

**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:

Friday, 9 March 2007

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

Local News

Updates on The Special Court for Sierra Leone / <i>The Spectator</i>	Page 3
Norman Goes Home / <i>Awoko</i>	Pages 4-6
Civil Society Mourns Norman / <i>Spark</i>	Pages 7-8
Norman Goes 'Home' and Prisoners Escape!!! / <i>The Spark</i>	Page 9
Thousands Clamour to See Norman's Remains / <i>The Exclusive</i>	Pages 10-12
Thousands Mourn Norman / <i>The New Citizen</i>	Pages 13-15
Sierra Leoneans Hail Norman / <i>The Democrat</i>	Page 16
About Chief Norman, The Special Court and the Opposition / <i>Salone Times</i>	Page 18
Norman Takes His Final Journey Home / <i>Standard Times</i>	Pages 19-20
Hinga Norman Denied Civic Funeral / <i>The African Champion</i>	Page 21
Norman's Death Has Added SLPP'S Trouble / <i>The African Champion</i>	Page 22
21 Pademba Road Prisoners Escape / <i>The African Champion</i>	Page 23
At Norman's Laying Out... PMDC Shamed / <i>New Vision</i>	Pages 24-25

International News

Ex Sierra Leone Militia Leader to Get Hero's Burial / <i>Reuters</i>	Pages 26-27
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 28-29
Golley's Solicitors Say he is Seriously Sick at Pademba Road Prisons / <i>Cocorioko</i>	Page 30

The Spectator
Friday, 9 March 2007

Updates on the Special Court for Sierra Leone

By Joseph Sesay

The Prosecution

Pursuant to Article 15 of the Status of the SCSL, former U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan, in December 2006, appointed Mr. Stephen Rapp as the new prosecutor of the SCSL. According to a press release issued in Freetown on the 7 December 2006, by the press and public Affairs Officer of the SCSL, Mr. Rapp, an American, has been the Chief of prosecutors at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda (ICTR) since May 2005. Prior to his appointment to his current position, he acted as Senior Trial Attorney of what has been dubbed the 'Media Trial', against the principals of the RTLM radio and the editor of the Kangura newspaper.

He succeeds Desmond de Silva, OC, who did not renew his contract after it expired in June last year.

Trial Chamber 11

According to a press release issued in Freetown on 18 January, 2007, Justice Julia Sebutinde was elected

presiding judge of Trial Chamber 11, pursuant to Rule 27 of the Rules of procedure and Evidence. The Trial Chamber is at present considering verdicts in the AFRC case and has also been assigned the case of the prosecutor vs. Charles Ghankay Taylor.

Justice Sebutinde, British-trained Ugandan lawyer, joined the Special Court in January 2005. Before her appointment, she worked within and without Uganda and was later appointed High Court judge of Uganda. She also chaired three high profile Commissions which investigated allegations of corruption in the Uganda Police Force, the Ministry of Defence and the Uganda Revenue Authority respectively.

She succeeds Justice Richard Lussick, whose term as presiding judge ended on the 17 January, 2007.

Detention

In pursuant to Rule 74b of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Special Court on Wednesday 17 January 2007, airlifted two of its detainees (Sam Hinga Norman and

Issa Hassan Sesay), first accused persons in the CDF and RUF trials respectively, to Senegal for medical treatment.

According to a statement issued by the Court's Registrar, the two accused persons, together with officials of the court and the government of Sierra Leone were airlifted by UN helicopter from the special Court's helipad and flown to the Lungi International Airport where they boarded an aircraft to Dakar.

The Registrar, however, declined to comment on the nature of the ailment pursuant to The Rules which govern the treatment of detainees in international courts. He nonetheless stated that neither of them were suffering from a "life-threatening" condition.

The agreement, according to the Registrar, which provides for the provision of medical services for detainees which cannot be provided locally, was made possible by an agreement concluded in September 2006 between the government of

Senegal and the Special Court. The detainees would be returned to the Special Court once the treatment has been concluded.

The Taylor Trial

According to a press release from the office of the prosecutor dated 29 January 2007, the trial of former President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, would begin on 4 June 2007 as announced at the Taylor status Conference held on 26 January at the trial venue in The Hague. It is, however, worthy to note that the change from the original date of April 2 was at the request of the Taylor Defence to provide additional time for its preparations the release went on. Justice Teresa Doherty, who presided at the Status Conference, made rulings on several other matters, including the setting of the date for the filing of pre-trial briefs. The Prosecutor emphasized that while the trial has been moved due to regional concerns, he, however, assured Sierra Leoneans that they would have transparent access to the trial the release concluded.

Awoko
Friday, 9 March 2007

Norman Goes Home



Chief Norman on his last journey

Norman goes home

By Betty Milton

The remains of late Chief Samuel Hinga Norman will be finally taken to his home town today after a public viewing at the Victoria Park Garden yesterday.

Hundreds of ordinary people braved the scorching March sun and stood in long lines to wait their turn to file past the remains of the man many still call their hero.

The Rokel School brass band played solemn music through the streets of Freetown and at the Victoria Park several young men quickly volunteered themselves to raise the grey ashes coloured casket shoulder high to move it to the center of the raised platform.

The handful of Police who were at hand could not contain the surging crowd as they battled to view the corpse.

Speaking at the laying out ceremony, the Civil Society Chairman Festus Mina said that the funeral is not a political one and therefore

there was no need for any political party representations as before the Chief died he made a statement that if he does not come back even the party he had pledge his loyalty to, should not take part in his funerals.

In his tribute on behalf of the Family Mohamed Hajj Kella said it was sad to lose somebody who represents a true icon of what Sierra Leone deserves.

Norman he went on is a Chief of the people, a son of the soil, a child of the sons of Bethel of our Beloved land Sierra Leone and indeed a national hero.

He went on "if this man was alive I would call him a friend. As far as Norman was concerned everyone was a friend as long as you stand for peace, development and democracy in Sierra Leone. This is what Chief Hinga Norman was, and this is what the people of Sierra Leone believe that he has done"

He called on the mourners to look at the late Chief "not only as a son, not only as a hero but one of us a true friend

and a true child."

The National Union of Sierra Leone Students President drew loud applause from the crowd of mourners when he questioned what lesson we have learnt from the death of Chief Norman.

He stated that "if we had gone into the streets three years ago and demanded that Hinga Norman should be freed, then we would have saved him from the kind of death he suffered." He called on Sierra Leoneans to be steadfast in what we do and stand up for the right thing.

However though the lines were dotted with people from their offices still wearing their uniforms, little school boys and girls from the Primary and secondary schools, the laying out was roundly snubbed by top officials from the Police (though they served under him when he was internal affairs minister) the military (who also served under him as deputy defence minister) parliament and the

government. The only noticeable personality was the leader of the All Peoples Congress - Ernest Koroma who was warmly received.

The body will leave Freetown today for Bo where he will be laid out again for the public to pay their last respect, then a vigil will be

held for him and on Saturday morning after a service at the salvation church the corpse will be taken to his village for the final burial ceremonies.

Awoko

Friday, 9 March 2007

The Former Minister of Defence, National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and Special Court indictee Chief Samuel Hinga Norman who passed away in Dakar Senegal after a hip replacement operation was on Wednesday flown in the country and his mortal remains were yesterday laid out at the Victoria Park Garden for Public viewing. Our reporter Betty Milton went around to sound the views of these mourners some of whom confessed that

You Said It



Abu Bakarr Jalloh



Alex Kandeh



Andrew Sourie



Festus Dugba



John Kpau

they've never met the man and do not know him personally but because of the work he did they regard him as a fallen hero.

John Kpau "for me I see this man as a liberator not only for Sierra Leone but for the SLPP government. I believe if it were for another government maybe he wouldn't have fought to this point but since he was a die hard SLPP member and the party had been thrown out of power he saw the need to reinstate the democratic government and free the people from bondage, so he fought day and night to dislodge the junta and he succeeded. This man was later regarded as a wicked individual after having fought for the government to regain its past glories at the end he is regarded the greatest enemy this is all what happened. This man was never protected by anyone, the government had every way to protect him but they never did it. The army was protected but the Kamajors were never protected. I am in deep sympathy with his family I was thinking he was a hero but he never died a hero I believe if he would have died in the cause of fighting then it would have been much better than dying in jail."

Salim Massaquoi "I saw the late Chief as a patriot, a nationalist and a man who believes in anything that is genuine and which is also in the interest of this country. He was a man who followed his words to the letter; he was a very brave man, courageous, honest, committed and sincere to every purpose of endeavor."

Andrew Sourie "this man is a big hero because when things seem to be lost for everyone in this country, and everyone has given up hope, when people who only know wickedness were ruling the country at that time we needed good people to stand up and Hinga Norman stood up for the good people. It really is sad to see such a good person to die this way without achieving his final goal in life, but anyway God knows why he decided to call him at this time. I am a nationalist so whenever I see someone who also demonstrates a semblance of nationalism and patriotism I really appreciate that effort so that was what

strikes me most profoundly about this man because he laid down his life for this country. He laid down everything when every other person was out there, he was in the bush, he was fighting, he was organizing his people to resist what we describe as evil. This is the man we have lost today. I am really devastated at this kind of loss that the country has suffered."

Abu Bakarr Jalloh "I regard this late man as someone who likes his country because he was one of those who pioneered the peace we are enjoying. I regard him as a hero; he fought for this country but I am disappointed because he did not achieve what he fought for we are all in sympathy for him."

Festus Dugba "Chief was a man who sacrificed his life for the people of this country. This man could be also regarded as a Moses who delivered the children of Israel. During the war I spent some time with this late man and I know the role he played for us to get total liberation. Though he was regarded as someone who committed crimes I believe he committed no crime and now he has been rewarded with death. I am praying that God will help him and make his way straight."

Rev. Joseph Gbla "I am not happy with the death of this man. Most of us Sierra Leoneans regard this man as a hero, he made a lot of effort to liberate this country. This man brought democracy and peace to this our country with the help of those around him. I believe the people of this country are in deep sympathy. This man should be somewhere now enjoying the peace he had fought for."

Alex Kandeh "the death of Hinga Norman is a big loss to this nation I am wondering if a man like this who sacrifices everything for the restoration of democracy and the same government arrests this man in the guise of the Special Court, until his death within this process. I am thinking if any time in this country a situation arises, will there be other people who will stand to rescue the people? Everyone will be afraid to come out because of what they have seen happened to Chief Norman."

The Spark
Friday, 9 March 2007



We shall meet one day

Civil Society Mourns Norman

By Hassan Y Koroma

The remains of Retired Captain Chief Sam Hinga Norman, former Deputy Minister of Defence and Head of the Civil Defence Force was laid for viewing yesterday 7th March 2007 at the Victoria Park in

Freetown. Sierra Leoneans from all works of life thronged the park to see this great man for the very last time in his life after being bundled to Senegal, only to be brought back a dead man.

The remains escorted by fam-

ily members, civil society groups former British High Commissioner in Sierra Leone during the interregnum, Chief Komrabai Peter Penfold, who processed from the Columbia Davies funeral parlour to pay their last respects.

Members of the civil society groups like Women's Forum and the Sierra Leone Labour Congress were led by a brass band as they marched through the streets of Freetown in honour of such an industrious son of the soil whom they see as a hero who fought for the liberation of this country and brought the Kabbah government back to power. A lot of contributions were made as tributes from various speakers lamenting on the past works of late Chief

Continued page 2

Civil Society Mourns Norman

From front page

Norman, who was not only viewed as a politician but as a liberator that risked his life for others. During the laying out ceremony a book of condolence was opened and signed by sympathizers. In a solemn mass, the conductor Reverend Father Foday, said Norman's death was a victorious one. He referred to the late man as 'a great burden bearer', who risked his life and everything for the sake of others.

The Reverend Father noted that the late man was an indictee of the Sierra Leone backed Special Court which he referred to as a trial chamber for burden bearers. He stated that it is a pity to

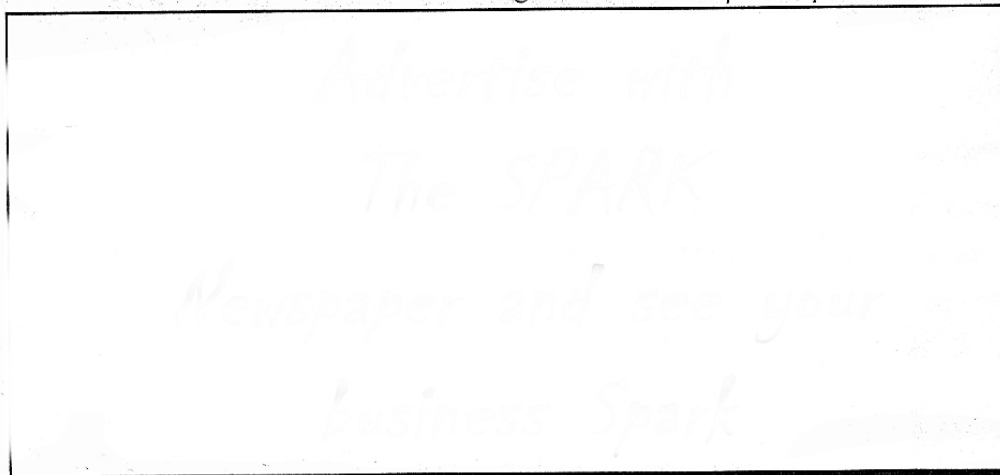
see a liberator end as an indictee. The gathering of civil societies, religious leaders and other members of the public expressed how devoted this man was and the role he had played in this country. It was then observed that Sierra Leone

is not just mourning at this time but also celebrating the victory won by Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

Members of the public were allowed to file past the corpse which was surrounded by family members who were in tears. Though this was a rigorous task

since the line stretched for miles yet they managed to see through.

The remains of the late man would later be conveyed to Bo by the family for a befitting funeral service and later laid to rest on Sunday. May his soul rest in perfect peace.



The Spark
Friday, 9 March 2007

Norman Goes 'Home' and Prisoners Escape!!!



Bra Rabbit still nursing his left foot which was hammered by the leafless, palm kernel-less palm tree, still, being the busy body it is limped to watch the remains of its idol, Retired Captain Chief Samuel Hinga Norman as he took his last journey from the Columbia Davies Funeral Parlour off Circular Road, through Pademba Road to the historic Victoria Park where he was opened for all patriotic and hypocritical Sierra Leoneans to see before being taken to his homeland for a befitting funeral.

Bra Rabbit saw the Tokpoi hypocrites leaning on the fence at Rokel Street, not daring to enter the Park for fear of Sam Hinga Norman's wrath. Better still, Bra Rabbit felt at ease at seeing his epitome of patriotism lying like a real hero, Winston Churchill, the man who swore on oath to make amends for his role, as a soldier way back in 1967 to the refined Chief and redeemer of the party that finally sold him to foreign dollar eating idlers under the hypocritical banner of the Special Court- special for whom, God and Uncle Bush Sam, Tejan and Solo know. Now the hero has finally been mysteriously sent to the grave to meet his forefathers long before having his lunch for his sleepless nights and the risks he took to bring the now leafless tree back to power. Bra Rabbit braved the sun, signed all the books of condolences as it envisioned Foday Sankoh, Maskita, Eldred Collins, Fayia Musa, Pa Tinker of Tower Hill bombing fame, Johnny Paul of Satanic Verses and the now SLPP turn coats who are busying having their fake contracts and Sababu projects fees paid on time while Bra Rabbit's carrots cannot have it a bellyful even though this the third month of the year of plenty harvests.

Having cried its eyes at such ungratefulness by a nation on a valiant soul, Bra Rabbit walked solemnly out of the fountain-less flowerless untidy park and strolled into town to meet another misery. Dozens of

Norman Goes 'Home' and Prisoners Escape!!!



suspects aboard the Blue Maria being taken to court escaped from unlawful custody as armless police and shabby-prison officers looked helplessly as the boys made their way to victory-the umpteenth time over the recent months.

The question Bra Rabbit asked himself when he was already perched up the Cotton Tree for fear of his propped up ears being chopped off by the bread knives that emerged as the security personnel scurried for dear life, what hell of a security network is operating when diehard criminals can march home free in the heart of the city. Freetown Indeed!! Bra Rabbit sat, perched and saw Norman's cortege being taken back to the funeral home to be taken back to Mongere where he

will be laid to rest on Sunday. The late fellow will always be remembered by non SLPP faithfuls as a man who died in the scourge of fighting for justice, freedom and sanity. By the time the procession reached the Cotton Tree Bra Rabbit tried to count the number of people that have died even under dubious circumstances and is left to wonder what is going on in this country. Even now Bra Rabbit heard one of the newspaper vendors screaming out a bold headline "Golley to follow Norman?" Knowing where Omrie Golley lives, it was better for Bra Rabbit to follow the Black Maria laden with the escaped prisoners at least to escape a mysterious death.

The Exclusive
Friday, 9 March 2007

Thousands Clamour To See Norman's Remains

By David A Jabati Jnr.

That the living would risk dying to see the dead shows how important the dead could be to the living.

Yesterday, the 8th of March marked the laying out ceremony of the late Sam Hinga Norman's remains, former Interior Minister and Special Court indictee who recently died in Senegal while under the custody of the

Contd. page 2



Remains of Norman in casket at Victoria Park

Thousands Clamour To See Norman's Remains

From front page

Special Court.

The ceremony was organized by the Civil Society Movement at the Victoria Park. It saw thousands of Sierra Leonean sympathizers who were all determined to for the last time, see the late Norman's remains.

Addressing the mammoth crowd on the theme "Burden Bearer," the officiating clergy said among other things that the Special Court was established to try "those who bear the greatest responsibility." For this reason, he said the theme was appropriate for a man like Norman who he said bore the burden of Sierra Leoneans and who he referred to as, 'a hero.' Nerve tingling statements and tributes were also made by

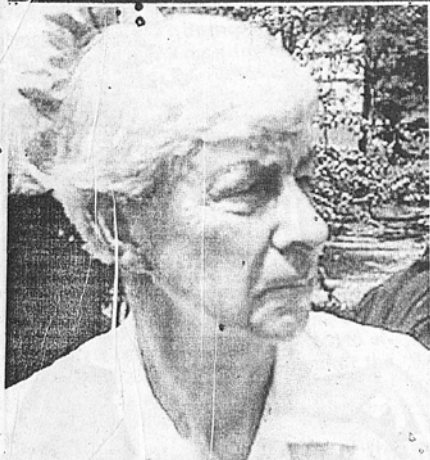
representatives of the Civil Society Movement, Family members; the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), the Network Movement for Justice and Development, but there was no visible trace of any notable SLPP representative as could have been expected.

It would be recalled that Chief Sam Hinga Norman's son, Hinga Norman Jr. did express his family's resolve that they would frown at any SLPP representation at his father's funeral rites. The common thread that ran through all the statements and tributes made was that the late Hinga Norman was a hero who fought tirelessly to restore democracy in Sierra Leone. Also present at the ceremony were the former British High

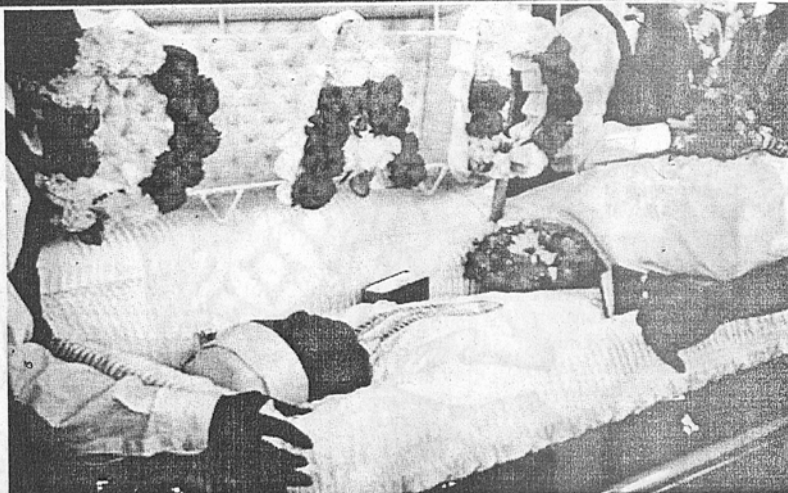
Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter 'Komrabai' Penfold, one PMDC stalwart from the UK. Moigie Kaikai and a host of others who took active part in the funeral arrangements.

Penfold was a close friend of Norman. When the Exclusive contacted him for his comments on the death of Norman, in a sombre mood, he declined stating that it was a time for mourning not a time for interviews. By his looks, one could tell that he was deeply aggrieved. It would be recalled Chief Komrabai Penfold was one among a number of witnesses subpoenaed by the court to testify in the trial process on behalf on late Norman. It could be further recalled that Penfold in his testimony referred to the late Norman as a hero.

LATE NORMAN IN PHOTOS



Peter Penfold, a friend of late Norman in a sombre mood



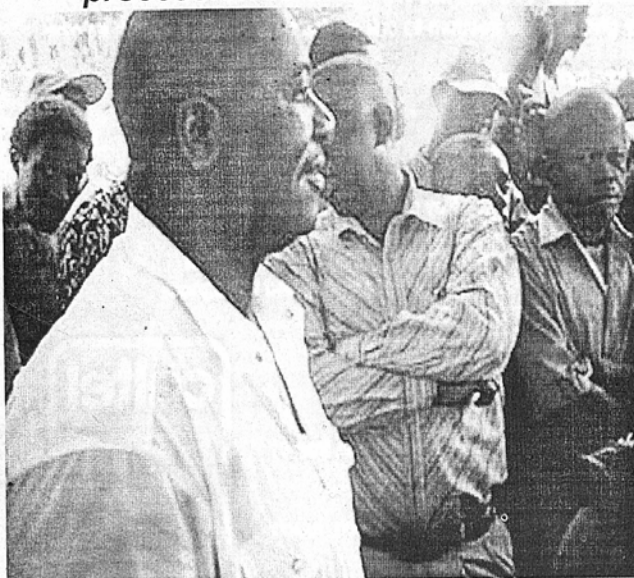
Late Norman in casket



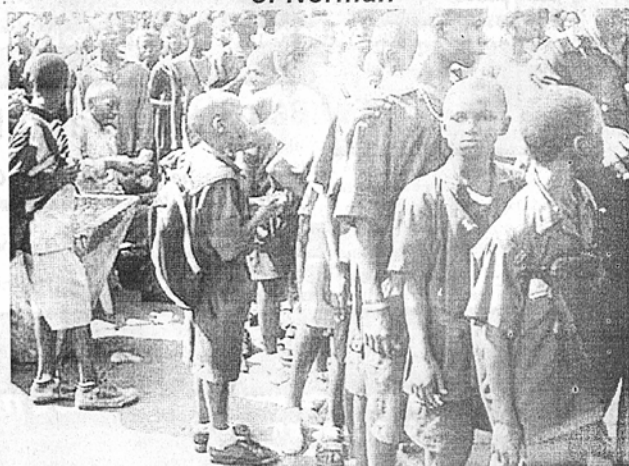
Daughters of late Norman leading the procession to the Victoria Park



Mammoth crowd waiting to see the remains of Norman



Norman Jr. smiling at the crowd



Long queue of sympathisers marching towards Norman's remains. Even the school children want to see his remains

The New Citizen
Friday, 9 March 2007

THOUSANDS MOURN NORMAN



Friends and relatives carry the casket of the late Hinga Norman

Thousands of Sierra Leoneans thronged the streets of Freetown yesterday to pay their last respects to the 67-year old Sam Hinga Norman, former CDF Leader who died last month in a military hospital in Dakar, Senegal where he had been taken by the Special

Court for Sierra Leone for medical treatment.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone had indicted Sam Hinga Norman for his role during the eleven year civil war in Sierra Leone and died while in the custody of the Special Court.

A large number of Sierra

Leoneans marched behind the funeral vehicle carrying the remains of the late CDF Leader from the Columbia Davies Funeral Home to the Victoria Park for what has been described as one of the most well attended laying out ceremonies.

Contd. page 3



Former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone Peter Penfold in the crowd of mourners

From page 1

Before the funeral vehicle arrived at the Victoria Park, many people had gathered around the vicinity of the Park to be part of the grand ceremony that commenced at 12:00 noon yesterday.

At the Victoria Park itself, it seemed as if everybody had abandoned normal business activities to be present at the laying out ceremony organised by the Norman family and by civil society organisations.

The body of Chief Sam Hinga Norman was carried in a grey casket accompanied to the Park by the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold, the wife of Hinga Norman himself, the children, close relatives, members of civil society and other sympathisers.

Before the casket was opened for public viewing of the remains of the former politician cum CDF Leader, Reverend Aiah D. Foday - Khabenge, Secretary General, Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leon offered prayers with the theme "a great burden bearer".

Once the casket was opened, the body of the late Sam Hinga Norman was

observed by many mourners and sympathisers as the body, dressed in a white robe and a white cap with a gold chain, lay motionless, a clear indication that a great man has finally come to the end of his life.

A representative of the National Union of Sierra Leone Students, in his tribute, said yesterday that although everyone was sad about the death of Chief Hinga Norman, the late Chief should be perceived as a hero and always be remembered as a role model who fought for the promotion of democracy in Sierra Leone. He added, "all the sorrow that has gripped all of us could have avoided three years ago if all of us had taken the streets to demand the release of Chief Hinga Norman."

Yesterday's ceremony was actually a ceremony organised by civil society and it had nothing to do with government or any political organisation even though Sam Hinga Norman had served the state as Deputy Minister of Defence and Minister of Internal Affairs.

Sam Hinga Norman Jr., the son of the late Chief

Hinga Norman said to close friends yesterday that his father's funeral should not be politicised and wanted his father to be simply remembered as a Sierra Leonean who served his country well.

"Chief Norman started his post secondary school career in the Army when he was commissioned Lieutenant after his military training at Sand Hurst Military Academy.

He was later to be appointed ADC in 1967 to the then Governor General, Sir Henry Lightfoot Boston at a crucial time when the elections of 1967, a fierce political battle between the archrivals, SLPP and APC, led to the controversy that eventually led to a military coup that stopped Siaka Stevens of the APC from taking over the Prime Ministership of Sierra Leone which he had narrowly won through the ballot box and during which period soldiers under the command of Hinga Norman arrested the Governor General and detained him.

Sam Hinga Norman went through difficult times but never abandoned Sierra Leone for any other country and was later to be ap-



The crowd fighting to have a glimpse of Norman's remains

pointed Regent Chief of Tellu Bongor Chiefdom in the Bo District after the death of the substantive Paramount Chief Foday Kai.

The war provided a major challenge to Sam Hinga Norman who decided that he should be part of a civilian group of people to rout the rebels of the RUF, an activity he pursued until he was appointed Deputy Minister of Defence by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah after the SLPP won the elections of 1996.

The 1997 AFRC military coup posed an even greater challenge to Chief Sam Hinga Norman who at the time was Deputy Minister of Defence whose reaction to the coup was to organise local hunters from various chiefdoms to constitute a fighting force in an effort to reverse the coup that had removed President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's government from power.

His methods of fighting the war were in some cases seen by military experts as controversial but many Sierra Leoneans, especially those in the South and East of the country perceived him as a hero whose singular effort and determination to mobilise civilians to oppose

the illegal regime of the AFRC and RUF.

The arrival of the investigators to put in place modalities for a Special Court for Sierra Leone was unannounced and even though Hinga Norman was at the time Minister of Internal Affairs in the government that took the decision to establish a Special Court to be supported by the UN system, he was not aware of the possibility that he could be arrested by that Court and charged for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Hinga Norman's arrest by the Special Court divided the country to some extent as one school of thought saw him a hero who rescued the SLPP government and another school of thought questioned his methods of fighting the war. His arrest in 2003 was a sad event among his friends and relatives and stayed in detention within the Special Court facilities until he was taken to Senegal for medical treatment, a one way trip that made it impossible for him to return to Sierra Leone alive.

When the Managing Editor of the New Citizen visited

Sam Hinga Norman at the Special Court close to one year ago, Sam Hinga Norman was active, agile and determined to fight his case to the last.

He said among other things, "my brother, I feel betrayed. I cannot understand why I am going through this ordeal after all the sacrifices I made for the return of the SLPP government to power. My own people from my own party have not visited me since I was brought to this place, but I was trained to be a soldier and I will accept my fate even if it means I must die here. I am satisfied that I stood up to fight to rescue my people from the claws of tyranny. I thank you very much for visiting me and your visit is an indication that there are still good Sierra Leoneans who do not abandon friends just because they are in trouble." The remains of the late Chief Hinga Norman will be taken to Bo on Saturday where the people of the Southern Province will receive the remains of the late CDF leader after he will be taken to his native Mongereh, Valunya Chiefdom for burial.

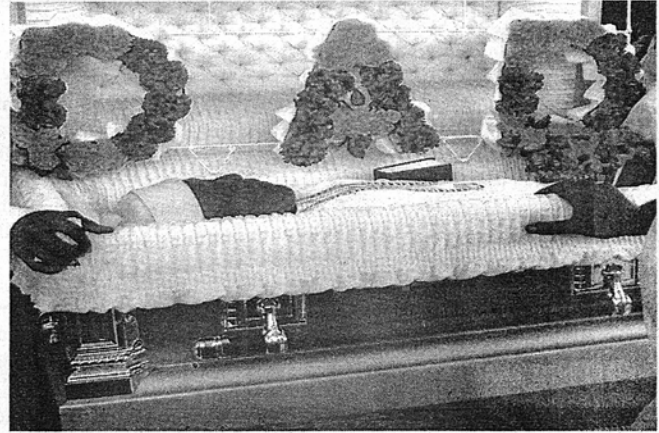
The Democrat
Friday, 9 March 2007

Sierra Leoneans Hail Chief Norman

THOUSANDS of people yesterday paid their last respects to former Internal Affairs Minister and National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces of Sierra Leone during a solemn laying out ceremony organized by the Civil Society at Victoria Park, Freetown. *Tejan Lamboi & A Jon-King Report* **Contd. Page 9**



Mourners Patiently Waiting To Pay Their Last Respects To Their Hero



Sierra Leoneans Hail Chief Norman

From Front Page

A stream of mourners filed passed the remains of Chief Sam Hinga Norman whom they described as "a hero that fought for the restoration of peace and democracy to the country."

Large crowds had assembled and waited patiently for hours for the casket to arrive so that they could catch a glimpse of the erstwhile Deputy Defence Minister before he makes the journey to his final destination.

Led by the Government Rokel School Brass Band the corpse which lay in a grey casket was accompanied by the late man's immediate family including his son, Sam Hinga Norman Jr., wife and daughters.

After brief prayers were said by a clergy man the casket was opened for public viewing, thus triggering a stampede which police struggled to contain. Various civil society groups including the Inter Religious Council, the Sierra Leone Teachers Union, Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, youth, civic and other development organizations, all delivered soul touching tributes that mainly appreciated his great sacrifice for the nation. The body lay in state for four hours before it was taken back to Columbia Davies Memorial Parlour from where it will make its way to the Southern city of Bo for interment this morning.

The former Special Court indictee, 67, was a Rtd. Army Captain and a Regent Chief in his home, Telu Bongor, south of Bo. Majority of Sierra Leoneans regard him as a hero.

Salone Times
Friday, 9 March 2007

About Chief Norman, The Special Court, The SLPP And The Opposition

Chief Norman is dead. Should Sierra Leone cease to exist because of that? Should the SLPP follow him to his grave? Should we, as a responsible people and nation, preach anarchy, instability and destruction on account of one man? The answers to all the above questions are, NO! And to this, the great Kamajoh Chieftain and SLPP Grand Chief Patron would also say NO!

Chief Norman was a great believer in the state and he had offered, on two separate occasions, his services in defence of Sierra Leone. He could have been killed in both occasions. But he survived...unfortunately, he was arrested and tried after both attempts. In the first instance, he served a jail term and was released. Years later he became SLPP Minister. In the second case, he was indicted and tried. No verdict...then he died. Is there a divine pattern to the late chief's life? Who knows what would have become his fate after the Special Court? No matter what is the answer to the late man's fate, Chief Norman would never advocate for anarchy in Si-

erra Leone or the demise of his great party. So those disgruntled former SLPP members and the opposition parties which are not only making political capital out of the chief's remains, but who also are calling for fire and brimstone on our nation are not doing it in the spirit of Chief Sam Hinga Norma. Norman's soul and spirit will haunt them all.

honest thing to do. But to join the Charles Margais and the PMDCs to widen the divide and fan the flame of disaster, anarchy and disturbances is irresponsible and unpatriotic.

What would Pa Demby benefit from a Sierra Leone that is turned between itself? Is it a case of green envy and jealous for Solo B who is likely to be the next President? What

bench. When your brother's or neighbour's house is on fire, if you cannot call 9-1-1 or the Fire Force, don't you fuel the flame by adding petrol to it. Who knows, your own house might get engulfed in the inferno.

By the way APC must remember they are still in court over leadership and the election is drawing near. Would it not be good for them to

show magnanimity. Pa Kabbah, his Cabinet and a cross section of the party **MUST** as a matter of urgency, put pride aside and visit the bereaved family. Regardless of all negative press and the avowed hostility that the family has planned to mete out to government and party officials, I believe that something must be done at all cost at reconciliation. It

And to the bereaved family.... A common Krio adage says "Yu nor go cut yu nose for spite yu face." And William Shakespeare noted in one of his tragic plays "Othello" that "When remedies are past, the griefs are ended; By seeing the worst, which late on hopes depended. To mourn a mischief that is past and gone; Is the next way to draw new mischief on. What cannot be preserved when fortune takes, Patience her injury a mockery makes. The robbed that smiles steals something from the thief, he robs himself that spends a bootless grief". So do yah ar know say e at, but una bear. As a family you should begin to forget about the past and look forward to the future. You should begin to look at how to hold together for the challenges ahead. For my brothers in the press, both at home and abroad, you are missing your sacred duty of informing the public. You have joined the opposition in misinforming the people of this country and those abroad by skewing the truth of the whole Hinga Norman saga. But time will tell and the truth will come out.

GUEST WRITER- Ibrahim Labor Fofana

What would Pa Demby benefit from a Sierra Leone that is turned between itself? Is it a case of green envy and jealous for Solo B who is likely to be the next President?

What would the PMDC do for you Pa Demby? Make you a Minister, that's below your dignity. Make you a VP? Out of the question. So why trade your credibility and respect for "Cocoebbeh"? or even for just being spiteful?

I am disappointed at former Vice President Alfred Joe Demby for two reasons. One, as a former VP, it is his responsibility to see that the best happens to this nation, regardless of how he was excused of that office. It is his duty as a Kontri man also to bridge the gap (make peace) between Chief Norman's family and the SLPP Government....that's the

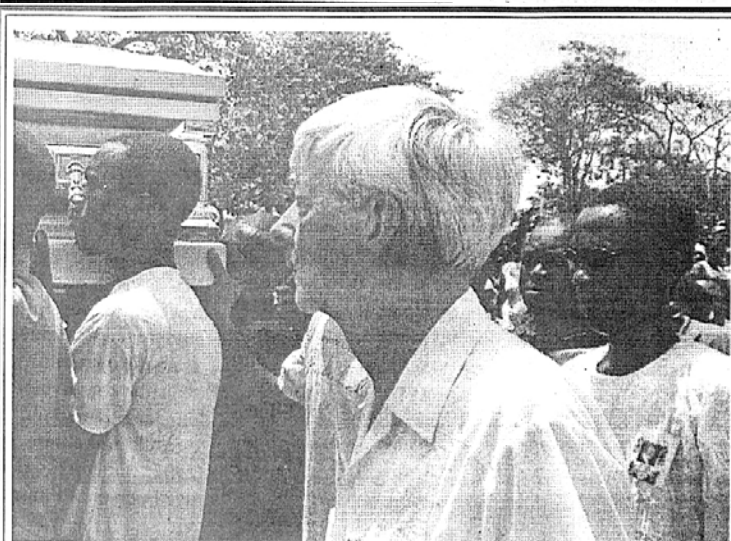
would the PMDC do for you Pa Demby? Make you a Minister, that's below your dignity. Make you a VP? Out of the question. So why trade your credibility and respect for "Cocoebbeh"? or even for just being spiteful?

And by the way, what's APC's business in the feud between Chief Norman and the SLPP Government? Kongosa, we go gee una

endeavour to clean up their own backyard and take the trash to the nearest "dorti box" rather than dump it on their next door neighbour's compound? Heeey una lef. Kongosa en bizabodi nor go bon gud pekin for una!

And now to my party - the SLPP and the government.....this is no time for recriminations. There is no need to prove who's right or who's wrong.

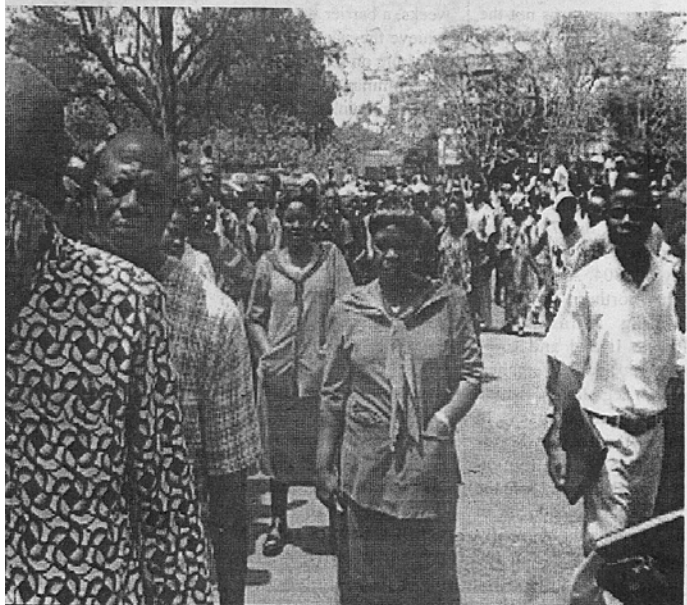
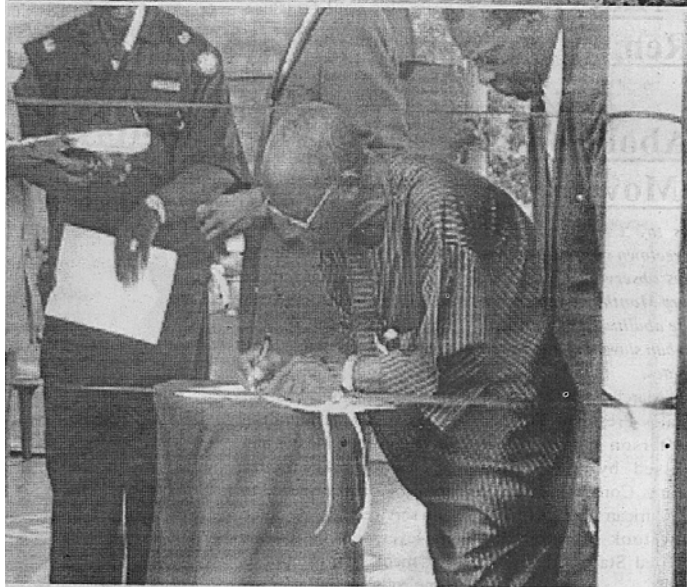
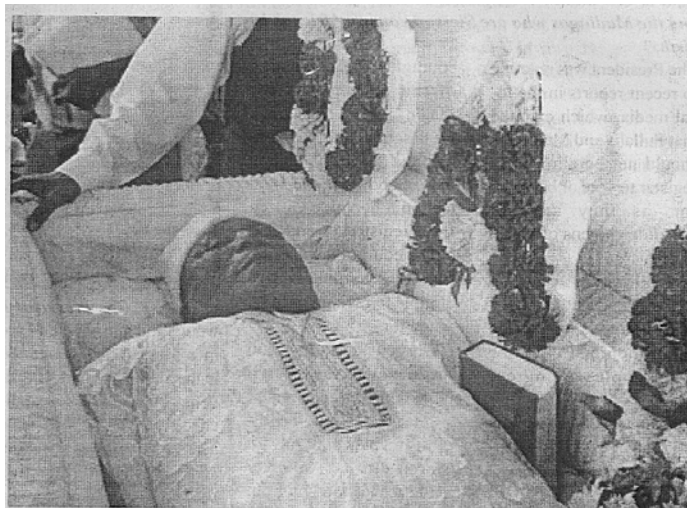
is not necessarily for political gains but for group cohesion and dynamics. Norman was one time Minister and would have continued in that position was it not for the Special Court. It must be seen that government had nothing against Norman and what better way to show that now than to bridge the gap which the Special Court created between brothers.



LOYALTY: Former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold watching the casket of the late Sam Hinga Norman. Mr. Penfold was a confidential friend to the late Chief Norman.

Salone Times

Friday, 9 March 2007



Standard Times
Friday, 9 March 2007

Norman Takes His Final Journey Home

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has been described as an independent war crimes court set up by the United Nations and backed by the government of Sierra Leone. The court is charged with the responsibility of bringing those who violated Sierra Leone and the international laws to judgment and to pay the price for their actions. An act was passed in parliament for the approval of the court. The special court building was officially opened in June when the trials of those detained finally kicked off. Hinga Norman, former deputy defence minister, coordinator of the civil defence forceS (CDF) and later promoted to the position of Internal Affairs minister was one of the victims in the special court net. Chief Norman was arrestED in his office while he was serving as a full cabinet minister in the Tejan Kabbah government of the SLPP. His arrest was a big shock and surprise to many sierra Leoneans who saw him as one of their liberators. He had played very significant and patriotic roles in the restoration of the ousted government of Tejan Kabbah in May 1997. On that fateful day of the coup, President Kabbah and all his ministers fled to Guinea while Norman took refuge at the British High commission. The RUF rebels and it allies had been on the look out for him in order to contain him accordingly. He was later able to escape to Guinea via an American Marine boat that was evacuating Americans and other foreign nationals.

Norman takes his final Journey home



Norman... rest in peace

their control. The idea to set up the special court to many Sierra Leoneans was a mere waste of resources and time consuming, while many see it

manity. However, the basis of his arrest and detention did not go down well with many people in and out side Sierra Leone. No one would deny the fact that dur-

of the atrocities during the 11-year-old war, and if one can quantify the atrocities of the rebels and RUF it exceeded the former. Norman was a disciplined and highly re-

“ Norman was a disciplined and highly respected commander of the groups who almost took him as a demigod ”

as a good gesture that can serve as a deterrent to prevent future crimes and human rights abuses, it was also aimed at punishing perpetrators. Norman was indicted on the basis that he was head of the civil militia group, and believed to have committed crimes against hu-

ing the struggle to restore order and the legitimate government the Kamajors did not commit any crime, but it cannot be commensurate with crimes committed by both the rebels and junta according to data from the TRC reports. The civil defence forces could have committed by estimation about 6%

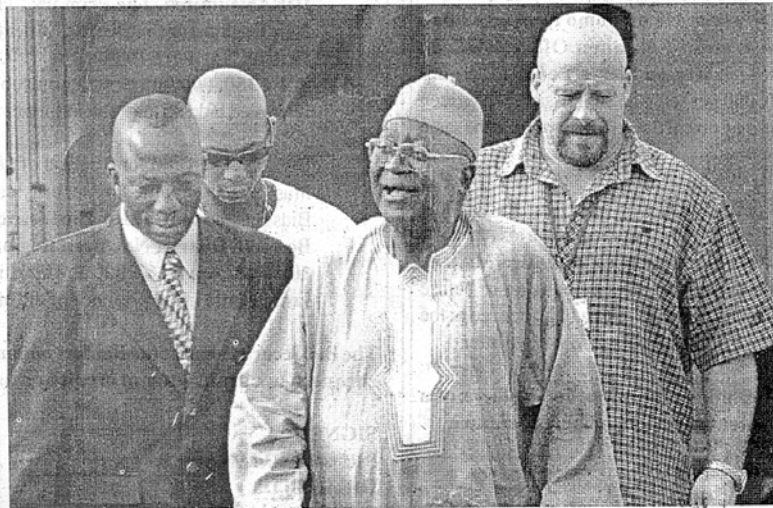
spected commander of the groups who almost took him as a demigod. He enjoyed great command within the ranks and file of the civil defence forces, and always ready to obey his instruction. Norman and his men softened the ground for the West African intervention force ECOMOG when the troops

entered the city Freetown, with applause coming from many Sierra Leoneans who had been subjected to fear and depression during the nine months of the AFRC/RUF regime.

The civil defence force under Norman complemented the efforts of ECOMOG in Freetown and the country at large. He was hailed by thousands of Sierra Leoneans for his bravery and loyalty to defend democracy and restore the SLPP. After his arrest in March 2003 in his office by top ranking special court officials and police including Tamba Gbekie, there were speculations that if Sierra Leone were to be plunged into another chaos and anarchy, who will stand up to it, taking into account how Norman the saviour was rewarded. Norman indictment and detention by the special courts had created negative perception for both the ruling government and the special court. His arrest and subsequent detention has been described as a complete betrayal of a loyal and dedicated son of the soil and staunch member of his party and a promoter of democracy.

The news about Norman's death was received with shock by many Sierra Leoneans, although many people had suspected that the Hinga Norman who had traveled to Dakar-Senegal for medical treatment would not be the same Norman to return home, such impression finally diminished in the minds of the people when reports state that his operations went on successfully. It would appear that his death took place as planned. The death of Norman has brought controversies into the political field.

While the PMDC is claiming that Norman had resigned from SLPP and that he died as a PMDC member. Family members have warned both parties, (SLPP and PMDC) not to make any political statement using Norman's death. At the Njala University Convocation in the eastern region, President Kabbah, spoke lengthily about Norman's death, and described him as his best minister and close colleague whom he admired much. He further stated that his government has no hands in the indictment and detention of Chief Norman and that they were observing the situation very closely.



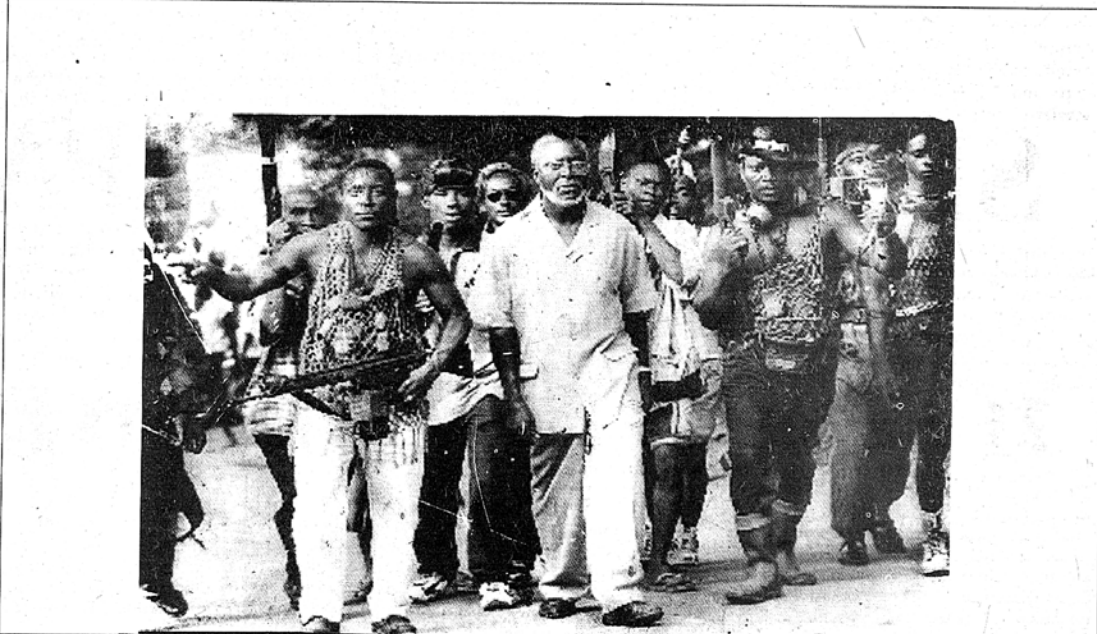
Norman... going to Dakarr not to return alive

The African Champion
Friday, 9 March 2007

Hinga Norman Denied Civic Burial

Former minister in the Kabbah administration and Special Court indictee Hinga Norman has been denied a civic funeral befitting a statesman; *The African Champion* has been informed.

The former Kamajor chieftain's remains were laid out in the Victoria Park for Freetonians to pay their last respect, but the pomp and pageant expected was absent as mourners and the curious filed solemnly past the casket. Freetown City Mayor Winstanley Bankole Johnson, according to reports had been approached by Civil Society members and ex-Kamajors who asked that Norman be granted his last respect in a civic funeral with the City father, in his full ceremonial gown and preceded by the Mace, heading the procession.



Late Chief Sam Hinga Norman during his hey days amidst Kamajors in the jungle to restore the Kabbah government

The plan had however Johnson refused, rightly backfired when Mayor pointing out that the

funeral arrangements had nothing to do with the City Council, and that he will not allow a civic funeral because of what some people had stated against President Kabbah following the death of Norman. Angry Kamajors and others have lashed out at the mayor for his action, but an elderly Freetonian has informed *The African Champion* that there is no law warranting the Mayor to grant a civic funeral to Hinga Norman. "Hinga Norman has no position that merits him to a civic funeral as he was never a mayor here and in fact he had already been indicted for crimes committed against

humanity, if he had been found innocent, it may have been in place but the man died without any verdict so the city cannot take up such a controversial funeral," he said. *The African Champion* has also been informed that the decision of Mayor Johnson may not be unconnected with the expectation that some people would want to use the event of Norman's funeral to cause civil unrest in the city. A low-key laying out ceremony was done in the Victoria Park yesterday with supporters giving impromptu speeches. SLPP members kept a low profile and all shades of green were

conspicuously absent. Earlier, Special Court officials had handed over the late Kamajoh chief's remains to the family at the heliport in Aberdeen with no ceremonies involved. Meanwhile, family members continue to maintain that no member of the SLPP will be allowed to take part in the funeral arrangements. "Sam Hinga Norman Jr. has stated that he does not want to see these SLPP fellows in the funeral home and we are ensuing that his orders are followed to the letter," said Musa Sandi, an ex-Kamajor. The remains of Norman will be taken to Bo and later to his home town where he will be finally laid to rest.

The African Champion

Friday, 9 March 2007

Norman's Death Has Added SLPP'S Trouble

**By Saa M.
Kamanda**

The death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman will surely go a long way to determine the success or failure of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP), come July 2007 Presidential and Parliamentary Election. Norman became a Special Court indictee charged with crimes committed against humanity according to the international humanitarian Law. Beside the crimes he might have committed in this country, it should be noted that this dead and gone man fought very hard to restore democracy but the current out going President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah and the SLPP after the AFRC junta took over Kabbah's SLPP regime. Today, million of people the world over really want to know the cause of Norman's death. Yes, it is a serious a concern, but what after that? Will Norman come back to continue his heroics? No, no, this fighter for democracy is gone, leaving behind those he fought for to enjoy these earthly pleasures with only posterity to stand as judge.

However, his death is just a learning point. Politicians who believe putting their friends to death now have evidence to know how grateful or ungrateful people really are. Before Norman's death, Kabbah president and parliament gave authority for the state to supply weapons to the CDF to flush out the junta. The CDF saw the arrest of that fighter of democracy but their arms were too short to have protected him. This evidence too warns that the arm of flesh in which man puts his trust is bound to fail. The late Central Bank Governor, Sam Bangura and many died after Siaka Stevens rose to presidency. Indeed, in African politics, fair is foul and foul fair.

Why Sankoh die neither I nor you can tell. Norman is dead and Issa Sesay's fate is yet a question of remarkable interest. Politicians are so enthusiastic in returning evil for evil but when you come to check, they are but workers of inequity. The Mende's have lost one prominent member and a hero for that matter. The Kamajors have disheartened hearts for their commander and with eagerness Sierra Leoneans await the corpse. After the burial comes an election. What will be the success or failure of the SLPP, now that all eyes seem to see them as responsible for the death of the Hero, Chief Sam Hinga Norman?

A Mr. Brima Tarawally who was once a close confidante to late Special Court indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman came to offices yesterday afternoon to state that as far as he knows, it is the Government of Sierra Leone that was responsible for the factor or factors leading to Chief Norman's death. Here follows what he told this press.

The Government of Sierra Leone is the contributor to the factor or factors responsible for the death of Chief Sam Hinga Norman in Special Court custody. There are witnesses. There are scientific proofs to establish the authenticity of this story. Chief Norman the deceased to whom I was one of many personal confidantes and friends told me several times that the deformity he had developed in one of his hips was as a result of the manhandling and torture which was carried out on him by officers who went to arrest him on the orders of the Government of Sierra Leone.

Family sources can confirm this that it happened that way. The



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



Late Chief Hinga Norman on his way to Senegal

personal security of Chief Norman at that time can also confirm this. It has been confirmed by one of chief Norman's defense counsels at the Special Court that indeed when the Special Court issues a warrant against any indictee, it is the GOSL's responsibility to arrest that person and hand him over to the Special Court.

Therefore, if Chief Norman had persistently indicated this to families and

friends that he was tortured by officers in question, I want to maintain that the GOSL gave orders to the arresting officers to carry out brutality in the apprehension exercise being so mandated. The GOSL is therefore requested to provide relevant explanation on this allegation.

Notwithstanding, it is yet premature for anyone to accuse the Special Court for Sierra Leone to have been

involved or having something to do with the death of Chief Norman. This is primarily because we believe that until there are established proofs by the independent pathologist appointed by the Norman family to carry out a post mortem examination on the body, that indeed Norman died of unnatural cause, then the Special Court perhaps will be the 2nd accused. In circumstances leading

to the death of Chief Norman. However, I do believe that the investigation process to establish the cause of death of Chief Norman is nexus in nature; because it has to include medical, criminal and legal investigations if we are to render judgment in our argument fairly in relation to Chief Norman's death.

The African Champion
Friday, 9 March 2007

21 Pademba Road Prisoners Escape

Up to twenty-one remand prisoners in detention in the maximum central prisons in Pademba Road have escaped while awaiting trial in the Law Courts yesterday.

According to reports, the prisoners who were in the holding cell in the Law Courts broke the chains of the gate and fled. Eye witnesses report that the prisoners had grounded

pepper in their possession which they threw into the eyes of prison officers who tried to pursue them. Proceedings in the courts are said to have come to a standstill as pandemonium resulted with by standers also fleeing fearing an attack. "I was in court to see my lawyer on another matter when I saw people fleeing and I also fled because I saw others

running," said Alice Jumu, a house wife. This is not the first time that prisoners have escaped from the holding cells of the law Court building. It could be recalled that last year prisoners had again fled while awaiting trials to start.

The decision by the prisoners to take the law into their own hands might not be unconnected with the fact that over four

hundred people are languishing in the maximum prison in the remand block with no hope of being tried. Mostly, prisoners are brought from Pademba road prisons in the morning and taken back in the evening without

appearing in any court.

"The corruption in the judiciary is directly responsible for these ugly situations," one lawyer informed *The African Champion*. There is also the terrible situation of the prison, causing lots of

unexplained deaths as a result of the poor and inadequate food provided as well as the poor sanitary condition of the jails. All attempts to contact the prison authorities proved futile.

New Vision
Friday, 9 March 2007

At Norman's Laying Out...

PMDC Shamed

Members of the Peoples Movement for Democratic Change, PMDC got the rudest shock of their lives yesterday when they were told to vacate Victoria Park with their banners.

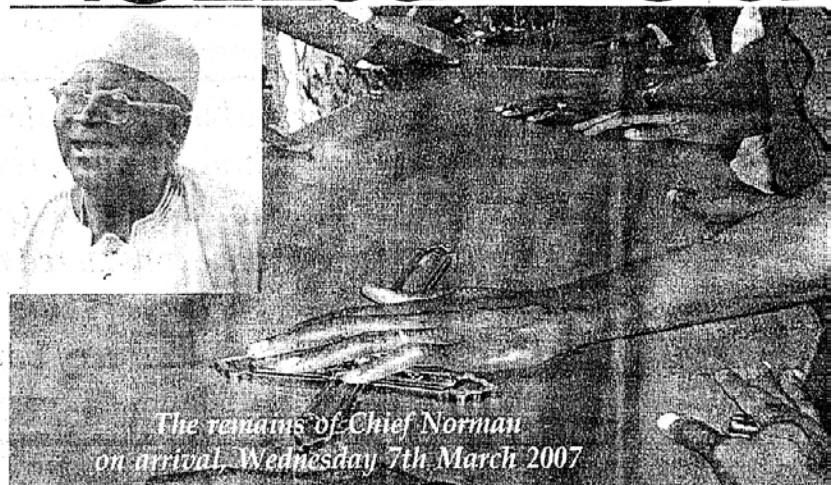
Supporters of the party, some in their party colours and carrying banners were told by the interim Chairman of the Civil Society Movement, Festus Minah to get out of the Park as the occasion was not a platform

for political campaign.

The PMDC members disgracefully folded up their banners to clear the way for hundreds of sympathisers who had thronged the Park to view the remains of Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

The move by the PMDC supporters came inspite of prior warning that the funeral of Chief Norman should not be politicised.

Sympathizers include school
Contd. Page 5



*The remains of Chief Norman
on arrival, Wednesday 7th March 2007*

PMDC Shamed

children, business people, civil servants and members of the Civil Society Organizations who went to pay their last respect to a redeemer.

There were emotional scenes at the Park when the corpse of a man many regard as a hero arrived. Some of them wept bitterly as they took a glimpse of the late Hero.

The remains of late Norman entered the Victoria Park from Colombia Davies Funeral home at exactly 12:50 p.m. led by the Rokel Secondary School brass band where his body was laid in state.

Former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Chief Komrabai Peter Penfold was among the family members who led the corpse to Victoria Park.

The silver casket could hardly be protected as hundreds of people rushed in to have a glimpse of the body of the late man whom they said worked so hard to restore democracy and constitutional rule in Sierra Leone.

Anxious mourners formed a long queue, but the Civil Society Movement which organized the laying out ceremony was unable to control the crowd and had to call on the police to restore order.

Tributes which could have been paid before opening the casket were deferred to accord people the opportunity to view the corpse.

In his statement afterwards, the acting Chairman of Civil Society Movement, Festus Minah said they were there to

mourn the death and to pay respect to a man who has lived with them, redeemed Sierra Leone to restore its dignity, democracy and constitutional rule.

He described Norman as a person who has sacrificed his life to save Sierra Leone from the RUF/AFRC in the 1990's.

The Secretary General of Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone, Mr. Foday described the moment as solemn and a day of thanksgiving.

He said the theme of his sermon is "A Great Burden Bearer," adding that the greatest bearer is Jesus Christ who came with a human flesh and bore the sins of people of the world.

He referred to late Norman as a man bearing the greatest burden, Norman, he said, bore the burden to free Sierra Leone, adding that he was indicted by the Special for bearing the greatest burden of Sierra Leoneans.

Meanwhile, the corpse would be taken to Bo this morning for burial in his home town.

Chief Norman was arrested by the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in March 2003. He was standing trial on eight counts of war crimes and crime against humanity.

On January 17, late Norman and Issa Hassan Sesay, another indictee were flown to Senegal for medical treatment. He had his hip replaced after a successful surgery but died few days later.

Reuters

Thursday, 8 March 2007

Ex Sierra Leone militia leader to get hero's burial

By Christo Johnson

FREETOWN, March 8 (Reuters) - Hundreds of mourners flocked on Thursday to see the body of former Sierra Leonean militia leader Sam Hinga Norman, hailed by some as a hero but accused by others of being as barbaric as the rebels he fought.

A former interior minister and co-ordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) militia during the British colony's 1991-2002 conflict, Norman died from heart failure two weeks ago after a routine operation in nearby Senegal.

His fighters were accused of roasting and eating their victims and Norman had been on trial for war crimes at a U.N.-backed tribunal in Freetown, with a verdict due in the coming weeks. But he is seen by many in the country as a hero who helped save them from the hands of brutal rebel forces.

"It was Norman who saw me and said to me they need me in the fight for democracy and I should give my assistance," said Mamay Hawa Massaquoi, a former militia fighter attending a public viewing of the body in Freetown's Victoria Park.

"Norman is dead but his soul has not died. He was a believer," he said, fighting back tears.

The CDF fought to defend President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's government against the Revolutionary United Front rebels, who chopped limbs, lips and ears off their victims and carved the letters RUF into the bodies of children they kidnapped to fight.

Pro-government militia fighters used similarly brutal tactics, recruiting underage fighters and hacking to death and burning civilians suspected of supporting the rebels.

But Norman's sympathisers say his role as co-ordinator of the CDF must be seen in context: a minister asked by his government to protect people from rebels who forced children to murder their parents and mutilated with impunity.

"Sam Hinga Norman is regarded as one of the heroes of the war and played a key role in helping the peace," Peter Penfold, former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, told Reuters.

"It's tragic that this person who has done so much for his country and his people spent his final four years in prison."

HERO?

Norman, who was leader of the feared Kamajor hunters that formed the backbone of the CDF, was charged with eight counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity at the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The indictment against him and two co-defendants stated Kamajor fighters killed scores of civilians suspected of sympathising with the RUF. It said Norman knew and approved of the recruitment of children aged under 15 into the Kamajor.

The prosecution told the U.N.-backed court that drug-addled Kamajor fighters had paraded severed heads and eaten the roasted flesh and intestines of their victims.

Norman maintained his innocence throughout the trial, which began in June 2004.

"My father suffered for too long and the Special Court was responsible for his death," his daughter, Juliet, told Reuters.

President Kabbah, whose successor is due to be chosen in July polls, has said Norman will receive a hero's burial.

"Though he was charged with alleged crimes against humanity, the court did not find him guilty of the allegations since he died with no verdict given," Kabbah told state radio last week.

"Because of this, my government is of the view that Norman should be given a state funeral," he said.

Norman's body will be taken to his home village of Ngolala, in the southern region of Bo, for a Christian burial on Sunday. (Additional reporting by James Knight and Katrina Manson in Freetown)

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 8 March 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Rape, Gender Violence the Norm in Post-War Liberia

United Nations, Mar 08, 2007 (Inter Press Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- 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.

President Sirleaf Holds Talks With Spanish Officials

Mar 07, 2007 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The Chairman of the Cabinet, Justice Minister Frances Johnson Morris, has left the country for Tokyo, Japan, ahead of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's visit to Japan. Minister Johnson Morris, who left the country today, will join the Presidential delegation, expected to arrive in Japan on Sunday.

International Clips on West Africa

Ex Sierra Leone militia leader to get hero's burial

FREETOWN, March 8 (Reuters) - Hundreds of mourners on Thursday flocked to see the body of former Sierra Leonean militia leader Sam Hinga Norman, whose fighters were accused of roasting and eating their victims during a civil war.

A former interior minister and co-coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) militia during the British colony's 1991-2002 conflict, Norman died from heart failure two weeks ago after a routine operation in nearby Senegal.

Local Media – Newspaper

Senate Debates Mittal Steel Agreement

(The Inquirer, Daily Observer, The Inquirer and National Chronicle)

- he National Investment Commission Chairman, Dr. Richard Tolbert told reporters yesterday that the Senate commenced public hearings into the Mittal steel Agreement and made some amendments which affected infrastructures and pricing among others. Meanwhile, the Environmental Protection Agency says Mittal Steel would be prevented from operating in the Country until an environmental certificate was secured from the agency.

Former Finance Minister wants Monetary System Reformed

(The News and The Inquirer)

- Former Finance Minister, Wilson Tarpheh called for the reform of the country's monetary system to support economic growth and sustainable development. In a release issued in Monrovia yesterday, Mr Tarpheh stated that the current monetary regime was undermining the capacity of the Central Bank of Liberia to efficiently conduct solid monetary policies at the Bank.

Liberian Women Join World Colleagues to Observe International Day

(The News, The Informer, The Inquirer, Daily Observer and New Democrat)

- Addressing a news conference Wednesday in commemoration of the International Women's Day, Gender and Development Minister Varbah Gayflor said that violence was still being meted against women regardless of the continuous awareness which the Government and its partners create to stop the practice.
- She stressed that women were confronted with different shades of coercion to do things against their will including sexual abuse but entreated men to fully participate in the campaign to end such a violence which the men are principal perpetrators.

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

Liberian Senate Begins Public Hearings on Mittal Steel Agreement

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

A Former Finance Minister wants Reform in Country's Monetary System

Action-Aid Liberia Alarms over High Incidents of Rape

- According to its Annual Report, the international non-governmental organization, Action-Aid Liberia said that violence against women including rape, was continuing unchecked in the Country.
- Released on the eve of International Women's Day yesterday, the Report showed that rape accounted for the most reported serious crime with at least 173 cases recorded in 2006 in Montserrado County along as compared to the interior of the Country.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Johnson-Sirleaf Addresses International Women Meeting

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and delegation are presently in Spain where the President addressed the opening session of the Second International Women Meeting themed: "Women for a Better World" and was hosted by the Vice President of Spain, Teresa Fernandez de la Vega. She also held talks with Spanish government officials to restore bilateral relationship with Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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

Cocorioko Website

Friday, 9 March 2007

Golley's Solicitors Say he is Seriously sick at Pademba Road Prisons

For immediate release

7th March 2007

Golley seriously ill

Omrie Golley, who is facing treason charges in Freetown, is “seriously ill”, according to Dr M.L. Conte-Coker, Senior Medical Officer at Pademba Road Prison where the former chairman of the Peace Council of the Revolutionary United Front is being detained.

Dr Conte-Coker, who conducted an examination on Mr Golley, said in a letter to the Director of Prisons and others dated March 1: “His general condition has been deteriorating continuously for the past 10 days up to the present time of physical examination.”

Mr Golley’s medical condition includes high blood pressure and chest pains. Medical experts say these could lead to a heart attack.

Given the “severe” nature of Mr Golley’s health, Dr Conte-Coker has referred him to his private doctor for admission at the privately owned Choithram Memorial Hospital in Freetown so that Mr Golley’s vital organs could be monitored every four hours.

However, Mr Golley’s UK lawyers, who are awaiting word from the authorities in Freetown, have pointed out that admission to the Choithram Memorial Hospital for monitoring is not the answer to their client’s serious health problems.

James Oury of Oury Clark Solicitors, representing Mr Golley points out: “It is important that Mr Golley obtains urgent tests relating to his heart, for which there are no available facilities in Sierra Leone right now. Failure to provide such treatment immediately could be life threatening.”