

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Congratulations to Steven Turay (Security), who married Miss Mabinty Rosaline Conteh on Saturday at the Faith Assembly of God Church, Brookfields.

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:

Tuesday, 6 March 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Independent Observer
 Tuesday, 6 March 2007

IN SENEGAL YESTERDAY:

4 Doctors Perform 3 Hour Autopsy On Hinga Norman



Autopsy Performed On Hinga Norman

An autopsy examination on Chief Sam Hinga Norman to ascertain the exact cause of his death was performed yesterday morning in Dakar, Senegal where he died last week.

The examination got underway at about 9am and con-

tinued for about three hours conducted by about four doctors.

The family were unable to get a pathologist to join the team of doctors there as earlier anticipated but they were represented by Dr. Albert Joe Demby, former Vice-Presi-

dent and who is a medical doctor.

Last evening, Special Court for Sierra Leone Chief of Public Relations, Peter Andersen told us in a brief telephone chat that the autopsy result will not be expected in the next 24 hours.

The New Citizen
Tuesday, 6 March 2007

No Civic Funeral For Norman



Mayor of Freetown
Winstanley Johnson.

The Mayor of Freetown, Winstanley Bankole Johnson has reacted yesterday to the suggestion that the late Chief Hinga Norman would likely be given a Civic funeral by stating that "Council will not give a Civic funeral to late Hinga Norman because the late chief does not meet the criteria of Council"

The Mayor elaborated when he said that the country is divided as to whether or not the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman should be

considered a hero as he was still indicted in court, standing trial for war crimes at the time of his death.

He continued, "if the country is divided on the social status of late Hinga Norman, Council will not want to be part of any looming controversy."

He further argued that members of civil society who are pushing for a Civic funeral for Chief Hinga Norman should have first asked for a referendum to

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Chief Sam Hinga Norman

No Civic Funeral

From page 1

determine the level of popularity of the chief and also to determine whether society actually perceives him as a hero.

"For the time being, Council's position is that since Freetown is not Sierra Leone, the Bo City Council which is nearest to Chief Hinga Norman's Home of Mongereh could go ahead to organise a Civic funeral for the late chief," Mayor Johnson further explained. If the Norman family, according to the Mayor, refuses to allow the central government to be a party to the funeral arrangements of

the late Chief Hinga Norman that in itself undermines the chances for the City Council to organise a Civic funeral for the chief, because the president of Sierra Leone who is also the Fountain of Honour is directly influential as to which citizen is to be honoured.

In a very uncompromising tone, Mayor Winstanley Bankole Johnson said that the poor Hinga Norman has died and should be buried without being dragged into any political mess. "And besides, I am totally against this idea of whipping up political sentiments over

an issue that should be seen as a sorrowful event that deserves mourning. These same people who are now demanding a Civic funeral for the late chief Sam Hinga Norman were the ones who sat down and allowed the chief to be pushed into a Special Court, a court that could have been stopped by the genuine agitations of civil society. A man who was not respected by his own people and affiliates when he was alive cannot now demand respect for him only after his death. It is unfair to push for respect for a man whom you did not respect when he was alive," he concluded.

The Exclusive

Tuesday, 6 March 2007

Should The Special Court Become A Flop...

“...Those who bear the greatest responsibility.” That short phrase is the underlying mandate of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Better put, one can say the Special Court's primary job here is to see that the **'Big Fishes'** of the decade long war face the full penalty of the law.

The setting up of such a superior court in Sierra Leone was therefore imperative, for the simple fact that it will help to put a stop to impunity and serve as checkmate to war related violence.

Historians are going to write about what happened before, during and after the war. Posterity shall read the history books and they will quickly turn the pages to read what happened to perpetrators of what has already been dubbed **“a senseless war”**. If they discover that no punitive measures was taken against the perpetrators of the heinous crimes they have learned about as being perpetuated against their fathers and mothers, they will perhaps become resentful. There is also the likelihood that these children may tend to commit atrocities and expect to go scot-free. Oh how important the Special Court is. But there is more to that. Follow my personal analysis:

By my personal understanding of “those who bear the greatest responsibility,” I think the first five, call them the biggest fishes if you like, are: Foday Sankoh, (late) the RUF Warlord is no more, he died a natural death without being tried, Sam Bockarie (late), Rtd. Major Johnny Paul Koroma, head of the former AFRC is a fugitive and up till now, no one knows his whereabouts (perhaps hibernating some where in Europe or the Middle East); Hinga Norman, head of the CDF, also dead, Charles Taylor, the only indicted external actor, swore to ‘his mother's breast’ that he will not step his feet in Sierra Leone, let alone go to New England where the Special Court is situated. He was however captured after giving the Special Court a serious headache and was briefly detained at the Special Court but was later seen as a dangerous guest with the Court. He was later flown to The Hague where there is watertight security for a dangerous man-weapon called Taylor. Now there are talks about his coming back. For what?

All of the above mentioned big fishes were either not tried, will probably not be tried or may never be tried. Critically looking at the first five from top to bottom, one may be tempted to think that the whole Special Court drama will end up becoming a mere debacle.

I will perhaps spend some time on Hinga Norman whose indictment, subsequent detention and death had a lot of controversies.

The two key things I believe the Special Court looks for in indicting a person are: **Individual Criminal Responsibility** and the **Command Structure**. Hinga Norman, I believe, was indicted under both. He was the Deputy Defence Minister and Coordinator of the CDF that comprises the ‘Kamajors’, ‘Tamaboros’, ‘Kapas’, ‘Donsos’, and ‘Gbethis’. As a commander of five civil militia groups, he was responsible for what ever a ‘Vamboi’ of a Kamajor or a Santigie of a Gbethi did.

The fact is that Chief Norman, as he was popularly called, hadn't total command and control over the different militia fighters. And although they were all fighting in the interest of the nation, they all certainly committed human rights violations one way or the other

during their campaigns, which blame was heaped on ‘poor’ Hinga Norman. This is pathetic.

But Norman too is widely believed to have done unspeakable things during the war. To many, he had already bitten more than he could chew. While some Sierra Leoneans (particularly his followers and tribesmen) see his indictment as unconstitutional, unjustifiable and a witch-hunt, others think otherwise- as far as they are concerned, he deserved to be punished. An indeed he was to some extent.

However, many, up to the time of his death and afterwards consider him more of a hero than a villain or desperado who was facing international war crime charges.

Before his death, Norman had been a surprise to many Sierra Leoneans while in detention, as he made series of headlines in the newspapers. Some time back, he and the other CDF indictees, wrote a letter to their sympathisers, more or less ordering them not to take part in any SLPP functions till further notice. This particular letter did not cut ice with authorities at the Special Court. The next thing we heard in response was that he had been slammed a temporary ban. As if that was not enough, Chief Norman expressed his interest in SLPP leadership. Whether that was plausible or not, legal minds knew better. Still making headlines, Norman took a law suit against the SLPP calling for an injunction on the party's Delegate Convention that was slated for September last year. Unfortunately for him, the Supreme Court ruling was not in his favour.

I am sure if Norman was still alive, he will continue to become not only a force to reckon with but a thorn in the flesh of both the Special Court and the SLPP.

With such a drama unfolding at the ‘All Mighty’ Special Court, one may ask: who really did the Special Court come to try? Especially when one takes cognizance of the fact that all the key players (now household names) have or are seemingly escaping the trial process living less popular names and small fishes within the million Dollar walls of the Special Court.

The fact is that almost every Sierra Leonean knows very well, these first five names. The remaining eight are somewhat not too popular or of much significance to many as to far as their role in the war is concern.

The question that comes to mind is, “should the Million Dollar Special Court become a farce, what next?”

The people are however waiting.

Before his death, Norman had been a surprise to many Sierra Leoneans while in detention, as he made series of headlines in the newspapers. Some time back, he and the other CDF indictees, wrote a letter to their sympathisers, more or less ordering them not to take part in any SLPP functions till further notice

Awareness Times
 Tuesday, 6 March 2007

Norman Postmortem Concludes

**THE FOLLOWING IS A
 REPORT FILED IN LATE
 LAST NIGHT BY THE
 SPOKESMAN OF THE LATE
 CHIEF HINGA NORMAN.
 WE HAVE EDITTED OUT
 SOME OF THE STRONGER
 WORDS AND ALLEGATIONS**

An autopsy by forensic pathologists representing the Governments of Sierra Leone and Senegal and the UN was performed in Dakar, Senegal yesterday Monday March 5, 2007. The pathologists' report is expected today, Tuesday March 6th 2007, after which the body will be flown back to Sierra Leone for burial. The body will be accompanied to Freetown on Wednesday by Chief Norman's eldest son, Sam Norman, Jr. and the family's chief representative and former Vice President, Dr. Albert Joe Demby.

A public viewing and paying of final respects by Freetown and Western Area residents hosted by the Sierra Leone Civil Society is planned for Thursday March 8 at the Queen Victoria Park, Freetown.

The body will be conveyed to a location near Bo on Friday March 9 where the Society of Kamajors will receive and convey the body to Bo Town with a public viewing and paying of final respects at Bo Town Council Hall Friday afternoon.

The service of Christian burial will be held at a location in Bo on Saturday March 10. It is to be recalled here that Chief Hinga Norman was arrested on the orders of the so-called special

court for Sierra Leone on this very date March 10, 2003 while a sitting Regent Chief of Jaiama-Bongor Chiefdom and Minister of Internal Affairs in the present government. He spent the last four years of his life in the custody of the court until he was promoted to Heaven on Thursday February 22 in Senegal following hip surgery.

Chief Norman will be laid to rest alongside his mother and other family members in the village of Ngolala near Mongere in the Valunya Chiefdom, Bo District on Sunday March 11, 2007. Members of the Kamajor, Poro, Wunde and allied societies will commit the body for burial in Ngolala. Meanwhile, on the advise of Dr. Demby, we are unable to discuss at length specific observations relating to the autopsy as well as the conditions under which Chief Norman was held in Senegal in the thirty five days of his life. We are, however, able to confirm unequivocally and with factual evidence Chief Norman's original claim upon his arrival in Dakar on January 17 that he was being held in "the worst possible prison cell" in Senegal.

We also strictly advise the so-called special court and the government of Sierra Leone and other agencies represented at the autopsy that any modification, alteration or interception of any material evidence including the court's own videograph of the procedure will not accrue to justice or collegial resolution of this matter.

Awareness Times
Tuesday, 6 March 2007

SLPP NORTH AMERICA **CONDOLENCE MESSAGE**

The Passing of Chief Hinga Norman

By Augustine Smith, SLPP/NA Publicity Secretary

The SLPP North American Branch wishes to express our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Family and friends of the late Chief Hinga Norman.

The Chief was very dear to all the members of our party, and we believe that he was a true patriot and hero of Sierra Leone.

Unfortunately, because of his untimely death, the Chief did not have the opportunity to clear his good name vis-à-vis crimes that he is alleged to have committed by the international tribunal. Along with his family, the SLPP mourns the passing of Chief Hinga Norman. The party advocates that the family and all sympathizers be allowed to bury this great Sierra Leonean with the dignity he deserves.

We reject the notion that put forward by some individuals, people who have not been officially declared principal mourners, can exclude the SLPP from participating in this process. This is merely an attempt to politicize the passing of the Chief, and we do not intend to emulate those who would try to get political mileage from this event. Accordingly, traditional ways demand that every one be allowed to mourn the Chief in the best way they know how, and we intend to do so.

NORMAN FAMILY FUNERAL FUND

We again inform friends and well wishers who wish to contribute to the funeral and memorial fund by mail, bank transfer to write checks and money orders payable to

SLAM as follows:

Account # 0047 - 7650 - 0267 at the Bank of America

Direct Deposit Routing: 111000025

Wire Transfer Routing (US): 026009593

Wire Transfer Routing (overseas): BOFAUS3N

Or mail to:

SLAM, 4222 Crystal Lane, Garland, TX 75023,

ATTN: Mr. Reuben Ndomahina

Also for proper documentation please send email to us (you and i) with details of any of the above transfers, (date and amount of transaction.). Please contact the treasurer, Mr. Reuben Ndomahina at: reubenkn@sbcglobal.net,

Home phone: (972) 203-2056;

Cell phone (972) 880-9049

Alternately, you can call and furnish us with the information. Direct mailing contributors do not need to do any further follow-up. We will keep you informed of other developments as they become available.

Alfred SamForay,

Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund

(812) 841 - 1000

Concord Times

Tuesday, 6 March 2007

Hinga Norman: The Mysteries of a Special War Crimes Trial

Opinion

By Lansana Gberie

On 3 June 2004, the UN-created Special Court for Sierra Leone began prosecution of those it alleged bear "the greatest responsibility" for war crimes, violations of humanitarian law and related offenses during Sierra Leone's decade-long dirty war. It was a "solemn occasion," said the court's American prosecutor, David Crane, whose many shortcomings surely does not include modesty or under-statement. Crane summoned all of mankind to "once again [assemble] before an international tribunal to begin the sober and steady climb upwards toward the towering summit of justice." Waxing poetic - rather in the manner of high-pitched tele-evangelists of the American south - Crane declared: "The path will be strewn with the bones of the dead, the moans of the mutilated, the cries of agony of the tortured, echoing down into the valley of death below. Horrors beyond the imagination will slide into this hallowed hall as this trek upward comes to a most certain and just conclusion."

The prosecutor must surely be thinking of the depredations of Foday Sankoh, the nihilistic and self-adoring ex-corporal whose petty army, known as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), terrorized Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2000 by crudely mutilating civilians and burning down towns? No. Sankoh died peacefully last year. Charles Taylor, the buccaneering Liberian thug-president who helped set up the RUF after unleashing a catastrophic war on his own country? Not a chance. Taylor is hundreds of miles away from the court, in comfortable exile in the Nigerian port city of Calabar. In fact, what inspired Crane's pithy eloquence was Sam Hinga Norman, a former Sierra Leone government minister and the putative leader of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), a group of civilians who organized to liberate villages overrun by the RUF, keep the bloodthirsty rebel force in check, and restore a democratically-elected government which had been overthrown by the rebels and rogue government soldiers. Bathos is too limited a word to describe this grandly demented exercise in how not to pursue international justice: even Joseph Conrad, with that cold eye for heroic absurdity and hypocrisy, would not have invented this.

The notion of international humanitarian law is still inchoate, evolving. But one is sure that two rules of justice will, at least in the minds of decent people, remain valid. The first is that a justice system should be fairly sure that the guilty is held to account; and the second is that a justice system should be absolutely certain that the innocent is not punished. We know that this has not always been the case. When the baronet's sister in Dicken's novel exclaims, on hearing of the murder of the baronet, 'Far better hang wrong fellow than no fellow!' we are reminded that a certain vengefulness and zealous desire to punish others have always underpinned the modern justice system. Indeed we are reminded, as George Bernard Shaw cynically commented, that the wrong fellow is in some circumstances the right fellow to hang.

THE CHARGES

Crane's charge sheet against Norman and the two other CDF leaders, Moinina Fofana and Kondewa, is a long one. The first part is largely forensic: it describes, in colourful details, the conditions and ideas that supposedly guided the activities of the CDF. The purpose of the CDF, we learn, was "to use any means necessary to defeat the RUF and AFRC [the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, which overthrew the government of President Tejan Kabbah in May 1997] forces and to gain and exercise control over Sierra Leone territory." The CDF sought to do this by the "complete elimination of the RUF/AFRC, its supporters, sympathizers, and anyone who did not actively resist the RUF/AFRC occupation of Sierra Leone." Specific acts of war crimes are all limited to about the end of 1997 to about April 1998 - when the fighting against the rebels forces was at its most intense - and they are alleged to have included "practices of elimination" of the RUF/AFRC in Tongo Field, Kenema, Bo and Koribondo. These included "human sacrifices and cannibalism." There is also the conscription of children below the age of 15; "multiple attacks on Tongo Field and the surrounding area and towns, during which the Kamajors unlawfully killed or inflicted serious bodily harm and serious physical suffering on an unknown number of civilians and captured

So much for international humanitarian law and justice...

enemy combatants; the killing of "collaborators", including "an unknown number of police officers" in Kenema by the Kamajors on 15 February 1998; and the so-called Black December operation, in which the Kamajors allegedly killed "an unknown number of civilians" in 1997. Crane noted, "Despite the obvious political dimension to this conflict... these individuals are indicted for those crimes, the most grievous of acts..." adding that each of the accused "acted individually and in concert with subordinates to carry out this plan, purpose or design." We are solemnly informed, in case we still do not get it, that "The light of this new day-today-and the many tomorrows ahead are a beginning of the end to the life of that beast of impunity, which howls in frustration and shrinks from the bright and shining spectre of the law. The jackals whimper in their cages certain of their impending demise. The law has returned to Sierra Leone and it stands with all Sierra Leoneans against those who seek their destruction."

Even the great scribes of the Old Testament would not better this. But how valid is the implication that the CDF leaders should even be remotely considered as "most responsible" for the recently-ended war and its almost unique atrocities? And how do we react to this odd American awakening to the necessity to address impunity and rights violations around the world?

LIKE THE RUF, LIKE THE CDF?

Sierra Leone's war started in March 1991 when a self-adoring former army corporal and photographer, Foday Saybanah Sankoh, led a petty army---of mainly Liberian rebels and a few Sierra Leonean insurgents---from territories controlled by then Liberian warlord Charles Taylor into southern and eastern Sierra Leone. Sankoh had trained in Libya with Taylor, and he fought alongside the Liberian from the start of Liberia's civil war in 1989 until intervention by West African troops, known as ECOMOG, led to a bloody stalemate in late 1990. It was then that Taylor opened another front, so to speak, in Sierra Leone by launching the Sankoh-led Revolutionary United Front rebels. The new conflict, like the one in Liberia, was characterized by vandalism and terror, and soon enough it became evident that pillage---of mainly the country's forest resources and diamond mines---was a far greater motivation than politics. Sierra Leone's feeble and corrupt army almost imploded, and a large number of its members collaborated with the RUF. Hundreds of thousands of the country's rural population were displaced by the fighting. It was out of this dreary displacement that the civil defence force, the Kamajors, mobilizing from makeshift camps, and drawing upon the traditional coherence and resources of a putative hunters' guild, organized to fight back the rebels and reclaim their lost villages and towns. They soon became the only bulwark against the complete over-running of the country by the RUF---and the main saviors of Sierra Leone's new experiment in democracy.

No one can dispute that the Kamajors, an inchoate group lacking logistical support, committed excesses in its fight against the RUF and to protect the general civil population. But then the demented nature of the RUF's total warfare ensured that in order to effectively challenge them one could hardly have avoided using brutal tactics. The mealy-mouthed argument---so vigorously enunciated, with ringing and seductive familiarity, by the Special Court's prosecutors---that those combating the depredations of the rebels should not have themselves been drawn into similar excesses flows from a well known pathology: the complacent 'humanitarianism' of people from more secure societies, people who in the end do little more than celebrate their own security. When the military theorist Martin van Creveld wrote that prolonged 'low-intensity' conflicts, like that which occurred in Sierra Leone, always ensures that combatants on both sides would look and act in the same way, he was stating an objective fact, not explaining away state or civil brutality.

What is striking about the war crimes trials going on in

Sierra Leone at the moment is that, defying comprehension and every form of decent sensibility, the star accused is not a member of the RUF or one of its foreign backers but Hinga Norman, the man who provided inspiration and leadership for the civil defence forces. It simply beggars belief. One commentator on the issue, Abdul Bangura, has even gone so far as to accuse Crane of racism for this suspect failure of discernment as well as for making a number of stock statements. This is an extraordinary charge; it is far from the truth. Crane is no racist. What Crane represents is an irresistible old tragicomedy, the parable of simple and very good-natured people who substitute doctrine for knowledge, and who in the process cause great damage in good conscience. In the past they could have appeared as missionaries in colonial outposts, but they are really best represented in fiction. Conrad, in one of his famous stories, set in the blood-stained Belgian Congo, has his narrator speak of "the outraged law" coming from beyond the seas to a helpless people who had been labeled "criminals," the law appearing to them as "an insoluble mystery from the sea." This may be too cynical in this context: horrible crimes were committed in Sierra Leone, and the effort to account for them is a noble one. Mr. Pyle in Graham Greene's novel appears more appropriate: the "quiet American", a decent and very simple man, seeking to apply some crackpot theories he had learnt from a book, causes great pain with his simple mind assured that it is all for a good cause.

I do not suggest this because Crane is American, a former Pentagon lawyer. But there is something to be said about the fact that the country which is so aggressive in resisting the efforts to institutionalize an international justice mechanism is the chief backer of the limited and 'hybrid' experiment that is the Sierra Leone Special Court. But then again this suggests an interesting line of speculation but is otherwise irrelevant to the point of this article, which is that in aggressively prosecuting the CDF leaders the court may not only be doing a grave injustice, it may also be doing a grave damage to Sierra Leone's future ability to defend itself if such predatory groups as the RUF were to emerge again. Who will emerge to lead the effort given the appalling example that has been made of Norman? As for the charges, well the trial has begun and it would be in very bad taste to examine them here. But one can't help observing how suggestive the inclusion of 'cannibalism' is. The narrator in the Conrad story referred to seems obsessed with the notion of Africans as cannibals. This was a strong motif in colonial self-justification. The British seemed to have been particularly determined to have it suppressed in Africa. But the testimony of a former British colonial Acting Attorney General in Sierra Leone long long ago is worth keeping in mind. He had heard many stories of cannibal rituals in the country, he said, and had even heard vivid descriptions of cannibal acts by supposed eye-witnesses. But "No District Commissioner has ever been able to get hold" of the instruments, knives and other paraphernalia that were supposed to be integral to the rituals. In other words, he found no evidence...

But then, unfortunately, the myth stuck. Such may be the sad legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Crane's eloquence notwithstanding: "The ghosts of thousands of the murdered dead stand among us. They cry out for a fair and transparent trial-to let the world know what took place here, here in Sierra Leone. The tears of the maimed, the mutilated, and the violated will dampen these walls. These victims, their families, their towns, their districts-their country ask all of us here for a just accounting for the agony of those ten long years in the valley of death." 'Just accounting': that is not going to happen until the Nigerian President Obasanjo hands over Charles Taylor to the court, something he (another daunting mystery) seemed determined not to do.

This article appeared in Znet, a progressive online journal, on 6 July 2004.

Concord Times

Tuesday, 6 March 2007

A Tribute And Rebuke: Allow Hinga Norman To Rest In Peace

By Sia Tiyaama

A hero to many Sierra Leoneans has fallen. Those who lifted no finger to support and protect him are now the people making the most noise about his death. Those who genuinely grieve are the most quiet. In my estimation, they understand Chief Norman has to rest in peace. Even before he lost the warmth of his body,

ments with his party mates, but he always knew that the party is bigger than an individual. That was exhibited in the only seemingly authentic press release he made through his lawyer Dr Bu-Buakei Jabjie in which told all his supporters to stay put in the SLPP and disregard all what other parties are claiming.

Hinga Norman may be physically dead but his spirit undoubtedly lives on. His life is one that is worthy of emulation. His dedication and love for country should go into the annals of history as exemplary of civic duty and patriotism in Sierra Leone. His sacrifice must be looked at as unsurpassed since the days of Bai

"I think we should mourn Chief with respect and honor and not in violence. . . I hope our Kamajor brothers will also understand this." In another instance, the Deputy Coordinator PMDC North America, one Morie Moussafa (aka Toegondoe), who in all honesty comes across as the most irresponsible executive of PMDC, wrote in so many words on February 22nd that Hinga Norman was murdered for political and election reasons

people were already estimating how much political support they could benefit if he were to die as a special court detainee. Indeed, some people have tried to score political points even by bandying a press release Chief Hinga Norman did not author as if he had changed his mind from the firm public declaration he had made last year that he remains a member of the SLPP. But is it not nauseating that some of these people who never lifted a finger to protect Chief Hinga Norman are now trying to make political capital out of his death? This piece is both a tribute to Chief Hinga Norman and a warning/advice that as we mourn the passing of one of Sierra Leone's greatest heroes, we must be aware of the political vultures for the vulgarity in exploiting the death of Chief Norman.

CHIEF NORMAN

He was unflinchingly loyal to his country and party until his death. Some have faulted him for what they call "an unquestioned dedication to SLPP"; but others actively worked for the divisive Special Court's prosecution team and called him a villain and a cannibal. How can such a dedicated hero be so misunderstood and vilified? Yes, Chief Norman was dedicated to the SLPP until his death; but to say that his was unquestioned dedication to SLPP borders on the abysmally ignorant. Those who knew Chief Norman would tell you that he had a lot of disagree-

Call him what you may, but as far as I am concerned, he showed us all what national dedication and loyalty means. He stayed and fought the good fight for democracy while others were busy destroying the nation. Through his leadership of the Civil Defense Forces, he cleared the Southern region of rebels. In 1998, he joined forces with the ECOMOG troops to drive out the murderous Johnny Paul Koroma and his blood thirsty AFRC/RUF coalition from Freetown.

He was called upon again to help in driving out the drug-crazed AFRC/RUF coalition who entered Freetown in 1999. Tell me this is not pure, selfless heroism? So how can anybody in his right mind use Chief Hinga Norman's demise as a bad example of "unquestioned dedication"? Show me somebody who said that he would not defend Chief Hinga Norman in court except for a sizeable amount of money that Chief Hinga Norman could not afford, and I would show you someone who cared for Chief Hinga Norman in life. Show me somebody who as minister of interior refused to send food to the CDF at the warfront because he said that the CDF was an unconstitutional militia and I will show you someone who really cared about the CDF. For the love and dignity of Chief Hinga Norman, let us please stay quiet about those who are now presenting themselves as saints.

Bureh and Nyagua. His steadfastness must be copied by all those wanting to lead the nation. His courage under humiliation by some should be a goal for all of us who give off our best for love of country.

ADMONITION/REBUKE

Allow Hinga Norman to rest in peace. Attempts at making political gains out of this tragedy are becoming nauseating by the hour. This I must add started about three weeks before his death. First came out a seemingly forged document with the Hinga Norman's signature clearly scanned on it; then came another press release from the leader of PMDC in Indiana that Chief Norman has declared for PMDC. That was all well and good because Chief was still alive. But the attempt at continuing with such nonsense is really irritating and bizarre. Shortly after the news of Chief

Hinga Norman's demise broke out, the Director of Communications declared the situation a PMDC family affair and had to be reminded that Norman belongs to every Sierra Leonean. Others, like the Secretary General of PMDC Netherlands, were insinuating that the PMDC was trying to prevent the "Kamajors" from wreaking havoc when he made this statement: "I think we should mourn Chief with respect and honor and not in violence. . . I hope our Kamajor brothers will also understand this." In another instance, the Deputy Coordinator PMDC North America, one Morie Moussafa (aka Toegondoe), who in all honesty comes across as the most irresponsible executive of PMDC, wrote in so many words on February 22nd that Hinga Norman was murdered for political and election reasons. This is the height of irresponsibility and a bare-faced attempt to politicize the tragic death of a hero even before the family started their grieving. I find that repulsive and utterly heartless for such statement to come from anyone. On a refreshing note, another PMDC Executive UK/Ireland member one Moijueh Kaikai, who has always dignified Chief Sam Hinga Norman, admonished everyone to focus on giving Chief a fitting funeral. He said, "Let us bury our dead like the hero he is."

LESSONS FOR ALL GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA

Governments in Africa and Sierra Leone in particular must take seriously the saying that global powers have interests and not friends. The arm twisting that may have taken

place in establishing the Special Court of Sierra Leone did not have the country's interest at heart. I hope we as Sierra Leoneans have learnt a lesson. This may be another instance in which someone has to be a sacrificial lamb for us to see that the Special Court is divisive and should be shut down. When Chief Norman was fighting to rid the towns, villages, cities and country of rebels, the countries now supporting the Special Court evacuated their citizens. The same thing happened in Rwanda. However, African leaders being dependent on donor funds accept almost anything presented to them. The countries that evacuated their citizens are the ones in whose custody a hero met his tragic death. Now that they have no big fish to use in their quest to keep their jobs, may be they should all just go home and leave us alone. Let us resolve once more that never again should we allow this to happen. In 1787, Naimbana received gifts and signed what he considered a treaty of friendship only to be told the land belongs to Britain. Treaties of friendship and cooperation were signed all over Sierra Leone by Chiefs only to be told later that they had given up their sovereignty to Britain. Beware what treaties you sign with some Western institutions. If we had never learnt anything before, this should be a wake up call that you do not give a blank check to certain Western institutions because they will divide your country and then evacuate their citizens when things go wrong. Rest in Peace Chief Sam Hinga Norman. Rest in peace, **OUR HERO,**

The Patriotic Vanguard

Monday, 5 March 2007

Sierra Leone: Norman's Body Arrives Wednesday

By Gibril Koroma

The remains of Chief Samuel Hinga Norman(photo), former Civil Defence Forces (CDF) leader and former SLPP Interior minister, will be flown to Freetown, Sierra Leone, on Wednesday March 7, according to a press release signed by Reverend Alfred SamForay of the Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund.



The release stated that an autopsy by forensic pathologists representing the governments of Sierra Leone, Senegal, and the UN was performed in Dakar today, Monday, March 5 and that the pathologists' report is expected tomorrow Tuesday, March 6, after which the body will be flown to Sierra Leone for burial.

"The body will be accompanied to Freetown on Wednesday by Chief Norman's eldest son, Sam Norman Jr. and the family's chief representative and former vice president, Dr. Albert Joe Demby", the release added.

The release, which we received today, further revealed that a public viewing and paying of last respects by Freetown and Western Area residents to be hosted by the Sierra Leone Civil Society is planned for Thursday March 8 at the Sewa Grounds in Freetown prior to the conveying of the body to a location near Bo on Friday March 9, from where the Society of Kamajors will receive and convey the body to Bo with a public viewing and paying of final respects at Bo Town Council Friday afternoon.

The service of Christian burial of the late CDF leader and government minister will be held at a location in Bo on Saturday March 10. He will finally be laid to rest alongside his mother and other family members at Ngolala village near Mongere in the Valunya chiefdom, Bo district, on Sunday March 11. Members of the Poro, Wunde and allied societies will commit the body for burial in Nglolala, the release stated.

Christian Monitor (website)

Monday, 5 March 2007

Editorial

http://www.christian-monitor.org/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=356&Itemid=39

President Kabbah: Father of all hypocrites!

If only the dead could speak then the late Chief Hinga Norman would say to President Kabbah today: ‘You disowned me when I needed you most; sick and in prison, you never visited me so, you cannot now claim to be my friend go away you lair and hypocrite.’ And that would be true and also not being rude. It was four years ago, 10th March 2003, when the late chief had the rudest shock of his life which he never recovered from; he was arrested in his office whilst a serving minister in Kabbah’s government, handcuffed and marched to the cells of the Special Court; a court that Kabbah requested for from the international community. To make it even more humiliating, the whole scenario was captured on camera and distributed worldwide. When asked on air a few days later about the legitimacy of the Special Court and its power to arrest a serving minister widely seen as a hero of the 11-year-war and the restoration of democracy in 1998, Kabbah was quick to say that Chief Norman had exceeded his mandate in the struggle to restore his (Kabbah’s) government and that is why he is being held accountable. What Kabbah did in that broadcast was, not only give his stamp of approval to the arrest and detention of a loyal minister, but effectively insinuating and presuming that the chief was guilty – forget about the theoretical innocent until proven guilty bull... - of the alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity that Chief Norman was accused of. Fast forward to last week in Bo, Southern Sierra Leone, a week after the death of Chief Norman. Kabbah was there singing praises of Norman and the friendship that existed between them. Also, the president said there was nothing he could do about Norman’s arrest since it was strictly embedded in the statutes of the court that it should be independent and free from political interference. It is true that, theoretically and according to its statutes, the Special Court is supposed to operate independent of government intervention and interference, in fact, it is even superior to the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone. That is how powerful the Special Court is. Our two ‘most brilliant’ lawyers in the land – Kabbah and Berewa – helped made it that way. However, notwithstanding its supremacy and independence, in practice the Special Court does succumb to political manoeuvrings as was evidenced in the case of Norman’s petition to have the President testify in his defence. The court ruled against the idea, which to keen observers of the court suggests acquiescence to political pressure if not interference. It followed veiled threats from the corridors of power that if the court rules in favour of Norman, for Kabbah to appear as his witness, the president would go to the Supreme Court, the very court whose powers he had slighted, for it to decide whether the Special Court has the authority to subpoena a sitting president, which would have created a constitutional crisis and put the Special Court in even more crisis. Several months earlier, in the case of the former leader of Liberia, the Special Court ruled against Charles Taylor when he challenged the jurisdiction of the court to indict a sitting head of state, a ruling paradigm that serves as a pointer to the court’s unsound judgment while capitulating to political pressure. The grieving family has asked that the death of the late chief be not used for political point scoring. While that is understandable, the possibility that opposition political parties would let the chance pass by, to score points over the ruling party in what is seemingly an injustice and ingratitude to Chief Norman, is far-fetched. This is especially true giving that elections are just round the corner. Similarly, the government would also now try to show their sympathy, belated as it may sound, over the sad loss of Norman and in the process they would endeavour to extricate and distance themselves from the activities of the Special Court and what befell their ‘colleague’. The accusations, counter accusations and deflections will definitely carry on right through on to the elections in July. However, for the president to come out so shamelessly, professing Norman to be his ‘friend’ is nauseating and will

remain the lowest of all the politicking that the family had feared. Assuming that the President is right, that the court does not tolerate or encourage political interference, what then stopped him from visiting his 'friend' in prison for the four years that he was locked up? Even when Norman was sick, Kabbah never visited him, the same goes for all cabinet ministers. And they were supposed to be 'friends.' If friends are like that then, who needs enemies? As the saying goes, it is better to keep quiet and be considered a fool rather than open your mouth and confirm it. For Kabbah to call Norman a friend and ally after literally locking him up for four years demonstrates his loathing of the man. It is better if he had kept quiet over the man's death like he had somehow tried to do for the past four years when Norman was incarcerated; unjustly or not.

BBC Focus on Africa

Sunday, 4 March 2007

LEAD-IN: Now to some in Sierra Leone, mention the name Chief Sam Hinga Norman and the thought that immediately springs to mind is a hero who organised a militia to fight against the rebel RUF forces in the brutal ten-year war. Others think the reverse is the case. Whatever the rights or wrongs of the case, Sierra Leoneans on both sides of the argument would never know, as Sam Hinga Norman died in hospital in Senegal last month. He was a former defence minister and one of the key suspects in the war crimes trial conducted by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Chief Norman's body is yet to be taken home for burial, so when the new Chief Prosecutor, Stephen Rapp, visited our studio, Josephine Hazeley asked him when that would happen.

RAPP: Well at the moment his body is still in Dakar and there will be a post mortem as I understand it. I don't have exact details as to when that's going to occur. When it's done, then his body will be transported back to Sierra Leone for the funeral that his family wishes.

HAZELEY: Don't you feel sometimes that you're beginning to lose the good will of Sierra Leoneans. They see the Court as wasting time, wasting money that could have been spent in their reconstruction. Aren't you in danger of losing the good will of ordinary Sierra Leoneans?

RAPP: We make every effort that we can to make our proceedings accessible. We have an Outreach programme that held 800 meetings across Sierra Leone last year. Since I've arrived I've been having Outreach meetings and have been out all over the country to make sure that people understand why this process is taking as long as it has...

Do they understand?

RAPP: I think they do. I mean, I'm amazed as I go into school classes and community meetings the great awareness of what's happening in these cases. In the Norman case, there had originally been a lot of anger about that indictment but as the evidence started coming in people were reserving judgment, they were commenting on what they'd heard in terms of the testimony in the case. I think it's been the most accessible international justice system that there has ever been, but regrettably it takes a long time, but...

HAZELEY: But even in the Sam Hinga Norman case that you mentioned, you saying that people understanding once the evidence came out, but when he died the groundswell of letters that we got was not very pleasant to the Court.

RAPP: No, and obviously a lot of people that were supporters of Chief Norman were hoping for an acquittal in his case and of course wanted to salute him for the things that they believe that he had done well in the country and the ways that he had served the country, and so they were obviously very frustrated about it, and people that believe very strongly that the Prosecutor shouldn't just prosecute one side, that we should prosecute both sides, and the Judges should decide. And obviously in the case of Chief Norman himself, we're not going to get that decision. We will, as I say, as to his two co-accused in the CDF case.

Some people say that you should have tried the President of Sierra Leone himself. Why aren't you trying him?

RAPP: Well, the decision was made by my predecessor, the Prosecutor, and looked at the evidence and evaluated it in terms of where the provable cases were. And in the case of the President the evidence was, certainly even presented by Chief Norman, that he said in his own defence that the President was giving him no specific direction to commit any of the acts that he was alleged to have committed.

That's Stephen Rapp, the new Chief Prosecutor of the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Transcribed by the Office of Press and Public Affairs

Cocorioko website

Tuesday, 6 March 2007

<http://www.cocorioko.net/normanautospytoday.html>

Our Biggest Concern Now is a Fitting Funeral for Chief Norman: SamForay

The Spokesman of the Hinga Norman family, Rev. Alfred Samforay has said that the biggest concern of the family and loyalists of the late Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force , Chief Sam Hinga Norman, is that the chief be given a fitting funeral .

Speaking to COCORIOKO yesterday in an exclusive interview, Mr. Foray said that Norman will be given a funeral befitting the great things he did for his people and country during his lifetime. Rev. Samforay stated that though the family has clearly asked the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) to stay away from the funeral, there will be no concerted attempt to keep out anyone who attends the funeral in a private capacity.

Samforay said that the international autopsy will be held in Dakar today but due to logistics problems, the family pathologist from the United Kingdom will not be present . However , pathologists representing the Special Court, which had been trying Norman for alleged war crimes , the Sierra Leone and Senegalese governments will be in attendance, he went on. "Our biggest concern now is that the chief gets a fitting funeral ", he added but said that Sam Hinga Norman jr , son of the deceased and Dr. Joe Demby will be present for the autopsy.

Today, Samforay released this update on the planned funeral of Chief Hinga Norman :

FUNERAL UPDATE FOR CHIEF HINGA NORMAN

Funeral arrangements for former Regent Chief, Sam Hinga are tentatively planned as follows:

An autopsy by forensic pathologists representing the governments Sierra Leone and Senegal and the UN was performed in Dakar, Senegal today Monday March 5, 2007. The pathologists' report is expected tomorrow after which the body will be flown back to Sierra Leone for burial. The body will be accompanied to Freetown on Wednesday by Chief Norman's eldest son, Sam Norman, Jr. and the family's chief representative and former Vice President, Dr. Albert Joe Demby.

A public viewing and paying of final respects by Freetown and Western Area residents hosted by the Sierra Leone Civil Society is planned for Thursday March 8 at the Queen Victoria Park, Freetown.

The body will be conveyed to a location near Bo on Friday March 9 where the Society of Kamajors will receive and convey the body to Bo Town with a public viewing and paying of final respects at Bo Town Council Hall Friday afternoon.

The service of Christian burial will be held at a location in Bo on Saturday March 10. It is to be recalled here that Chief Hinga Norman was arrested on the orders of the so-called special court for Sierra Leone on this very date March 10, 2003 while a sitting Regent Chief of Jaiama-Bongor Chiefdom and Minister of Internal Affairs in the present government. He spent the last four years of his life in the custody of the court until he was promoted to Heaven on Thursday February 22 in Senegal following hip surgery.

Chief Norman will be laid to rest alongside his mother and other family members in the village of Ngolala near Mongere in the Valunya Chiefdom, Bo District on Sunday March 11, 2007. Members of the Kamajor, Poro, Wunde and allied societies will commit the body for burial in Ngolala.

Meanwhile, on the advise of Dr. Demby, we are unable to discuss at length specific observations relating to the autopsy as well as the conditions under which Chief Norman was held in Senegal in the thirty five days of his life. We are, however, able to confirm unequivocally and with factual evidence Chief Norman's original claim upon his arrival in Dakar on January 17 that he was being held in "the worst possible prison cell" in Senegal. Regrettably, he was not held at nor did he die at a VIP wing of a prestigious military hospital as claimed by the lies and deliberate misrepresentation of court spokesman, Peter Andersen, and promoted by former Sierra Leone Ambassador, John Ernest Leigh, and other Sierra Leone government special court apologetics in the Diaspora. Chief Sam Hinga Norman spent the last five weeks of his colorful and remarkable life in the company of rats and unbearable stench in a decrepit prison cell in Dakar. We also strictly advise the so-called special court and the government of Sierra Leone and other agencies represented at the autopsy that any modification, alteration or interception of any material evidence including the court's own videograph of the procedure will not accrue to justice or collegial resolution of this matter.

We again inform friends and well wishers who wish to contribute to the funeral and memorial fund by mail, bank transfer to write checks and money orders payable to SLAM as follows:

Account # 0047 - 7650 - 0267 at the Bank of America
 Direct Deposit Routing: 111000025
 Wire Transfer Routing (US): 026009593
 Wire Transfer Routing (overseas): BOFAUS3N
 Or mail to:
 SLAM, 4222 Crystal Lane, Garland, TX 75023,

ATTN: Mr. Reuben Ndomahina

Also for proper documentation please send email to us (you and i) with details of any of the above transfers, (date and amount of transaction.). Please contact the treasurer, Mr. Reuben Ndomahina at: reubenkn@sbcglobal.net,

Home phone: (972) 203-2056;
 Cell phone (972) 880-9049

Alternately, you can call and furnish us with the information. Direct mailing contributors do not need to do any further follow-up. We will keep you informed of other developments as they become available.

Alfred SamForay,
 Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund
 (812) 841 - 1000
 NORMAN'S CHILDREN ARRIVE IN SIERRA LEONE

All but two of Late Regent Chief, Sam Hinga Norman's ten children are now in Sierra Leone awaiting the arrival on Wednesday of the remains of their father from Senegal. The oldest, Sam

Norman, Jr., will accompany the body home following Monday's autopsy. Another daughter, Genevieve, is thousands of miles away on yet another continent and will not be attending her father's funeral.

Norman's senior wife, Josephine, is also unable to travel to Sierra Leone on doctor's advice with respect to her health. She went abroad when she suffered a partial stroke during the January 6 AFRC/RUF incursion into Freetown. She has not seen her husband since.

On a more positive note, it is with great satisfaction to report the remarkable cohesiveness, family solidarity and God's grace that has allowed the Norman family especially the children, the oldest being only thirty-eight years of age, to hold up so well thus far. More so remarkable that they have undertaken to conduct a virtual state funeral for their dad without the State. At the moment, it appears all systems are go for the funeral next Sunday, March 11. The funeral home is ready; Valunya Chiefdom is ready to receive her native son; Victoria Park and Bo Town Hall are presumed ready for the viewing and Kamajors from all across the country are being suited up to receive their leader .

So far and for the duration, the family has withstood the powers of the State to steal their father's finest hour. They have successfully treaded diplomatic and bureaucratic waters in Senegal and have pulled themselves together financially, emotionally and physically to ensure the integrity of the family, and are still standing strong. Chief Norman has to be smiling down from Heaven.

Meanwhile, family patriarch, Albert Norman who introduced his baby brother to the Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces in 1954, waits anxiously to be united with his more famous and illustrious brother. The family is, of course, eternally grateful for the invaluable support given by their Excellencies, former Vice President, Albert Joe Demby, and former British High Commissioner, Chief Peter Penfold. "A man has many friends for companionship, but there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother," (The Holy Bible).

With grace and dignity we salute them all. Your prayers, material and spiritual support are highly appreciated.

God Bless All; God Bless Sierra Leone,

A. SamForay,
Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund.

World Press.Org

Monday, 5 March 2007

<http://www.worldpress.org/Africa/2702.cfm>

Voices From Confinement: Former Warriors Declare Their Support for the P.M.D.C. in Sierra Leone

Karamoh Kabba

March 5, 2007

Sierra Leone's decade-long war is over at last, but the new coalition of detained former members of warring factions says the awkward combination of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Special Court for Sierra Leone detracts from the provisions of the Lome Peace Accord of 1999 and the truth commission's imperative recommendations. The Lome Peace Accord, which was ratified by the Parliament grants pardon to all combatants of the civil war, while one of the "10 commandments" (imperative recommendations) of the truth commission reads, "Release of person held in safe custody detention. Never again resort to safe custody detention." Nonetheless, detaining and trying those allegedly bearing "the greatest responsibility" for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone by the special court contradict the aforementioned provision of the Lome Peace Accord and the recommendation of the truth commission.

In January, various members of warring factions in special court detention coalesced in a common interest to participate in the democratic process and jointly support a single political party in Sierra Leone. Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana, and Alieu Musa Kondewa of the Civil Defense Forces, Issa Hassan Sesay, Augustine Gbow, and Morris Kallon of the Revolutionary United Front, and Tamba Brima, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara, and Santigie Kanu of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, signed a press release denouncing violence, thanking the international community for bringing peace to Sierra Leone, accusing the S.L.P.P. (Sierra Leone People's Party) government of being the dividing force in Sierra Leone, and declaring their joint support for the People's Movement for Democratic Change.

Scholars are divided over the usefulness and counter-productiveness of the truth commission and the special court in Sierra Leone. One argument that stands out the most among many Sierra Leonean scholars supports the detainees' claim that the special court is a distraction especially to the truth commission's recommendations: Would the African National Congress have emerged as an honorable democratic institution if South Africa had chosen a special court over a truth commission? One question that often garnishes the preceding assertion is what would have been the fate of Nelson Mandela? The most egregious war crimes and crimes against humanity were reported out of Sierra Leone during its darkest period in that bleak decade. These crimes were the product of fighting one of the most ruthless civil wars in recent histories. As well, members of the African National Congress and the apartheid government of South Africa committed serious crimes against humanity on the long walk to freedom.



President Kabbah has denied allegations that he once used mercenaries and trafficked weapons to Sierra Leone's Civil Defense Forces. (Photo: Vincenzo Pinto / AFP-Getty Images)

Sierra Leone's war was unique in the sense that unlike many rebel wars in Africa that metamorphose into ethnic cleansing, a fourth angle to the rebel, army, and peacekeepers in Sierra Leone was fomented by ethnic groups against their tormentors in the form of what we know as the Civil Defense Forces, which was headed by then deputy commander in chief of the armed forces, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who is now one of the special court's detainees. It is a fair to middling assertion that the Civil Defense Forces helped to avert ethnic cleansing in Sierra Leone. The army had been demoralized and its members had fled or were transmuted into various warring factions by force, by default, or by choice. The commander in chief was at the head of the fleet of soldiers that fled. That left the deputy commander in chief with no choice but, together with the courageous members of the Civil Defense Forces that came to his rescue, to represent his commander in chief, President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, with valor and honor. Norman had the fullest support and backing of President Kabbah, who gave directives from Guinea, until the special court, badly negotiated by Solomon Berewa, then attorney general and now vice president and frontrunner of the S.L.P.P., came into the picture.

What will be the fate of the president after he leaves office when the special court sticks to its guns of going after those bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity? In 1998, President Kabbah wrote an article for the *Daily Mirror* in London denying an allegation that he used mercenaries provided by Sandline International and trafficked weapons to the Civil Defense Forces through the same source: "My government did not use mercenaries provided by Sandline. It is true that a delivery of light weapons, arranged by a third party, was made by Sandline for the use of our Civil Defense Units. But that only occurred after the removal of the illegal regime." Wayne Madsen, in his well-researched work, *Genocide and Covert Operations in Africa 1993-1999* writes, "On Feb. 22, 1998, Sandline, with the approval of Britain's Foreign Office and British High Commissioner in Sierra Leone Peter Penfold, arranged to ship 30 tons of Bulgarian AK-47 rifles to Kabbah's waiting forces in Sierra Leone." The Nigerians of the ECOMOG (Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group) troops at Lungi Airport seized the cargo of ammunition bound for the Kamajor local militias who were waiting to stage a counter coup against the military regime that had kicked President Kabbah out of office, Madsen explains. Could it be a double coincidence that Sandline ended up becoming the company that mined Sierra Leone's diamonds?

The warring factions that signed the January press release are the major stakeholders in Sierra Leone's civil war and peace process. These united voices from confinement accusing the S.L.P.P. government of being the dividing force empirically debunk the S.L.P.P.'s claim of bringing peace to Sierra Leone. These former warriors who are signatories to the press release surely know who brought peace to Sierra Leone. They write, "We also fully appreciate efforts by the international community to bring peace, stability, and security to Sierra Leone through our various collaboration efforts as former combatants and members of the various warring factions in Sierra Leone." These men know very well that there would have been no peace without their collaborations and continuous admonishment of their followers to remain peaceful despite their status in confinement. That cannot be said of President Kabbah who may have been busy trafficking weapons to the Civil Defense Forces despite the United Nations resolution (1132) that barred the purchase and shipment of weapons to all warring factions. What is more, the detainees know very well that their demise in special court confinement is because of the deceptive Lome Peace Accord that promised them what the government could not deliver.

These men demonstrate a complete commitment to the peace process and stability when they write,

Because we love our country; because we love peace, unity and stability for our country; because we believe in the development of our country and the welfare of our people; and above all, because we believe that the present S.L.P.P. government does not stand for

peace, reconciliation, unity, stability, and the development of our country and our people, we hereby unite and state as follows:

That we have put all of our individual differences aside to support a single political party of our choice in the forthcoming elections.

That we know that the only dividing force that bears greatest responsibility for the current problems in our country, Sierra Leone, is the government of the Sierra Leone People's Party (S.L.P.P.)

That like us, we urge our supporters, sympathizers, friends, relations, and well-wishers to support the People's Movement for Democratic Change (P.M.D.C.), which is the only political party we jointly and individually believe in to save our country, Sierra Leone, and bring peace, reconciliation, unity, love, and stability to our nation.

That we are unanimously sending this message to the office of the P.M.D.C. through our wives and next-of-kin, hoping that the party will accept our membership, wishes and desires for our beloved country, Sierra Leone.

We urge the P.M.D.C. to spread this message far and wide within Sierra Leone and beyond to the international community, our friends, well-wishers, sympathizers, relations and supporters.

We are open to any visits, questions, and comments about this united, friendly, and God-inspiring decision we have taken. We thank God for our lives so far and sign accordingly.

Author's Note: Chief Hinga Norman died in the custody of the Special Court on Feb. 22. This article was written before his death.


United Nations **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 March 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today.

International Clips on West Africa

VOA 04 March 2007

Ivory Coast President, Rebel Leader Sign New Deal to End Stalemate

By Nico Colombant, Dakar

The president of Ivory Coast and the northern-based rebel leader have signed a new deal to end a five-year division of the country. It includes provisions for a new government, reintegrating rebels into the army and lifting a buffer zone between the government-run south and rebel-held north, within 10 months.

Local Media – Newspaper

Former Speaker Snowe Faces Police Probe

(The Inquirer, Heritage, The News, New Democrat, The Monitor, New Vision, National Chronicle and Liberian Express)

- The Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Edwin Snowe is expected to reappear before the Police for questioning tomorrow, Tuesday in connection with an ECOWAS audit and other reports which found him responsible some US\$1 million allegedly misappropriated during his tenure as Managing Director of the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC). Police authorities last Friday invited the former Speaker but he appealed to investigators to appear tomorrow, Tuesday due to "ill health".

Government to begin Payment of "Legitimate" Domestic Debts Soon

(The Analyst, Inquirer, New Democrat, Public Agenda, Daily Observer and Liberian Express)

- Addressing a news conference at the weekend, Finance Minister, Dr. Antoinette Sayeh disclosed that the Government would pay all "legitimate" domestic debt beginning 15 March.
- Dr. Sayeh said most of the Country's domestic debts, amounting to about US\$1 billion which was incurred from 1982 to 2005 were "bogus" and said that an analysis of US\$913.8 million of said amount showed that only US\$30.9 million was "legitimate" and that the Government was in the process of drafting a resolution to address its domestic financial obligation.

Former Commerce Minister during the Transitional Period Flees Justice

(Liberian Express, The Informer, The News, Inquirer, New Vision, Chronicle, and The Analyst)

- Speaking to reporters in Monrovia, Montserrado County Attorney, Samuel Jacobs said that the Government received “credible” reports that former Commerce Minister, Mr. Sam Wlue has fled the Country amidst allegation of financial impropriety while serving as Minister of Government. An online Liberian magazine, FrontPage Africa added that Mr. Wlue arrived in the United States on Friday.

Visiting UN Team Expresses Concern over Funding Gap

(Daily Observer)

- The spokesperson of the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UNDP, WFP and UNPF currently visiting Liberia said that funding gap may occur in humanitarian interventions between now and 2009.
- Ms. Paulette Bethel said emergency-oriented non-governmental organizations could leave before the Government has the capacity to service the basic needs of its people. She added the Country would be faced with the challenges of funding and implementing humanitarian works while carrying out development programmes.

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

Former Speaker Snowe to Reappear before Police Tomorrow

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Police Denies Charging High Fees for Drivers Permit

- The Liberia National Police has denied reports that it is charging US\$10 to process drivers permit. According to the Inspector General of the Police, Beatrice Munnah Sieh the police at no time approve such a fee for drivers permit in the absence of license and urged the public to report officers found in such act.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Newspaper Defense Lawyers File Writ of Prohibition

- Lawyers representing the banned newspaper [*The Independent*] have filed a writ of prohibition against the Information Ministry requesting the Supreme Court to lift a ban on the publication of the paper.
- In a five count petition to the court, the lawyer said the government closed down the paper without a court order in violation of the due process and termed the act as “illegal and arbitrary”.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Star Radio *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

Deactivated Police Officers Get Benefits Today

- Over 150 deactivated police officers are to begin receiving their demobilization package today. According to a police bulletin the ex-officers are those who were not part of the first phase of the deactivation process.

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.

Justice Initiative

Monday, 5 March 2007

Press Release

Joint Statement: Urgent Action Needed on Rules for Khmer Rouge

New York, March 5, 2007—The Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC), the Open Society Justice Initiative, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum Asia) and the Collective for Khmer Rouge Victims (CVIC-KR) strongly urge the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) to adopt internal rules of procedure that satisfy international standards for the holding of fair and legitimate trials to try the senior leaders and those most responsible for crimes committed during Democratic Kampuchea.

We view the ECCC as a last chance to provide justice to the Cambodian people for atrocities suffered during the period of 1975-79.

National and international judges and other officials of the ECCC must perform their duties with integrity, independence, and objectivity. For the proper administration of justice and to achieve the larger goals of truth, justice, reparation and peace desired by every Cambodian, it is imperative that ECCC officials put aside their political affiliations and blind adherence to their own legal systems—be they Cambodian, civil, or common law legal systems—in order to adopt the rules.

It is also hoped that the ECCC will contribute to the development of international standards and act as a catalyst for the strengthening of the rule of law and as a model for judicial reform, which are both greatly needed in Cambodia.

If these goals are to be realized, the ECCC must have comprehensive internal rules that satisfy international standards and thereby ensure the independence of the judiciary and the protection of the rights of victims (acting as witnesses or civil parties) and of the accused.

It is our strongest hope when the Review Committee meets in a few days (7-16 March 2007), that it will resolve disagreements about the internal rules and that a subsequent Plenary Session will be held immediately afterwards where all ECCC judges will adopt the internal rules.

The adoption of internal rules that satisfy international standards and universally recognized legal principles is non-negotiable and must be accomplished by April 2007 at the latest if the ECCC is to complete its trials within the mandated 3-year timeframe.

Again, CHRAC, the Open Society Justice Initiative, FIDH, Forum Asia and CVIC-KR strongly urge members of the Review Committee to declare their commitment to resolve their disagreements and strongly urge ECCC officials to adopt internal rules that conform to international standards without further delay.