

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Monday, 7 November 2005

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

**Special Court Witness recalls**  
**At age 10 three rebels raped  
and impregnated me**

*By Betty J. Milton*  
In the trial of the three  
RUF indictees (Issa  
Sesay, Morris Kallon  
and Augustine Gbao) at the  
Special Court, prosecution  
witness TF1-314 a 21-

year-old girl has said that  
she was raped by three  
rebels, after which she  
became pregnant. The  
witness recalled that she  
was captured by some  
members of the RUF along

with their commander C.O  
Blood at her village in  
Masingbi in the Tonkolili  
District, where she was  
raped by three of them and  
left lying under the cellar as  
she was unable to move.

Early the next morning, she said  
she was forced to move with  
the troops through Bamakonta  
to Buedu, where Issa Sesay  
who was their Commander  
ordered that all abductees

*Contd. Page 2*

(No continuation)

The Exclusive

Monday November 07, 2005

**Special Court  
Goes Bankrupt...  
Human Rights Watch  
Reports** *See story page 4*

**Special Court Goes Bankrupt...  
Human Rights Watch Reports**

The UN backed court for war crimes in Sierra Leone is making major strides toward ensuring justice for serious crimes committed during the eleven-year war in Sierra Leone, Human Rights Watch said in a report issued recently.

The devastating conflict, which lasted from 1991 until 2002, was characterized by brutal human rights abuses committed by all warring factions.

The 46 page report, titled "**Justice in Motion: The Trial Phase of the Special Court for Sierra Leone**," evaluates the conduct of the court during trials, which began last June.

"The Special Court has broken new grounds with practices to promote fair trials, protect witnesses and make justice accessible to Sierra Leoneans," said Elise Keppler, Counsel with Human Rights Watch's International Justice Programme. "The Special Court is setting benchmarks that other tribunals can look to."

Key accomplishments of this novel tribunal, which is hybrid international-national court, include

- \* Substantial progress on trials of accused associated with all three main warring factions.
- \* A defense office that advocates to ensure effective defense representation and fair trials
- \* A comprehensive scheme of protection and support for scores of witnesses
- \* Robust outreach that disseminates information about the court around the country through video, radio and discussion

Initially forced to rely exclusively on voluntary donations from other countries, the Special Court has faced constant financial shortfalls. Recent pledges made at a funding conference on September 30 are commendable, but remain inadequate. As a result, the court currently lacks sufficient funds to complete operations and carry out critical "post-completion" activities, such as protecting witnesses who have testified.

# Commentary

With Tamba M. Sumana

## One Man Against The System

Former Deputy Minister of Defense, Chief Sam Hinga Norman has spent over two years in detention. The Special Court which was set up by the United Nations Security Council in honour of a request from President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, is the custodian of the man who doubled as National Coordinator of the disbanded Civil Defense Force (CDF).

The primary mandate of the Special Court is to try and bring to justice those that are thought to bear the greatest responsibility for the atrocities committed during the recently concluded 11-year war that ravaged this nation. There were atrocities indeed, ranging from mass killing of civilians, amputation of children even as young as six months, arson, rape, compulsory conscription and a lot more.

Quite apart from their international accomplices, there were three major protagonists in the war. The Revolutionary United Front headed by the late Corporal Foday Saybana Sankoh ignited the mayhem on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1991. Of course the Constitution of this country rests the defense against internal as well as external enemies of the state squarely in the hands of the national defense force—the Sierra Leone Army (SLA). Though unprepared and ill-equipped at the time, the army put up fierce resistance against the intruders. Moa Barracks in Daru was badly wanted by the RUF, which had captured several towns and villages in the East and wanted to consolidate their positions but the barracks never fell and that indicates the immense sacrifice made by the gallant men and women of the then SLA.

However, the RUF strategy of indiscriminate killing and abduction of women and children greatly confused the situation. This rebel outfit earlier proclaimed liberation for the people of this country from tyranny, but when it turned around and started inflicting mindless acts against the very people, the situation demanded second thought.

This was particularly the case when certain disloyal officers and men of the SLA started betraying their constitutional role by either dissenting the force or secretly conniving with the rebels at the detriment of the civilians.

Confidence in the army became visibly shaken. To confuse the situation even further, rebels in military combat fatigue could be seen luring innocent and defenseless civilians into traps that usually cost them (civilians) their lives.

In a bid to counter this and other atrocious acts, most able bodied men in the eastern province where the mayhem was initiated, thought it reasonable to contribute to a portion of their defense. They volunteered. Thus the civil defense force called "Kamajors" (in Mende meaning hunters) was conceived.

Obviously, a movement like that, having so much to do with combat, needed to be directed at least by somebody with a recognized military background. Chief Sam Hinga Norman automatically fitted in. Before becoming Chief of Tellu Bongor in eastern Sierra Leone, he rose to the rank of Captain in the Sierra Leone Army. His chieftom is on record for suffering one of the first and most gruesome massacres of civilians to be inflicted by the RUF. His head was even personally declared wanted by the RUF leader, with whom he had served in the SLA.

For someone like Chief Hinga Norman, whose subjects had been ruthlessly massacred without any justifiable reason (like most others who lost their life in the war), it was a matter of survival. He had to put his acquired skills into practical meaning by organizing willing and able bodied men into a cohesive force that could actively resist the RUF's unquenchable thirst for blood.

Initially, the Kamajors presented a brave and disciplined force, in some cases laying claim to supernatural powers—bullet proof charms, the ability to disappear and so on. They psychologically inspired the confidence of the civilians around them while instilling fear into the rebels.

Their efforts and contribution in repelling the RUF attracted so much national recognition that it became necessary for

them to be eligible for national honours from the former government which was eventually disbanded.

However, the national army, as a noble combatant, in the growing popularity of the Kamajors and many of them felt slighted and unrecognized even though they had been bearing the brunt of casualties in the war front. And some of the mostly uneducated Kamajors did not know exactly where to draw the line between them and the soldiers.

This resulted into stand offs between the two forces, and in some cases incidents of bloody clashes even occurred. That was the state of affairs before May 25, 1997 when certain junior officers in the army usurped constitutional order and invited the RUF to join them for "Peace and Reconciliation." That move ostracized the Kamajors and further alienated them.

In the noisy confusion that ensued, no one was held accountable by all sides as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission indicated.

The rules of engagement as specified by the Geneva Convention and other related protocols were flouted either deliberately or out of sheer ignorance. It seemed as if nobody trusted anybody and the unarmed civilians were at the receiving end.

The Special Court was subsequently set up to break the cycle of impunity and Chief Sam Hinga Norman is there to account for his role as the man that was in charge of the CDF. But the CDF was replicated in virtually all the districts. Kono had the "Donsos" (Hunters) and the "Tamaboros" in the North as well as the "Gbhettis." They had command structures that Chief Norman was not

***His chieftom is on record for suffering one of the first and most gruesome massacres of civilians to be inflicted by the RUF. His head was even personally declared wanted by the RUF leader, with whom he had served in the SLA.***

directly in charge of but their efforts were commended by the suffering masses and the ousted government which desperately wanted to be reinstated.

Foday Sankoh and Sam 'Maskita' Bockarie could have given reasons for unleashing hell on the nation but they are no more. Johnny Paul Koroma, leader of the ousted Armed Forces Revolutionary Council is presumed dead or at large—nobody seem certain. Their presence at the Special Court would have added momentum to its intent and purpose.

The UN backed Special Court says it has authentic documents implicating former Liberian leader Charles Taylor in perpetrating the war in this country. Today he is comfortably under the protective wings of Big Brother Nigeria. This is not casting aspersions on President Obasanjo because Charles Taylor found his way into the safe confines of that country under an international arrangement. And if I were Obasanjo, I will protect my integrity by keeping my promise. President Kabbah is Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Sierra Leone and Chief Norman was his deputy. But he is a sitting President with certain constitutional immunities, so he is virtually untouchable.

This is probably how and why Chief Norman's freedom and liberty had been restricted for close to three years—by the Special Court.

He is the biggest fish on the Special Court's hook, kept there, perhaps to give a sense of importance to the deliberations of the court.

Anyhow, there is growing concern over Hinga Norman's continued detention by that court. There are fears that

the manner in which the court is being set up will be adverse for this country in the long run. This is the last emerging from a devastating war and the only priority given the last thing any sane man would expect to see is a re-run of that eleven year's ordeal. Whether we accept it or sweep it under the carpet, Chief Norman is a people following and an increasing number of sympathizers, many of whom believe that the man does not deserve what he is going through. To most of them, Chief Norman is like the sacrificial lamb.

One of the primary causes of the war in Sierra Leone was grudge.

Grudge had been accumulated by groups and individuals who had been mistreated by the system but had no immediate means of venting their anger.

When the appropriate time came, we had to witness the ravages of madness that engulfed us. Those who created the Special Court may have had good intentions. Impunity should be discouraged.

In spite of these, Chief Norman continues to consider himself as part of the government that actually craved for the establishment of this court that is now holding him.

This has been demonstrated by his recent court actions against the ruling SLPP, a party he still has reverence for.

He even presented his name as candidate for the revered position of leader and presidential nominee for the forthcoming elections. Although he did this by proxy, he was able to once again demonstrate to the people of this country that some sections of the national community admire and love him. Prior to its national delegates convention in Makeni, he took the party to task by challenging some aspects of its Constitution which he felt had been grossly flawed. This was however thrown out of court by the presiding Judges on the grounds that he had no standing to take the party to court. It was pronounced in legal term that he lacked 'Locus Standi'. By his action however, the stipulated date was forcefully changed.

Again, Chief Norman has sent another bombshell against his SLPP, this time right inside the Supreme Court, once again challenging certain aspects of the party's Constitution with particular reference to the just concluded delegates' convention. In all these, suffice it to state that he has the support and sympathy of certain portions of the SLPP and even outside the party circle. Even as he continues to be held behind bars at the Special Court, he feels as been within the system though considering himself as the sacrificial lamb. It is against this background that I feel that Chief Norman's ability to challenge the system by any other means and must not be underestimated. He continues to attract the sympathy and loyalty of his people as their hero. Not only that, he is considered by them as a national hero.

My concern however, is that more material for future crisis could be manufactured in the process. The court itself is facing so much financial difficulties that many skeptics believe that it might not accomplish its designed mission. Its state of under funding also signifies to a large extent that even the donors are growing weary of the huge cost involved in sustaining an instrument which might not achieve anything. The evidences are glaring!

If the UN Security Council can face these stark realities and try to quickly wrap up the deliberations of the Special Court here, then lasting peace would be ensured. Regarding and understanding Hinga Norman's peculiar circumstances and pardoning him will be a revered legacy by which the court would be remembered here now and tomorrow.

Perhaps reconsidering its status can also be another panacea for consolidating peace and averting any unfortunate incident. After all, the Special Court has already helped in sending out the message loud and clear that impunity has no place to hide in this present civilization.

# BRINGING JUSTICE!

# The Special Court For Sierra Leone

## Accomplishments, Shortcomings, And Needed Support (Part-1)

### INTRODUCTION

The devastating eleven year civil war in Sierra Leone, which lasted from 1991 until 2002, was characterized by unspeakable brutality and serious crimes. Forces failed to distinguish between civilians and combatants. Families were gunned down in the street, children and adults had their limbs hacked off with machetes, and girls and women were taken to rebel bases and subjected to sexual violence, and murder of civilians. Tens of thousands of civilians were killed and up to one-quarter of the population was displaced. The majority of crimes were perpetrated by rebels from the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). However, government forces and their allies, including the Civil Defense Forces (CDF), also committed serious crimes, albeit on a smaller scale and of a different nature from those by the rebel alliance.

Accountability for serious human rights crimes, like those committed during Sierra Leone's war, is essential for several reasons: to bring justice to the victims, to punish the perpetrators, and to lay the foundation for building respect for the rule of law in post-conflict societies. Since 1999, Human Rights Watch has monitored the conflict in Sierra Leone, documented human rights abuses, and pressed for justice for these crimes. Human Rights Watch maintained a field office in Sierra Leone from 1999 to 2002.

Following the end of the conflict, the Sierra Leone justice system lacked the capacity to hold perpetrators of the most serious crimes accountable and political leaders were able to avoid any hundreds of criminal, sexual, and other offenses, and unlawful detention. The justice system process guarantees stipulated in the 2002 Lomé Ceasefire Agreement, stipulated that the number of judges, magistrates, and prosecutors were inadequate and numerous court facilities were destroyed. The United Nations, a national commission, the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), and the SCSL was established in 2002. The SCSL is the Sierra Leone government's first step to prosecute serious crimes committed during the war.

The SCSL provides an important opportunity to bring justice to the community in Sierra Leone and to address the victims of horrific atrocities and to ensure that justice has been done. The SCSL represents a significant new model of justice, often referred to as a "mixed" or "hybrid" court, from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY), the two international tribunals. A number of significant features of the SCSL are staffed by international and national judges and by an entirely international prosecutive staff. The statute includes both domestic and international crimes as opposed to only international crimes that occurred, that the people of Sierra Leone deserve.

Human Rights Watch has actively supported the efforts of the Special Court. We have encouraged governments to cooperate with the Special Court to ensure that suspects do not escape its jurisdiction and have urged the international community to provide adequate financial support for the court. Human Rights Watch has also provided recommendations to ensure that trials are conducted fairly and efficiently, that the Special Court operates independently and impartially, and that investigations and prosecutions effectively bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for crimes committed in Sierra Leone.

This report evaluates the Special Court's efficacy around a series of benchmarks that are crucial to its success: 1) adherence to international fair trial standards; 2) effectiveness in achieving its mandate; 3) efficient; 4) protection of witnesses; 5) accessibility to Sierra Leoneans; 6) leaving behind a legacy; and 7) providing security. The report seeks to identify accomplishments and make recommendations where we believe the Special Court should improve operations. Some of these recommendations can be implemented without increased funding for the court, while others require the Registry to recommend additional funding for particular areas, for the Special Court Management Committee to support these allocations, and for donors to fund them. The report also makes recommendations on the need for a range of financial and political support by key governments.

The report is largely based on a mission Human Rights Watch conducted to Freetown in March 2004, during which we conducted interviews with some twenty Special Court staff, including within the Office of the Prosecutor, the Defense Office, the Chambers, the Registry, the Outreach Section, the Witnesses and Victims Support Unit, and those responsible for security and detention of suspects. We also met with defense counsel representing indictees

at the Special Court, persons working with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, members of civil society, and diplomats. Additional interviews with Special Court staff, defense counsel, and diplomats were conducted by telephone and in person in New York and Freetown between April and August 2004. Many of the individuals we interviewed wished to speak candidly but did not wish to be cited by name. We have cited the majority of sources with only generic references, such as "Special Court staff" or "defense counsel."

The establishment of the Special Court represents a tremendous effort by many extremely dedicated staff members operating under difficult conditions and with scarce resources. In 2002, the staff of the Registry and the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) created a court from the ground up in war-torn Freetown. As no suitable facilities existed, the registrar, Robin Vincent, worked to establish a courthouse and court infrastructure. At first, until offices were constructed, the OTP operated out of the home of the prosecutor, David Crane, working day and night to conduct investigations and to build cases.

The Special Court has made significant accomplishments to date that reflect meaningful progress to ensure a measure of accountability in Sierra Leone, all the more so considering the limited resources available to this institution. These include: completing investigations; indicting suspects from all warring factions; charging all indictees with child recruitment and most indictees with gender-based crimes, in addition to other substantive crimes; establishing a defense office to represent issues of common interest relating to defense and to ensure protection of the rights of the accused; issuing precedent-setting decisions on international jurisprudence and disposing of more than one hundred and fifty pre-trial motions; conducting outreach to the local population; employing Sierra Leonean to work in every organ of the Special Court, including as trial attorneys, investigators, defense counsel, and judges; and completing the courthouse, which will be donated to the Sierra Leone government. The Special Court commenced trials on June 3, 2004, with the trial of Sam Hinga Norman, Morris Fofana, and Allieu Kondewa, who are affiliated with the CDF. On July 5, 2004, the Special Court commenced the trial of Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon, and Augustine Gbao, who are affiliated with the RUF. Nevertheless, Human Rights Watch has concerns about aspects of the Special Court's operations that are hampering its work, many of which directly relate to inadequate funding of the court by donors. The most serious of these include: an inappropriately narrow interpretation of the Special Court's mandate of prosecute those "bearing the greatest responsibility;" inadequate logistical support and lump sum payment structure for defense counsel; inadequate witness protection; and the lack of establishment of the second Trial Chamber. Nigeria's failure to surrender Charles Taylor is also undermining the court's ability to achieve its mandate.

*Following the end of the conflict, the Sierra Leone justice system lacked the capacity to hold perpetrators of the crimes accountable*

*Cont. on page 7*

# SPECIAL COURT : Accomplishments, Shortcomings, And Needed Support

to achieve its mandate

## INSECURE AND INADEQUATE FUNDING BY DONORS

One of the most serious challenges facing the court is insufficient and insecure funding by donors. This has put an enormous strain on the court's operations. Key areas of the Special Court have been under funded, namely the Defense Office, the Witness and Victim Support Unit, the Chambers, and the Outreach Section. Under funding could undermine the Special Court's accomplishments and impede its work to protect witnesses and ensure the rights of the accused. The initial proposed budget for the court was approximately \$60 million for three years. However, even this relatively tight budget was cut to approximately \$57 million due to difficulties in securing funding, although the total estimated budget had increased to about \$76 million for three years as of March 2004. Despite relentless effort by the registrar and initiatives by contributing states, including members of the Special Court Management Committee, voluntary contributions total only \$44.7 million, and as of July 2004, were expected to last the court only through the beginning of its third year of operations. Even with a much needed grant from the United Nations in April 2004 in the amount of \$10.7 million, \$23.3 million in anticipated costs over the next year and half currently and unfunded. Moreover, a condition of this U.N. grant is that it will be reduced in the amount of any additional voluntary contributions. Additionally, long-term funding must be secured for certain residual mechanisms to function beyond the Special Court's existence, specifically for witness protection and for the maintenance of detention facilities in accordance with international standards. Human Rights Watch urges the U.N. secretary-general to request and the U.N. Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to recommend that the

FROM PAGE 3

General Assembly remove the restriction on the U.N. grant immediately and authorize the remaining \$23.3 million of the secretary-general's request to fund the court through December 2005.

We further urge the Registry to support additional allocations for under funded areas, and for the Management Committee to advocate strongly on behalf of such funding. We urge governments to provide additional voluntary contributions and the U.N. secretary-general and General Assembly to intervene as necessary to address outstanding shortfalls.

## Interpretation of "Those Who Bear the Greatest Responsibility"

The OTP has taken important steps to ensure justice for serious crimes in Sierra Leone by investigating and prosecuting individuals associated with all sides of the conflict and charging accused with gender based crimes and child recruitment. However, Human Rights Watch believes that the existing indictments reflect an inappropriately narrow interpretation of the court's mandate.

The individuals currently indicted could be characterized as the highest-level commanders in the CDF, the AFRC, or the RUF who were the "kingpins" or "masterminds" of the war, or their financial backers. These indictees allegedly "knew or had reason to know" about the commission of the crimes and may have also participated in directly committing atrocities. Human Rights Watch believes that the mandate should be interpreted to also include other perpetrators who, while not at the top of the chain of command, were regional or mid-level commanders who stood out above similarly ranking colleagues for the exceedingly brutal nature of the crimes they committed. The failure to indict such persons is of particular concern as the court has indicted only thirteen suspects, nine indictees are facing trial, and their are unlikely to be more

than a couple of additional indictments.

This sentiment was echoed by member of local civil society groups interviewed by Human Rights Watch, who expressed frustration that a limited number of regional or mid-level commanders known for their notorious behavior, some of whom physically carried out the crimes, have escaped indictment by the Special Court. Three such commanders noted by civil society members include AFRC commanders Savage and Al Hadji Bayoh, and CDF commander Must Junisa. However, Special Court staff were resistant to interpreting the court's mandate to include regional or mid-level commanders who distinguished themselves by their brutality, citing time and resource constraints and the difficulty of identifying a small number of alleged perpetrators who would fall under his interpretation. Nevertheless, the research of Human Rights Watch and others suggests that there are, in fact, a very limited number of individuals who fall into this category. We also suggest that sufficient evidence to prosecute them would have been obtained in the process of building cases against top commanders who have already been indicted. In light of the small number of indictees and the resources invested in this mechanism, interpreting the mandate to include regional or mid-level commanders who are notorious for the brutal crimes they allegedly committed would provide an important opportunity to ensure that the possibilities for justice are maximized through prosecutions at the Special Court. Human Rights Watch urges the OTP to review prior investigative work to assess whether several of these persons should be further investigated or indicted, and if so, to pursue prosecution of such cases.

To be continued

Credit:

Human Right Watch

Independent Observer

Monday, November 07, 2005

BY AUGUSTINE BEECHER

Hinga Norman has yet again challenged the election of the vice president, Solomon Berewa as SLPP party leader and presidential candidate for the 2007 elections, and in the opinion of many, he is merely trying to make trouble for President Kabbah, who chose Solo B, as he is fondly called by his supporters, and Mr. Berewa himself.

But a keen look at the issue that has now been charged to court would reveal that there is more to the court challenge than meets the eye.

It may be that Chief Norman is so angry now that he does not know the difference between a winnable case and that which cannot be won. Or it may be that he is very certain of his legal position on the matter, which he has been trying to articulate since his initial attempt to derail the Makeni convention in late August.

In that matter, he request for an injunction against the conduct of the party convention was thrown out of the Supreme Court on the grounds that he was 'locus standi', meaning he was not in the position to bring to court that matter.

Chief Norman may not have had the right to stop the convention in Makeni, but as a citizen who has not been found guilty of any offence in our courts of law, he should have a right to challenge the election of Solo B, being a respected member of the party.

It is now up to the courts again to decide whether he has a right to challenge an election that has already taken place. It is not for the court to decide whether he is right in challenging the election, but to decide whether the court should grant an injunction to stop the convention from taking place.

What if, considering the

# PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY RACE

## Another challenge to the chosen successor



Berewa...



Norman...

fact that the judiciary is stocked with supporters and cronies of the president and his vice, it is hard to see how justice could be allowed to prevail.

In another vein, the report that Chief Norman has endorsed Charles Margai's breakaway from the SLPP and is advising his followers to support Mr. Margai is definitely another blow to the chances of the vice president, who is appearing increasingly embattled. No

matter what Victor Reider and JJ Blood would say about Charles Margai, it remains true that his breakaway results in the diminishing of the support for the SLPP and Solo B, as will the declaration of support by Chief Norman for the Margai leadership campaign.

What has the SLPP to show for the people's support for them in all these years? The Sababu Education Project or the

President's Food Security drive?

The people are desperate for a change in their lives, a change that would make them forget about the days of suffering under Tejan Kabbah and his vice. That is why some of us believe the ruling party has to double its efforts to regain the confidence of the people by allowing the law to take its course, instead of simply kicking out cases brought against it in court.

The matter in court is nothing new, as it has been going on for quite a while now with the opposition party in parliament, the All Peoples Congress (APC)

who members have been in court in a bid to control the apparently dictatorial tendencies of the leader in parliament, Hon. Ernest Koroma, who has now been elected a party leader and presidential candidate.

Despite the conclusion of the party's convention, which was meant to bring a halt to the court cases, the cases have refused to go away, and are still ongoing in our courts. It is easy to simply throw out the case of the radical faction in the party, but it appears as if because it involves an opposition party, the judges have allowed it to go on and on, hoping that it may destroy the chances of the opposition in the 2007 elections.

It just might, but how fair and free will that election be, if the ruling party throws cases against it out of court while ensuring that the opposition continues to slug it out in court?

As has been said on many occasions, the rigging of elections begins long before the day of the elections. But as we all know where we are coming from, and do not want to go there again, it is very important that the elections are seen to be free and fair

*“However, considering the fact that the judiciary is stocked with supporters and cronies of the president and his vice, it is hard to see how justice could be allowed to prevail”*



## Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/news\\_page\\_3](http://www.cocorioko.com/news_page_3)

### HINGA NORMAN CHALLENGES SOLOMON BEREWA'S ELECTION AS SLPP LEADER

By Olu Faulkner

Wednesday November 2, 2005

The former Commander of the Civil Defence Force ( CDF ) , Chief Hinga Norman has not given up yet on the SLPP Leadership .He has filed another case in the Sierra Leone Supreme Court , claiming that the election of Vice-President Solomon Berewa as leader of the ruling SLPP in September was illegitimate.

The plaintiff in this latest case by Chief Hinga Norman is the Ex- CDF Boss himself while the defendants are the SLPP ( First accused ) ,Alhaji U.N.S.Jah ( Second Accused ) , Mr. Jacob Saffa ( Third accused ) and Sierra Leone's Attorney General Fred Carew ( Fourth accused ).

If Chief Norman wins the case and the Supreme Court rules that the election of Berewa was illegitimate, the results of the SLPP Delegates Convention in Makeni, where Berewa was elected SLPP Leader would be null and void and a new convention and election will have to be held.

The dramatic aspect of this new development is that the other candidates who lost the election for SLPP Leader are watching this new case closely . If it swings the way of Hinga Norman, there will certainly be copy-cat law suits against the ruling SLPP .The Hinga Norman case could show the way for more legal challenges to the election.

Cocorioko website

<http://www.cocorioko.com/>

## NIGERIANS DEVICE MORE CREATIVE WAYS OF BRINGING CHARLES TAYLOR TO JUSTICE

Saturday November 5, 2005

Though faced with a very stubborn government that looks ready to stick to its guns to the bitter end, Nigerians have started finding more creative legal ways of bringing former Liberian rebel leader and President Charles Taylor to justice. A flash of dramatic success by two Nigerians who decided to sue the ex-Liberian leader as private citizens for pain and suffering will see Taylor appearing in a Nigerian court for the first time soon.



**Clashes rock Ethiopia**  
Riot police and opposition supporters have clashed violently in election-related unrest.



**Volcano threat**  
Residents of Goma fear that Nyiragongo volcano that looms will erupt again.

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Lottery Page



## War court hampered by funds

02/11/2005 10:03 - (SA)

Freetown - Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Wednesday lamented a perpetual funding shortfall facing the United Nations-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone, as well as its failure to extradite former Liberian president Charles Taylor.

In a new report, the rights watchdog called on governments to make good on pledges made in September this year that have brought the special court's budget to above \$100m.

The court, established on the basis of a combination of local and international justice, was created in 2002 by order of the United Nations and the Sierra Leonean government to try those with the greatest responsibility for the 1990s war in the impoverished West African state.

### Donors must give generously

It also urged greater vigilance in demanding that Nigeria hand over Taylor to face 17 counts of war crimes for having armed and trained rebels in what was considered one of the most brutal wars in modern history.

"With everything the special court has achieved, it would be shameful if it didn't receive the funding it needs to wrap up its work," said Elise Kessler of HRW's international justice programme.

"Donor countries should step up and contribute generously so that the court can make a strong and historic finish."

Nine people are in the court's custody, representing three warring factions including the pro-government civil defence forces militia that many still consider to be heroes for having released Sierra Leone from the grip of rebels notorious for hacking off people's limbs, lips and noses.

### Taylor's exile a major issue

That Taylor, the former Liberian president indicted on 17 counts of war crimes for

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arming and training Sierra Leone's rebel Revolutionary United Front, remains in exile in Nigeria beyond the court's reach is another major obstacle to justice, HRW said.

"Nigeria's ongoing harbouring of an indicted war criminal undermines the court's ability to achieve its mandate to prosecute those bearing the greatest responsibility for serious crimes committed in Sierra Leone's armed conflict," HRW said.

Taylor arrived in Nigeria in August 2003 after stepping down as president under the terms of a peace deal to end the second of two civil wars in his own country.

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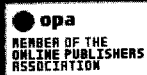
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### Africa's Insurgencies: Training On Demand From Libya

**FrontPageAfrica** (Monrovia)

NEWS

November 1, 2005

Posted to the web November 2, 2005

By Emmanuel Abalo

The Mathaba Guerilla Training camp in Libya, North Africa remains active even today churning out classes of trained insurgents who have made a long term lucrative profession of fuelling Africa's civil wars.

It is a sad commentary that conflict ridden Africa has these insurgents to thank for unleashing untold catastrophic humanitarian toll and wanton violations of international laws in the name of revolution. The Libyan government, by extension continues, to support and train these insurgents at Mathaba.

This charge is evidenced and confirmed as part of the indictment of former Liberian President Charles Taylor by the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone." In the late 1980's CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR received military training in Libya from representatives of the Government of MU'AMMAR AL-QADHAFI. While in Libya the ACCUSED met and made common cause with FODAY SAYBANA SANKOH "

The indictment further charges that" While in Libya, the ACCUSED formed or joined the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL). At all times relevant to this Indictment the ACCUSED was the leader of the NPFL and/or the President of the Republic of Liberia "

Mr. Taylor remains in forced exile in Calabar, Nigeria under an arrangement brokered by President Olusegun Obasanjo to end the bloodletting between rebels and Taylor forces in the Liberian capital Monrovia in 2003. The Special Court for Sierra Leone and the international community including Britain and the United States are pressuring Nigeria to turn over Mr. Taylor to the Special Court for prosecution, something the Federal Nigerian Administration has so far resisted. Mr. Taylor is also wanted by INTERPOL.

In its indictment of the former Sierra Leonen wedding photographer and army corporal -turned rebel chief Foday Sankoh, the Special Court charged, " The organized armed group that became known as the RUF, led by the ACCUSED, was founded about 1988 or 1989 in Libya. The RUF, under the leadership of the ACCUSED, began organized armed operations in Sierra Leone in March 1991. During the ensuing armed conflict, the RUF forces were also referred to as "RUF", "rebels" and "People's Army "

Authorities announced in October 2002 that Mr. Sankoh had suffered what they at first called a mild stroke.

The war-crimes court later said in June, 2003 it was pursuing a waiver on a U.N. travel ban against Sankoh so it could send him outside Sierra Leone for treatment. Mr. Sankoh, however, died in U.N. custody at a hospital in the capital Freetown in July 2003 and the indictment was subsequently withdrawn.

## Insurgent Recruitment Strategy

Recruitment of insurgent personnel is both voluntary and coercive and targets mostly young men and women who are able bodied, and mentally and psychologically pliable. Those joining voluntarily do so for a number of reasons: ideological conviction and the desire to do "something" about the perceived persecution and discrimination against their family members, ethnic group, nationality or religion and attacks on their home by the government in power.

There is also the forced conscription factor which especially targets the most vulnerable - children. There are hundreds of thousands of child soldiers who are products of armed conflicts in Uganda, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Clearly, this is a violation of International law. Local and international human rights field representatives have documented confirmation of these tactics among rebels and their victims. New recruits add to the tragic picture because they are shown a rifle and given a few hours of training and let loose!

Another example of the thriving professional insurgent livelihood in West Africa can be found in the longest running conflict in the south western Casamance province in Senegal. This "silent war" has raged on for over 20 years prosecuted by the rebel group Mouvement Des Forces Democratique de la Casamance in the name of independence for Casamance. Although this low grade insurgency is being carried out with limited weapons and perhaps a small band, the guerillas are dedicated to their cause and continue to harass, wound and sometimes kill some members of the well trained Senegalese military. Diplomatic observers maintain that some of the rebels have had training at Mathaba.

It goes without saying that rebels who graduate from Mathaba also leave that guerilla base with their weapons and supplies as the first installment on their journey to wherever and then the black market, shady arms dealers, terrorists and financiers are later co-opted to maintain the supplies of arms and ammunitions. Corruption, weak borders and poor state infrastructures in many African states facilitate the lucrative arms trade.

## International Players and Their Complicity

The impoverished country West African nation of Burkina Faso, headed by another coup maker President Blaise Campaore is also complicit in providing "muscle" and mercenaries especially in the Liberian and Sierra Leonen rebel incursions. There is clear evidence of Burkinabe nationals who were detailed to Messers Charles Taylor and Foday Sankoh rebel outfits. There were numerous secret meetings among Campaore, Taylor, Sankoh and Al-Quadhafi held frequently in Ouagadougou and Tripoli.

In an article entitled, War Against Terrorism: Indicting Libya and Burkina Faso, written by the Liberian political analyst Abdoulaye Dukule in June, 2002, he maintains that " If the war crime tribunal in Sierra Leone indicts Taylor, Burkina Faso and Libya must be brought in as co-conspirators. After the criminal case, civil law cases could and should be brought forth against Libya and Burkina Faso for the killing of over 250,000 Liberians and the destruction of our national infrastructure. There is no "if" and "but" about this, it must be done. How long it would take to win the case is another issue but the case can and must be made. It would discourage other sponsors of terrorism against peaceful civilians "

Certainly, this would be a welcome development given the culpability of Presidents Campaore and Al-Quadhafi in fuelling some of Africa's deadliest insurgencies. What else is there to refute the fact that at the end of the day, the reality is that some of the leaders in modern day Africa, unbeknownst to their citizens, are discreet graduates of Mathaba guerilla training camp in Libya and have their photos hanging on the wall at that base. And Africa continues to bleed!

*Emmanuel Abalo is an exiled Liberian journalist, media and human rights activist. He is the former Acting President of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL). Mr. Abalo presently resides in Pennsylvania, USA and works as an analyst with CITIGROUP, North America.*



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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 6 Nov 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****'King George' versus the 'Iron Lady' in Liberia's presidential vote**

by Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, Nov 6 (AFP) - Liberians will make history on Tuesday with a vote between George Weah, trying to transit from the football pitch to the executive mansion, and Harvard-educated banker Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who could become Africa's first female president.

But be it "King George" or the "Iron Lady" who inherits the mantle of the 23rd president of **Liberia**, they will have to contend with a bankrupted economy, suffocating unemployment and illiteracy and a legacy of ethnic and regional divisions that have fueled conflict for decades.

**Weah has destiny of Liberia, and self, in sight before presidential vote**

by Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, Nov 6 (AFP) - He is growing used to people coming to hear him speak, not to watch him play, to being asked to comment on the poverty and misery facing his fellow Liberians. Slowly but surely, despite a surfeit of good counsel and decent strategy, George Weah is becoming a politician.

**Liberia's "Iron Lady" ready for history as Africa's first woman president**

by Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, Nov 6 (AFP) - She has been bouncing around in the back of four-wheel-drive vehicles, strapping herself into helicopters and dancing in marketplaces across Liberia. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is showing the same tenacity in her campaign to become the west African country's next president as she has over her three decades in politics.

VOA 06 November 2005

**Liberian Police, UN Peacekeepers Separate Rival Camps**

By Nico Colombant, Monrovia

*Liberian police and U.N. peacekeepers have intervened in downtown Monrovia to prevent any unrest between rival camps in Tuesday's run-off presidential election.*

Newly U.N.-trained Liberian police, wearing riot gear and wielding batons, pushed back supporters of former soccer star George Weah from the party headquarters of former finance minister Ellen Johnson Sirleaf late Saturday.

## **Liberians hope presidential runoff can unite nation**

By Daniel Flynn

MONROVIA, Nov 6 (Reuters) - Liberians hope a second-round presidential run-off on Tuesday pitting soccer millionaire George Weah against a former finance minister known as the "Iron Lady" can heal the wounds left by a brutal civil war.

06/11/2005 13:12:53

## **Liberia's ex-female fighters now training for peacetime**

By EDWARD HARRIS, Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, **Liberia** (AP) \_ Oretha Davis once cradled an AK-47 assault rifle in her arms. Now she stitches pants and caresses Roland, her 4-month-old son.

Some 20,000 female fighters, a fifth of all combatants in Liberia's 14-year war, have been demobilized, and some, like Davis, gather daily in a classroom full of antiquated sewing machines in battle-shattered Monrovia, training to re-enter society.

**BBC** Last Updated: Saturday, 5 November 2005, 17:46 GMT

## **Weah supporters rally in Liberia**

By Mark Doyle **BBC News**, Monrovia

Tens of thousands of supporters of the retired football star George Weah have gathered in the Liberian capital ahead of presidential elections on Tuesday.

## **National Democratic Institute and Carter Center to Observe 2005 Liberia**

WASHINGTON, Nov 5, 2005 (U.S. Newswire via COMTEX) --The National Democratic Institute (NDI) and The Carter Center today announced the arrival of their delegation to observe the November 8 presidential run-off election in **Liberia**.

The 28-member multinational delegation is led by former Nigerian Vice President Alex Ekwueme and others, and includes elected officials, electoral and human rights experts, regional specialists and political and civic leaders from North America, Africa and Europe.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

06/11/2005 12:00:45

## **French peacekeepers commemorate bombing of their base in Ivory Coast a Year Ago**

By DANIEL BALINT-KURTI, Associated Press Writer

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast (AP) \_ French peacekeepers marked Sunday the first anniversary of Ivory Coast's bombing of one of their bases, saying the airstrike which left nine French soldiers dead was aimed at damaging relations between the two countries.

*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 and would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.*