

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Tuesday, 6 November 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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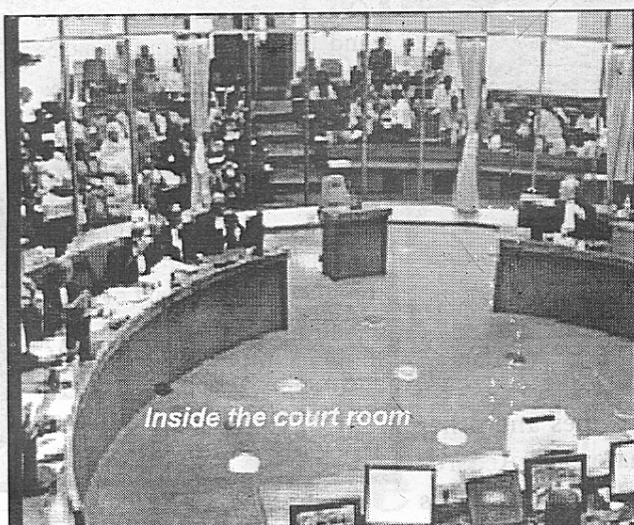
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Salone Times Junior  
Tuesday, 6 November 2007

# CDF Prosecution And Defence Call For Extension Of Appeal

**B**oth prosecution and defence in the trial of the Civil Defence Forces have called for an extension of time for both parties to submit their appeals. This move follows the sentence judgement on October 9th handed down by presiding judge, Justice Benjamin Mutanga Itoe against Moinina Fofanah, former Kamajor Director of War, and Allieu Kondewa, former Kamajor recruiter. Both men had been charged with eight counts which include murder, violence to life, inhumane act, act of terrorism, pillage, cruel treatment of civilians, enlisting children in to war, etc. Moinina Fofanah was found guilty of counts 2, 4, 5, and 7 - sentenced



to 21 years imprisonment; while Alieu Kondewa was found guilty of counts 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 - sentenced to 34 years. According to Justice Itoe the men apologised

and showed remorse for their wrongdoing. Therefore the sentence was reduced to 6 and 8 years instead of 21 and 34 years re-

*See Page 2*



**Moininah Fofanah**



**Alieu Kondowai**

[Note: This is the first issue of Salone Times Junior, which is targeted to young people.]

# CDF Prosecution

## FROM PAGE 1

spectively. The sentencing runs from the time they were arrested on May 29, 2003.

Stephen Rapp, lead prosecutor in the CDF trial, was not satisfied with the judgement against the two accused.

"I think that the court has given a big discount, an enormous discount for crimes like murder, cruel treatment, pillage and collective punishment, etc," said Stephen Rapp. "I think cruel treatments like these require longer sentences than six years. But that is the decision of the court and that is what we are looking at in terms of law for final appeal."

Lead defence counsel, Charles Margai said he was happy with the outcome of the trial.

"I am relieved that we have come to a partial end to all of these because I am sure there is going

to be an appeal. The sentencing wasn't as severe as we had anticipated."

Both prosecution and defence agreed that the time limit for appeals from both parties be extended to 11 December 2007 four weeks from the stipulated date set by the court appeal chamber. The joint requests from both parties also indicate another extension of the page limit from 135 pages to 200 pages.

Giving grounds for the extension, both parties claim that the delay in appointing counsel to conduct the appeals foster a slow preparation on the side of the defence. The prosecution said their ten grounds of appeal needs adequate time to conduct proper research which will also help the Appeal Chamber in its own task. The court has appointed Wilfred Davidson Bola Carol as Counsel for Moinina Fofanah and Yada Williams as Counsel for Allieu Kondewa in the appeal trial.



The Spectator  
Tuesday, 6 November 2007

# Johnny Paul may head the Army?



Johnny Paul, where are you?

**R**eports reaching this press revealed that the one time Armed Forces Revolutionary Council Chairman (AFRC) and indictée of the Special Court Johnny Paul Koroma will probably be recalled from his hiding place to head the Army.

It is revealed that when this news finally breaks out it will throw lots of ques-

tions about Johnny Paul's coming and where has he been all this while. If that is to happen then is possible that animosity will reap apart, Mr. Mohamed Bangura said.

An old military sergeant still serving in the Army, hearing this words he shook his head in dismay adding that

Johnny Pay is welcome to Sierra Leone but to say he will head the Army, the sergeant said he finds it very impossible and if this Government attempts it, they will be sabotaged. The sergeant said the Army has capable, educated and well trained military officers who can move the army from where it is presently.

CONTINUED PAGE 2

## Johnny Paul may head the Army?

FROM PAGE 1

There is a quiet debate going on in and out side the Army as regards this rumour going around. This press contacted a colonel and disclosed that if at all that rumour becomes a reality then Johnny Paul will have to find it very difficult to rule an army that he abandon over nine years ago. The Army now has new breed of soldiers who are loyal to different political parties, and most of them are still struggling to come to terms with

the realities that their Government of party is no longer in power.

One civilian noted that all what is being said is a mere rumour but added we should all wait and see how this will happen. He said if that is to come true then we hope to see what will be the position of the Special Court whether they will free Johnny Paul Koroma or arrest him when he comes back to Sierra Leone. While others are saying that Johnny Paul is dead but let us wait and see.

New Vision

Tuesday, 6 November 2007

## Special Court Embraces Youths

*By Foday Fofana*

The United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone's Outreach Section in collaboration with Forum for Youth Initiative, last Friday organized a one day sensitization meeting on the works of the Special Court at Sweissy Complex.

According to the National Coordinator of Forum for Youth Initiative, Mr. Jabati A. Wai, "the sensitization covered the mandate and trials of the Special Court; so that it gets right down to the marginalized youths of the Western Area".

He told New Vision that this Special Court Outreach Sensitization programme is going to be hosted in four (4) different Freetown business districts; including Bessy Jewelers, Belgium Sellers, Unity Park Sellers' Association as well as Base Development Associations.

"The Forum for Youth Initiative was born out of a combination of street kids and academics who include forty (40) graduates from the Fourah Bay College who are presently jobless...

This wedlock of street kids and academics has benefited from humanitarian ingenuity and want to pay back humanity by helping less fortunate

youth people through advocacy, empowerment and particularly job creation for our plethora of jobless youths", Mr. Jabati A. Wai, who is B.A. Hons. explained.

He said they are appealing to the new Government to embrace everybody and that at the same they are appealing to all the youths of this country to be one and work together for the development of Sierra Leone.

In his contribution, the Programme Officer of Forum for Youth Initiative, Mr. Musa Sangarie said "the benefits of this one day sensitization seminar will be tremendous as far as youth sensitization, information dissemination are concerned; because we strongly believe that there had been a lot of misconceptions about the operations of the Special Court".

He said they have therefore decided to bring the Special Court to these marginalized and vulnerable groups to help in enlightenment and the promotion of sustainable peace and democracy in Sierra Leone.

"As a result oriented youth groups; we believe the Special Court has played a very significant role in the healing process after over a decade of devastating civil war".

# The News

Tuesday, 6 November 2007

## MOTUBA'S CORNER



### Pademba Road Prisons not for juveniles

Motuba was really disappointed when he heard in a radio interview one of the prison officers denying our last Thursday's front page story that juvenile offenders are kept at Pademba Road Prisons.

When radio UN quizzed the officer, he accepted that indeed there are juvenile offenders kept at the Central Prison but he disgracefully could not tell the number. This is just one of the few elements in the prison department that is not doing his home work.

According to our front page story "Lawyer challenges Magistrate", Lawyer S.K. Koroman was strongly against the idea of sending juvenile offender to central prisons when they should be sent to Remand Home at Kingtom in Freetown. Lawyer Koroma raised the point when his client, a juvenile was about to be sent to central prisons. He told Magistrate Shyllon that the law does not allow young children to be incarcerated with adults in prisons and therefore it is wrong for Magistrate Shyllon to have pronounced that the juvenile be sent to central prisons.

On his part also, Magistrate Shyllon said the Remand Home is no longer fit for children because of the total neglect by the Ministry of Social Welfare. The learned Magistrate stressed that since the Remand Home is not conducive then he had no option but to send juveniles to Pademba Road Prisons.

Anyway Lawyer Koroma made a perfect point and it was in accordance with the laws of Sierra Leone but if Motuba may ask why are those that are suppose to implement the laws violating them?

Also Motuba will not hold any Magistrate responsible for the fact that the social Welfare Ministry should do all in its power to ensure that the Remand Home is properly cared for but things are in disarray.

The prison officer that challenged our last Thursday's edition should be ashamed of himself for failing to answer simple question. The officer, after serious pressure accepted that juveniles are found but could tell the number. If I were Director of that department I would have sacked the officer immediately for negligence of duty.

Motuba wants the new government to look into the issue of juvenile offenders and find a suitable place to keep and rehabilitate them so that when they are out, they could make contributions to the development of Sierra Leone.

# Concord Times

Tuesday, 6 November 2007

## Gov't Ask to Apologise to Sexually Abused

### **SALONE NEWS**

*By Rachel Horner  
and Danny  
Glenwright*

Bintu Kondowah's sister was raped by rebels during the 11-year civil war. Ever since, she's been too ashamed to return to her village and visit her family.

Kondowah thinks her sister would be relieved if the government came out to acknowledge, and apologize for, the horrible sexual crimes that occurred in Sierra Leone over the last 15 years.

"My sister would be happy if the government apologized officially to victims," she said. "It would reduce the stigma."

Yesterday Amnesty International once again demanded that the government of Sierra Leone take action to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, which include reparation to survivors of sexual

violence, legal, social and economic reform, and an official apology to victims of sexual violence.

Amnesty International estimates that as many as 250,000 women and girls were subjected to rape, sexual slavery and other sexual violence between 1991 and 2002 around 33 per cent of Sierra Leone's female population.

Crimes of a sexual nature were investigated by the TRC and more recently by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The TRC report noted: "it is clear that there were deliberate policies systematically to target women and girls and systematically to rape and sexually violate them."

Amnesty also noted that many of the victims, like Kondowah's sister, were rejected afterward by their family members.

Ayodele Ameen, an Amnesty International campaigner for Sierra Leone, Liberia and The Gambia, said they would

work with NaCSA in order to guarantee that reparations are completed transparently.

"A special fund should be set up by government which the government will contribute to, rather than just donor money," he said. "That would

ensure that they are committed to it."

Ameen also said the government should recruit experts in gender-based violence to assist NaCSA, and also make a public acknowledgment of the problems facing women and girls in the

country.

Sia Kamanda thinks Amnesty's call to the government is a welcome addition to the discussion of women's rights in the country. A Freetown businesswoman wants the government to give a voice to victims of sexual

abuse.

"We have suffered a lot during the war and it's good that Amnesty are coming out with this recommendation," she said. "Women's rights will be respected and it will help reduce the shame and stigma in our colleagues who have been raped."

However, Rashidatu Conteh, a Freetown market-woman said she worries the reparation process will be complicated because many women are scared to come forward and have yet to admit the sexual crimes committed against them.

"It will be difficult for somebody who has been raped to identify themselves and say 'I have been raped, come and give me my money,'" she said. "She would be ashamed."

Conteh said although some testified at the TRC, they were not seen, but now they have to identify themselves. "It will be difficult," she said.



# Independent Observer

Tuesday, 6 November 2007

## Omrie Golley and the Death Penalty in Sierra Leone

### COMMENTARY

*By Patrick Hassan Hassan-Morlai.*

Those of us who oppose the ultimate sanction of capital punishment as inappropriate, inhumane and barbaric for any offence whatsoever, can read into the freeing of Omrie Golley and two others more than a mere lack of evidence that warranted their release.

The official version which the office of the Attorney General of Sierra Leone wants us to believe is that in criminal trials, where there is little or insufficient evidence to result into a successful conviction, the prosecution should either not be brought in the first instance or be discontinued all together. On the face of it, this is a triumph for the judicial process in Sierra Leone. Without any shadow of a doubt, Golley and the other two prisoners freed this week are the immediate and direct beneficiaries of the Attorney General's "nulle prosequi" order. Their families, like the general Sierra Leonean populace, are another class of beneficiaries.

However, what is of cardinal importance in these every early days of President Ernest Koroma's administration is his matching of his words with actions. Earlier in October when he delivered his first State Opening of Parliament speech, it was reported the president said that "Never again will the judicial system be manipulated to unfairly silence political opponents."

For far too long, campaigners have argued that the only purpose for retaining the death penalty in Sierra Leone's statute books is its relevance, as a draconian political tool, to silence or even get rid of political opponents. Sierra Leone has lost fine brains and gallant soldiers through capital punishment. I need not mention the long list of those who have fallen by this political means of elimination.

Some two years ago, Sierra Leone witnessed another chapter of political slaying. The news was reported by many of the national tabloids and one used this caption: "Government Set to Execute 10 for Treason" (Concord Time, Freetown, 21 Dec. 2004). This was under the watch of President Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. On reading the news, I was sickened. This was not least because of the protestations of some of the condemned prisoners like Daniel Sandy and Captain Hindolo Trye who shouted: "We are not guilty" or because Justice Rashid said the prisoners will "suffer death by hanging"; but more also, I felt my efforts in collaboration with other campaigners in Freetown earlier in 2004 had failed to produce the desired results which might have commuted the sentences of those poor 10 souls.

Passionate about getting rid of the death penalty from Sierra Leone's law books, I contacted the Centre for Capital Punishment Studies (CCP) at the University of Westminster to extend their pro bono work to Sierra Leone to work with other death penalty campaigners in that country. It was Melron Nicol-Wilson's Lawyers' Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) that I linked up and CCP was very keen to pursue death penalty campaign and representation work in Sierra Leone with LAWCLA. It turned out that the necessary political will from among those in power was not forthcoming. On one instance, a death penalty public discussion forum where a government minister, LAWCLA and others were to participate was called off at the eleventh hour because the government minister pulled out. So 2004 ended with the death sentence of those 10 for treason.

Just before their execution, I again wrote to the University of Westminster CCP as follows: "The tiny West African State of Sierra Leone will soon be killing 10 people for treason offences. We may be late to save the lives of those guys. But some time ago, I contacted your Centre (when Seetal was there) to link you with a local lawyers' organisation in Freetown to work on the

# **Omrie Golley and the death penalty in Sierra Leone**

*For far too long, campaigners have argued that the only purpose for retaining the death penalty in Sierra Leone's statute books is its relevance, as a draconian political tool, to silence or even get rid of political opponents*

death penalty. Had that contact been followed, who knows what impact would have been created." Eventually, since 2005 and thereafter, LAWCLA and CCP have established a thriving partnership with interns from the CCP spending time together with lawyers in Sierra Leone representing death row prisoners and campaigning for the abolition of the death penalty.

Couched in these circumstance, the decision to free Omrie Golley and the two others without much direct campaigning is akin (for us death penalty abolitionists) to manna from heaven for those hungry Israelites in the Sinai desert. This is now an opportune time to engage with the Koroma administration to ensure that legislation is enacted to get rid of this monstrous and archaic political tool of oppression and silencing of opposition. Campaigners of all sorts should join forces together and pursue this as a common objective.

Campaigners need to engage with the Koroma administration now so that we know the decision to free Golley and others is a true acknowledgement of the fact that the death penalty in Sierra Leone had been used through political manipulation of the judicial system to silence political opponents (the President's words). If this is done but President Koroma failed to deliver, we will hold him as having made a false start. On the other hand, if campaigners failed to take advantage of this op-



portunity, they will be held accountable for this. I hope this article will count as part of my humble contribution towards any campaign in Sierra Leone on this subject and I'm sure sooner or later, I'll get into the thick of things either in Sierra Leone or over here.



## Concord Times (Freetown)

Monday, 5 November 2007

### Govt Releases Omrie Golley

By Ibrahim Seibure  
Freetown

The government of President Ernest Koroma yesterday unconditionally released former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) Spokesman, Michael Omrie Golley, Mohamed Alpha Bah and David Kai Tongi from the Pademba Road prison.

Golley and two others were charged to court in January 2006 for allegedly trying to assassinate erstwhile Vice President Solomon Berewa.

Before his release, Golley was standing trial at the High Court No. 2 presided over by Gambian born Justice Mary Sey.

"The Attorney-General's Office has established that there is no evidence to substantiate the allegation of plotting to commit a treasonable offence levied against Mr. Omrie Golley, who holds a dual citizenship of Sierra Leone and Great Britain. The Attorney-General has therefore signed a 'nulle prosequi' order, which in our language means no case to answer for the unconditional release of Mr. Omrie Golley from detention with immediate effect," a statement from the Attorney-General's Office disclosed yesterday.

"This action of the Attorney-General's is in consonance with H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma's declaration on paragraph 5 of his speech on the occasion of the State Opening of Parliament on the 5th October, 2007 that say, "Additionally, and also consistent with my government's devotion to promote transparency and fairness in our judicial system, and in accordance with the TRC recommendations, politically, motivated cases will be reviewed speedily. Never again will the judiciary system be manipulated to unfairly silence political opponents," it stated.

Robert Kowa, one of the counsels for Omrie Golley told Concord Times that his client was not pardoned by the President nor was he released for lack of evidence but that the government deemed it necessary to release him.

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 November 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **When the Guns Go Silent [opinion]**

Murugi Murekio

Accra, Nov 05, 2007 (Accra Mail/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Armed violence remains one of the greatest impediments to the economic, political and social development of Africa. According to the recently released Africa Losing Billions to Conflict Report, between 1990 and 2005, 23 of the 53 African countries were in conflict. These countries, it is estimated have lost a whopping \$284 billion through war, civil war and insurgencies. Eritrea's 3 years of conflict resulted in a loss of 11% of its GDP, DRC's 10 years of conflict, 29% of its GDP and Burundi's 13 years of conflict, 37% of its GDP.

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

AP 11/03/2007 19:44:01

#### **Rights group calls on Egypt to grant access to asylum seekers**

CAIRO, Egypt \_ Human Rights Watch called on the Egyptian government Saturday to grant the United Nations access to 48 Africans who were returned from Israel after attempting to illegally enter the Jewish state. The rights group said Egypt had held 43 Sudanese, three individuals from the Ivory Coast and one Somali in detention since Israel transferred them on August 18 without providing any information about them. "We are extremely worried by Egypt's failure to account for these people," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "The entire incident reveals Egypt and Israel's shared disregard for the plight of Sudanese fleeing Darfur."

AP 11/05/2007 05:48:29

#### **More than 70 nations review efforts to rid industry of blood diamonds, corruption**

BRUSSELS, Belgium\_The European Union on Monday lauded recent progress to end the trade in blood diamonds and called for more efforts to improve monitoring of the illegal diamond trade. Five years after its inception, the Kimberley Process to control the trade in diamonds from conflict zones, was becoming more successful, EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner said.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **President Sirleaf Receives America's Highest Honor Today**

*(The Analyst, The News, The Informer, Liberian Express and Public Agenda)*

- United States President George Bush will award the Presidential Freedom Honor to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on today, Monday as one of this year's recipients of America's highest civil honor.

- President Bush said she deserves the honor because of the continuous commitment she has shown towards her country's freedom.

### **Police and Peddlers Clash Over Street Selling**

*(New Democrat and The Inquirer)*

- Street sellers and some officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) on Friday clashed at three market sites across Monrovia, particularly at the Red Light Market in the Paynesville suburb.
- The clash resulted from a long running feud to get sellers off the streets. *New Democrat* reports that the sellers threw stones at Police officers at the Red Light market and the Police responded by arresting them and confiscating their goods.
- The Police action follows the expiration of a 72-hour ultimatum for marketers to leave the streets even though the Government announced that its directive was only meant for the Waterside and Rally Time Markets and not the Red Light Market.

### **Liberia Hosts ECOWAS Security Meeting Today**

*(Public Agenda, The Inquirer and The Analyst)*

- The 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of Chiefs of Staff of member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) opens today in Monrovia with discussion focusing on the formation of a standard military force for the region.
- The Deputy Minister of Defense for Operations Dionysius Sebwe said this is Liberia's first time hosting such a meeting which is held quarterly and on a rotational basis.
- Mr. Sebwe noted that the meeting will afford the various Chiefs of Staff the opportunity to have a first hand knowledge of the security situation in the country.
- Deputy Minister Sebwe further disclosed that, while in the country, the Chiefs of Staff will visit one of the military barracks to inspect some of the facilities of the Liberian military.

### **Three Killed in UN Helicopter Crash in North-eastern Liberia**

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

- A UN cargo helicopter crashed Friday morning after taking off to deliver food rations and other supplies from Ganta, Nimba County to Loguatu on the Liberian-Ivorian border. UNMIL Spokesman Ben Malor confirmed the news of the crash which killed two of the three crew members onboard while the third is reportedly missing and presumed dead.

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

#### **Deputy House Speaker Allegedly Assaults Police Officer**

- Correspondents said that the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Togba Mulbah allegedly assaulted immigration officer Captain Yalakah Kennedy at the Bolola checkpoint in Margibi County because the officer failed to recognize him.

#### **Immigration Chief Decries Armed Smuggling and Human-Trafficking**

- Speaking to reporters during the weekend, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization Commissioner Chris Massaquoi said that the smuggling of small arms at the borders is serious and requires trained officers to tackle it, alleging that the unscrupulous practice was largely responsible for the frequent incidents of armed robbery in the Country.
- Commissioner Massaquoi also alleged that the trafficking of human especially children under the pretence of adopting them was increasing, but assured the public that the Bureau was working on a regulation to ensure that people taken out of the Country are legally adopted.
- He therefore instructed immigration officers at all entry points and the international airport to properly inspect all documents to curb trafficking of persons.

**Police in Bong Charge Guinean with Human Trafficking**

- Sources told correspondents in Bong County that the Police in the area have charged 40-year-old Sannie Kollie, a Guinean national with human trafficking after she attempted to sell one James Belleh who she had reportedly brought to Liberia under the pretence of securing a job for him.

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at [karpeh@un.org](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*