil minds are capable of doing as witnessed in Liberia and then Sierra Leone where a few evil men could control minds to create havoc, anarchy and tyranny. Nigeria, being a Third World country was ignored.

A similar fate was spared Sierra Leoneans when the RUF/AFRC coalition of evil seized power in 1997 and kicked out the Tejan Kabbah government. What saved Sierra Leoneans from a similar if not worse fate was the presence of the largely Nigerian ECOMOG forces whose presence provided the necessary checks to the planned excesses of the unrecognised regime headed by a cashiered major Johnny Paul Koroma.

It is on record that a number of plans were hatched to discredit ECOMOG and in particular Nigeria with junta sympathisers within and without the country mounting a vigorous campaign that should have seen the withdrawal of ECOMOG/Nigerian forces. It was during this period that several organisations sprouted up in the field of uncertainty and confusion, all aimed at having "a peaceful resolution of the conflict" but whose true aim was to see the pullout of Nigeria from Sierra Leone so that the junta killers could go to work on innocent and defenceless civilians unchallenged.

One could well imagine the slaughter houses that could have been established to punish civilians who had refused to co-operate with the junta. One could well imagine the number of excuses that could have been manufactured as various areas of the population were targeted for elimination using every ignoble and evil trick in the book - from accusations of receiving funds/instructions from the ousted Kabbah regime in Guinea



When will ministers like Dr Prince Harding account to the people?



Is the President able and willing to tackle corruption?

How did this man get into the Special Court?

through plotting to overthrow the junta to listening to broadcasts from the 98.1 FM radio station. The beasts would have had a field day slaughtering their chief enemy, the defenceless and innocent civilian population who had said "no way" to the bands of roving killers.

Nailing one of the many lies of Expo Times editor Ibrahim Seaga Shaw

One school of thought is of the conviction that the Mabaylla massacre and the alleged June 2, 1997 "bombardment" by Nigerian forces that saw hundreds of civilians killed and gravely wounded could all have been a part of the junta's "Trojan Horse". Indeed when Nigerian troops attempted to move in to dislodge the junta in early 1998, residents of the capital reported seeing missiles hurled from barracks and positions occupied by the junta targeting populated areas thereby giving the impression that the Nigerians were engaged in the indiscriminate slaughter of innocent civilians. The veracity of these claims, it is hoped, should be ascertained in court when the Special Court begins sittings in May.

Smashing the Expo Times web of deceit, lies and outright dishonesty

Still on this theme, the overwhelming good forces in Sierra Leone represented by the international donor community must be in a position to help the majority of Sierra Leoneans to benefit from aid packages that are meant for them but which, given reports from the ground appear to swell the personal coffers of the few evil in government and the NGO community in Sierra Leone.

A plaintive cry for justice and the truth for the people of Mabaylla over the September 3/4 1997 acts of murder

If the international community is really concerned about the plight of long-suffering Sierra Leoneans, then now is the time to act. Now is the time to give a fitting ultimatum to the few evil men and women who are strangling and depriving the rest of the population. They either account to the people or be given a quit/aid cut order.

Even as the international community pledges not to repeat the Rwanda mistake, it should also consider taking the right steps in bringing to heel the corrupt and uncaring in Sierra Leone who continue to rain misery and deprivation on the ordinary folks - a situation that is laying the foundations for another round of violence and political instability in Sierra Leone.

Published fortnightly with updates between issues as necessary
©SIERRA HERALD 2002

U.N. WIRE



U.N. Expert Issues Call For Action On Child Soldiers

Close Window

By Caroline Preston, *U.N. Wire*

EDMONTON, Canada — The last decade has seen rising awareness of the exploitation of children in armed conflicts and a strengthening of international legal norms designed to protect children from the scourge of war. Translating that progress into action on the ground remains a significant challenge, however, because of insufficient data on the scope of the problem and a lack of political will on the part of governments, speakers concluded here yesterday at the opening of a three-day conference on children and war.

"Even though we have a great base and foundation of awareness ... the view is still that the suffering and victimization of children in situations of conflict is tragic, it is sad, it is unfortunate, but terrible things happen in war," Olara Otunnu, the U.N. special representative on children and armed conflict, told the conference from New York.

"We've got to shift from that level of awareness to one of outright repudiation ... one in which we'll say, 'War might be likely and bad and terrible, but we simply can't accept that these things are done to our children in situations of conflict,'" he continued. "We are not yet there."

According to Otunnu, one of the biggest obstacles to embarking upon an "era of application" is how to effectively monitor and report on government forces and rebel groups that violate children's rights, including by recruiting child soldiers or targeting schools and hospitals.

"Our work collectively suffers from a lack of reliable data, information and scientific analysis," Otunnu told the conference.

The United Nations estimates that over the last decade, wars have killed 2 million children, left 6 million maimed or permanently disabled, created 1 million orphans and left 13 million displaced. Moreover, at any one time, an estimated 300,000 children under age 18 are thought to be participating in conflict as soldiers, guerrilla fighters, spies, porters, cooks and even sexual slaves.

But those numbers, according to conference organizer and University of Alberta professor W. Andy Knight, are unscientific estimates and are likely outdated. The 300,000 estimated child soldiers, for instance, is a figure that "has been bandied about for years," he said.

Knight is launching a three-year research project at the conference that aims to "systematize" the data and offer a more complete picture of the physical, economic, mental and psychosocial impact of war on children.

According to Otunnu, more systematic information-gathering is needed if the United Nations is to effectively enforce measures against warring groups.

For the past two years, the U.N. Secretary General has issued a report to the Security Council "naming and shaming" parties to conflict that continue to recruit and exploit child soldiers. This year's report cited 54 parties in conflicts around the world, including in Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda.

But if the Security Council is to enforce punitive measures such as sanctions or travel bans against offenders — as proposed by a council resolution last year that could gain additional momentum if a resolution introduced in January is adopted — then it requires better knowledge of the situation on the ground.

The United Nations needs "accurate information on a regular basis about what parties in conflict are doing on the ground to children [and] what standards they are breaking" in order to "bring

pressure to bear on them to live up to their obligations," said Otunnu.

Lloyd Axworthy, a Canadian diplomat who serves as the U.N. special envoy for Ethiopia and Eritrea, underlined how solid data can provide an underpinning for international action. He said that a report by UNICEF and the International Committee on the Red Cross was critical to his efforts during the 1990s toward adoption of the Ottawa Treaty banning anti-personnel land mines.

"UNICEF and the Red Cross had put together a very sensible, analytical model about why land mines were no longer a useful way" to pursue global security, Axworthy told the conference. "And any time we got some expert on why we needed land mines, we just turned to page 33 and said, well, here's the evidence."

Yet Axworthy said that efforts to save children from war will be futile unless the U.N. system and other decision-making bodies use the evidence they are given to take action, either by enforcing punitive measures against groups or intervening militarily.

He lamented the inaction of the Security Council in past conflicts in which children had been disproportionately affected. "I'm sure we can send peacekeepers six months late into Sierra Leone, after the murders have taken place, or let 2 million people die in the Congo because the Security Council can't get the ... will together to make it happen," he said.

Otunnu also emphasized that progress would be impossible unless "destinations of action" such as the Security Council, the International Criminal Court, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States employed data they were given on the problem to take concrete steps.

"We've got to find a way to lean on the decision-makers in these bodies to use a fraction of their influence in favor of protecting children," said Otunnu. "In other words, to use the information that they received as triggers for action, and not simply in terms of lip-service and more declarations and more resolutions."

[Reuse Guidelines](#)

[View Complete Issue: April 2, 2004](#)

[All Women, Children & Population articles: April 2, 2004](#)

© 2003 by National Journal Group Inc., 1501 M St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005.
Any reproduction or retransmission, in whole or in part, is a violation of federal law
and is strictly prohibited without the consent of National Journal. All rights reserved.

Apr. 5, 2004. 01:00 AM

Rwanda's agony, the U.N.'s shame

A decade after Rwanda's agony, the horror is still unfolding. Just last week, a United Nations court heard how Mikaeli "Maki" Muhimana, a village councillor, came to be accused of genocide and crimes against humanity in the 100-day slaughter that began April 7, 1994, and took 800,000 lives while the world looked the other way. Maki hacked off the head of his neighbour Assiel Kabanda, a witness said. Then he pinned his grisly trophy to the Kabanda family's door, joking "my neighbour has come back" after being cut down trying to flee for his life. Such was the depravity that Rwanda's green hillsides ran red.

The world will observe a minute's silence at noon tomorrow, to remember. But that silence must not be taken for resolve that such barbarity never happens again. The U.N. today is no better organized to deter genocide.

"We risk the same paralysis" today, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham warned a recent U.N. memorial conference. "We lack the political will to achieve the necessary agreement on how to put in place the type of measures that will prevent a future Rwanda from happening." He called for "an honest global debate" about intervening.

Graham is right. Shamed by Rwanda, the major powers have sent troops into places such as Kosovo, Sierra Leone and the Congo to protect civilians, but on an ad hoc basis. The United States, Russia and many others on the Security Council are not at all keen to be tied down by rules, so the United Nations still has no policy for protecting people threatened by despots, failed regimes or war.

"The political will was not there" in 1994, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said. Bill Clinton's risk-averse officials were warned explicitly of genocide, but chose not to hear. Clinton's 1998 apology — he claimed he didn't "fully appreciate" the horror — was half-hearted at best. Even today, the U.N.'s will still isn't there. That betrays the memory of those who died.

No regime should be able to invoke a "sovereign" right to slaughter people and expect the world to stand idly by.

In 2000, Jean Chrétien created the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty that urged the U.N. to be bolder dealing with despots, criminals and fanatics who threaten entire peoples. Its report, *The Responsibility To Protect*, acknowledges that military intervention is legitimate only rarely, to avert "large scale loss of life," and it affirms that Security Council authorization must be sought.

But it challenges the U.S. and other veto-wielding countries not to obstruct intervention when their vital interests aren't affected. And if the Security Council does refuse to intervene, or temporizes, the General Assembly should take action, deputizing "coalitions of the willing" to act.

That might have saved Rwanda. The Security Council turned a deaf ear to Canadian Gen. Roméo Dallaire's pleas for 5,000 troops to thwart the Hutu extremists who planned to slaughter the Tutsi minority like "snakes and cockroaches." Rather than confront the killers, the United Nations invited butchery by pulling most of the 2,500 troops it had. A decade later, much has changed. Rwandan leaders, including prime minister Jean Kambanda, have been convicted and jailed by a special U.N. tribunal. There's a new International Criminal Court with universal jurisdiction to try such cases. The culture of political impunity has been challenged. But Rwanda could happen again. When the United Nations observes its minute of silence tomorrow, it should be a silence not just of remembrance, but of shame.

> **Pay less than \$3 per week for 7 day home delivery.**

[FAQs](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Webmaster](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [My Subscription](#)

[Home](#) | [GTA](#) | [Business](#) | [Waymoresports](#) | [A&E](#) | [Life](#)

Legal Notice: Copyright Toronto Star Newspapers Limited. All rights reserved. Distribution, transmission or republication of any material from www.thestar.com is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited. For information please contact us using our [webmaster form](#). www.thestar.com online since 1996.



kg274@columbia.edu
Sent by:
owner-leonenet@listpro
c.umbc.edu

To: leonenet@listproc.umbc.edu
cc:
Subject: Prince Johnson Complains Of Assassination Plot, Goes Into Hiding

02/04/2004 15:45

Prince Johnson Complains Of Assassination Plot, Goes Into Hiding

By Josephus Moses Gray
Monrovia, Liberia

The Perspective
Atlanta, Georgia

April 2, 2004

Despite of his persistent appeals for Liberians to put behind the ugly past, forgive each others, reconcile their differences and move ahead with the fragile peace process, the man blamed for the gruesome murder of Liberia's 20th President, Samuel Kanyon Doe, the leader of the defunct Independent National Patriotic front of Liberia (INPFL), Gen. Prince Y. Johnson has run into serious problems since his return Monrovia.

Gen. Johnson, who turned evangelist told journalists on March 28 upon his return to Liberia that he "did not killed President Doe instead the 20th President committed suicide". Gen. Johnson alleged that his return to Monrovia was upon the invitation extended him by the chairman of the transitional government, Chares Gyude Bryant.

Gen. Johnson openly denied killing the first indigenous Liberian President. But his denial prompted and generated massive public reactions and out cry. In their action, the public accused Gen. Johnson and his men of capturing President Doe on 9th September 1990, torturing and butchering him to death. Some of those spoken to say there is a video recording to that effect, linking Gen. Johnson to the brutal murder of President Doe.

But Gen. Johnson told the Liberian media on Thursday, April 1, that he has gone into hiding for fear for his life on grounds that there is a plot to have him assassinated. Gen. Johnson who was spoke from an undisclosed location accused the younger brother of the late President Doe, Chayee Doe, of being the brain behind the reported assassination plan.

Speaking in an angry tongue, Gen. Johnson told the local press that the alleged assassination plot was uncovered by his " boys", some of whom, he said, are also members of the Liberian United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), a rebel group that Chayee Doe serves as acting chairman.

Gen. Johnson who boasted that "no bullet can harm him", said " I have 30,000 men on the ground from both my factions and that of Charles Taylor and are ready to defend" me..."

Gen. Johnson said that he had informed his father Samuel Varney of the reported plot against him but stated any attempt to assassinate him will be a disaster for the nation because his 30,000 strong men are prepared to die for him. General Varney serves as deputy to Gen. Johnson during the outset of the Liberian civil war.

According to him, Mr. Doe and a group of LURD forces on April 1 visited his temporary residence on the Bushrod Island to kill him, adding that he had fled the area before Mr. Doe and his group arrived at the area.

But in his reaction, Mr. Doe denied plotting to assassinate Gen. Johnson, adding that he does not know Prince Johnson neither has he seen him physically". He said he has only seen Gen. Johnson's photo and have nothing against him.

Mr. Doe said as a lover of peace and democracy, he remains committed to the peace process in the country and holds nothing bad against Gen. Johnson who killed his older brother who was then serving as president of Liberia.

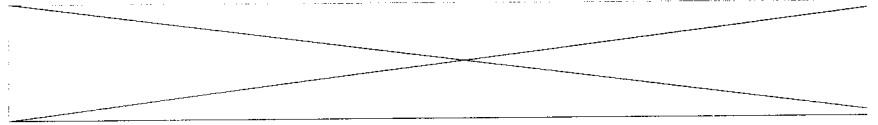
According to him, Gen. Johnson accusation against him is an attempt to bring to disrepute his reputation that he has built over the years, saying that it is Gen Johnson who still has bad plans against the Doe's family.

How can Gen. Johnson, who has written the Doe' family for forgiveness, make a U-turn to falsely accuse him of plotting to kill him, he asked? He said " maybe it is Gen. Johnson who might want to eliminate him the same way he was able to kill his brother.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission of Liberia has threatened to take a legal action against Gen. Johnson if he continues to make statements against the peace process.

Besides, hundreds of angry mob on March 31 besieged and attacked the vehicle Gen. Johnson was traveling on in the Monrovia suburbs of Red-light in Paynesville. He was quickly rescued by UNMIL forces assigned to the area. According to eyewitnesses, the mob chanted anti Prince Johnson slogans.

The transitional government either UNMIL is yet to make an official statement on the situation, while the whereabouts of Gen. Johnson remains unknown.



Liberia: Bryant Sets 15 April As New Target Date for Start of Disarmament

UN Integrated Regional Information Networks

NEWS

April 2, 2004

Posted to the web April 2, 2004

Monrovia

Gyude Bryant, the Chairman of Liberia's transitional government, has set 15 April as the target date for restarting the country's disarmament programme, which has been stalled for nearly four months.

Bryant announced the date on Thursday in an address to hundreds of women who marched to the Executive Mansion in Monrovia to protest at delays in disarming Liberia's three warring factions following a peace agreement last August.

The women also voiced their anger at reports of rampant corruption in the broad-based transitional government, which is dominated by representatives of the three armed groups.

Bryant told the assembled women: "The date of April 15 is a mandate that I have given to UNMIL (the United Nations in Liberia) and so I take full responsibility for putting the date for disarmament to April 15th. That is the day we will begin."

The leader of the broad-based government charged with leading Liberia to fresh elections in October 2005 said two of the cantonment sites being prepared by UN peacekeeping troops to disarm Liberian fighters were 90 percent completed.

These sites at Gbarnga, 150 km northeast of Monrovia, and Tubmanburg, 60 km northwest of the capital, and would be ready by 10 April, he added.

Bryant said the remaining two sites at VOA, on the outskirts of Monrovia and near the port city of Buchanan, 120 km to the southeast, were also on course for completion by the same date.

The head of state added that General Daniel Opande, the commander of UNMIL, had given him assurances that with over 13,000 men on the ground, he now had enough

troops to ensure security and supervise the disarmament and demobilisation process properly.

"He now feels comfortable with the men we have on the ground to ensure protection on these cantonment sites so that we can begin disarmament on the 15th," Bryant said.

UNMIL is due to reach its full strength of 15,000 troops later this month.

UNMIL spokeswoman Margaret Novicki refused to confirm 15 April as the date for resuming the disarmament of an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 fighters who took part in Liberia's 14-year civil war.

Novicki said UNMIL, the Liberian government, the three armed factions and non-governmental organisations involved in the disarmament process all favoured the earliest possible resumption of the disarmament, demobilisation, rehabilitation program.

But quoting from an UNMIL statement, she said all parties agreed that a number of preconditions had to be met before it could restart.

These included the adequate sensitisation of combatants, adequate UNMIL force deployment, the construction of cantonment sites, the readiness of service providers and the provision of full lists of combatants, their locations and their weapons by the armed factions.

The disarmament programme began prematurely on 7 December when UNMIL had only 5,000 troops on the ground, but it was abandoned 10 days later following riots by gunmen demanding cash for handing in their weapons.

The single cantonment site operating at the time found itself overwhelmed by former combatants coming forward to surrender their guns.