

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Wednesday, February 08, 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Hinga Norman releases last Bomb

By Tom E. Tommy & Saffia Kabbah

Chief Sam Hinga Norman concluded his prosecution testimony yesterday at the

Special Court for Sierra Leone under cross examination by Prosecution Lawyer Kevin Tervener with rebuttals of earlier allega-

tions testified against him by Prosecution Witnesses. Chief Norman was basically answering to questions posed to him by the Pros-

ecution Counsel based on a tendered press release from the Civil Defence Force Secretariat relating to the restoration of de-

mocracy.

Lawyer Tervener started off with a reference to Paragraph 2 of the said release which he quoted as thus:

"anyone caught in support of the AFRC/junta will be considered as an enemy of the state and will be eligible
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Wednesday February 24, 2006

Hinga Norman releases last Bomb

From front page

for elimination." According to Lawyer Tervener, these words were tendered in court as having been read by Chief Hinga Norman on radio.

Answering, Chief Norman said, "I did not neither speak those words on the radio nor did I authorize anyone to do or say such words."

It was further put to him that a testimony by Prosecution Witness TF2-198 on 15 June 2004 had indicated that he, Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Alieu Kondewa were the fathers of the CDF being that he (Norman) was the National Coordinator, Alie Kondewa was the High Priest that and Head of the Initiators and Moinina Fofanah as one of the Directors.

Replying, Chief Norman said that they were not the fathers of the CDF as they did not take decisions on what was to be done, noting that such orders came directly from the Head of the CDF War Council in the person of His Excellency the President.

It was also put to him that in the testimony of another witness identified as TF008 on 5th November 2004, he had stated that he, Hinga Norman publicly pronounced himself as the Leader of the Kamajor movement and that he also appointed Moinina Fofanah as Director of War and that at the time the junta were based in Koribondo, he had pronounced that anybody found there was a rebel collaborator and when the Kamajors would have recaptured that base that person who was collaborating with the AFRC/Junta should be gunned down.

Responding to this, Chief Norman said he never introduced himself as the Leader of the Kamajor movement. The Leader, he maintained was the Head of the War Council and on the question of appointing Moinina Fofanah, he also said he never appointed Moinina Fofanah as Director of War. He also denied issuing any order for the gunning down of anybody found in Koribondo when the Kamajors would have recaptured the town.

Chief Norman also asserted that it was after the reinstatement of President Kabbah and his government that he was made to aware that children under 15 years were used during the war. In this case, he said he reported the matter to the President but nothing was done in that direction by way of getting the surviving child combatants to rejoin their families and go back to school.

On whether human body parts were used by the Initiators to fortify Initiates, Chief Norman responded that he did not know whether human body parts were used as he was not an Initiator. According to him he only went for initiation and not to enquire as to what was being used in their concoctions. He went on to note that he was not given any special protection by Mualem Sesay, who initiated him or by Alie Kondewa who was the High Priest.

On the issue of Albert Nallo, he argued that he was never appointed as Deputy Director of Operations and went on to state that he only received oral information that Nallo has been sacked from a cer-

tain position which was not mentioned to him.

Alieu Kondewa, he said, was the High Priest, but at a certain point the Initiators mutually agreed that Kondewa be relieved from his position as High Priest and that they (the Initiators) had agreed to appoint Mualam Bangura to replace Kondewa. This, he said, was communicated to him for him to inform the President, which he said he did and Kondewa was subsequently removed from being the High Priest and given the position of Adviser to the President on how the war was to be conducted.

On allegation that he (Norman) gave a total sum of Le 300,000 (three hundred thousand Leones) to one Mustapha Kallon as compensation for the death of his brother who was allegedly killed by Kamajors, Chief Norman again that he did not know any body by the name of Mustapha Kallon not to talk of giving him a consolation amount to that range.

It was again when it was put to Chief Norman that while at Base Zero he (Norman) sent the team referred to as Death Squad to Bo to kill one captured rebel called Johun Hotta, he replied that he did not know of such a squad and referred to the allegation as a "blatant lie".

On whether he was aware that Kamajors terrorized civilians, he replied that he was not aware.

At this juncture, the Prosecution Counsel closed his cross examination and the Presiding Judge, Justice Itoe officially declared that Chief Hinga Norman has ended his testimony both for the defense and the prosecution.

Answered questions

Witness on February 24, 2006

2006

Norman questioned over involvement in prisoners execution

By Joseph Turay

Prosecuting Counsel in the ongoing CDF trials- Kevin Terverner has Tuesday 7th February questioned Chief Sam Hinga Norman regarding his involvement in the execution of war prisoners at a place called- 'SS Camp' in Kenema. According to Norman who was been cross-examined by Counsel Terverner, he was never involved in the execution of any war prisoner in any part of the country throughout the period of the war. He stated that 'SS Camp' had never been a base for execution of war prisoners by Kamajors but

rather a Camp where displaced persons and refugees were based during the heat of the civil war. The CDF accused also told the Court that whenever he visited the camp, he would talk to people in the camp about peace and reconciliation. " 'SS Camp' was never used for executing prisoners," Norman stressed as he told the Court. Asked whether he (Norman) used to review books in the camp while on visit, he argued that he would only go there to address his people and give them useful advice. Earlier in his testimony, Norman also denied several allegations regarding killings

and hostilities by Kamajors in Korigbondo. He explained that he has never regarded Sierra Leoneans as rebel collaborations neither did he refer to the people of this country as enemies of Kamajors. Chief Norman further said that he never took part or ordered the attack of Tongo but that it was ECOMOG that was moving towards that direction and finally attacked the town. The Special Court indietee went further to deny his being at the centre of the attack and eventual hostilities that took place in Korigbondo; citing that he never got angry with his people in the town despite the division amongst them at the time.

At Special Court...

Norman Confirms Koribondo Attack

By Mohamed Kai

The CDF Special Court indictee; Chief Sam Hinga Norman yesterday informed

the court that he was notified about the Kamajor attack on Koribondo but that he

did not order the attack. Norman told the court that he was appointed the National Co-

ordinator of Civil Defence Forces by President Alhaji Ahmad Tejan

Contd. page 2

clusive

Wednesday February 8, 2006

From front page Norman Confirms Koribondo Attack

Kabbah but never gave orders to CDF commanders in the battlefield.

The CDF indictee further intimated the court that after the attack on Koribondo by ECOMOG troops and the Kamajors and its subsequent recapture, he addressed a large crowd of displaced people including the kamajors.

In his address, Norman went on, he sympathised with the victims and Chiefdom people, pleaded with them to endure the consequences of the attack and think about the future and the reinstatement of democracy and constitutional normalcy. He narrated that during his visit to Koribondo in 1998 following the successful recapture of the township, he did not see corpses on the streets, adding that some of the logistical support in terms of weapons and food was provided by Ecomog troops. Chief Norman declared that he is a member of the Kamajors but not the founder as produced on the CDF calender tendered as exhibit by the Prosecution Counsel. He also denied that he appointed Moinina Fofanah as CDF Director of War.

Responding to questions from the Prosecution Counsel in relation to the attack on Tongo Field, Norman denied having played any role in that attack but confirmed that he was told that Tongo Field had been attacked by the CDF and Ecomog.

After the recapture of Tongo Field, Norman said he advised the President who was then the overall commander, to prevent children from participating in future attacks on towns and villages occupied by rebel outfit.

"I was airlifted to Monrovia where President Kabbah sent ten thousand dollars which I received from the Ecomog commander for the training of more Kamajohs and the procurement of other logistics for kamajors at 'Base Zero,' Norman said.

He said on a particular occasion, he visited SS Camp in Kenema and it was occupied by displaced people but that the camp was not an execution hide-out as alleged by the Prosecution Witness TF2-082.

He also denied the announcement of a press release issued by an organisation called Movement for the Restoration of Democracy on F.M 98.1 on 22 December 1997.

The Exclusive

Wednesday February 8, 2006

As British Maj. Gen. flies to Salone...

Peter Penford testifies today at Special Court

*Peter
Penfold...
will he
let the
cat out?*



Former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, His Excellency Peter Penford will testify at the ongoing Special Court today.

It would be recalled that Peter Penford was the British representa-

tive in Sierra Leone during the eleven year-old war and actively took part in the restoration of President Kabbah to power and the conclusion of the war. Peter Penford Special Court sources say will tell court the role he played while in Sierra Leone and what activities the Civil Defence Force was engaged in.

In a related development, sources

say Major General Richards of the British Army and currently the Army Chief Commander in Afghanistan is due shortly in Freetown to testify at the Special Court.

Major General Richards was in Sierra Leone at the height of the rebel war, and has been subpoenaed to testify in court.

Standard Times

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

MY PEN
With David A. Jabati Jnr



"...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 violence. I personally see such an institution as more than necessary.

Historians are going to write about what happened before, during and after the war. Posterity shall read these history books and they will quickly turn the pages to read about what happened to the perpetrators of what has already been dubbed, "A Senseless War". If they discover that no punitive measures were 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. But there is more to that. Follow the analysis: - In the whole drama, We have three groups and a total of 15 actors who are considered as "those who bear the greatest responsibility" Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Alieu Kodewai from the Civil Defense Force (CDF). Foday Sankoh, Sam Bockarie, Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon, and Augustine Gbao, of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF); Johnny Paul Koroma, Alex Tamba Brima (Gullit), Ibrahim Bazy Kamara and Santigie Kanu (555), from the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), with the only external actor indicted so far, being the Ex-President of Liberia, Charles Taylor.

By my personal analysis, the leaders of these different factions of indictees bore the greatest responsibility. Five of them, Foday Sankoh (Late), Sam Bockarie (Late), Johnny Paul Koroma (fugitive), Charles Taylor (Exiled) and Hinga Norman (Detained). These five were either not tried, will probably not be tried or may never be tried. I don't think you are following the analysis. All the top five actors have some ambiguities about them. Critically looking at this first five from top to bottom,

Should The Special Court become a Farce... I'm Afraid...

one may be tempted to think that the whole Special Court drama will end up becoming a mere farce. I sometimes find it difficult to understand the intricacies of this whole Special Court thing.

Foday Sankoh, the RUF Warlord is no more, he died a natural death without being tried, Sam Bockarie of the RUF is also a dead man, Rtd. Major Johnny Paul Koroma, head of the former AFRC is a fugitive, who has extricated himself from the claws of the Special Court and until now, no one knows his whereabouts (perhaps he is hibernating somewhere in Europe or the Middle East). Charles Taylor, the only external actor, has sworn to 'his mother's breast' that he will never step his feet in Sierra Leone, let alone go to New England where the Special Court is situated.

The only indictee among the first five currently within the million dollar walls of the Special Court is Sam Hinga Norman.

I will perhaps spend some time on Hinga Norman. The two key things I believe the Special Court looks for in indicting people are: Individual Criminal Responsibility and the Command Structure/Responsibility. Chief Sam Hinga Norman, I believe, was indicted under the command structure/responsibility. He was the Deputy Defense Minister and National 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 whatever a 'Vamboi' of a 'Kamajor' or a 'Santigie' of a 'Tamaboro' 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, according to what we heard, fighting in the interest of the nation, they all certainly committed human rights violations in one way or the other during the war, which blame is now 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, they consider him to be more of a hero than a villain facing international crime charges. Still others think otherwise because as far as they are concerned, he deserves to be punished.

Hinga Norman has been a surprise to many Sierra Leoneans in recent times, and he is always making headlines in the newspapers. Some time back, he and the other CDF indictees, wrote a letter to their sympathizers, more or less ordering them not to take part in any SLPP function 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 has been slammed a temporary ban. As if that was not enough, detained Chief Norman, prior to the SLPP Convention in Makeni last year, opted to vie for the SLPP Leadership. The plausibility of that was left to legal minds to judge. Well, at the end of the day, Norman did not go to Makeni nor was he represented at the convention. Recently again, Chief Norman has been decorating the front pages of Newspapers since he started testifying at the Special Court. Norman's testimony so far has implicated a lot of people including the president who he refers to as, his former Boss. Norman and his Lawyers are now demanding that the president appears before the court and testify. The question that pricks the mind is-Will the president testify or is he going to prevaricate himself? From all what is happening at New England, many Sierra Leoneans are left with the question - who really did the Special Court come to try? Especially when all the key players (now household names) are seemingly escaping the trial process. To me, the whole thing is fast becoming a real fag.

And we ask, "Should the Million Dollar Special Court become a fiasco, what next?" The people are however waiting.

Awoke

Wednesday February 8, 2006

...and Golley cries for independent Judge

By Ophaniel Gooding

Erstwhile spokesman for the defunct Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Omrie Michael Golley, has cried for an independent Judge

The accused, alleged to have prepared and endeavoured to overthrow the government of Sierra Leone by unlawful means,

requested for a "foreign judge" as he was leaving the courtroom.

Speaking with hands shackled and saliva on both sides of his mouth, Mr. Golley said, "I have been held under the most disreputable circumstances, the mode and manner of my arrest, the mode and manner of my detention; the



Omrie Golley very depressed

conditions without access to my doctor, without access to any process. I believe in

a foreign Judge to judge me..."

Protesting with trembling gesticulations, as he was about to board a blue police truck for the maximum prison, Mr. Golley stressed that, "I need an independent foreign trial..."

The treason accused, ever since his incarceration has made series of complaints about prison conditions. He had noted that the food served were oily and therefore "... not good for

my cholesterol disease."

Golley was arrested on 12 January this year along with three others in his hotel room at the Bintumani Hotel just before he was due to leave the country on board the SN Brussels flight that day.

The dramatic arrest was followed by an announcement made by President Kabbah on state radio and television that same day, emphasizing that his government "view the matter very seriously."

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Analysis

Hinga Norman: Tragic Hero or Opportunist? (Part III)

- Tuesday 7 February 2006.

Our correspondent in Denmark continues his analysis of Hinga Norman and the events that engulfed Sierra Leone towards the end of the 20th century. From his own point of view. A tough assignment but a necessary one.

By Stephen Lawrence in Denmark

One thing for which everyone - friend or foe - should admire Sam Hinga Norman is his indomitable spirit, his passion to go against the odds and succeed, on his own terms. Just remember how he had to make the SLPP big wigs nearly vomit their hearts out by challenging the legitimacy of holding a convention - even from the dungeon. And now, one just needs follow the startling testimony he is giving at the Special Court and his political escapades, then you'd realize that the man's ambition cannot naturally be daunted.



Wrongly or rightly, Norman has always been like that. Let's do a political post-mortem then: To take the cue back from my previous article, as I stated, the peace process brought about by the signing of the Abidjan Peace Accord had been mismanaged by the SLPP. And because of the indiscriminate rebel attacks in the north, and the soldiers' lacklustre defence while complaining of lack of logistics, coupled with the fact that the kamajors were generally well armed and defending their south-eastern territory, Northern politicians and opinion leaders called a meeting at the Miatta Conference Centre to state that the government was not sufficiently showing interest in the defense of the north, and that they would raise up their own militia to defend their people. The situation was that bad!

The Defence Ministry, practically manned by Hinga Norman, didn't give a damn - until May 25 1997 when giving a damn was no longer an issue. My purpose is not to justify a military takeover, but because coup-making has been a configuration of post-colonial African history (like Latin America in the 18th century), and taking cognizance of the fact that many senior Sierra Leonean compatriots - not excluding President Kabbah and Solomon Berewa - once regarded as democratic models - also served in previous military regimes as top advisers and state functionaries, I found - and still find - it incongruous to pick on the AFRC coup as an abominable and a most obnoxious act. Therefore, any analysis of the socio-political military landscape prior to the coup must be done dispassionately and without the prejudice of either being lovers or haters of democracy, or fans or foes of juntas. In Africa, as it was in the European revolutions of 1830 and 1848, bad civil governance could lead to unrest and a

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of the streets of A
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physically attacke

Opinion

When Rogues Fall
By Alpha Saidu Bai
Alhaji Ahmed Teja
Hinga Norman wer
manifestation of t
1996 elections, pr
appointed chief N

disruption of the status quo.

Please forgive me for this - yes, I have not forgotten that I am writing about Hinga Norman and his exploits, past and present, culminating to his present predicament at the hands of the Special Court. It was the soldiers' (I mean the coup-makers') view that Johnny Paul was unfairly arrested and detained; so, as compensation, they made him their leader and head of state. Although Hinga Norman lately claimed to have been the informant that first told President Kabbah about the coup or something like that, it was senior military officers (some of whom were later to be executed by the SLPP - oh, I'm jumping the gun) who first told the president about it. That was why when the boys eventually succeeded (because the head of state didn't do a stitch in time to save nine), they arrested, molested, looted and detained all senior officers together with the politicians, vowing to execute them.

But thanks to a junta leader, strange as it may seem. Johnny Paul claimed to have met Jesus Christ in prison, and he was so changed that he prevailed on the boys not to carry out their intentions, but to release all detained men - politicians as well as soldiers - if not, he was willing to be executed along with them.

I've already mentioned the soldiers' looting and general chaos that military take-overs generally come along with, yet the May 25 coup did not follow the traditional pattern of coup-making in the sense of either executing politicians (a la Samuel K. Doe in Liberia) or indefinitely incarcerating them (like the previous NPRC coup in Sierra Leone).

Yet the condemnation and vilification of the AFRC's image was so intense that even being a distant relative of a soldier was a crime in itself. Thanks to Sam Hinga Norman. Before President Kabbah could call the BBC from Guinea to threaten to return, he must have first ascertained that his loyal Hinga Norman, the leader of the invincible and 'unkillable' kamajors, was alive and kicking. And with Sanni Abacha having just received a package from the president, there was certainty that Aso Rock would forget about the State of the Forces Agreement (SOFA) and join forces with a militia. The certainty was perfect. The Defence Ministry - after overblowing the 'sobel' phenomenon, which the rebels admitted during the TRC's public hearings as their tactic of using military fatigues to cause mayhem in order to give the army a bad name and hang it - not meaning that the soldiers, like all others in any war situation, did not harm anybody - had so sidelined the national army that the security of the head of state and many important and strategic points of the country was entrusted to the Nigerians before the coup - and while the coup was being executed it was also certain that there was bound to be a clash (which resulted in deaths of both Sierra Leonean and Nigerian soldiers).

The point here is that all this could not have been anything other than the machination of Hinga Norman. Because, from my personal opinion, President Kabbah was not - and should not - be afraid of the army. For two main reasons, and perhaps a third. One, it was allegedly on the invitation of the NPRC junta (national army) that President Kabbah returned to Sierra Leone and was made Chairman of that regime's Advisory Council. Two, say what you may about international or national pressure, it was the military that voluntarily handed over power to President Kabbah amid hobnobbing and compensation for outgoing leaders. And a third likely reason why there was no point in President Kabbah being afraid of the national army was that in all his political life there was no record of him having once been in conflict with the army or a group of soldiers, or that he had once associated with one group of soldiers as against another.

So who feared the army? It was Hinga Norman. For Tellu Borngor. But the scheme exploded in his hands. Yet he vowed to return and was prepared to supply his kamajors with weapons from a British mercenary firm in breach of UN sanctions to declare Operation Black December (of course with the blessing of President Kabbah, who came to Lungi at the time), even though the Conakry Peace Plan (with the UN, the former OAU and ECOWAS as moral guarantors) had been signed two months earlier in pursuit of a peaceful handing over within six months.

And this was when Norman had discovered that the invitation of the RUF by the AFRC forty-eight hours after taking over had paid positive dividends, in the sense that there was actually

deputy minister of the wonderful job

Letter to the e

Mojjue Resigns from Mr Harold B. Saffa UK & Ireland Branch
Dear Mr Secretary consultation and d within and without interest of Sierra L partisan interest, I

Literary zone

Poetry---Le Retour
Le Retour (The Return)
Jallo Jamboria Are on pilgrimage? Or a pilgrimage? That y when it was you th land? What did you the first, with a G To (...)

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a real cessation of hostilities throughout the country (save for Nigerian bombardment), curfew had been lifted and people could for the first time in years travel the length and breadth of the country even in the middle of the night (a UN team that visited the country that year expressed surprise that what they heard in Guinea and what they saw in Sierra Leone were two different situations; and earlier, the then Ghanaian Foreign Minister Victor Gbehu, on an assessment visit, said there were no dead bodies on the streets as the propaganda was indicating - of course the so-called pro-democrats labelled both reports as the handiwork of some bribery!).

Yes, there were constraints and harassments due to the air, land and sea blockade unilaterally imposed by the Nigerians and because the rebels were actually coming in contact with civilians in a non-combatant situation for the first time, yet the story of the AFRC before Hinga Norman's Operation Black December was not a tale of savagery and chaos (as the Kabbahists were telling the world) - after all schools were running, only disrupted by jet fighters and missiles coming from the Nigerian base at Lungi. And all this was happening after, in earlier battles with the Nigerians, the AFRC had captured, and - in a rare show of magnanimity, vouching for peace - released 310 officers and men of the Nigerian army using Sierra Leone Army buses to convey them back to their base at Hastings.

And this was also the time when child combatants of the RUF were already being disarmed and demobilized under the supervision of a female military officer, Major Kula Samba (who was later tried, found guilty of treason, and executed for doing just that).

Read the final part of this series next week

Photo: Johnny Paul Koroma, AFRC leader, believed dead.

More News

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Patriotic Vanguard website

http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/article.php3?id_article=376

Special Court: Penfold Appears Today

By Gibril Koroma - Wednesday 8 February 2006.

The stage is set for fireworks in Freetown as former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone Peter Penfold (photo) appears this morning at the Special Court to testify as a defense witness for the Hinga Norman defense team.



According to usually reliable sources, Penfold will be followed on the witness stand on Thursday by no less a person than the former SLPP Vice President of Sierra Leone Dr. Albert Joe Demby. Demby is considered another major witness for Norman and his co-accused as he knows not only about the activities of the SLPP government in exile between 1997 and 1998, but also the inner workings of the Kamajor militia, of which he is a senior member. He, like Penfold, is bound to come out with revelations that would figuratively shake the foundations of the Special Court building and even beyond to State Lodge, where president Kabbah would probably be sitting on tenterhooks.

Kabbah himself may soon appear at the Special Court as a subpoena ad testificandum has been slapped on him by Norman and co-accused Moinina Fofana. If Kabbah appears, the already high temperature at the Special Court will most certainly reach boiling point because there will be accusations and counter-accusations galore.

Meanwhile a team of UK judges are in Freetown to observe the Special Court for Sierra Leone in action. Stay tuned.

Cocorioko website

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

CHIEF HINGA NORMAN ENDS TESTIMONY AT SPECIAL COURT

Tuesday February 7, 2006

Chief Sam Hinga Norman today concluded his second and final week of testimony before the so-called special court for Sierra Leone. Led in evidence by Counsel for Dr. Alieu Kondewa, Charles Francis Margai, Norman left no doubt that it was his friend and Commander-in-Chief, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, who set the stage for Norman's arrest and detention on 10 March, 2003.

Based on what we are able to gather from Chief Norman's testimony, President Kabbah made sure prior to Norman's arrest, that Norman was present in his office before a convoy of police vehicles arrived to place him under arrest. The repeated denials of collusion between the court and the government and Kabbah in particular notwithstanding, it is now abundantly clear that the President and the court worked hand-in-hand to arrest and humiliate Mr. Norman for Kabbah's political objectives.

The motive, based on Mr. Norman's testimony, was that Kabbah was fully intent on removing both Norman and former Vice President, Dr. Albert Joe Demby, from the political scene prior to the 2007 election. Norman, we are told, was vehemently opposed to the President replacing Demby with his apparent, Solomon Berewa. Chief Norman seemed to intimate that the 1997 coup and other military endeavours were clearly manipulated by Kabbah in order to place both Norman and Demby in harm's way. One recalls that Norman was attacked by the AFRC in June 1994 while Regent Chief of Jaiama-Bongor and presumed killed by the rebels. His home town of Mongere in the Valunia Chiefdom was virtually wiped off the map. Demby's home town of Gerehun in the Baoma Chiefdom north of Bo was similarly demolished, and sadly enough, Dr. Demby's father, Paramount Chief Albert Demby, was assassinated in front of his wives and children by the rebels. Following his appointment as regent Chief by the NPRC, Norman and Demby agreed to organize the Kamajors which later joined with other regional militias to form the Civil Defence Force.

After dropping Demby from the presidential ticket in 2002, Kabbah apparently still considered Norman the major obstacle to Berewa's succession. The constant dissension and bickering between Kabbah and Norman during the war resulted in thousands of lives lost in Tongo, Bo and Freetown as a result of Kabbah's refusal to arm the CDF to defend those areas for fear that Norman would use those weapons to overthrow Kabbah's government. Kabbah's futile attempts to rid of Norman first by trying to send him to Nigeria as High Commissioner against Norman's will, then to replace him as National Coordinator of the CDF in 1999 are part of the greatest tragedies of the rivalry between these two men.

Despite the characterization of the UN-backed tribunal as independent and non-political, no one with any objective integrity will now doubt that what this trial is about - a political charade orchestrated by Mr. Kabbah to level the playing field for his annointed successor. The court's bending over backwards to accommodate Kabbah's ill-advised refusal to appear as a witness for the defence places the court at the center of Sierra Leone's corrupt and disfunctional politics.

Following Chief Norman's testimony today, former UK High Commissioner, Kumrabai Peter Penfold, takes the witness stand on Wednesday as Defence Witness No.2. Until the issue regarding so-called subpoena ad testificandum requiring the President to testify is resolved, former VP, Albert Joe Demby, will follow Peter Penfold as defence Witness No. 3.

Alfred M. SamForay,
CDF Defence Fund



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 7 Feb 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

02/07/2006 06:45:36

Liberian president orders reform of forestry sector

Monrovia_(dpa) _ New Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as part of a clampdown on corruption has cancelled all forest concession agreements entered into by previous governments, reports said Tuesday. The Liberian leader issued "executive order number one" late Monday shortly after her return from a one-day visit to Niger.

Forestry Development Authority spokesman John T. Woods welcomed the president's decision, saying reform of the forestry sector would encourage the UN Security Council to lift sanctions imposed on Liberian timber in 2003.

Opong Weah Advises Sierra Leonean Politicians

By Sahr Musa Yamba

Freetown, Feb 06, 2006 (Concord Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --George Opong Weah Saturday told Concord Times Sierra Leonean politicians should work in the interest of the people. "It is the people who appointed them so they should do every thing in the interest of the people," Weah advised.

International Clips on West Africa**U.N. imposes sanctions on three Ivory Coast leaders**

By Peter Murphy

ABIDJAN, Feb 7 (Reuters) - The United Nations imposed sanctions on Tuesday on three political leaders accused of blocking a peace process in war-divided Ivory Coast, where 12 villagers were massacred in fresh violence this week.

Military and hospital officials said the victims were shot and hacked to death early on Monday in an apparent grudge attack over a pay dispute not far from the western town of Guiglo, from where U.N. peacekeeping troops were evacuated last month.

The Security Council action imposed travel and asset freezes on Charles Ble Goude and Eugene Djue, who led young supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo in four days of riots last month against U.N. bases and personnel.

Also targeted for sanctions was Fofie Kouakou, a commander of rebel forces occupying the north of the country. Gbagbo's government controls the southern half.

Cote d'Ivoire PM urges rival parties to restore political dialogue

ABIDJAN, Feb 5, 2006 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Cote d'Ivoire Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny has urged rival parties to restore political dialogue soon in order to create mutual trust for the process of national reconciliation and implementation of disarmament plan, national TV reported on Sunday.

Banny told reporters on Saturday after visiting the rebel-controlled north of the country that to restore dialogue is one of the government's priorities and he also pledged to urge concerned parties to step up efforts for the goal.

Local Media – Newspapers

President Nullifies Forest Concessions

(Daily Observer and The News)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday issued her first Executive Order declaring all existing forest concessions and contracts null and void.
- Madame Johnson-Sirleaf said her decision was based on the findings of the Concessions Review Committee of Liberia and the mandate of the UN Security Council.

Pro-Democracy Group organizes Political Parties' Consultative Forum

(Daily Observer, The News and The Analyst)

- With a USAID grant, the International Republican Institute (IRI) will beginning tomorrow hold a two-day consultative forum of political party leaders on techniques for strengthening their respective political institutions during the post-election period. Ghanaian Political Science Professor and Director of the Governance Center at the Institute of Economic Affairs in Accra, Ghana Dr. Kwesi Jonah will serve as chief facilitator, an IRI press release said.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

Vice President Assures Liberians of a Vibrant Private Sector

- Speaking when Sierra Leone Ambassador Patrick Foyah and a team of Nigerian businessmen called on him at the Capitol Building yesterday, Vice President Joseph Boakai assured Liberians that the government would prioritize the creation of new jobs through a vibrant private sector by utilizing Liberia's natural resources.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Senate Suspends Confirmation Hearing for Deputy Defence Ministers

- According to a Senate Defence Committee Spokesman, the Senate confirmation hearings for Deputy Defence Minister-designate for Operation Dionysius Sebwe and Deputy Defence Minister-designate for Administration Othello Worwick were called off after the two Presidential nominees admitted serving in the United States army.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

European Foundation Donates Office Equipment to National Legislature

- Addressing journalists following the presentation of office equipment and stationery valued at US\$15,000 to the National Legislature, Europe-based Konrad Adenauer Foundation Executive Director, Henz Jockers said that the donation would empower the the Lawmakers in the discharge of their duties. Dr. Jockers also donated four

computers to facilitate work in the offices of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Firestone Rubber Plantation Workers Begin Industrial Strike for Unspecified Reasons

- Briefing journalists yesterday, Firestone Rubber Plantation Industrial Relations Manager Ed Padmore said that three thousand employees of the company have begun a strike action without giving prior notice to the management about their action. He said that the employees did not notify the company about the reasons behind the strike.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO (News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)

National Bureau of Investigation Probes Its Comptroller-General over Misuse of Insurance Premium

- The National Bureau of Investigation says it has brought criminal charges against its Comptroller-General Mohammed Kiawu for allegedly misapplying the institution's employees' insurance premium amounting to more than LD\$30,000.

Local Non-Governmental Organization Gathers Data for Amputees in Bomi County

- In an interview, a local group, Victimized Child Soldiers Organization Executive Director Varney Johnson said that the organization was gathering data of war-amputees in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu Counties. He said the group has already gathered information on 41 amputee women and men in Bomi County alone.

STAR RADIO (News culled from website today at 09:00 am)

Residents of Sinoe County Lament Rise in Criminal Activities in the County

- Speaking to journalists, Liberian National Red Cross Society volunteer Helen Kieh said that criminal activities had increased in Greenville, Sinoe County with most of the crimes being committed at dawn.

Congress for Democratic Change Denies Plan to Sue the Government for Demolishing Market Kiosks

- In a reaction to media reports that the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) would sue the government over the demolition of market places, the party said there was no such decision to sue the government, a CDC press statement said.

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. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.

Ivorian militants under sanctions

The UN Security Council has adopted sanctions against three Ivory Coast militia leaders, despite fears of renewed attacks on peacekeepers.

Two leaders of youth groups loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo and a rebel leader are subject to a travel ban and a freeze on foreign assets.

The sanctions will not take effect until Security Council members are formally notified.

The youth leaders are accused of leading attacks on the UN last month.

Gbagbo loyalists Charles Ble Goude and Eugene Djue have dismissed the sanctions, saying they have no foreign assets and do not travel much.

These sanctions don't intimidate me at all or lessen my fervour for protests

Charles Ble Goude
Gbagbo loyalist

Ahead of the sanctions, some 400 civilian UN staff were withdrawn from Ivory Coast.

A northern rebel commander, Fofie Kouakou, is also targeted, accused of human rights abuses.

Some 7,000 UN peacekeepers are in Ivory Coast to oversee the peace process.

Elections are due this year to reunify Ivory Coast, which has been divided since rebels seized the north in 2002.

Rebel protest

"These sanctions don't intimidate me at all or lessen my fervour for protests," Mr Ble Goude told Reuters news agency.

Last week, Mr Ble Goude threatened more street protests unless the rebels were ordered to disarm.

IVORY COAST CONFLICT

Sept 2002: Dissident soldiers fail to overthrow President Gbagbo, but rebels seize north of country

May 2003: Armed forces sign ceasefire with rebel groups

Nov 2004: Ivorian air force attacks rebels; French forces destroy parts of Ivorian air force after nine of their soldiers killed. Violent anti-French protests prompt thousands of Westerners to leave

Oct 2005: UN extends President Gbagbo's mandate for 12 months and postpones elections

Reuters also reports there was a small demonstration outside a UN base in the rebel headquarters of Bouake because of the possibility of sanctions against Mr Kouakou.

Many Gbagbo supporters are upset at what they see as foreign interference in their internal affairs by the UN and former colonial power France.

They want the UN troops and a further 4,000 French soldiers to leave Ivory Coast.

Some 2,000 members of Mr Ble Goude's Young Patriots group blockaded the UN base in the main city, Abidjan, and others cities in the loyalist south for several days last month - until he told them to return home.

UN bases became the target of anger after foreign mediators seeking an end to the civil war recommended suspending parliament.

The call to dissolve parliament was seen as a way of preventing pro-Gbagbo MPs from holding up the peace process and boosting the authority of transitional Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4688304.stm>

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