PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Wednesday 29 - Friday 31 January, 2003

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday. Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
## Local News

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Gen. Issa raises alarm

BY PETER ICMA

This press has authoritativey learnt that the UN Peace Mission in Sierra Leone under the leadership of General Daniel Jallah Opara deliberately refused to adhere to their promise of providing adequate security network to the RUF former field commander, General Issa Sesay.

In an exclusive interview with RUF leader Issa Sesay at the RUF office along Lightfoot Street in Freetown over the weekend, General Issa said that UN has deceived him utterly and expressed disappointment in the UN mission, which he accused of not providing him with bodyguards as security for personal safety. He added that now they have exposed him to several dangers and humiliations from both the general public and ex-combatants who consider him to be the leader of the movement.

General Issa reiterated that he is only interested in un持股 and consolidating the peace so that total stability can prevail in the nation.

He declared that three months ago the UN withdrew the security personnel assigned to him without any prior notice, leaving him and his family at the risk of the public and his former boys. He recalled that when the 500 UN troops were held hostage, a boiler room was converted at the executive mansion in Freetown by six teams of men to deliberate on the peace and the release of UN hostages. They all be said agreed that RUF should put an end to demands for the restoration of peace and transform into a political party, adding that he unhesitatingly welcome the idea as he stood to benefit nothing from the rebel war. He revealed that prior to this move, other ex-combatants and people associated with him formed a new group and presented a lot of others to him, but gave them details. He said that he is not capable of ruling this country simply because he does not possess the capability, experience and age required, added to the fact that he can hardly read or write.

On the issue of Johnny Paul, he said that no level headed man or ex-combatant should think of a coup when the government is having support from UN, ECOWAS, JLA, CDW and the civilian populace. He denied having any knowledge of the said coup and cannot be a party to it, as he prefers to be at home and not behind bars.

On the issue of UN ex-combatants involved in the Wellington abortive coup, he said since the end of the deployment he has no control over any ex-combatant and that he has no association with any ex-combatant involved in provocative moves against the state.

He appealed to government and the UN to provide him some assistance and security guards for his brotherhood and safety in the country. On the issue of the Edinburgh siege, he said, "Let us do our best. Let us make sure that the people have to pay their respects and be exposed to such national.
Search for Johnny Paul goes countrywide

Assistant Commissioner, Professional Standards - Oliver Ssemanda, however confirmed at yesterday's Police Briefing that they indeed raided a boat named 'Puff' for investigations at the dock relating to the escape of the fugitive PLP Parliamentary leader Johnny Paul Koroma. The boat, which belongs to ex-constituent, has since been released, as no relevant information was gathered from the investigations. The Professional Standards Police chief further disclosed that he had instituted an internal

Search for Johnny Paul

Police has disclosed that they are not limiting their search for Johnny Paul Koroma only in the Western Area, but throughout the country. The Senior

Assistant Commissioner, Professional Standards, Oliver Ssemanda, however confirmed at yesterday's Police Briefing that they indeed raided a boat named 'Puff' for investigations at the dock relating to the escape of the fugitive PLP Parliamentary leader Johnny Paul Koroma. The boat, which belongs to ex-constituent, has since been released, as no relevant information was gathered from the investigations. The Professional Standards Police chief further disclosed that he had instituted an internal

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in this operation. Assistant Commissioner Oliver Ssemanda also revealed that these officers were mandated to arrest all those they found within the premises of the wanted Johnny Paul Koroma. Assistant Commissioner Oliver Ssemanda went on saying, "we are determined, so we would not leave no stone unturned to find out whether any professional lapses did occur, as our reputation is at stake." He maintained that the investigations would be carefully carried out devoid of any sentiments. The number of suspects currently helping the police in their investigations have risen to 70.
Rising Tides

Johnny Paul Must Surrender

Kabbah and the SLPP in power, a group of disgruntled and disillusioned army personnel led by the then Major Johnny Paul Koroma staged a military coup, thereby forcing an aversion of Sierra Leoneans including Pres. Kabbah to take refuge in neighboring countries especially Guinea.

The toppling of the democratically elected Government in the very nose of the West African Peace Keeping Force (ECONOG) and the UN Peace Keeping Mission (UNAMSIL) with whom had a stake in the supervision of security in the country was the beginning of another long ordeal of displacement for Sierra Leoneans.

In those war years it was evident, as numerous report filtered in that people hardly knew the difference between the tactics of the rebels and the Sierra Leone Armed Forces. Even before the Johnny Paul Koroma army takeover the writing was already clearly written on the wall that it was hard to find out where the loyalty of the army lies. Some people conjectured that the army was behaving like wolves in this time around it would be hard for the escape of Johnny Paul to be accorded any drop of sympathy and sentiment.

For example, some common tales from the battle-front was that there were ample evidences that the Sierra Leonean soldiers were in the habit of not only leaving behind arms and ammunition but military uniforms and hardware as well to be picked up by the advancing rebels.

In some quarters people made no bones of the fact that some unscrupulously battle-front commanders among the government troops were in the habit of paving the way and leaving it open for the advance of the rebels as they were heading towards the capital Freetown.

The bone of contention as advanced by certain analysts is that the SLPP Government of Pres. Kabbah was giving more preferential treatment to the Kamajors-civil Defence Force Military than to the national army. But should this have been any basis to cause a alarm for alarm? The army should always remain loyal and obedient to defend the government of the day and the territorial integrity of the country. This is a constitutional obligation of all military personnel upon their enlistment into the army.

But as destiny may have it, President Kabbah made diplomatic efforts to ECOWAS excluding soliciting the support of the late Nigerian Military-

Steorgen Gu. Sanni Abacha a move that eventually led to the overthrow of the late President Koroma lead AFRC junta. The overthrow of the AFRC was mainly orchestrated by the recall from the ECOWAS summit present, wherein a regional multinational force has reversed a coup.

The escape of Major Johnny Paul Koroma in those critical moments was bound to generate some sentiments. The fact remained no precedent had been set in the history of coups d’état in Africa, from that of General Mokssinghe Doyadima tot eh present, wherein a regional multinational force has reversed a coup. This was the first time the escape of Johnny Paul Koroma at the time bore out the blessing of a presidential election.
Police given 72 hrs to capture Johnny Paul

By Rachel Hume

The Civil Society Movement of Sierra Leone has given the Sierra Leone police an ultimatum of 72 hours to capture and produce fugitive leader of the Peace and Liberation Party, Johnny Paul Koroma.

At a press meeting yesterday at the Victoria Park in Freetown, CSIM's president, Hassan Banne said they wanted to tell the nation and international community that 'enough is enough' He expressed concern on the tyranny government treated the matter with, adding that government has a responsibility to protect lives and property.

CSIM accused the police and government for allowing Johnny Paul Koroma to escape because of security lapses. CSIM therefore gave police an ultimatum of 72 hours to find Johnny Paul Koroma. They also demanded that an inquiry be set up to find out who were responsible for Johnny Paul's escape.

Hassan Banne also called for protest in government. He said, 'President Kabbah should tell the people what they are doing after every six months.' He added that monitors should also tell the nation what they do. He however refused on the tribalisation of the Johnny Paul saga. 'Tribalism should be out of this, nobody from the north, let alone Johnny Paul' he said.

He said Johnny Paul could handover himself to civil society. "We will protect him," he said.

The president of Sierra Leone Motor Vehicle Association, Mr. Siless said it was the first time he saw people giving their views about the government openly.
CSM demands from I.G.

"We Want Johnny Paul"

Thousands of people who gathered at the Victoria Park yesterday morning to demonstrate on the current state of the security in the country. The people demanded from the Inspector-General of Police Keith Biddle the whereabouts of fugitive PLP leader Johnny Paul Koroma. The crowd immediately burst into chorus singing, "We want Johnny Paul," no matter what they said the Inspector General making an appearance at the platform. The Inspector General just gave a gentle smile to the crowd's request and never said a word to appease them.

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CSM demands from I.G.

However, told some journalists, "The police have many things to investigate pertaining to Johnny Paul's case. He should desert forthwith. Inspector-General Biddle assured the populace through the press that the People's Liberation Party (PLP) would be surely arrested, noting that the police is doing everything possible to get to the bottom of the matter. He also assured the crowd that he would make sure that justice is done to anyone that is involved in the investigation. The Chairman of the Civil Society Movement, Hassan Barrie emphasized that they are giving the police a one week ultimatum to arrest the fugitive Johnny Paul and bring him to book for whatever crime he might have committed. The CSM demonstration disrupted commercial as well as schooling activities in the City yesterday."
C.S.M Condemns Johnny Paul Koroma

The Civil Society Movement (CSM) in Sierra Leone, Wednesday, January 28, 2003, condemned the recent abortive plot of Johnny Paul Koroma to destabilise this country again. The Civil Society Movement, through representatives, individually condemned Johnny Paul's action at a mammoth rally held at the Victoria Park in Freetown. Some of the speakers put the blame on the police for the escape of the fugitive. Most of them appealed to government to do its utmost to capture Johnny Paul Koroma and his fugitive associates. Meanwhile, there was heavy security presence at the Victoria Park, while schools and shops remain closed for the day. Food and other market stalls were empty and public transportations scarce.
Why Johnny Paul Escaped Arrest

By Salamatu Taray

A senior police officer has said that the leader of the team of police officers, sent to arrest Peace and Liberation Party Leader (P.L.P) and Member of Parliament Hon. Johnny Paul Koroma and others at his No. 7 Shependeh Drive Saba Hill residence recently, might have misunderstood or misinterpreted section 100 of the Constitution; thereby facilitating Johnny Paul's escape.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officer went further to say that section 100 of the Constitution states that no member of Parliament shall be arrested or served a court notice whilst he/she is in parliamentary proceedings.

According to the police officer, the leader of the team O.C. Francis Bockarie Lebbie who is presently being investigated at the CID, made a mistake by not arresting

SEE PAGE 3

Johnny Paul's Escape

Johnny Paul Koroma although he met him at the scene. He went on to say that according to O.C. Lebbie, another reason why he failed to effect Johnny Paul Koroma's arrest is because the list of the names of those he was to arrest did not include Johnny Paul Koroma.

“However, O.C. Lebbie should have used his initiative” because, according to the police officer, the former has been in the force for over ten years now. Meanwhile, the team of police officers sent to effect the arrest at Johnny Paul Koroma's residence are being investigated by CID.

“The statement that the police hierarchy is making that O.C. Francis Bockarie Lebbie and his team were ordered to arrest everyone including Johnny Paul is not true,” the police officer said.
Student disappears with Johnny Paul

BY AUGUSTINE BECHIRU
Reports reaching Standard Times has disclosed the disappearance of a nineteen-year-old student of St. Edwards Secondary School, Freetown, since the attack on the Willingstone Revolutionary Party leader. He is Johnny Paul Koroma, former APRC/RUF junta leader.

According to our reports, the student, Yani Isahawa, was beaten to death at Freetown in a fight with friends. The murder is currently being sought by the police for alleged extortion activities.

The report says Yani's mother is dead and his father is an old man living somewhere in the Kono district, and he has been in the care of a Spanish business man who also recently returned to Spain after paying school fees for him and arranging for his care.

One of the suspects being sought by the police was a kind of benefactor to him, and it was as a result of that relationship that he came upon the information that has now apparently led to his disappearance.

According to our sources, Yani got word of what the man was planning and told a friend about it, but the friend was afraid because the "matter was a state matter." He was nevertheless advised to report the matter to the police, which he allegedly did.

Since then he has not returned home, leaving everyone in doubt about what might have happened to the young man. He has not been declared missing by anyone because, as the story goes, he is staying at home by himself with friends, who are probably very scared and confused about making reports to the police.

All attempts to get the police to comment on the matter have proved futile, as there appears to be no record of the boy's status report to the police.

The police report also states that the boy's school refused to confirm or deny whether he had a student who has suddenly stopped coming to school with the above name.

It however remains a fact that Yani Isahawa has disappeared exactly during the period Johnny Paul and his alleged colleague conspirators were declared wanted by the police.

The word of the boy's disappearance was also mentioned by members of the Civil Society Movement when they met at the Victoria Park on Wednesday to discuss a way forward on the problem of Johnny Paul and the police.

Whatever may happen to Yani may happen to anyone who takes information to the police accompanied by a legal officer or someone who can vouch for anything goes wrong.

The problem with Yani was that he may have gone as far as to get his report and something may have happened to him.
HUNT FOR "ANGEL"

By James B. Sawyer

At a national meeting organized by the Civil Society Movement of Sierra Leone at the Victoria Park in Freetown, Wednesday 29th January, 2003, the Chairman of the occasion, Mr. Hassan Barrie, told the crowd that a few bad policemen had smeared the good image of the newly reformed Sierra Leone Police Force.

Mr. Hassan Barrie, President of the Sierra Leone Labour Congress urged the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Keith Biddle to expose all police officers involved in the escape of PLP Leader, Johnny Paul Koroma.

Madam Isha Josiah of Johnny Paul ...... on the run

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FROM PAGE 1

SLANGO informed everyone at the gathering to report to the Police clandestine movements of all wanted suspects.

Madam Josiah appealed to the government to empower the Civil Society Movement to organize national search for PLP Leader, Johnny Paul Koroma.

The President of the Civil Society Movement, Mr. Mambu emphasised the fact that the protection of the lives and property of the citizens should not be toyed with by anybody, not even the government. He admonished the government to always keep the nation informed about the security of the country.

Other speakers dwelt on the issue of silence by the government on national security matters. They alleged that such silence had resulted to rumour mongers claiming that Johnny Paul had been captured, thus hijacking communication with the people from the government.

In an eight-point resolution issued jointly by Civil Society Organizations in Sierra Leone and the media on the current security situation in Sierra Leone, the Civil Society Movement National Executives were empowered to implement the following:

1. That CSM-SL should visit Kalabah district to assess the damage to the area that recently suffered rebel incursion from Liberia.

2. That Government make a statement with regards to the present national security situation.

3. That the masses be adequately educated on their civic rights and responsibilities.

4. That the leaders of today should protect and prepare a good foundation for peace, security, stability and development for the children of tomorrow.

5. That massive demonstration of Civil Society organizations be organized nationwide for Government and the international community to know that enough is enough and that they have a responsibility to protect lives and property.

6. That CSM-SL establishes an intelligence network countrywide to enhance the dissemination of information for Civil Society work.

The Inspector General Police, Mr. Keith Biddle and other important dignitaries were present at the meeting. About 200 anti-riot police were deployed around the vicinity of the Victoria Park.

Hundreds of personnel of the SSID division of the Sierra Leone Police were also deployed in the heart of the business district of Freetown, covering Siaka Stevens Street, Wilberforce Street, Kissy Road up to Clock Tower and other strategic areas of Freetown.

In the business district of Freetown many business houses and shops were closed. Many commercial vehicles were kept in safer areas whilst many parents and school kids, especially those in private schools stayed indoors for security reasons.

The Judiciary and all the courts adjourned all court sittings whilst judges and magistrates stayed indoors. Even market stalls in the city were empty, as market women hid their wares from looters.
The News
Friday, 31 January 2003

CDU Vows To Grab Johnny Paul

A Senior Official of the Civil Development Unit (CDU) has said his organisation will go for fugitive former junta leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, if his hideout is made known.

Allen Greene told this press Wednesday, at the Victoria Park that Johnny Paul is a dangerous man and called on Sierra Leoneans to give vital information about his whereabouts. Greene also called on the International Community to extradite the former junta leader, if he happens to be residing outside Sierra Leone.

According to him, whether Johnny Paul is up in arms or not, wherever he may be hiding, the CDU will go for him if his location is made known.

"Johnny Paul should face the law. We are ready to protect him against any undue advantage," Greene said. He added that...
Johnny Paul's Escape Is No Limba Problem

THE CHAIRMAN of the Civil Society movement Mr. Hannan Barrie has said that the escape of Hon. Johnny Paul Koroma from the police drag net January 18 is no Limba problem, nor is it a northern one as some people might want to conclude.

Making a statement at the CSM Esowon Street headquarters Sunday morning, Mr. Barrie stated that for the fugitive parliamentarian did not inform his Limba tribesmen before taking any decision that he took, neither were any negative actions that might be impartial to national peace and stability.

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The Rural Network
Friday, 31 January 2003

**THREAT TO SECURITY AS:**

**JOHNNY PAUL’S “DIABOLIC” PLAN EXPOSED**

The fear of insecurity has once again gripped the names of many Sierra Leoneans following the recent shootout between government troops and what is described as “bandits” in the Wellington industrial area. Many people are nervous and fear that another stampede and terror is in the pipeline, once names like Johnny Paul Koroma, Brigadier 55 and others who were very active in the January 6, 1999 invasion of Freetown have started to filter from the smoke screen of the official investigation.

Johnny Paul was handpicked by his colleagues in the infamous May 25, 1997 military coup whilst in prison for a pending treason trial. Once out of prison, Paul described himself as “God’s anointed” leader. He predicted an imminent doom for Sierra Leone and added that he would not relinquish power to the democratically elected government of President Kabbah.

He was kicked out of power by ECOWAS) Nigerian troops of Maxwell Kyie in February 1996. Kabbah is not popular among the people of the country. Since then Johnny Paul has always been saying things which many Sierra Leoneans are not happy about.

In the Monday August 2002 edition of the paper, this press produced a 450-page programme. The BBC radio programme ANALYSIS, PLP Hon, P.J. Koroma was reported to have wished death for “Those old men in power.” This could mean, President Kabbah.

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**JOHNNY PAUL’S**

From page 1 could mean President Kabbah and other old politicians who are now old and 70 years old. A possible combination of medical conditions of President Kabbah...
8 LAWYERS FOR SANKOH & OTHERS

Sources close to International Human Rights Organizations abroad have intimated The Exclusive that the legal services of some eight international lawyers have been sought to represent today Sankoh and others who are either standing trial for murder in the High Court in Sierra Leone or those who will face the Special Court. Today, Sankoh the enigmatic mercenary leader of the now-defunct Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone is currently held at the Pendera Road Prisons on charges of mass murder, including other renegade members of both the SLA and the RUF for murder or related offences. It could be recalled that the Special Court, an international court with wide-ranging jurisdictions, was set up to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and human rights violations during the war period. Meanwhile, our sources maintain that the concerns of the International Human Rights Organizations is to ensure that the accused persons receive fair and impartial trials, in accordance with natural justice. Our sources further revealed that it is only a matter of time for the International Court to start arranging for some international lawyers to represent them. The lawyers will bring their relevant papers and written evidence to the tribunal to make their cases in accordance with international law.
Sankoh's case adjourned again

The much-anticipated public appearance of the sick detained former RUP leader Foday Saybana Sankoh at the Freetown High Court yesterday did not materialise as was reportedly in an unhealthy position in Prison. In fact, the police had cordoned the court vicinity in anticipation of his first public appearance since he fell ill in Prison. But their presence did not last longer as they were seen moving away from the court premises. After Justice Samuel Ademorou had adjourned the case to February 4, the police were heard blasting their sirens, bringing traffic to a standstill as they brought in the other accused persons in the murder case. The accused persons were heard chanting, "Jesus you know you know our trouble" as the vehicle was parked inside the Law Court car park. After some minutes at the scene where the prisoners were

The other prisoners in the Foday Sankoh trial heading back for Pademba Road Prison

The prisoners in the Central Prison singing the praise of the prison officers who had back the Prison in their singing mood which attracted the attention of passersby.
Sankoh's Trial
In March

From front page
the proceedings.

Sankoh and forty nine westsiders are facing one hundred and seventy counts' charge and were supposed to be in court yesterday, to continue their trials before Justice Samuel Ademosu.

Heavily armed police men with rifles besieged the courts building.

According to sources from prisons, Sankoh's health is deteriorating at an alarming state.

The same source added that Sankoh sometimes behaves abnormally as if he is mentally deranged.

The westside boys sang gospel songs as they approached the entrance to the court building onboard a prisoners' vehicle.

The matter had already been adjourned to a date in March this year when the prisoners were brought in so court authorities had to return them to the central prisons.
In Court:
Westside boys beg for mercy

By Rachel Horner

Former rebels deployed at Okra Hills, loyal to the Armed Forces Radio Council, who later became known as West Side Boy's yesterday disposed repen
tance by singing solemn re-
ligious songs asking for mercy.

People jokingly said, "Pademba Road prison has now got a choir group".

Their behaviour yesterday completely contrasted that of the past in which they usually use insulting and vulgar language whenever they enter the precincts of the court. Most of them shouted from the vehicle that they should be par
doned.

Their case was not heard yesterday. They were driven back to Pademba Road prison, without being al-
lowed to come down from the vehicle. There was tight Security in the court with Operational Support Divi-
sion, the armed wing of the Sierra Leone Police on alert.

Meanwhile, the case has been adjourned to March 4.

Foday Sankoh on the other hand, is reported to be seriously ill. His mental ca-
pability is also reported to have degenerated.

Johnny Paul, former godfather of the Westside boys