PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Monday, September 27, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday. If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914
The Coordinator and spokesman for the Hinga Norman CDF Defence Fund and member of the Sierra Leone Working Group, Rev. Fred M. Sesse Forsey, has stated that "the Agreement is unlawful, illegal, invalid and unconstitutional." He stated in a recent document that "the Court of Appeal decision in the case of the National Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations Charter Court, and the International Court of Justice in the case of the International Court of Justice in the case of the United Nations and the contributing countries, the embarrassment and waste of money and the extension of the proceedings to the present day." (The Constitution of Sierra Leone.)

The Coordinator also argued that "we find no where in the Bill establishing the Special Court for Sierra Leone that the Executive has the authority to circumvent the above stated provisions of the Constitution."

He called the attention of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice and the people of Sierra Leone to the fact that an official of the Government of Sierra Leone, who signed the Agreement establishing the Special Court Statute containing Article 8 (2) which usurped the powers of the Judiciary and Chief Justice of Sierra Leone, committed an unlawful and treasonable act against the people and Republic of Sierra Leone and should be charged and brought to justice immediately.

"This official is none other than the former Attorney General of Sierra Leone, Mr. Solomona E. Berewa," the Coordinator charged.

The Exclusive

Special Court Is Illegal

"We are seriously aware that the Special Court faces a Catch-22 dilemma of the highest magnitude. On the one hand, the Special Court is lawful and the Agreement establishing the Special Court is therefore legal, then the Supreme Court shall declare itself subordinate and, therefore, inferior to the UN-established court. If the Supreme Court rules that the Special Court is unconstitutional, then the Special Court to which the Government of Sierra Leone acceded essentially loses its existence."

Mr. Sesse Forsey was quoted as saying: "If the Special Court by any chance does not exist, we can only blame the government of Sierra Leone for the nonexistence of the Special Court."

"I have not received any communication from the government of Sierra Leone regarding the establishment of the Special Court." (3) "Any suspension, alteration, or repeal of this Constitution other than on the authority of Parliament shall be deemed to be a treason. (The Constitution of Sierra Leone.)"

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Controversy Over Witness

The witness told the court that the fearful-looking Kamajors carried guns and matchettes and were firing in the air when they entered. He informed the court that the Kamajors went to the police barracks asking for police officers, a situation which the witness said forced him and his colleagues to take cover in a nearby bush.

The witness told the court that he was later captured in the bush and forwarded to a Kamajor commander where he was subjected to all kinds of inhuman tortures but could not recall the name of the commander.

He testified that he was captured by Kamajors for the second time when he attempted to escape and taken to another Kamajor CO who gave orders to kill him. He testified that he and his colleagues were taken behind a house to be killed and he was made to lie down on the ground.

"They put a knife on my neck with my head downwards," he said, adding that his body was mutilated with a knife. "I know the CO and I first met him when he stole a cassette in the town," said the witness. He said two officers were murdered by the Kamajors before he was captured.

The 40-year-old witness, who testified in Mende through an interpreter in English, quoted the first accused Samuel Hinga Norman as ordering Kamajors to kill all police officers in Blama.

The witness mentioned an operation, code-named "Pay Yourself" which according to the witness was initiated by the AFRC/RUF forces during their last days in power to loot civilians.

Describing himself as a CID officer, the witness said that he joined the Sierra Leone Police Force in 1990.

Asked by counsel Jabbi to describe the relationship that existed between AFRC forces and civilians in the town during that period, the witness said that the relationship was cordial.

Asked whether he worked with AFRC soldiers during that period, the witness replied, no.

When counsel further put to the witness whether he wanted the court to believe that a former leader of Kamajors only when they were about to leave the town, the witness replied that was what he knew.

Meanwhile, the 1st and the 2nd accused, Samuel Hinga Norman and Morriss Fofana were shown in court on Friday.

The trial continues.
Chief Norman states conditions

From page 1

My highest regards,

Cc

Standby/All CDF Defence Counsel
Judges of the Trial Chamber for the CDF Accused
The Registrar
Norman Defence Team at Home and abroad
Family, Press and File.

The Principal Defender
Defence Unit
Special Court for Sierra Leone
Freetown
20th Sept 2004
Dear/Mdm;

Judicial Protest
This is to inform you that
after the morning session of

the Trial Chamber's Sitting
of the case of a Joiner Trial
of the Accused, Samuel Hinga Norman and Two
others on Monday, 20 September 2004, until the fol-
lowing conditions are ful-
filled, and Judicial ORDERS
are FULLY complied with

and necessary actions in the
interest of TRANSPARENT
JUSTICE are taken.
1. the 1st Accused, (Samuel Hinga
Norman) have decided NOT
to appear before the Trial
Chamber of the Special
Court composed of their
Honours, Justice Jtoe Pre-
siding and justices
Thompson and Boutet
Members,

a) The Joiner Indictment
SERVED on the Accused
pursuant to Rule 52 of the
Rules
b) Arraigned Accused to

enter a Plea, pursuant to
Rule 61 (iii) of the Rules of Procedure

c) Remove the Protective
ORDER so that witness
who are not to sexually
assaulted could TESTIFY
in FULL VIEW OF THE
PUBLIC in order to dis-
courage the giving of lie
TESTIMONIES that the
Prosecution has been
paying Prosecution Wit-
eness to give under hid-
den identity.

d) That the Single Indict-
ment AGAINST me alone,
Date 7th March 2003 be
quashed, so that it could
not be used as a fall-back
Continued back page
Halloran Refutes Teenage Sex

United Nations backed Special Court
Australian Police investigator in Sierra Leone Peter Halloran has in his statement to the police out rightly denied allegation of sexually abusing a 13 year old girl. In his statement to the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police, investigator Halloran said he di not sleep with a 13 year old girl employed as a nanny at the Australian’s house in Wilberforce, Freetown. He admitted that he was expecting his baby child to be Sierra Leone on June 4, this year and needed someone to take care of the child. Halloran said the second accused, Sheka brought the girl to his residence to work as a nanny. He said he taught the girl how to communicate with a computer in his room but never did it alone.

Halloran told the police that he never slept with the little girl, not to talk of tampering with her. Second accused, Sheka who was also working for Halloran is a brother of the 13 year girl. He is charged with the Southern Region has organised workshops for animators and project management committees so that they will be able to built up their capacity in order to manage their various communities, help to manage conflict resolutions in a bid to prevent the country from reverse to war again.”

According to Sheriff, NaCSA in the South is also engaged in a bid to create job opportunities for school dropouts and young girls. NaCSA in the South is also engaged in a bid to create job opportunities for school dropouts and young girls.

The people of the Southern region have expressed delight with what they see as the giant strides NaCSA is taking in developing communities in Bo, Pujeahun, Moyamba and Bonthe.

Speaking to The News, NaCSA’s Regional Coordinator Abdul Sheriff said so far about twenty five sub-projects in education, health, markets and rehabilitation of damage structures has been approved.

“Due to the challenges of direct community financing, NaCSA in
Police officer testifies in Peter Halloran’s case

By Ngoci Obi

A Police Officer attached to the Family Support Unit at Ross Road Police Station, Constable Vandi has testified at the Freetown High Court in an assault case involving Special Court investigator, Peter Halloran. Led in evidence by State Counsel, Robin Mason, the Police Officer told the court about a report, which was made to the police in which he denied the allegations levied against him. He however confirmed knowing the girl but denied that she ever slept in his bedroom. According to the Police Officer, reports however proved that she had been indecently assaulted. Constable Vandi said he arrested the second accused, Sheka Koroma, an older brother of Kadie, for conspiracy. Sheka he said denied this charge and told the Police that his sister had instead been employed as a nanny to the accused daughter. According to Constable Vandi, Sheka told the Police that his sister had indeed slept in the bedroom of the first accused. Third accused, Abdul Foranah, the Police Officer said was arrested on the 17th of August for the same charge but denied knowing the girl before the incident. He told the Police that his friend Sheka had told him that the first accused had promised to take care of Kadie’s fees to tertiary level and that she would be given Le250, 000 monthly. According to Constable Vandi, the 3rd accused had written a letter of apology to the 1st accused, asking for forgiveness on the said issue, which they suspected was a motive to free the first accused of blame.
Peter Halloran Denies Allegation

From front page

The first accused, Peter Halloran, in relation to the matter of sexual assault on Kadie. The Detective Police said that the first accused made statement to him in English, which was recorded after it had been proofread, confirmed and signed by the accused, with one P. C. 458 Rogers as the witness.

The first accused in his statement admitted that he employed Kadie as a nanny after an arrangement between him and Kadie’s elder brother, Sheka Fofanah. The accused also admitted that Kadie entered his bedroom on Sunday 30th June, 2004, and taught her sign language for just 15 minutes whilst his computer was on, adding that on the following day he drove off Kadie and her brother Sheka Fofanah halfway to school.

Earlier, detective woman police, Sergeant 4543 Janet Tommy, who was led in evidence by prosecuting lawyer, O. V. Robin Mason, at the High Court No. 1 presided by Hon. Justice Samuel Ademou, identified the first accused and Kadie, who said she came to know through an investigator at the Special Court, Mrs. Mandi Cordwell. Testifying, the detective woman police recalled that while on duty at the Special Court on secondment, she received a telephone call from Mrs. Mandi Cordwell at about 8.30 a.m. requesting her to come with a statement pad for an interview with the first accused at Sea View, No.1 Scan Drive, Spur Road, in Freetown. The detective woman police said that when she arrived at Sea View she met three men, namely, Mandi Cordwell, Raph Laperra and Kadie. She further explained that Mandi gave her some information about the first accused and Kadie, adding that thereafter she conducted an interview with Kadie.

The detective woman police said Kadie made a statement in Krio which she recorded in English, which she said was not different from the information that was given by Mandi. The police woman explained that after she had obtained the statement from Kadie, she advised that the girl be taken to an hospital for a medical examination. She however said that Mandi objected and instead advised that they take the girl to her relatives at Lombard Street, Forah Bay, Freetown. The matter comes up on...
Sierra Leone court sets bail for Aust police officer

A court in Sierra Leone has set bail of nearly $100,000 for a senior Australian police officer accused of sexual assaulting a minor.

Peter Halloran, 56, was detained in August and is facing charges that he had an illegal sexual relationship with a 13-year-old girl he allegedly hired to work in his home.

The Victorian police officer, employed by the UN-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone, has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

Judge Samuel Ademusu agreed to release Peter Halloran, 56, on bail but asked that a Sierra Leone surety should serve as a guarantor to ensure that he does not flee the country.

His passport will remain in the hands of the police.

Prosecution arguments continued with testimony from two Sierra Leone police officers, one of whom took a statement from Halloran on July 3 denying he had any improper relationship with the young girl.

His housemate and colleague Mandy Cordwell, who first filed the complaint against Halloran, was called by the prosecution.

She told the court that she first saw the young girl on May 31 and learned from Halloran that he had engaged her to work as a nanny for his girlfriend's toddler who was to arrive in the coming months on a visit.

Three days later she saw the girl in Halloran's room, sitting on the bed eating a bowl of rice.

"I asked the girl how long she had been there and she replied two days," Ms Cordwell testified, adding she had broached the subject with one of the other court employees who also shared the house.

"I was concerned that the girl was still in the room on June 3 so I went upstairs and found her making the bed. I later collected a pair of black shoes, a blue school uniform and blue jeans from Halloran's room."

Ms Cordwell said she presented her concerns to the Special Court's chief of investigations Allan White.

Halloran is on a year long UN contract serving as a prosecution investigator for the tribunal charged with trying those who bear the "greatest responsibility" for atrocities committed during the west African
state's decade of civil war that ended in 2001.

In custody at Freetown's maximum security prison since last month, Halloran has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

The girl's two brothers also face charges of procurement, according to the indictment.

-- AFP
Girl 'told of sex acts' with police officer
By Gavin Simpson
Freetown, Sierra Leone
September 25, 2004
A key prosecution witness in the sex abuse trial of former Victorian homicide squad chief Peter Halloran yesterday said the alleged child victim revealed the pair had engaged in sexual relations after she was seen sitting beside Halloran's bed.

Former Tasmanian detective Mandy Cordwell, 37, told the High Court of Sierra Leone that she had a 10-minute talk with the 13-year-old girl on June 3, after having seen her in Halloran's bedroom the night before, and then making his bed that morning.

Ms Cordwell, who shared a house with Halloran in Freetown, said she was "surprised to see (the girl) sitting beside (Halloran's) bed" on the night of June 2 when she entered his room to check on a faulty water pump in his bathroom. She said she did not see the girl leave the house that night.

The former detective sergeant was working alongside Halloran, who is on 12 months' leave from Victoria Police, as an investigator in the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone, a war crimes tribunal based in Freetown.

Halloran, 56, who has been charged with four child-sex offences, appeared in court. He is being held at the notorious Freetown Central Prison.

The trial, by judge alone, got under way amid speculation that the girl would claim that she was told by Ms Cordwell to concoct the story of abuse. Under cross-examination, Ms Cordwell said that notion was "completely untrue".

Ms Cordwell told the court that she was introduced to the girl as a younger sister of her Sierra Leonean housekeeper, Sheka Fofanah - who with his brother-in-law, Abdul Fofanah, has been charged with criminal conspiracy to procure a girl under the age of 14 for sex.

Ms Cordwell said she obtained a statement from the girl when they met in the kitchen of the house on June 3. She then had a "five to 10-minute discussion" with the girl in her bedroom, during which the girl indicated that Halloran had engaged in sexual acts with her. Ms Cordwell then asked another Special Court colleague and a Sierra Leonean police sergeant to join her and the girl at a Special Court safe house, where the girl gave a further statement.

Ms Cordwell did not allege that she had seen Halloran and the girl together. The trial is continuing.

- with agencies

More news
• Boy's firecracker caused Virgin scare
• Court hears of woman's .45 reading after crash
• Hope for bad children, study finds

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AN Australian policewoman has been called as a witness to open the case against a senior Victorian police officer facing child sex charges in the African nation of Sierra Leone.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, a former head of Victoria’s homicide squad working in Africa as a UN war crimes investigator, has been indicted on four counts of sex crimes involving a 13-year-old schoolgirl hired to work in his home.

Prosecutors in the High Court in Sierra Leone’s capital, Freetown, opened their sexual assault case against Halloran by calling Tasmanian police officer Mandy Cordwell as their first witness.

Cordwell was working under Halloran as a war crimes investigator, and with her husband shared a house with the Victorian in Freetown. She filed the complaint against Halloran, 56.

She told the court she first saw the teenager on May 31, and learned from Halloran that he had engaged the girl to work as a nanny for his girlfriend’s toddler, who was to arrive in coming months on a visit.

Three days later she saw the girl in Halloran’s room, sitting on the bed eating a bowl of rice.

"I asked the girl how long she had been there and she replied two days," Cordwell testified, adding that she had broached the subject with one of the other employees who also shared the house.

Cordwell, 37, a detective sergeant in Tasmania before resigning to work in Sierra Leone, said she presented her concerns to the Special Court’s chief of investigations, Allan White.

Court spokesman Peter Andersen said in August the war crimes tribunal had investigated the matter and found no evidence of wrongdoing.

Halloran has been charged with unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years.

The Victorian, in custody at Freetown’s maximum security prison since last month, has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

The girl’s two brothers also face charges of procurement.

Halloran’s lawyer has said he faces two years’ jail if found guilty, but other reports have said he could receive up to 15 years.

*Agence France-Presse*
Africa News September 24, 2004 Friday

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Africa News

September 24, 2004 Friday

LENGTH: 300 words

HEADLINE: Liberia; 
Bryant Expresses Fear About Renewed Violence

BYLINE: The Inquirer

BODY:
Chairman Bryant said past events in the country, show that because people were not properly cared for, the country returned to chaos, stressing that this might be repeated if the ex-combatants in the immediate past conflict are not properly demobilized, rehabilitated and cared for.

The NTGL Chairman was speaking Wednesday evening in Washington DC, USA, when he addressed the General Assembly of the world body on the Liberian peace process as well as the situation unfolding in the country.

In his address, Chairman Bryant expressed his great worries over the plight of ordinary Liberians and the total rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants in the Liberian civil crisis.

He stressed the need for the creation of job opportunities for disarmed fighters, stressing that to adequately create such opportunity, the world body should now see reason to lift the sanctions imposed on the country.

He said the sanctions were imposed by the United Nations because the world body felt that Liberia under the immediate past regime of Charles Taylor was involved in gun-running and illicit diamond trade.

According to Chairman Bryant the sanction is hurting the nation, emphasizing that the reasons for which the sanctions were imposed no longer exist because as he put it, the incumbent government is no longer buying guns or arms nor involved in any illicit diamond trade and gun-running.

Rather, Chairman Bryant added that his government is actively involved with the process of disarmament and is at the moment taking the guns from the hands of the fighters.

Chairman Bryant added the NTGL is cooperating with the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions to put in place sound financial policies to ensure accountability and transparency in government.

LOAD-DATE: September 24, 2004
UN, Ecowas, NTGL Raise Crucial Issues On Liberia

**The Inquirer (Monrovia)**

NEWS
September 24, 2004
Posted to the web September 24, 2004

The United Nations (UN), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), have raised a number of concerns relative to the Liberian peace process.

The three bodies released their respective positions on a number of crucial issues relating to the Liberian peace process during the first meeting of the Coordination Mechanism held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on September 20th.

In a communiqué issued at the end of the meeting, the three bodies recognized the many formidable challenges that lie ahead, stressing that a very pressing challenge is the lack of adequate funding for the reintegration and rehabilitation of ex-combatants as well as the return of refugees and the resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The meeting noted that any delay in the reintegration and resettlement of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) would impede recovery efforts including the efforts to rebuild the communities outside Monrovia, something which the three groups said is highly necessary so that demobilized combatants can be reintegrated.

The communiqué further noted with concern that such delays may affect the timetable for the reintegration of voters for the upcoming 2005 October elections, the preparation of which they said should be based on realistic and comprehensive benchmarks.

The three groups also expressed concern at the slow pace at which donor funds to the country is being made for the country’s reconstruction and recovery.

According to the communiqué, up to date, only the amount of US$3million has been received from the US$520million pledged by donors during February’s donor conference on Liberia.
The meeting urged donors to contribute the necessary funds in a timely manner for the reintegration of ex-combatants as well as the return of refugees and the resettlement of IDPs.

They also called on the donors to disburse funds pledged to the country on an urgent basis.

At the same time, the meeting resolved on the issue of calling on the NTGL to demonstrate transparency and accountability in the management of public funds.

The communiqué also said the meeting was concerned about the limited capacity of the NTGL to deliver basic services to the population and the continuing disputes over government posts which have made it difficult for the NTGL to function effectively.

The meeting also expressed concern that the peace process continued to be threatened by some members of the former armed factions who are not fully committed to the peace implementation of the CPA but are rather continuing to obstruct further progress. They called on the parties to put the interest of the nation first, above their personal interest and reaffirm their commitment to the peace process.