

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



**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

**Thursday, 8 March 2007**

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
Martin Royston-Wright  
Ext 7217

### Local News

Body of Sam Hinga Norman Handed Over to Family / <i>SCSL Press Release</i>	Page 3
Norman Arrives / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 4
Autopsy Says Norman Died of Natural Causes / <i>Christian Monitor</i>	Page 5
Mayor Snubs Norman's Corpse / <i>The Spectator</i>	Page 6
Civil Societies Pay Respect To Norman / <i>The New Citizen</i>	Page 7
Civil Societies Mourn Late Norman Today / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 8
A Hero Arrives Home Dead / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 9
Hinga Norman's Body Due Thursday / <i>The Pool</i>	Page 10
Omrie Golley to Follow Norman? / <i>The Spark</i>	Page 11
Big Tussle Over Norman's Corpse / <i>The Spark</i>	Pages 12-13
Who Will Bury Hinga Norman? / <i>The African Champion</i>	Page 14
A Judiciary In Decline / <i>Standard Times</i>	Pages 15-16

### International News

Hinga Norman's Body Flown Into Freetown / <i>Cocorioko Website</i>	Page 17
Norman's Death: a Fatal Blow for the Sierra Leonean Model / <i>International Justice Tribune</i>	Page 18
Rape, Gender Violence the Norm in Post-War Liberia / <i>Inter Press Service</i>	Pages 19-20
Impunity for War Crimes Against Women / <i>Cyprus Mail</i>	Pages 21-22
Egypt Calls for Investigation Into Reported Israeli War Crimes in 1967 / <i>Voice of America</i>	Page 23
Talks to Save Khmer Rouge Trials / <i>BBC Online</i>	Page 24



**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Press and Public Affairs Office

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 7 March 2007**

**Body of Sam Hinga Norman Handed Over to Family**

The body of Sam Hinga Norman was handed over to family members today after being returned to Sierra Leone from Dakar, Senegal.

Mr. Norman's body was flown by helicopter from Lungi International Airport to the United Nations headquarters in Freetown, arriving just before 1:00 p.m.

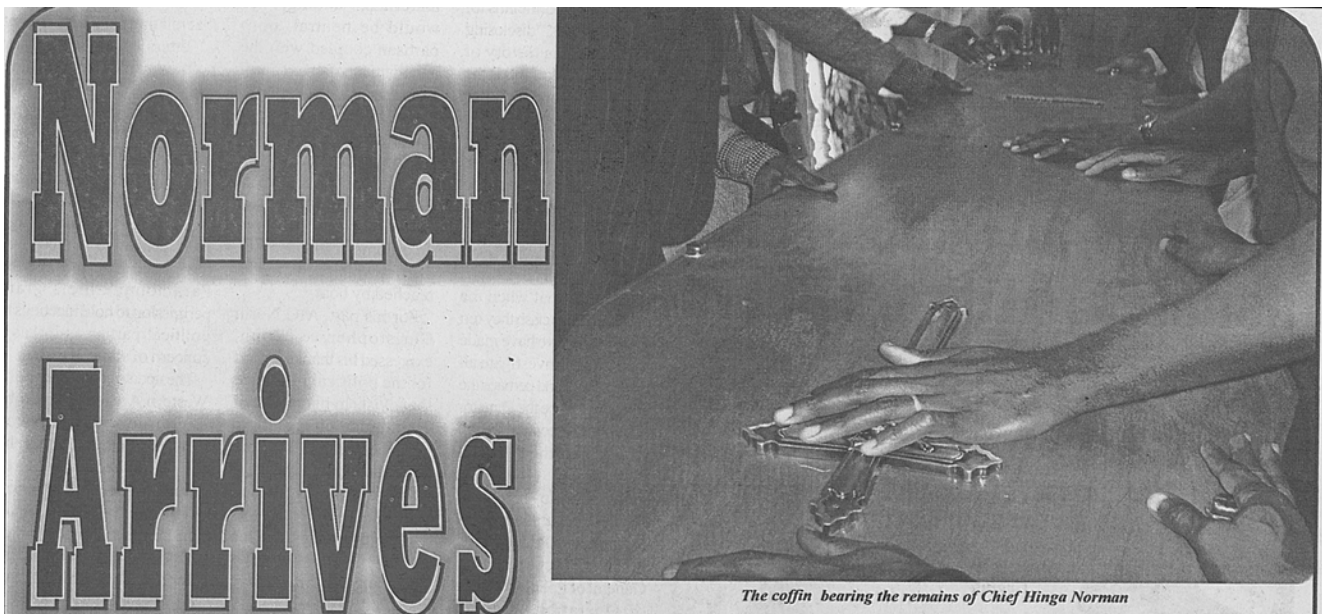
In a brief but solemn ceremony, Special Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC and a representative of the family signed a document which formally handed the body over to family members.

Mr. Norman was taken to Dakar in January for a routine medical procedure which is not available in Freetown. The procedure was performed successfully on February 8. On February 22, Mr. Norman collapsed in his hospital room. Doctors attempted unsuccessfully to revive him.

#END

Awoko

Thursday, 8 March 2007



*The coffin bearing the remains of Chief Hinga Norman*

# Norman Arrives

## Norman arrives

*By Betty Milton*

At approximately 12:30am yesterday the mortal remains of the late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman was flown into the Mammy Yoko helipad by a United Nations (UN) Helicopter.

Immediately after the corpse arrived at the helipad the Special Court Registrar Lovemore Munlo signed a document of release and the eldest son of deceased Samuel Norman jnr took formal possession of the corpse, which was then transferred from the helicopter to the Columbia Davies hearse.

In a convoy of about 30-35 vehicles with the Police leading the motorcade, the corpse was carried through Aberdeen with people stopping to gaze and maybe pay their last respects to the man some of them still

regard as their hero

A man watching the scene remarked "this is what you have to pay for democracy."

The convoy drove through Congo Cross, to King Harman Road and then to New England right in front of the Special Court where staff of the Court came out to pay their last rest respect to the fallen hero.

The corpse finally arrived at the Columbia Davies Funeral Home where other family members were waiting to receive the remains of their late father, husband and

uncle.

The well polished casket containing the late Chief was covered with a brown sack which was later removed and then taken into the parlour.

The remains of the Former Minister of Defence will depart for Bo on Friday and then to his home town Mogere on Saturday and he will be finally laid to rest in Nguala on Sunday.

The Former Special Court i n d i c t e d t h e February after post operative care in a military hospital in Dakar Senegal.



*Late Chief Norman*

## Autopsy says, Norman died of 'natural causes'

The remains of the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman who passed away in Senegal two weeks ago were flown in to Freetown yesterday afternoon Wednesday March 7th. Funeral arrangements are already in advanced stages, he will be buried in his hometown this weekend.

According to our usually reliable sources, the autopsy conducted shows that Chief Norman died a natural death. The report was not available as at press time because the doctors insisted on delivering it themselves, while Dr Harding, the Special Court medic is bereaved. The official version,

which is in French, will take a couple of days for translation and publication.

Chief Norman's body arrived at the Lungi International Airport from Dakar at 12 noon yesterday. It was flown to the Aberdeen helipad where it arrived at 12:55pm.

*Continued Page 4*

# Norman died of natural causes

*From Front Page*

The body was officially handed over to the family at 13:05pm GMT. It was accompanied to Freetown by eldest son, Sam Norman Jr. and the family's chief representative who was a former vice president, Dr. Albert Joe Demby.

Chief Norman was former coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) commonly called Kamajor, and former SLPP internal affairs minister until his arrest four

years ago. He died in Senegal following a 'routine' hip surgery, a treatment that is unavailable in Sierra Leone.

An autopsy to determine the course of death was performed in Dakar, Monday 5th March by forensic pathologists representing the governments of Sierra Leone and Senegal, and the UN. According to a release purportedly coming from the family, there will be a public viewing and paying of last respects by

Freetown and Western Area residents to be hosted by the Sierra Leone Civil Society. It is planned for Thursday March 8 at the Queen Victoria Park in Freetown.

The late Chief Norman will be laid to rest alongside his mother and other family members at Ngolala village near Mongere in the Valunya chiefdom, Bo district, on Sunday March 11, the release stated.

-----

The Spectator  
Thursday, 8 March 2007

# Mayor snubs Norman's corpse

The Mayor of Freetown, His Worship Winstanley Bankole Johnson is reported to have refuted requests made by the Civil Society for Special Court indictee, the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman to be accorded a civic funeral. All the reason for this was not disclosed by officials at the City Council when contacted. The mortal remains of the war veteran is currently being displayed at the Queen Victoria Park today for public viewing. After which it will be conveyed on Friday to Bo town with a brief stop at Mile 91, Moyamba and Taiama owing to the fact that the defunct Chief had worked there as coordinator of the Civil Defence Force (CDF). Hereafter, there will be a laying out at the Bo Town Hall followed by a service proposed to be held at the Church of Salvation in Bo. There will be a cortège in Bo after which the corpse will then be taken to his home in Mongere to be handed over to the rank and file of the Civil Defence Force to be finally laid to rest in Nguala.

The former Deputy Minister of Defence and later Minister of Interior was arrested on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2004 by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for war crimes and crimes against humanity and was in detention until the 10<sup>th</sup> of January when he was flown out together with co-indictee, Issa Sesay for medical in Dakar, Senegal. Norman died during a post-operative care but the autopsy result has not yet been released to the public.

---

Civil Societies Pay Respect To Norman

*From page 1*

# CIVIL SOCIETIES

Civil society organisations will today pay respects to the former CDF leader and

one-time Minister of Defence and Minister of In-

terior, Chief Sam Hinga Norman at a grand laying out ceremony at the Victoria Park in Freetown.

The remains of the late Chief Hinga Norman were brought to Freetown at 1:00 pm yesterday from the Senegalese capital of Dakar, where he died in a military hospital to which he had been taken by Special Court authorities.

Sam Hinga Norman, up to his death, was in the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which had indicted him for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Up to the point of his death, there were many Sierra Leoneans who still held the view that Hinga Norman was their personal hero who had put up a stiff fight to dislodge the AFRC/RUF government that had overthrown President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's

SLPP government.

That he was indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity took many of his supporters by surprise but the Special Court for Sierra Leone insisted that he had a case to answer.

The arrest and detention of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, to a large extent, created political divisions in Sierra Leone, especially in the South-east of the country where many people saw him as the man who liberated them from military rule.

At tomorrow's ceremony at the Victoria Park, representatives of various civil society organisations will make speeches after which his body would be taken back to the Columbia Davies Funeral Home.

Concord Times  
Thursday, 8 March 2007

# Civil Society honours late Norman today

By Tanu Jalloh

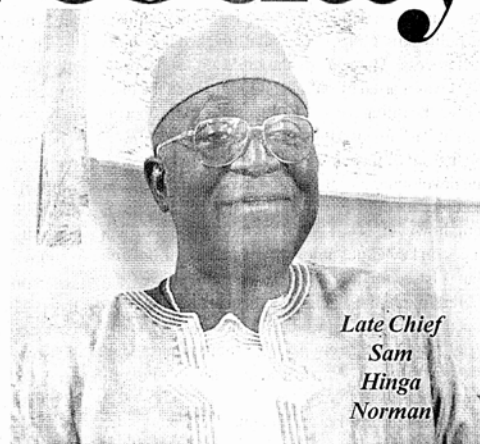
Representatives of civil society groups Wednesday joined family members and friends to receive from Senegal the remains of the

late Special Court indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman at the United Nations manned Mamy Yoko helipad in Freetown.

Special Court authorities turned the body over to a six-

man envoy comprising Norman's counsel, Dr. Bubuake Jabbe, Former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, his wives, Mamie and Hawa

Cont. page 5



## Civil Society honours late Norman today

From page 1

Norman, daughter, Juliet and a close friend, Chief Vonu who signed on behalf of the family. The body was later conveyed to the Columbia Davies Funeral Home at Circular Road.

National Coordinator of Civil Society Alternative Process of Sierra Leone, Falla Ensa-N'Dayma refers to the former Minister of Internal Affairs, Deputy Defense Minister and Civil Defense Forces' Coordinator, who fought to reinstate, in 1998, a

legitimate government that was overthrown in 1997, as a great and illustrious man.

"Norman was a great man and an illustrious son of the soil. Upon his death civil society feels there is need for cooperation and constructive engagement with the authorities because his death has provided a rallying point," he says.

N'Dayma confirms that members of Civil Society Movement (CSM), Drivers' Union, Movement for the Res-

toration of Democracy, Freetown Human Rights Committee, Coalition of Civil Society and Human Rights Activists are among many others who held meetings to raise funds for the funeral which process starts with a tribute at the Victoria Park today.

The remains will be taken to Bo on Friday for subsequent church services and burial at Mongeri village in Valunia Chiefdom, Bo District.



Concord Times  
Thursday, 8 March 2007

## COMMENTARY

# A HERO ARRIVES - DEAD

The remains of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, a great Sierra Leonean war hero who died in the custody of a foreign-administered judicial body, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, were flown into Freetown yesterday. Chief Norman had been in the custody of the Court for four

*Cont. page 5*

## A HERO ARRIVES - DEAD

*From page 1*  
years, and died in a wretched hospital in Senegal in mysterious circumstances. We mourn the passing of the great man, a defender of democracy and the basic right to life of the average Sierra Leonean.

Chief Norman was, by universal acclaim, a self-less and highly courageous man. Nothing in his career, and his conduct during the war, suggest that he was fighting for personal gain. His defence of ordinary people, his dedication to the fight against the bloodthirsty terrorists who ravaged this country for over a decade, is beyond question. This dedication was attested to many people during his unnecessary and callous and foolish trial by the so-called Special Court. These included Brigadier David Richards, a senior British commander who observed some of the fighting during the horrible 1999 attacks by rebels on

Freetown, and by Peter Penfold, the very courageous and principled former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone. These are not men given to frivolous sentimentality. We thank in particular Penfold, who was justly crowned a chief for his efforts on behalf of Sierra Leone, for his dedication to this country. That Chief Norman was allowed to be humiliated and virtually killed by a bunch of careerist and money-grabbing foreigners will remain a very sad and shameful chapter in our country's history. Blame primarily rests on the President Tejan Kabbah and his sclerotic government. President Kabbah should be ashamed of his role, and in particular his statements in Bo recently, declaring that Chief Norman was always a friend. Handing a national hero over to unaccountable foreigners who have absolutely no interest whatsoever in this country beyond the thousands of thousands of dollars they are earning in the name

of the long-suffering people of this country may be the President's idea of statesmanship or friendship; but it is no one else's. As for the sub-mediocre Special Court, we firmly urge them to conclude their shoddy business very soon and leave this country in peace. They have caused enough distress already.

That the ineffective and highly partisan Mayor of Freetown, the All People's Congress' (APC) demagogue, would reject the call of civil society to give Chief Norman a befitting civil burial ceremony is not surprising. That his rejection would be allowed to stand is a disgrace to this country. We call on all patriotic Sierra Leoneans to join the family and friends of Chief Norman tomorrow at the Victoria Park in central Freetown to pay respect to the great hero, Sam Hinga Norman. We truly mourn the passing of a great man.

The Pool

Thursday, 8 March 2007

# Hinga Norman's body due Thursday

The corpse of Chief Sam Hinga Norman will arrive in Freetown on Thursday, March 8, from Dakar, Senegal

according to Samuel Norman Jnr-eldest son of Chief Norman. Three Pathologists on Monday, March 5 per-

formed an autopsy examination on the body of the late Norman to ascertain the cause of death.

The autopsy result was not known as at press time. Former Vice President, Dr. Albert Joe

Demby was one of the family representatives who flew to Dakar to witness the process.

The Spark  
Thursday, 8 March 2007

# Ommrie Golley: To Follow Norman?

*By Alpha Y. Kargbo and  
Isaac Randy Wright*

The Former Revolutionary United Front spokesman and head of the RUF Committee Council, Mr. Ommrie Golley is presently facing severe health conditions at the Pademba Road Prisons in Freetown.

Mr. Golley who is supposed to make his appearance before Justice Samuel Ademus at the High Court No. 1 in Freetown failed to appear in court on Wednesday 7th March 2007 due to ill-health while at the Pademba Road Prison.

At the court session a cross section of the detainee's family were shocked when they heard that their relative Mr. Golley will not be available in court for hearing. They expressed their concern to this press that they were seriously worried about

their relative who is in detention at the Pademba Road Prison especially at this time when Chief Hinga Norman had just died while in the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

When this press contacted the Master and Registrar of the High Court of Sierra Leone, Mr. David Chetwynd at his office at the Law Courts building for an insight into the health condition of Mr. Ommrie Golley, he said that he had no idea about Mr Golley's condition. He said that all he knew was that Mr Golley did not appear in court and he had to adjourn the case to 14th March 2007 for further hearing. He however refused to make anymore comments on the issue. This press also tried to contact the Office of the (DPP) Director of Public Prosecution Mr. Robin Mason but he was unavailable at that time.

## The Spark

Thursday, 8 March 2007



**By Salifu Conteh And Isaac  
Randy Wright**

Reports infiltrating to this press have confirmed that the remains

of Chief Sam Hinga Norman has been formally handed over to the family at the Mammy Yoko helipad by the Special Court Regis-

trar Lovemore Munlo without making a single speech. The remains of this industrious son of the soil was flown to Sierra Leone

# Big Tussle Over Norman's Corpse

in an United Nations helicopter from Senegal Dakar where he passed away while receiving medical treatment.

Late Norman died as an indictee of the Special Court charged for

crimes against humanity though he had formerly pleaded not guilty to all the charges levied against him.

The family members who were

*Continued page 7*

# Big Tussle Over Norman's Corpse

*From front page*

in a sad mood last afternoon had earlier on accused the government of being ungrateful and disloyal despite the role played by their relative to foster democracy which brought in the Kabbah government to power.

But what looks like a ding dong battle between the government and the children and other family members to the afore warnings to President Kabbah's government and the SLPP not to lay an iota of participation on the remains of their late relative has been finally put to rest as there were no officials to witness the handing over of the corpse.

Despite such warnings, it seems as if they want to take chances at the laying-out ceremony tomorrow at the Victoria Park before the funeral procession to Bo town.

Sources close to State Lodge revealed that in a closed door meeting it was agreed that Government officials should attend the civic ceremony at the Park in a low profile to bid farewell to their so-called late colleague.

Though government is denying the fact that he died as a prisoner of the Special Court, Sierra Leoneans are of the opinion that Norman, like other criminals strenuously risked his life to reinstate the Kabbah led ungrateful government back to office.

The family view the unfortunate demise of Chief Norman as a complete betrayal and injustice to such an industrious son of the soil and any statement made by either the President or party member is being coined as provocative and highly hypocritical.

The late Chief Norman was once the Deputy Minister of Defence just after the Commander in Chief and Minister of Defence His Excellency President Kabbah, and later as Minister of Internal Affairs where he was disgracefully arrested without protocol by the Special Court for Sierra Leone with Kabbah's hypocritical blessings. A strong SLPP supporter who aimed good for the party by risking his own life.

Though he died as an indictes or to be precise a prisoner of the Special Court with charges hang-

ing over him yet government and other SLPP stalwarts have being holding closed door meetings for a civic funeral with the SLPP as chief mourners. As a step toward such plans at the main office at Wallace Johnson Street a black cloth showing their bereavement has been mounted and strong party members, cabinet ministers have a black ribbon mourning their late colleague- a man they betrayed!.

Sources close to the family revealed to this press that, Chief Norman, few days after the convention had said that he was no more a member of the SLPP and later upon the formation of the PMDC; joined the PMDC though in custody.

These statements were confirmed by the PMDC leader Charles Margai who told this press that Chief Norman had long joined the PMDC and had been fulfilling his party's obligations. Therefore the corpse of this great man would be sadly mourned by PMDC and not SLPP. The PMDC will attend the funeral fully with no political slogans or placards.

Sources also revealed that the corpse of Norman would be accompanied home by Joe Demby who would hand the corpse to Charles Margai and taken directly to his home for a befitting burial.

Meanwhile constant meetings in closed doors are still taking place in the SLPP's main office and the Presidential Lodge to have a glimpse of the corpse and a last hypocritical move of tears shedding. This is a complete defiance of what had been said by Sam Norman Jr. and his sister in the BBC that they do not want any Government interference in their father's funeral.

As a move to show how bitter the family is, all the buses that had been chartered by various groups from the Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation has been refused by the family since the Corporation is Government oriented.

Despite all these tussles by both parties Sierra Leoneans want to see the remains of Norman brought with respect, pomp and pageantry and finally laid to rest in his home town in Bo.

The African Champion  
Thursday, 8 March 2007

# *Big controversy!!*

## **WHO WILL BURY HINGA NORMAN?**



*Late Chief Sam Hinga Norman, during his hey days in the jungle with the Kamajors  
to bring back the SLPP from exile*

## Standard Times

Thursday, 8 March 2007

### A Judiciary In Decline

**T**he Judiciary is one of the most important institutions in this country, in fact in any country. The Judiciary is the institution constitutionally tasked with interpreting the laws of the country and in addition, it is tasked with upholding the rule of law, fundamental and democratic freedoms. These require the Judiciary to act in conformity with the laws of the country and to protect the weak and innocent in society. Many countries operate similar systems and Sierra Leone is no exception. At the head of this great institution is the Chief Justice, who is the administrative pillar and appointed by the president pursuant to the constitution, s120 of the 1991 constitution vests that power in the Chief Justice.

The Judiciary is therefore the final arbiter of disputes between the state and the members of the public at large. It also arbitrates between the members of the public when there are disputes. It cannot afford to function in an ineffective manner or in a manner not conducive to the public good. Where the judiciary is perceived as being inactive or corrupt or a symbol of injustice, the state evidently deteriorates into anarchy.

The Judiciary in Sierra Leone may be perceived as corrupt, inefficient and a symbol of injustice emanating from considerable number of delays to cases and the incompetence of certain members of the bench as well as poor conditions of service. Such negative perceptions which have historically developed in the Judiciary are sadly the same today. The Judiciary is in a state of rapid decline which is undeniably the case. Developments in the Judiciary to the critical minds have been nothing to write home about and it is unmistakably the case that a change of direction in this institution is urgently needed.

#### **PROBLEMS IN THE JUDICIARY.**

At present, Justices of the Peace have not been paid their sitting fees for about two years now, despite the fact that they have submitted all claims to date; nothing is being paid to them. The Chief Justice may either not know or knew about it but have done nothing about the plight of these JPs.

The full time legally qualified magistrates have equally not been paid their UNDP funded top up fees for the past two months and again, the Chief Justice has done nothing to address these problems. The question of conditions of services had resulted in very few practitioners wanting to take up appointments as Judges and Magistrates leading to acute shortages in the Judiciary. The Chief Justice again has done nothing to address these chronic problems of conditions of Judges and Magistrates by engaging government to invest in this institution. Rather, he has sought unsavory methods that give a thin veneer of legality to the actions he has taken to engage Judges for the

# A Judiciary in decline?

Judiciary. This is an issue we shall deal with subsequently.

The Judiciary has a problem with shortage of stationeries. Relevant court forms and papers used for recording evidences are short in supply and have been like that for about three months now leading to courts having to invest in sheets of A4 ruled paper. In the midst of this, the Judiciary is now paying the salaries of court clerks by cheque. Only few days back when the clerks received their salaries, they had to go to the Youyi Building where a mobile bank has been set up by the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank to enable them cash their cheques. The result of this is that clerks had to abandon court sittings in the morning hours in order to collect their pittance of salary. This mobile bank was done with the agreement of the Chief Justice (whose chambers are retained solicitors for the bank). Nothing again has been done to remedy the situation as was evidenced when no courts were

resulting in the Judiciary having problems with the recruitment of Judges.

Recently, the Chief Justice through the Commonwealth appointed three new Judges on a six month contract to serve in the capacity of High Court Judges and one to serve in the Appeal court. These appointments no doubt have been criticized by both senior lawyers and members of the public as unlawful and irrational. The whole appointment process was clouded in secrecy and being far from transparent.

## UNLAWFUL

The power to appoint Judges to serve in the Judiciary of Sierra Leone is vested on the president. Section 135(2) of the 1991 constitution provides: The other Judges of the Superior Court of Judicature (High Court, Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court) shall be appointed by the president by warrant under his hand acting on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Com-

mockery of common sense for Judges appointed under section 135 to require parliamentary approval whilst those appointed under s135 not requiring any such Parliamentary approval. These Judges have (or are supposed to have) the same powers and its beggars belief that they may be appointed with the necessary Parliamentary approval if they are to hold such an office as a Judge of the Superior Courts. The individuals recently appointed to serve as Judges all had to seek parliamentary approval prior to their appointments being confirmed. It cannot be arguably lawful for these three appointments to be made without the necessary parliamentary approval.

## IRRATIONAL

Such appointment as these made by the Chief Justice and the common wealth are wholly irrational. Leaving aside the legality of the appointments, there can be no rationale to employ acting Judges on contracts worth between £5,000-£8,000 per month when the Judiciary is in dire need of recruit-

to ten new Judges on a decent salary. In addition, the Magistrates salaries could equally have been boosted by such an injection of funds. Rather these appointments were not advertised to the Bar as a whole but two friends were simply handpicked by the Chief Justice to secure him in the judiciary for an over inflated salaries that does no benefit but considerable damage to the judiciary.

Many would ask what is it to do with the Chief Justice if Judges are appointed by the Commonwealth. One must examine the credentials of the two Sierra Leonean Judges. Nicholas Browne Marke is one of them and is known to be a personal friend and close confidant of the Chief Justice and was Master of Ceremonies (MC) at his 60th Birthday celebration. A man who has never being offered any high judicial office and most importantly, a man who runs a private law firm that is still in existence. {Browne Marke and Co.} Eku Roberts is another, a lawyer and the president of the Bar Association whom very little is known about but with admirable skills as a lawyer and President of the Bar Association, a position he is yet to relinquish. Roberts also runs a private law firm known as Roberts and Partners. It is clear lessons that have not been learnt from the appointment by the current Chief Justice who has a thriving firm still in existence, Renner Thomas and Co. {retained solicitors for all major banks} who it has been alleged assigns virtually all matters from his firm to a particular judge who finds it hard to rule against his firm. These new Judges appointed currently have a large number of cases pending before the courts. One wonders as to whether they would decline to hear such matters if assigned to them or they would adopt the attitude of their boss who has always refused to recluse himself from such matters. If they were to decline such matters, then their services are not being fully utilized and the monies paid to them to perform such services would have gone down the drain. Browne Marke is the retained solicitor for the Freetown City Council and in the event of a dispute one has to contemplate the council winning any matters that land on his desk. The public need to scrutinize the type of matters assigned to these two Judges to ensure there is no...

The public needs to be aware of the prevailing scenario that has taken over the judiciary where "jobs for the boys" have now become the norm rather than the taboo

able to sit as all the clerks were at Youyi Building waiting to collect their salaries.

The question one would wish to ask is, in which direction is the Judiciary being taken to by this Chief Justice? In the midst of these problems highlighted above is the vexed issue of contract Judges in the Judiciary. The majority of them have well past the retirement age for Judges but nevertheless continue to work as Judges of the courts. Perhaps the Chief Justice and others may claim that senior practitioners do not want to take up appointment as Judges and Magistrates and consequently have no other choice but to appoint retired Judges on contract. Such a claim could be described as outrageous. The reason lawyers in practice do not wish to take up such appointments is due to the chronic under-funding of the Judiciary with monthly salary of a Judge being less than a third to that a senior lawyer can earn over the same period. One would have expected the Chief Justice to engage the government in a bid to persuade them to invest in the Judiciary. This he probably has failed to do, thus

mission and subject to the approval of Parliament. This is the only provision under which a judge can be appointed. It was claimed that the appointments were made by the Commonwealth, if it is so then the appointments are a flagrant breach of the Constitution. There are no provisions in the Constitution for the commonwealth to appoint Judges in Sierra Leone. It may be argued that section 136 confers the power for such appointments to be made on such contracts. Section 136(2) requires such appointment to be made only in prescribed circumstance. Firstly where there is a vacancy in the High Court, or a Judge is unable to perform his functions, the President may act in accordance with the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission to appoint a person who has held office as or a person qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Superior Court to act as a Judge of the High Court of Justice notwithstanding any age restriction. Such a provision needs to be read in light of Section 135 of the Constitution which requires Parliamentary approval. It would make a

ment of qualified individuals to serve as Judges. The Judges currently sitting in the court rooms earn less than £1,000 a month and they are expected to work alongside colleagues who are only seeking such appointments to cash in on the commonwealth, DFID, JSDP gravy train that is currently sweeping the Judiciary. These newly appointed Judges may not make any meaningful contribution to the efficacy of the Judiciary with the six months term of their appointments. Many cases in courts last for more than six months and one can clearly envisage a future argument for the removal of these lucrative contracts. Undoubtedly the future arguments for renewing the contracts would be based on the fact that these new Judges have "part heard" matters and their contracts would need to be renewed to allow them to "complete" their matters. The Commonwealth should now take note and expect to receive such arguments from probably the Chief Justice in six months time (if he is still in office). The money currently spent on two Judges of "class" could have been spent to boost the salaries of all Judges to enhance retention or to appoint up

The public needs to be aware of the prevailing scenario that has taken over the judiciary where "jobs for the boys" have now become the norm rather than the taboo.



## Cocorioko website

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

Wednesday, 7 March 2007

### **Hinga Norman's Body Flown Into Freetown**

Sam Hinga Norman jnr and Dr. Albert Joe Demby carried mournful looks on their faces, a reflection of the emotions of the moment, as they brought the body of the late Interior Minister and Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force, Sam Hinga Norman, to Freetown from Senegal this afternoon

The body arrived at the Lungi International Airport in Freetown shortly after noon in a United Nations aircraft and was taken next by helicopter to the Bintumani Hotel Helipad, where mournful family collected it.

Today, the Special Court announced that it has handed the body over to the family. Norman died two weeks ago after undergoing hip replacement surgery at a hospital in Senegal. An international autopsy was held on Monday and the results have yet to be officially announced. Read the Special Court announcement

## International Justice Tribune

Monday, 5 March 2007

Editorial

### **Norman's death: a fatal blow for the Sierra Leonean model**

Thierry Cruvellier

For Sierra Leoneans, the trial of Sam Hinga Norman was the most important to come before the Special Court created in 2002 in Freetown. The former head of the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) was considered by many a hero in the war. For others, he was also responsible for the crimes against humanity committed by the CDF.

Indicted in 2003 while he was Minister of the Interior of a democratically elected government, Norman consequently represented a major legal and historical issue. "Does being at the head make you a criminal?"

What brought me to call on the civil defense? Was it to commit a crime or to defend this country against criminals? That is the question," asked Norman during an interview with IJT, March 6, 2003. His death at 67, in a Dakar hospital on February 22, dashes all hopes for the Special Court to answer his question. It is a fatal blow for this court that had wanted to embody a model of international justice both closer to the populations concerned and more effective than the tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. The results are sobering: when the Special Court shuts its doors after 6 years it will have judged only 8 individuals - all of secondary importance, in six years in Freetown. Its most important defendants - Sankoh, Bockarie, Koroma and Norman - will have escaped, either by dying or by fleeing. As for its last big case, that of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, the Special Court decided to try it in The Hague, far from the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia. Unable to judge Norman in four years and unwilling to try Taylor in Sierra Leone, the Special Court has failed to deliver on promises of a new and improved model of international criminal justice.

## Inter Press Service (Johannesburg)

Wednesday, 7 March 2007

### **Rape, Gender Violence the Norm in Post-War Liberia**

By Thalif Deen  
United Nations

When the West African state of Liberia was torn apart by 14 years of civil war, the victims of the brutal insurgency included mostly women and children who were subject to rape and sexual violence.

"Not only are the terrible consequences of this still felt by many Liberian women today, but violence against women and rape continue unchecked," says a new study on Liberia by Action Aid, an international development agency based in South Africa.

Rape is currently the most serious crime plaguing Liberia, with an average of eight cases reported per week, and many more never reported to the authorities.

Titled "U.N. Peacekeeping in Liberia: International Engagement in Addressing Violence Against Women", the study has been released to coincide with a two-week session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, which ends Friday.

Asked if isn't ironic that sexual abuse continues unabated in post-war Liberia, the first African country with a female head of state, Ernest Gaie, ActionAid country director, told IPS: "The election of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (in 2005) has given women's rights an unprecedented profile and momentum in Liberia and the president is personally committed to tackling rape and violence against women."

However, he said, Liberia's political system, government institutions and society have not been transformed overnight and the country is still emerging from 14 years of civil war.

Still, important steps have been taken, such as the introduction of a new rape law the day before the president's inauguration.

"But implementing these mean transforming the dysfunctional justice system. And to do this the government needs significant political and financial support from the international community," Gaie added.

Liberia's violent civil war was triggered by the National Patriotic Front, a rebel group headed by Charles Taylor, a former Liberian president, who is awaiting trial in The Hague on charges of war crimes.

Despite the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement by the warring parties three and a half years ago, "women continue to be dehumanised in many ways, and are often deprived of their universal and interdependent rights," Gaie said.

Since September 2003, the 15,200-strong U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has been overseeing peacekeeping operations in the country; monitoring a ceasefire agreement; and supporting humanitarian and human rights activities in the country.

The mandate of UNMIL ends Mar. 31. But the ActionAid study recommends that UNMIL's mandate be extended for at least a year in order to "develop regional security mechanisms, with the intention of keeping an effective military presence in the country for several more years."

"The Security Council should note that Liberia remains in a fragile state and should call on the international community to provide generous funds for long-term poverty reduction, peace building and promotion of just and democratic governance," the report said.

The study also said that UNMIL can and has played a significant role in tackling violence against women.

It also points out that UNMIL has been essential in restoring stability, state authority and the rule of law, and as such, has directly contributed to stemming rape and protecting women.

The U.N. mission has also helped establish "an effective criminal justice system to end impunity, deter and punish rape and provide a modicum of justice for survivors."

A report by the U.N. Security Council late last year said that despite considerable overall improvement, the security situation in Liberia "remains fragile and continues to be anchored on the presence of UNMIL, as the new police service is still in its formative stages and the recruitment for the new armed forces is just beginning."

Continued efforts are required to manage the internal potential threats to stability, in particular possible violent reactions from elements that stand to lose from the government's far-reaching reform programme, disgruntled ex-combatants, former members of the armed forces and police service, and frustrated unemployed youth.

Gaie said that rape will not be eliminated in a year or even during Sirleaf-Johnson's period in office or UNMIL's lifetime.

"But after 14 years of civil war, Liberia's women, with support of the new president and the international community are taking crucial steps towards eradicating this scourge," he added.

Alan Doss, the U.N. Special Representative for Liberia, told reporters last month Sirleaf-Johnson has "done a terrific job by anybody's standards."

"There was a sense she was in charge, but she has been in office for just one year out of a five-year term, so it was still early" to expect more from her, he added.

Asked if it was prudent to assign peacekeepers to stop the violence against women in Liberia, particularly at a time when U.N. peacekeepers are being increasingly accused of rape and sexual abuse in various peacekeeping missions overseas, Gaie told IPS: "Rape and sexual abuse by U.N. peacekeepers is a gross violation of their duty to protect the local population and must be urgently tackled."

Sexual abuse however is not just committed by the United Nations, but also by aid workers and local people, often in positions of authority, such as teachers.

It is therefore something that all actors must tackle together and the U.N.'s "zero tolerance" policy is welcomed and should be built on.

In Liberia only two cases of rape by U.N. personnel have been reported compared with eight cases per week across the country. The United Nations, in particular, can contribute significantly to tackling rape through supporting the local police and court system.

Furthermore, UNMIL's role in bringing stability to Liberia, and therefore ending widespread rape during the war, cannot be underestimated, Gaie added.

## Cyprus Mail

Thursday, 8 March 2007

### **Impunity for war crimes against women**

By Louise Arbour

THE PLIGHT of victims of sexual attacks during conflict has come to the fore once again when last week, the International Criminal Court's Prosecutor requested summons for two Sudanese connected with atrocities in Darfur. According to the Prosecutor, there is strong evidence pointing to the suspects' responsibility for mass rape and other war crimes. Previously, the ICC had issued an arrest warrant for the leader of the Lord Resistance Army, a rebel group in Uganda, on the ground of war crimes, including ordering sexual enslavement and rape.

Thus, ICC action is gearing up to bolster the cumulative experience of international justice mechanisms that have brought to light specific types and patterns of sexual crimes targeting mainly women and girls in war torn zones, as well as identified individual responsibilities in their commission. The work of these courts has also highlighted the difficulties in prosecuting perpetrators and countering the culture of impunity that shields their criminal acts. Such impunity, of course, permeates all societies, be they peaceful or at war. Not by coincidence, this year International Women Day is dedicated to combating this pervasive lack of accountability. It is, however, in times of war that the effects and consequences of impunity are at their starkest. This is due both to the widespread, systematic and often sustained nature of sexual attacks and to the number and callousness of perpetrators.

Although at their most brutal in war, sexual abuses against women often stem from longstanding prejudices, a lack of equality and discrimination that had condoned such violence all along. When perpetrators go unpunished, they are emboldened to strike again, perpetuating and encouraging vicious cycles of attack and reprisal even when a country emerges from conflict. Rendering justice to the victims is, therefore, not only a moral imperative, but also a precondition for reconciliation and peace to take hold.

Yet, sexual violence has been traditionally underreported and under-prosecuted. As a result, such crimes have long been considered as regrettable but unavoidable byproducts of armed confrontation. Women as victims or pawns of belligerents could demand no recourse.

Only recently has this powerlessness been addressed, primarily by the groundbreaking work of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. The tribunals defined systematic violence against women as crimes for which those responsible could be held accountable, thereby empowering victims to have their day in court. The creation of the International Criminal Court gave an additional boost to such emerging jurisprudence and changing mind set. Its statute stipulates that rape, sexual slavery, enforced sterilisation, or any other forms of sexual violence of comparable gravity are considered as war crimes. If these acts are committed as part of widespread or systematic attacks on a civilian population, they constitute crimes against humanity.

It now remains to be seen whether governments will accede to the Court's requests and surrender the suspects for trial. But if government non-compliance is potentially the main obstacle to the course of international justice, there are other factors that hamper prosecution. Victims of all forms of violence are often reluctant to come forward, in large part because they have little confidence that justice will be done. Although some of the perpetrators may have been apprehended, others, as well as their accomplices, may remain at large and therefore capable of

inflicting further harm to victims, witnesses and their families.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has made strides in addressing such hindrances in the face of a monumental task: as the result of ten years of conflict and the belligerents' methods of warfare in that country, the brutality of sexual violence was extraordinary, and its victims were to be counted in the thousands. The Court benefited from its proximity to the victims, the parallel work of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a framework that protected the victims and ensured that their dignity was preserved. The ICC, too, is building on previous experiences and strengthening legal assistance and protection for victims.

Although the mandate and machinery of international courts have become increasingly more sophisticated and far-reaching over the years, gender justice continues to remain the exception rather than the rule. Successfully prosecuted cases represent just the tip of the iceberg. The crux of the matter in combating impunity is the requisite political will to tackle it. Often slow to gear up into motion, such political will needs to be mobilised through domestic and international pressure as well as continuous scrutiny.

Louise Arbour is United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

## Voice of America

Tuesday, 6 March 2007

### Egypt Calls for Investigation Into Reported Israeli War Crimes in 1967



**Israeli Cabinet Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer at a press conference with Egyptian Minister of Petroleum Sameh Fahmy, right, in Cairo, in this 30 June 2005 file photo**

Egypt's Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit has asked Israel to investigate charges that Israeli troops may have killed Egyptian prisoners during the 1967 Six-Day War.

Aboul Gheit and his Israeli counterpart, Tzipi Livni, discussed the controversy Tuesday in Brussels, where the two were attending a European Union meeting.

Livni says the claims are not justified and she has asked Aboul Gheit to try to ease tensions that have mounted in Egypt over the allegation.

The charges emerged when Egyptian media reported on a recent Israeli TV documentary. Egyptian news reports claimed the documentary said an Israeli military unit killed 250 Egyptian POWs at the end of the war.

An Egyptian parliamentary committee Tuesday threatened to review economic relations and agreements with Israel if the incident is not investigated.

The Israeli filmmaker who created the documentary says the Egyptian media distorted his film. He says the incident involved Palestinian guerrillas killed in battle during the war, not unarmed Egyptian prisoners.

Israel has agreed to hand over a copy of the film and its transcript to Egypt.

On Monday, Israeli Cabinet Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer postponed a visit to Egypt because of rising tensions over the documentary. Ben-Eliezer commanded the military unit at the center of the controversy.

*Some information for this report was provided by AFP, AP and Reuters.*

## BBC

Wednesday, 7 March 2007

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6425589.stm>

### Talks to Save Khmer Rouge Trials

Cambodian and international judges have begun talks to prevent the possible collapse of the Khmer Rouge trials.

The trials - which aim to put the surviving leaders of the brutal Maoist regime in the dock - have ground to a halt over procedural differences.

Foreign judges want full international legal standards, while the Cambodians say local law must take precedence.

About two million people died during the years that the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia in the 1970s.

### Aging defendants

Trial hearings are theoretically due to start later this year.

But according to the BBC correspondent in Phnom Penh, Guy De Launey, there is a real possibility that the trials will collapse before they have even started.

The international judges have made it clear that they see this week's meeting as the final chance to make sure the trials meet international standards.

"All the judges are mindful that the upcoming... meeting is of vital importance," tribunal officials said in a recent statement.

Key leaders such as Ta Mok died before reaching court

If an agreement cannot be achieved, the foreign contingent will ask the UN to pull out.

But local officials have been equally adamant that Cambodian law has to have prime importance in the special courts, and according to our correspondent, they feel they have been unfairly portrayed as being the sole cause of the delays.

There are more than 100 items under discussion at this week's talks, but many have already been resolved after lengthy informal negotiations.

Those involved admit that time is of the essence, if they are to bring elderly Khmer Rouge members to court.

"There is one point on which the international judges are unanimous - these trials should take place quickly or not at all," French judge Marcel Lemonde of France told AFP news agency.

The death of military commander Ta Mok late last year heightened fears that more key defendants and witnesses could die before facing justice.

Pol Pot, the founder and leader of the Khmer Rouge, has already died, in a camp along the border with Thailand in 1998.