

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 of:**

Monday, 6 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Table of Contents

Sierra Leone Media

Norman Ends His Testimony <i>For di People</i>	Page 3
As Hinga Norman Breaks More Ice at the Special Court He Says...Kabbah Knew About His Arrest <i>Awareness Times</i>	Pages 4-5
Norman Denies Kamajor Killings and Lootings <i>Spectator</i>	Page 6
“Kabbah Was Warned Not to Impose Berewa on Us” <i>Awoko</i>	Pages 7-8
Peter Penfold, Others to Face Special Court <i>Exclusive</i>	Page 9
As Norman Testifies...Peter Penfold Arrives to Face Special Court <i>The News</i>	Page 10
Special Court: Defence Answers AG...No Immunity for President <i>Awoko</i>	Pages 11-12
Riotous Conduct in Bo...Margai’s Case Transferred to Freetown <i>Awoko</i>	Pages 13-14

International Media

Statement Attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General (on) Cote d’Ivoire <i>United Nations</i>	Page 15
Lawyers “Denied Access to Saddam” <i>BBC</i>	Page 16

NORMAN ENDS HIS TESTIMONY

CONCLUDING HIS evidence in chief at the UN Special Court, former CDF coordinator, Chief Sam Hinga Norman informed the court that the normal procedure for signing letters of appointment and membership into the National Coordinating Committee was strictly by recommendation.

by
SUTHORONKA

This, he said, was either by members from various districts or various districts who had come to Base Zero, a method he said was used throughout the existence of the War Council at Base zero.

Chief Norman also made mention of one Thomas PD Langba whom he said was one of the commanders in the CDF that was linked with the Ecomog garrison in Freetown.

Norman said Langba was suspended for what the NCC considered as misdemeanor and that one MK Harding as Director of Planning and he as National Coordinator and Deputy Minister of Defence signed his letter of suspension.

The disciplinary committee of the NCC, Norman said, was charged with the duty of investigating crimes of indiscipline, adding that this committee existed from the time of his arrival at Base Zero up to the time the War Council was formed by



KABBAH: has some explaining to do about the war President Kabbah. To buttress his evidence, a letter of appointment written by the War Council and signed



NORMAN: will his testimony nail Pres Kabbah one Gbokabama in a village called Talia as a Kamajor, but he could not however tell whether his group of Kamajors engaged in any act of looting. The same he also said about one Rambo.

As Hinga Norman breaks more ice at the Special Court he says...

Kabbah knew about his arrest

By Tom E. Tommy & Saffia Kabbah

Chief Sam Hinga Norman continued his defence testimony last Friday at the Special Court for Sierra Leone with revelations on how he was arrested and maltreated by national and

international security personnel under the orders of the Special Court of Sierra Leone, which he indicated was masterminded by the government as well as explaining the Rules of Engagement by which the CDF were supposed to abide by during the course



of the war. He was led in defense by his lead Counsel, Dr. Bu-buakie Jabbie. On the issue of his arrest and maltreatment, he started by indicating that when he was Deputy Defence Minister in 1997 the relationship between him and the President was not

that cordial. He recalled that on Friday 16 May, 1999, he reported to the President that certain officers in the Sierra Leone Army were planning to stage a coup and he advised him to do something about the mentioned officers and to as well put in

place strategies that could stop the intended planned coup. Asked what was done in that direction by his Counsel, he replied that he did not know.

The President, Chief Norman went on, never listened to him when he ad-

Contd: page 2

Kabbah knew about his arrest

From front page

vised him to be careful about his dealings with certain individuals in the party and that he continued with these advises, but that afterwards he came to realize that H.E. the President had become less interested in their relationship.

Chief Norman went on that sometime after the election in 2002 when he had been appointed Minister of Internal Affairs, he met with the President to inform him that he was seeing signs of dissensions in the party on the ground that he had imposed Solomon Berewa as Vice President on them. According to him, he expressed concern as to whether the people will accept him in the not too long future. The President, he went on after hearing those words from him looking not too happy with him left the meeting to inform the Vice President about what had transpired between them. On the 10th of March, he said that he was sitting in his official chair as the Minister of Internal Affairs during the morning hours when he received a phone call from the President. Asked about the content of the discussion between him and the President, Chief Norman responded that they discussed nothing other than a question from the President enquiring whether he was in the office. "I just want to know whether you are in the office," he said the President enquired of him on the phone. He said it was barely five minutes later that he saw police officers in his office headed by Mr. Francis informing him that he was under arrest under the orders of the Special Court. He explained he was immediately handcuffed, taken out of his office to a waiting vehicle painted on the outside, "Ambulance". He described the inside of the vehicle as a

dumping ground with no seat or anchor to hold on to while the vehicle is in motion.

He went on to explain further that as the vehicle moved, he fell down and sustained pains in his hip that resulted to him leaping. He said he was rushed to a place in Lumley where he was put into a helicopter and flown to Bonthe where he said he was subjected to very serious maltreatments.

Chief Norman noted that the war was complex and characterized by brutality. He also noted that the war was far from being a conventional war as it involved various factions, a situation he attributed to the extensive loss of lives and properties. According to him, the factions involved fought to the extent of respecting international standards of warfare or had no respect for the Geneva Convention on warfare because, as he indicated, it was a matter of survival. He pointed out that there were no proper order as it was mixed up, between nationals and foreigners leading to difficulty in identifying who the enemy was for either sides of the war. He indicated that this confusion affected the Sierra Leone Army, the Sierra Leone Police, the Kamajors, the Vigilantes and civilians, the international force ECOMOG and the AFRC/RUF alliance.

On the Rules of Engagement for the CDF, he said, were regarded as guiding principles for survival during the war. He noted that the rules were binding on the fighters if they were to survive the war and said that this was explained to the Kamajor fighters. He said he was against contravening the rules by his Initiator, Mualim Sesay after he was initiated.

According to him, the rules that were against the

Kamajor principle include: Involving in a sexual contact with a woman. He said that fighter should restrain himself from his colleagues until the night separates the day and until that particular fighter washes himself fresh clean water. Secondly unless it was by accident there should be no willful killing of those not participating in the conflict. Thirdly that initiates were to be extremely extra careful not to kill a woman irrespective of her age, be it a baby, young or old. Also that initiates should only be interested in warfare not in looting. Those enemy fighters who surrender to them during the course of fighting (POWs) should be protected. That initiates should not have contact with dead bodies.

Chief Norman maintained that the fighters were strictly warned not to contravene these regulations and also stated that in the event where any of them was compelled by circumstances to violate these rules, they were however encouraged to report the incident after which a re-immunization was performed on them. He however noted that where this is not reported by a fighter, his punishment was that he will never return from any battle alive because his immunization has been faltered. The initiation, he said, is necessary because it prepares the minds of the fighters so as not to run away from battle. When one is initiated, he went on, you are traditionally protected from bullets and missiles.

CDF involvement in the war, he further maintained was to assist in the restoration of democracy and the reinstatement of the government of President Tejan Kabbah. He also disclosed to the court that up to date he is a member of the ruling SLPP party which he said, he joined in October 1972.

Norman denies Kamajor killings and lootings

BY JOSEPH TURAY

Special Court indicttee- Chief Sam Hinga Norman has denied knowledge of massive killings and looting by fighters of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) in certain parts in the provinces. Continuing his testimony last Friday at the Trial Chamber No.1, the former CDF National Coordinator categorically denied knowledge of alleged killings and looting in Bo and Bonthe districts by Kamajors fighters who were deployed there.

Specifically denying allegations of killings and other crimes perpetrated against civilians and Police officers in Bo by Kamajors between 1997 and 1998, Norman also denied knowledge of the death of one Aruna Massaquoi and a Police Officer- Sub-Inspector James Vandy. Both deceased were allegedly

marked for death by CDF fighters.

Amongst other brutal crimes alleged to have been committed by CDF fighters at the time in Bo, the accused told the Judge that he was not aware of such acts perpetrated against civilians, as Bo town in particular was before and after 10th March 1998 under the sole command and authority of ECOMOG and the Sierra Leone Police Force. Chief Norman however acknowledged that he had full knowledge of Kamajor fighters based in Bonthe during the hostilities. A group of fighters whom he referred to as "Kassila battalion" Chief Norman said started their operations even before he (Norman) was born. He explained further that since he was based at 'Base Zero', he never heard or received reports

of killings of civilians by Kamajors in the town; adding that he was not aware of the killing of a certain woman and one Lahai Lebbie by his fighters. Asked whether he received any report of the looting of the Bonthe Technical College Complex, Hospital and the Doctors' Quarters by CDF fighters, the CDF first accused said: "No my lord" adding that he got no report from anybody regarding the alleged looting of the Paramount Chief's house, the Police Staff Quarters, the Post Office and Fisheries Department in Bonthe by CDF troops. Earlier in his testimony, chief Norman told the Court that he had no knowledge of CDF initiations in the entire country but admitted that they had one at 'Base Zero' during the time he was there.

"Kabbah was warned not to impose Berewa on us"

By Betty Milton

Chief Samuel Hinga Norman last Friday told the Special Court that he warned President Tejan Kabbah not to impose Berewa on them as this would create problems not only for the [ruling Sierra Leone People's] party but for the whole nation.

Answering a question poised to him on whether he [Norman] was a member of any political party, he said he was still a member of the SLPP as he had not tender any resignation letter to the party.

As to whether he and the president were in a good relationship, Chief Norman said he and the president [Tejan Kabbah] were in good terms before the May 25th coup.

Chief Norman further stated that after the reinstatement of the elected government there were talks within the party that Kabbah was planning to choose Berewa as his running mate instead of Dr Albert Joe Demby, and that this forced him to approach the President to enquire from him but he denied.

The witness said at their party conference, held in

Bo, he approached Mr. Solomon Berewa and asked him whether it was true that he would be replacing Dr. Demby, "he denied this but I undid two buttons on the shirt he was wearing and underneath I saw a T-Shirt with an inscription: 'Solo B for VP.' I told him that he knew Demby was his brother and what he was planning would not be good for both the party and the people of Sierra Leone and walked off."

The witness noted that after the elections, he was appointed Minister of Internal Affairs. But he went to President Kabbah and said, "I

Contd. Page 2

Kabbah was warned not to impose Berewa on us

From Front Page

have seen signs of problems in not only the party but the whole nation. Surely I said to him, you would not be vying for the third time and I hope that you will not end up imposing the VP on us. From the looks on his face I know that he was not happy. I then took my leave and went to see the VP and told him the same thing but he too did not respond so I left them and went my way."

Talking about his arrest, Chief Norman said on the 10th of March 2003, he was in his office when he had a call from President Kabbah to enquire whether he was in. And that in the space of five minutes, he recalled, he was approached by some armed police officers led by Assistant Inspector General Munu who told him that he was under arrest by the orders of the Special Court.

On the role of the initiator of the CDF who was also known to be the High Priest, Chief Norman said when he first went to 'Base Zero' Kondewa was the High Priest but when the National Coordinating Committee was formed he was replaced by Kamoh Lahai Bangura.

During the initiation, Chief Norman said they were admonished not to do the following as fighters: they should keep off from sexual intercourse; they should not have contact with their colleagues until they had taken bath with fresh water; there should not be wilful killings of those not participatory in the conflict; they should be interested in the war and not in looting of propriety, and that they were also admonished on other issues.

As High Priest, the witness explained, he was sacred so he was never sent to war and he never played a role as a

commander. Norman tells court...

"Kabbah was warned not to impose Berewa on us"

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Peter Penfold, Others To Face Special Court

By Mohamed Kai Informed sources at the Special Court have intimated The Exclusive that the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, 'Komarabai' Peter Penfold and the former Vice President; Albert Joe Demby are expected to testify at the Special Court to clarify issues relating to their role in the civil war in Sierra Leone following
Contd. page 2

Peter Penfold, Others To Face Special Court

From front page

evidence adduced by the court from CDF indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman. The former British High Commissioner, was contacted by the authorities of the Special Court to present himself to the court for further evidence and clarifications.

The source further intimated that the Vice President; Albert Joe Demby was supposed to testify at the Special Court on Wednesday but could not because of the death of his mother-in-law.

Mr Norman told the Special Court that he recognized a group of hunters in the Bonthe District called 'Kassilar Battlion' who during the war, actively operated along the Atlantic Ocean together with the Navy Wing of the Sierra Leone Army. He said 'Base Zero' was located in a village called Talia in Bonthe District and that he witnessed the initiation ceremony of a Kamajor Militia outfit.

Norman denied knowledge of the looting of the Bonthe Technical College holiday complex including doctors quarters by a Kamajor Commander called 'Gbokambama,' meaning in Mende, somebody who defecate on a grave. He further told the court that he knew Mr.Thomas P.D. Langba as one of the CDF commanders but that he was sacked by the CDF Disciplinary Committee set up in 1997.

According to him Mr. Langba was forced to resign in a letter written and signed by Mr. Adrew N. Harding who was the Director of Personnel of the Kamajors. Mr Norman said the Disciplinary Committee was set up to investigate allegations of official misconduct and the then indiscriminate killings and destruction by members of the Kamajors out fit, of private and public property as well as other acts that are in contravention of the Geneva Convention, which protects innocent civilians trapped in armed conflicts.

The trial continues today.

...women. baseline survey at 0001 the country.

As Norman testifies...

Peter Penfold

arrives to face

special court

Former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold is expected to arrive in the country this week.

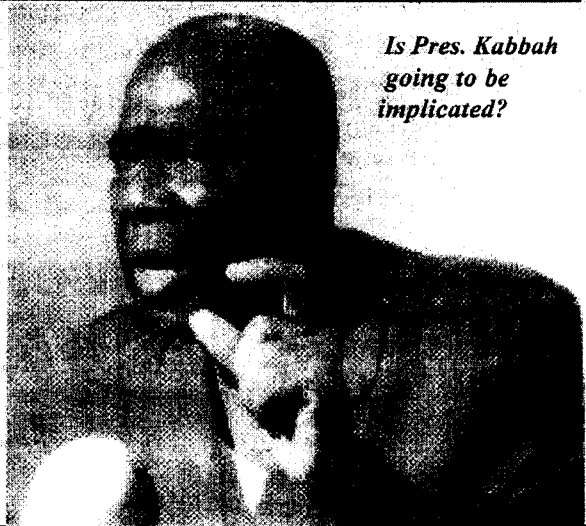
The former high commissioner was invited by the Special Court for Sierra Leone to testify. According to an official of the British High Commission in Freetown, the British government has allowed Penfold to travel to this country and testify before the Special Court.

"We are expecting him this Saturday or Sunday" one of the officials at the commis-

sion told this press.

It could be recalled that Peter Penfold, played a major role in the restoration of democracy in Sierra Leone.

Peter Penfold is also expected to tell the court what he knows about the military interregnum and activities of the Civil Defense Forces among many others.



Is Pres. Kabbah going to be implicated?

Awoko
6 February 2006

Special Court: Defence answers AG...

No immunity for President

By Kelvin Lewis

Defence lawyers for war crimes indictee and detainee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, have responded to arguments sent in by the

Attorney General (AG) and Justice Minister, Frederick Carew, on the issue of President Kabbah being served a subpoena to testify at the Special Court.

They dismiss claims by the Attorney General that because the President, "[is] outside of the jurisdiction in

a neighbouring country" his anticipated evidence has "no material effect and relevance in proving the

accused's innocence or guilt in respect of the charges contained in the indictment" as being factually incorrect

and legally untenable.

The defence lawyers say they anticipate that the evidence
Contd. Page 4

No immunity for President

From Front Page

President Kabbah will give, "will address amongst other issues, the creation of the CDF itself and the appointment of the first accused as its National Coordinator."

Responding to the Attorney General's claim that it was the result of both the rebel incursions and the activities of the CDF and RUF/AFRC that the President was obliged for security reasons to remove himself to the Republic of Guinea, the defence lawyers say that this statement is in direct contradiction with numerous other sources of evidence.

They question that if the President "left the country because of the CDF... why was he constantly in communication with the coordinator of the CDF, the first accused, over the conduct of the war?" Also that "If he left the country because of the CDF why did he meet several times with the National Coordinator over the conduct of the war and provide money and material to fight the war?"

On the issue of the Attorney General's claim that the "subpoena requested is irrelevant, speculative and oppressive and should be

refused", the defence lawyers response is that, "it is well settled law throughout the common law jurisprudence that the parties to a case particularly a criminal case, have the right to produce "every man's evidence".

Further that this has been stated for at least 260 years in the common law tradition. They make the point that they filed their motion "based on extensive investigations, as well as after months of prosecution testimony, and review of matters of public record including speeches of the President and documentation such as the Truth and Reconciliation report. This they maintain is hardly a fishing expedition.

The defence lawyers dismiss as not correct the claims by the Attorney General that the President "is not compellable as President and Head of State by reason of the fact that a subpoena requires a judicial penalty to enforce it were it to be disobeyed" and further that the President enjoys immunity from process as the "President is an embodiment of the State of Sierra Leone and ex hypothesis, a subpoena cannot be issued against him ..."

Norman's lawyers further

argue that notwithstanding Article 48(4) of the Constitution which states that, "While any person holds or performs the functions of the office of President, no civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against him in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by him either in his official or private capacity", that a subpoena is not a "civil or criminal proceeding instituted or continued against him" under any reason interpretation of this provision. Therefore, they say article 48(4) has no application and "clearly, the President does not have any immunity under the Constitution of Sierra Leone from appearing as a factual witness before the Special Court."

They also maintain that under Article 1 of the Statute of the Special Court, "it is specifically contemplated that "leaders" do not enjoy immunity from prosecution. If this is the case they go further "if a "leader" has no immunity from prosecution, then surely a "leader" cannot have immunity from being subpoenaed." The Prosecution has already replied to this response from Norman's defence team.

Awoko
6 February 2006

riotous conduct in Bo...

Margai's case transferred to Freetown

By Mohamed Fofanah

Justice Ademusu last Friday ordered the matter, involving Vice President Solomon Berewa and the leader of the

People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), Charles Margai, be transferred to Freetown from southern Bo.

This ruling came after

over three weeks of legal tussle between the Applicant (Solomon Berewa)'s lawyers O.V Robin Mason, the Director of Public Prosecution S. A Bah and

Monfred Sesay who later asked to be relieved from the case after complaining that Mr. Margai threatened his life and Charles Margai the first

Contd. Page 2

Margai's case transferred to Freetown

From Front Page
accused who was appearing in person together with AB Lansana representing ten others.

The contention raised by the accused persons, which was blocking the application for the transfer of the matter from Bo to Freetown, was the application made by the State Council was improperly sought.

Charles Margai pointed out that the Applicant should have gone for a motion 'Simplicita' not an originating motion.

Lawyer A.B Lansana, who is representing the 11 others charged together with Mr. Margai, stated that he also vehemently objected to the motion on the grounds that the motion unless otherwise stipulated, motion of interlocutory nature should be by ordinary motion. He stressed that, "the application is grossly irregular and should be discountenanced".

State Counsel Monfred Sesay maintained that the application was made properly and submitted

that it be made to the court. The Judge, Justice Ademusu has given the order for the matter to be

transferred to Freetown. When this order will be effected has not been disclosed.

**Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General
Côte d'Ivoire**

The Secretary-General is still deeply concerned about the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, as threats continue to be issued against United Nations personnel and plans of violent demonstrations and attacks are being reported. He therefore looks forward to the Security Council's expeditious authorization for a reinforcement of UNOCI's military and police strength, which would contribute to enhancing the mission capacity to address the security challenges in Abidjan.

The Secretary-General has requested the Security Council for a limited emergency transfer of military and police personnel from the United Nations Mission in Liberia to reinforce UNOCI, within the framework of the Council's resolution 1609 (2005) and after careful assessment of the situation in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

**Déclaration attribuable au porte-parole du Secrétaire général
Côte d'Ivoire**

Le Secrétaire général est toujours profondément préoccupé par la situation en Côte d'Ivoire, alors que des menaces continuent d'être proférées à l'encontre du personnel des Nations Unies et que des rapports indiquent la préparation d'attaques et de manifestations violentes. Il espère donc que le Conseil de sécurité autorisera rapidement un renforcement des effectifs militaires et policiers de l'ONUCI, qui contribuerait à améliorer la capacité de la Mission à faire face aux défis sécuritaires à Abidjan.

Le Secrétaire général a requis du Conseil de sécurité un transfert d'urgence et limité de personnels militaires et policiers de la Mission des Nations Unies au Liberia pour renforcer l'ONUCI, dans le cadre de la résolution 1609 (2005) du Conseil et après une évaluation poussée de la situation au Libéria et en Côte d'Ivoire

Stephane Dujarric
Spokesman for the Secretary-General

New York
5 February 2006



Lawyers 'denied access to Saddam'

The chief lawyer for deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein says he was been denied access to his client for the first time in more than a year.

Khalil Dulaimi says the US military authorities turned down his request without giving any reason.

There was no immediate response from the US officials in Baghdad.

Defence lawyers walked out of court hearings last week after accusing the new Kurdish chief judge, Raouf Abdul Rahman, of being biased.

Mr Rahman decided to press ahead with the case, asking court-appointed lawyers to take over the defence.

"We were notified by the Americans today that neither I nor the rest of the defence counsel can meet the president or our other clients," Mr Dulaimi told Reuters news agency in Amman on Sunday.

He went on: "Preventing the visits is illegal and prevents the president from having a fair trial."

Defendants no-show

The defence team has called for the removal of Judge Abdul Rahman, saying he cannot maintain impartiality because his home town of Halabja was famously attacked with poison gas by Iraqi forces in 1988.

A week ago, Saddam Hussein and two other defendants walked out of the courtroom in support of their defence team's stance.

Their trial resumed briefly a few days later with only a few of the defendants attending. The former Iraqi president did not make an appearance.

Saddam Hussein and his co-defendants are accused of the 1982 killings of 148 Shia villagers in Dujail - charges they deny.

They could face the death penalty if convicted of the killings, which followed an assassination attempt on Saddam Hussein.

Story from BBC NEWS:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/middle_east/4684238.stm

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