

**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:

Monday, 6 August 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The Spark
Monday, 6 August 2007

GUILTY

*Allieu Kondowa

*Moinina Fofanah

in Sierra Leone..

The Presiding Judge Justice Benjamin Mutanga Itoe revealed that the militia were involved in widespread attacks and committed serious atrocities throughout the country.

He gave a comprehensive background to the AFRC/RUF coup plot noting that the prosecution has proved beyond all reasonable doubts that Moinina Fofana bears Individual responsibility of which Violence to life, murder, cruel treatment, pillage, terrorising the civilian population and collective punishment.

The Chief Priest, Allieu Kondowa

CONTINUED PAGE 8

The Special Court Trial Chamber One on Thursday 2nd August 2007 concluded judgement on two civil defence militia indictees, Allieu Kondowa and Moinina Fofanah for committing crimes against humanity, violation of article three common to the Geneva Convention, additional protocol two and other serious violation of International Humanitarian Laws during the brutal civil war

GUILTY

FROM FRONT PAGE

of the CDF was found guilty of violence to life and property, cruel treatment, pillage, collective punishment and conscription of children under the age of fifteen years into the forces to participate actively in hostilities.

Justice Itoe maintained before the court that the CDF indictees would be convicted by the court they had been found guilty. However the first accused, Chief Sam Hinga Norman died on the 22nd February 2007 in Dakar, Senegal. On the 21st May 2007, after

submitting from the prosecution and Defence, the Trial Chamber terminated proceedings against Chief Norman.

The Presiding Judge, Mr Itoe stated that the issue of the militia indictees would be made available to the public for further hearing.

Concord Times
Monday, 6 August 2007

CDF leaders convicted of war crimes

By Ibrahim

Tarawallie and
Danny Glenwright

Two former leaders of the Civil Defence Force (CDF) have been convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) on several counts of violation of the Geneva conventions, otherwise known as war crimes.

Moinana Fofana and Allieu Kondewa were on Thursday convicted on four counts, including pillage, murder and collective punishments and acquitted on four counts relating to crimes against humanity.

As well, Kondewa was found guilty of a fifth count, the conscription of children under the age of 15, which is a violation of international humanitarian law.

Yesterday's trial was the second major conviction passed down by the Special Court, which delivered verdicts on the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) in June and sentenced its former leaders, Alex Tamba Brima, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu, to 45 and 50 years in July.

The former leader of the CDF, Sam Hinga Norman, would have also been sentenced yesterday, had he not died of heart problems in February.

"The charges against Sam Hinga Norman

are terminated," said Presiding Judge Benjamin Mutanga Itoe. "No findings of guilt or innocence will be found against a deceased."

The trial has been controversial because of potential historical links between the CDF, also known as kamajors, and the current government of Sierra Leone. At one point, Itoe read past statements from Vice President Solomon Berewa - who at the time of the conflict was Attorney General - admonishing the kamajors to stop looting and killing in Bonthe.

Fofana and Kondewa smiled and waved to their families as they entered the courtroom yesterday. They were somber as Itoe read a summary of the verdict, including accounts of looting and initiation of children as soldiers, in which they were found to have taken part.

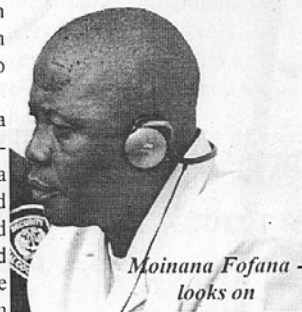
Kondewa wore a bright pink, two-piece suit and a large gold chain and gold-rimmed glasses. He leaned his head against the wall and lingered in

the courtroom after the verdict to wave to his family members, many of whom were pressed up against the glass in the viewing gallery.

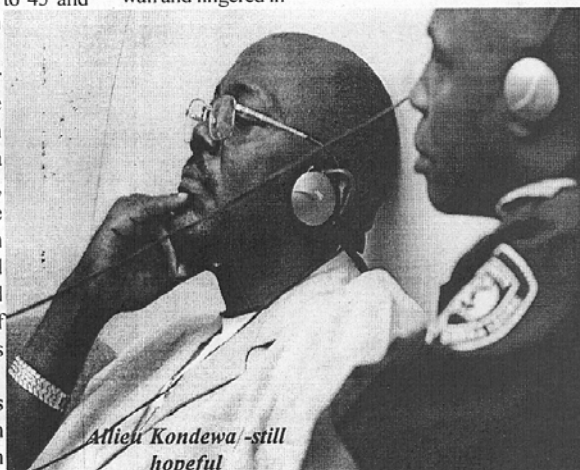
Fofana was dressed in a beige suit and seemed agitated as Judge Itoe delivered the verdict.

The two men were found not guilty of crimes against humanity, including murder and other inhumane acts and will be acquitted on these charges.

"I think the judgment was free and fair," said Lansana Coker, an observer at yesterday's trial and representative of Prison Watch, a local humanitarian organization. "It is hard to predict what the sentence will be, but I think it will be minimal because of the charges against them."



Moinana Fofana - looks on



Allieu Kondewa - still hopeful

Concord Times
Monday, 5 August 2007

Special Court for Sierra Leone Delivers Judgments on the CDF Trial

By Joseph A.K Sesay and Zoila Hinson

This morning, 2 August 2007, Trial Chamber I of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) issued its judgement in the joint trial of Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa, the alleged former leaders of the Civil Defense Force. Presiding Justice Benjamin Mutanga Itoe delivered the Chamber's judgement that convicted Fofana on four counts comprising war crimes and Kondewa guilty of five counts including war crimes and other serious violations of international law. The Chamber found the Prosecution did not prove Count 6, Acts of terrorism, beyond a reasonable doubt, but did not explain this finding. It also found that the Prosecution had not proven that the acts charged under Counts 1 and 3 were directed against a civilian population, a requirement for all crimes against humanity. It therefore issued not guilty findings on those charges. The

charges and findings for each Accused are summarized below:

Summary of Charges and Findings

Count	Substantive Charge	Article of the Statute of the SCSL under which the charge was brought	Source of Law	Finding of Guilt
1	Murder	Art. 2(a)	Crime Against Humanity	Both Accused not guilty
2	Violence to life, health and physical or mental well-being of persons, in particular murder	Art. 3(a)	Violation of Common Article 3 or Optional Protocol II	Both Accused guilty
3	Inhumane Acts	Art. 2(i)	Crime Against Humanity	Both Accused not guilty
4	Violence to life, health and physical or mental well-being of persons, in particular cruel treatment	Art. 3(a)	Violation of Common Article 3 or Optional Protocol II	Both Accused guilty
5	Pillage	Art. 3(f)	Violation of Common Article 3 or Optional Protocol II	Both Accused guilty
6	Acts of Terrorism	Art. 3(d)	Violation of Common Article 3 or Optional Protocol II	Both Accused not guilty
7	Collective Punishments	Art. 3(b)	Violation of Common Article 3 or Optional Protocol II	Both Accused guilty
8	Conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into armed forces or groups or using them to participate actively in hostilities	Art. 2(i)	Crime Against Humanity	Fofanah found not guilty. Kondewa found guilty.

Like Trial Chamber II's decision in the AFRC judgement, Trial Chamber I did not find the Accused guilty via joint criminal responsibility (JCE). While Trial Chamber II, however, found JCE had been misled, Trial Chamber I simply stated that the Prosecution had not lead sufficient evidence to prove JCE as a mode of criminal responsibility beyond a reasonable doubt. Indeed, the Chamber rejected all Defence claims that the Prosecution had not pleaded the indictment with sufficient specificity.

Unlike the near unanimity among the justices of Trial Chamber II in the AFRC judgement, the justices of Trial Chamber I differed significantly in their findings. Most notable, Justice Bankole Thompson entered a dissenting finding on all guilty judgements, and would have acquitted both Accused on all charges. Thus the Accused were convicted only by a majority of the Trial Chamber. Justice Itoe also entered a dissenting opinion regarding Fofanah's not guilty finding under Count 8, and would have convicted him. Justice Boutet concurred with the Chamber's findings, but has entered a separate and concurring written judgement. After the judgement had been read, he also voice his disagreement with the prominence Justice Itoe's summary gave to the Defence submission that President Tejan Kabbah's role in forming and supporting the CDF relieved the Accused of criminal responsibility. While he agreed with the Chamber's rejection of that argument as invalid, he considered it a collateral issue that should not have received such attention.

The judgement further noted that the original First Accused Sam Hinga Norman died on 22 February 2007, and the Trial Chamber would therefore not offer any findings about his guilt or innocence. It would, however, consider all the evidence on the official record, including Norman's testimony in his own defence, cross-examination and re-examination. It would not draw any adverse conclusions from the decision by the remaining Accused not to testify.

Justice Itoe did not confirm a date for the sentencing hearing, but stated that a scheduling order containing the date would be issued shortly. Pursuant to Rule 100 of the Rules of Evidence and Procedure, all parties must present evidence at the sentencing hearing.

All parties are likely to appeal parts of the judgement. Pursuant to both Art. 20 of the Statute and Rule 106, both the Prosecution and Defence may appeal the judgment on the basis of procedural error, an error in a question of law invalidating the decision, or an error of fact that has occasioned a miscarriage of justice. By Rule 108, a party seeking to appeal a judgment must file an appeal with the registrar and serve a written notice of appeal upon the other party within fourteen days of the judgment. The Prosecution indicted Fofanah and Kondewa in June 2003, after Norman's March 2003 indictment. On 31 May 2004, the Appeals Chamber ruled that the recruitment of child soldiers had reified as a crime under customary international law before the beginning of the period covered by the Special Court's mandate, a key decision allowing the recruitment of child soldiers to be charged as a crime by the Special Court. In June 2004 the Chamber joined the three trials. The Prosecution presented 75 Prosecution witnesses over 131 trial days, and the Defence teams collectively presented 44 Defence Witnesses over 112 trial days. After Norman's death in February 2007, the Trial Chamber terminated proceedings against him, over the objections of his counsel.

Cotton Tree Radio

Friday, 3 August 2007

Special Court for Sierra Leone second verdict

Written by Ndeamoh Mansaray

The Special Court's Trial Chamber One presided over by Justice Benjamin Itoe has delivered its first verdict on the two former members of the Civil Defense Force. This is the second verdict delivered by the Special Court. Moinina Fofanah was convicted on four of the eight counts charges. The counts range from violence to life and health to the enlisting of children for initiation. The court convicted Allieu Kondewa of five of the same counts charges. The two were indicted in March 2003 for war crimes and crimes against humanity during the country's decade-old civil war. The Special Court for Sierra Leone has indicted a total of thirteen people in connection with the war. Last month the court handed down its first sentences against three senior members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, which toppled the government in 1997.

Awareness Times (website)

Friday, 3 August 2007

Amnesty International Speaks on Special Court's Verdict in Sierra Leone

By Juliet Ansumana

Amnesty International has in a recent Press Release stated that the guilty verdicts and sentences by the Special Court of Sierra Leone against three senior members of former Sierra Leone's feared Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) was a positive step and should not be the closing chapter in the struggle to achieve justice for the terrible crimes committed against the people of Sierra Leone during 11 years of violent conflict.

"These verdicts and sentencing send a positive signal to Sierra Leoneans that some one will be held responsible for the brutal crimes perpetrated against Sierra Leoneans and foreign nationals alike", Legal Adviser of Amnesty International, Hugo Relva stated; adding that thousands of others can and must be held criminally responsible.

According to the Country Director of Amnesty International, Brima A Sheriff, reparation must also be paid to the victims in order to promote justice throughout Sierra Leone.

"Remarkably, the decision of Special Court marks the first in history for individuals to be convicted and sentenced for war crimes as well as conscripting and enlisting children under the age of fifteen (15) into armed conflict there by using them to participate actively in hostilities," the release states.

It could be recalled that three (3) AFRC indictees of the Special Court for Sierra Leone were recently sentenced after being found guilty of crimes against humanity and other international humanitarian laws including, unlawful killings, rape, act of terrorism, extermination, collective punishment and mutilation during the course of the country's decade long war. The three were, Alex Tamba Brima (Gullit), Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu (55) who were sentenced to prison for a period of 50, 45 and 50 years respectively.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 3 August 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Association of Language Companies Offers Interpreter Assistance to Courts in Wake of Failed Rape Prosecution

WASHINGTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 3, 2007--Association of Language Companies Executive Director Robert E. McLean today issued the following statement regarding a Montgomery County, MD, judge's dismissal of a case against a Liberian immigrant charged with raping a young girl because the court failed to find an interpreter fluent in the accused man's native dialect.

International Clips on West Africa

Over 65 missing as boat capsizes in Sierra Leone: BBC

Japan Economic Newswire Date: August 03, 2007 -- Kyodo) _ More than 65 people were missing after their boat capsized in heavy rain at the mouth of a river in Sierra Leone, BBC reported on its website Friday, citing local police. Meanwhile, Reuters reported more than 100 people were missing. A spokesman for a local boat owners' association was quoted by Reuters as saying seven bodies had so far been recovered from the sea at the estuary of the Great Scarcies river, near Sierra Leone's northern border. The boat, which was en route from the coastal capital Freetown to the riverside town of Rokupr, was believed to be carrying around 200 passengers when it ran into the choppy river waters, swollen by a week of torrential rains, the Reuters report said.

Local Media – Newspaper

President Endorses Extension of Legislative Session

(The Informer)

- An Executive Mansion release said that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf signed into law a proclamation to extend by a month, the regular session of the National Legislature to allow the Lawmakers to complete some of its tasks for the current session.

Alleged Coup Plotters Face Court Trial Today

(The Inquirer, National Chronicle)

- The treason trial of former Presidential Guard Commander, Charles Julu and the Former Speaker of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly, George Koukou resumes today. The trial was postponed last Tuesday following a request from state lawyers. Defendants Julu and Koukou are accused of plotting to overthrow the Government.

Vice President and UNMIL Boss call for Fast Track Court for Rapists

(The Analyst and Heritage)

- Speaking at a function organized by the Liberian Council of Churches, Vice President Joseph Boakai and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan

Doss expressed their concern about the increase in cases of rape and called for a fast track court to try rape suspect.

- Vice President Boakai said the Government would not sit aside and watch children being raped to death by adults while Doss challenged the Council to collaborate with the National Legislature in finding ways to abandon female genital mutilation and zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse.

Justice Lewis Abhors Misconducts in some Courts

(The Analyst and Heritage)

- According to a release issued by the Supreme Court of Liberia, Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis moved to Monrovia for investigation, Bensonville Court Magistrate Peter T.K. Gonsahn and Sheriff Morris Jabateh for allegedly misappropriating fines they collected during court proceedings. The decision to probe the men, the release added, followed complaints of wrongdoing on the part of the Court officials.
- Chief Justice Lewis also queried presiding officers of the Paynesville City Court for starting court hearings late. He told the magistrates that courts throughout the Country must open not later than 9:00 am.

US agrees with UN on Security Situation in Liberia

(The News)

- Addressing reporters, United States Ambassador Donald Booth declared that his country concurs with the United Nations' assertion that the security situation of Liberia is "stable", it is for this reason that his Country removed the traveling warning which had prevented United states citizens from visiting Liberia. He added that the US does not have any security ratings for Liberia because it is unlike other countries where terrorism or threats of terrorism is high.

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

Treason Trial Resumes Today at Magisterial Court

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

UNMIL Alarms over Increase in Rape Cases

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Sirleaf Signs into Law Extension of Legislative Session

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

UNMIL Calls for Adherence to Firearms Regulation

- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia, UNMIL Deputy Police Commissioner, General Maritz du Toit said the bearing and possession of firearms is still illegal and said it was an issue of concern in the country. Commissioner du Toit urged citizens to adhere to the firearms regulations.
- Meanwhile, the mission said anyone attempting to mount an insurrection to destabilize the country will meet with stiff response from the force.

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.