SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

A high-level Commonwealth Delegation, led by Secretary-General Don McKinnon, visited the Special Court on Sunday. See photos of the visit, and more, in today’s ‘Special Court Supplement’.

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:
Monday, 5 March 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday. Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact Martin Royston-Wright Ext 7217
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in Dakar, Senegal and it is now expected that his remains would be brought to Freetown to be buried on a date that is still to be announced. Although the government of Sierra Leone had given indication that it would be interested in taking part in the funeral arrangements of the late CDF leader who was later charged to court for war crimes, up to this time, only close members of the Hinga Norman family, members of civil society and former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold are actively discussing funeral arrangements.

Representatives of civil society organisations in Sierra Leone have written to the Mayor of the Freetown City Council, Winstanley Bankole Johnson, requesting a civic funeral for the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman, CDF Leader, who died in Senegal recently. Autopsy on the late Sam Hinga Norman was performed over the weekend.

From page 1

CIVIC FUNERAL

Some members of the public, but more particularly members of civil society hold the view that Sam Hinga Norman deserves a befitting funeral and arrangements are now being put in place to find out whether the Freetown City Council would be prepared to make possible the burial of Hinga Norman through a Council-organised civic funeral. Up to the time of his death, the former British envoy to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold has stood firmly by the Norman family as he holds the view that instead of being dragged to court to be tried for crimes against humanity, Hinga Norman deserved an accolade as a hero who succeeded in routing out an illegal regime as he helped in the restoration of the constitutionally elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

A representative of civil society organisations said in Freetown over the weekend that a delegation of civil society members would meet the Mayor of Freetown, Winstanley Bankole Johnson today to consider the possibilities of giving Sam Hinga Norman a befitting civic funeral.

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From page 1

Director of Amnesty International (AI) Sierra Leone, Brima A. Sheriff has disclosed at his Pademba Road office in Freetown that the news of the death of the former Kamajor chief-tain shocked the organization.

Sheriff added that he was on official duty in Senegal and that he had planned to visit the late Hinga Norman while hospitalized in a military hospital in Dakar when he learnt about his sudden death, which he described as unfortunate.

He lamented that the death of an individual who has been indicted but who was yet to be proved guilty or innocent by the Special Court is a concern to Amnesty International, especially at a time when AI is intensifying its fight against impunity.

Sheriff called for a special enquiry that would critically examine the circumstances that led to the death of the Special Court indictee.

"Members of the investigating panel should not be limited to only representatives of the Special Court but also Civil Soci-ety," Sheriff maintained. He further revealed that AI is also concerned that the death of the late chief is the second indictee in the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and that the Special Court should speed up the enquiry process so that the people of Sierra Leone would be given a very clear picture as to the circumstances that led to Norman’s death.

He added, "the findings of the commission to be set up will be good for transparency in addition to reassuring the people of this country of the importance of the Special Court. Norman was reported to be sick and taken to Senegal for treatment where he later died. AI is not suspicious of any foul play but some information should be given to the people," Sheriff argued.

He concluded, "I am not skeptical about the mandate of the Special Court, but it is limited. There are many other players in the civil war that also merit justice but are out walking as freemen."
GREAT SIERRA LEONEANS
WORTHY OF EMULATION

VICE PRESIDENT
SOLOMON BEREWAA

Vice President Solomon Berewa started life from a humble beginning until he rose to the position of Attorney General, his first political appointment. Prior to that, he practiced law privately and was described as one of the most brilliant lawyers in the 1970s.

As Attorney General, he excelled himself so well that within a very short time he was elevated to the enviable position of Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

It must be due to the fact that because he is obedient and loyal to his boss and mentor, President Kabbah, having served him diligently for nine good years, it pleased the President, who has much confidence in his vice, unlike in Nigeria, to select Solomon Berewa as his successor.

A man of firm Christian upbringing and discipline, majority of Sierra Leoneans hold the view that as a result of his widespread popularity and hard work, Solomon Berewa will be elected President after the July elections.

HINGA NORMAN, WAR HERO

The name Hinka Norman is a household name in Sierra Leone due to the fact that since independence, the name Hinka Norman is synonymous with politics.

It is reported that it was Hinka Norman who hatched the first military coup in the history of Sierra Leone when as Att De Camp to the Governor General, Sir Henry Lightfoot Besley, he put him under house arrest and together with other army officers, the coup was executed.

But the name Hinka Norman became more prominent when he formed the famous civil militia force known as the Kamajors to defend their communities from the attacks of the advancement and atrocities of the dreadful rebels.

Indeed, it was as a result of the Kamajors who fiercely fought along side ECOMOG forces that the exiled SLPP government was reinstated.

At the time of the formation of the Kamajors, the civil militia forces was hailed and embraced by Sierra Leoneans as heroes and saviors but as fate would have it, fortunes suddenly turned for the worst with the arrest and trial of persons who bear the greatest responsibilities for war crimes and crimes against humanity for which Hinka Norman was charged on eight counts.

He will surely be missed by numerous of his followers and admirers who adored him for his bravery and sacrifice.

PROF. KOSONIKEH
KOSO-THOMAS

This name is synonymous with academia, particularly Fourier Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

Kosso Thomas served as Chancellor of the University of Sierra Leone from 1984 to 1993 andexcelled himself with dignity not only in that capacity but also in various other fields of human endeavor.

Furthermore, he is a renowned engineer of no mean standing who has left his footprints on the sands of time.

As a scientist, he has also found time to do some literacy work in writing poems.

His engineering firm is accredited with designing and constructing architectural buildings that can be equated to buildings in any part of the world with the Kenema branch of the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank as one outstanding example.

WILFRED SAM-KING

Started his business in Njala in the Moyamba District where he sold foodstuffs to the college but later moved into the stationery business when he transferred to Freetown as a result of the intensification of the war.

At the moment, Sam King is the sole and authorized dealer of Canon and Dell products in Sierra Leone with offices located at 3 Gloucester Street and a branch at 8 Kissy Town Road, Bo.

As a result of his acute business savvy, Sam King has also invested in the building construction industry, heavy machinery in addition to also promoting the tourism industry by constructing one of the most magnificent hotels in Freetown, Kimbima Hotel.

To be continued
VP Berewa Speaks on Norman

The Honorable Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Solomon Ekuma Berewa, in his recent two-day visit to the district and Kenema District on 1st and 2nd March 2007, has spoken out publicly on the death of the late Chief Sir Hinga Norman who was at the Government's Minister of Interior, who was arrested by the United Nations backed Special Court for Sierra Leone and charged with war crimes against humanity only for him to later die in the hands of the Court.

The recent death of Chief Norman on February 22nd of this year, has caused a lot of dissatisfaction amongst the ruling party's support base especially in the South and East of Sierra Leone. President Kabbah had spoken out publicly at the Graduation Ceremony of the Njala University when he had expressed regret and sadness for the death whilst describing the late man as his friend and brother. A meeting organized in Kenema Town by a Berewa/SLPP Support Group known as 'Teachem Solidarity Mobilization for SLPP' was the avenue chosen by VP Berewa to express his own feelings on the death and the accompanying dissatisfaction caused by the said death.

Whilst thanking the teachers for the huge turnout in support of him, the Vice President paused and asked for a special period of silence in memory of the late Chief Norman. After the silence, the Vice President went on to say that Hinga Norman had throughout his entire life, always been, a loyal servant of the SLPP Party who never abandoned the SLPP and that the death of Norman brought immense sadness to all SLPP supporters all over Sierra Leone.

Berewa explained about how the Special Court was formed, with the blessings of the entire Government of Sierra Leone including the Cabinet and Parliament, so as to try those that bear the greatest responsibility in the war. Berewa explained that no one in Government including Chief Norman himself had ever felt that Chief Norman would have been arrested. However, according to the Special Court's own investigation, they claimed that Hinga Norman was guilty of such crimes.

Berewa explained that there was no way that the Government could now turn around and cancel the existence of the Special Court or forcefully free Hinga Norman from the Court because the United Nations itself was backing the Court and if the same Government that called for the Special Court now tried to forcefully stop the prosecution of Chief Norman, the United Nations and the International Community would have just simply left the country saying that Sierra Leoneans were not serious.

VP Berewa noted several times that the Norman arrest came as a surprise to the entire Government including to Chief Norman himself who was a Government Minister at the time but he asserted that at that point, there was nothing that they as a Government could now do to stop the process because the Government Ministers and the entire Parliament were the ones who had endorsed the creation of the Special Court.

Berewa pointed out that certain political parties have been using the "sad, sad death" as a campaign tool against the SLPP Government by saying that the government was responsible for Norman's death which he asserted was, "a through lie". He therefore advised the people of Kenema not to listen to such lies and to continue to support the SLPP. In addressing the large turn-out of teachers, VP Berewa assured that the SLPP will not let their hopes down and advised them to get registered to vote. Present also were the Hon. Minister of Education, Dr. Alpha Waffe, the SLPP Women's Leader, Dr. Bernadette Lahai and the SLPP's Eastern Chairman, Mr. M.A. Sandi who all hailed late Norman as a faithful man who worked hard for the SLPP.

It will be recalled that the Hinga Norman family has been very antagonistic towards the SLPP following the death of their father. It is not clear what their reaction will now be to the kind words being poured on him by the SLPP stalwarts.

Issa Sesay returns home

 Barely 43 days after he left the shores of Freetown Sierra Leone for medical treatment in a military hospital in Dakar Senegal, former Revolutionary United Front's Interim Leader, Issa Sesay who is now an indictee of the Special Court that was set up to charge for war crimes and crime against humanity, arrived home on the 1st March 2007 looking hale and healthy. Issa arrived on board a UN helicopter and was transferred to board a UNOSIL helicopter UN-029 which flew him and security officials to the special court detention centre at New England Ville in Freetown.
Norman's funeral fund opens in USA & UK

BY TALLEYRAND

Friends, supporters and sympathizers of the former United Nations backed Special Court indictee, late Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who died in a military hospital in Senegal's capital, Dakar, have opened a fund for his funeral service.

Close family members in the Diaspora, especially in the United States of America (USA) and United Kingdom (UK) aggrieved by Norman's sudden death have come together in unity to mourn the death of their kin in a special way.

Sympathizers have been asked to generously donate to the fund which has accounts established in the USA, UK and other parts of Europe.

In the US, a SLAMA account number #0047-0267 established at Bank of America, with headquarters in New York.

FROM PAGE 1

Texas on 4222 Crystal Lane, Garland, TX 75023 has been opened to the public.

According to the family, friends and sympathizers of the fallen Sierra Leonean hero, all proceeds of the fund will go towards the funeral arrangement.

As we go to press, it has not yet been confirmed as to when Chief Norman will be buried, as government is still arranging for the transfer of his body to Freetown. Family members in the Diaspora have already established the Hinga Norman Foundation to maintain a continuation of his legacy for the future.

Contacts for the foundation can be found on hinganormanfoundation@gmail.com

Telephone in London can be contacted on +44-2073941397
and in Sierra Leone on +232-76-66-14-77.

CONTINUED PAGE 13
High cost of justice is disincentive to women

BY SAIDU KAMARA

The Executive Director of LAWCLA, Mr. Melron Nicol-Wilson, has pointed out that the high cost of accessing justice is one of the major challenges facing women in the country.

In an interview with this reporter about women and the justice system in the country, he explained that because court fees are not easily affordable in the country it is very difficult for women who are victims of especially domestic violence to gain access to justice, adding that access to justice for women is very important in the dispensation of justice. Mr. Nicole-Wilson cited the example of the cost of Le300,000 charged for filing a divorce case, transport cost of Le100,000 for attending court cases, Le200,000 as bailiff cost of papers including a minimum of Le800,000 as lawyer fees as some of the barriers that make it difficult for women who have been abused to access the justice system.

The human rights lawyer argued that women who are the main caregivers and who head a third of households in Sierra Leone cannot afford these fees.

"They are therefore unable, or find it difficult to avail themselves to justice the court offers them", he further added.

Another challenge that women encounter is the language barrier and the nature of the adversarial system being practiced in our courts instead of a conciliatory mediatory system.

Other challenges, he pointed out, include the fact that the women in Sierra Leone find the court system alien, secondly women in the country are not good at record keeping, thirdly the constant adjournment of court cases, and how environmentally unfriendly the courts are to especially children.

These he noted are some of the things that hinder women from accessing the court.

Mr. Melron Nicol-Wilson said the adjournment of cases is one of the biggest barriers of our present judicial system, and explained that it is a disincentive for women because they are engaged in economic activities or are employed by others.

"How can they leave their work and spend half of their time in court?" He questioned.

According to him some of the things they are fighting against for women and children include domestic violence, rape, and defilement, and therefore stressed that the country needs to ensure that women are able to access justice by addressing these challenges.
Cocorioko website
Sunday, 4 March 2007
http://www.cocorioko.net/Normanfamilyriftwithslppdeepens.html

**Norman Family Rift With SLPP Government Deepens**

The rift between the family of the late Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), Chief Hinga Norman, and the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) has deepened, with the latest directive from the family banning the SLPP from the funeral ceremony of the late Chief. Last week, the Rev. Alfred Sam Foray, the Spokesman of the Hinga Norman Defence Fund, made a public release to communicate the first directive from the Norman family asking the SLPP not to attend any of the funeral ceremonies for the chief, who was also once an Interior Minister in the SLPP government. Many people doubted whether Sam Foray was truly representing the family. This weekend though, the family has left no doubt that Sam Foray's release was authentic and represented the family's wishes.

The family has repeated its demands that the SLPP stay away from the Chief's funeral.

According to reports received by COCORIOKO, the family returned the sum of Le. 500,000 and a cow sent by the President, Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

The family had warned before that: "Officials of the Sierra Leone government, the SLPP and the Special Court are strictly advised to give due diligence to the instructions of Mr. Norman and the wishes of the family as well as the customs and traditions of our people... This includes the prohibition of the transfer of Mr. Norman’s body to any person or group not designated for that purpose by the family or the Society of the Kamajors and allied societies."

Meanwhile, there is no word yet about the funeral. The international inquest to be conducted in Dakar, Senegal, has not yet been held.
Secretary-General visits Sierra Leone and Ghana

Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon will visit Sierra Leone from 3-5 March 2007 to discuss with leaders the country's recovery efforts following years of conflict in the 1990s. He will also join celebrations in Ghana on 6 March to mark the country's 50 years of independence.

In Sierra Leone, the Secretary-General will brief President Kabbah on preparations for this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Uganda in November. Also on the agenda are Commonwealth initiatives, including the work of the Commission on Respect and Understanding, which is exploring ways to promote mutual understanding and respect among all faiths and communities; and the work of the Committee on Commonwealth Membership, which is focusing on the criteria for membership of the organisation and other related issues.

Mr McKinnon will also discuss with President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah preparations for the forthcoming elections to take place in Sierra Leone later this year.

Speaking ahead of his visit to Freetown, the Secretary-General said the country is a successful example of the zeal and resilience of a people who are confidently rebuilding their nation after years of devastation.

"The Commonwealth remains committed to supporting Sierra Leone's recovery efforts," he stressed.

Mr McKinnon will hold discussions with senior officials from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, United Nations representatives, High Commissioners and members of the National Electoral Commission.

The Secretary-General will also visit the SOS Children's Village outside Freetown which offers vocational training for young people affected by the recent civil war. The Village also houses a kindergarten, transitional home and centre for the handicapped.

The second leg of Mr McKinnon's trip will be to Ghana from 5-7 March as a Special Guest of President John Kufuor to commemorate the country's 50th Anniversary of Independence on 6 March. The Secretary-General will meet President Kufuor and other Heads of State and Government during his visit to Accra.

"Ghana was a beacon for African independence and unity in 1957; today Ghana remains an inspiration for stability and progress in Africa. From the visionary leadership of President Nkrumah to the current stewardship of President Kufuor, Ghana has overcome many challenges in its journey since independence. Ghana's golden jubilee symbolises not only half a century of independence, but also its emergence as a modern, dynamic and democratic African nation. It is a major milestone for reflection on the important contributions made by independent Africa to the evolution of the modern Commonwealth," said Mr McKinnon.
BBC Hard Talk
Monday, 5 March 2007
Transcript

Interview with Special Court Prosecutor Stephen Rapp

[Note: the first few minutes of the programme were not streamed within the Court]

RAPP: ...still time for appeals if appeals are necessary and for the Court to close completely by
the end of 2009. So we have to do it in 18 months; Milosevic took four years and didn’t finish.

What went wrong with the Milosevic case? Why did it descend into farce?

RAPP: Well, understand the Milosevic case had a lot of difficulties, particularly the health of Mr.
Milosevic. In 2004 I believe there were only 33 court days, and the number of days were curtailed
to three a week, and then we (had) half days, etc. And of course he represented himself and to a
large extent wanted to grandstand and make... (interrupted).

It was very damaging for the whole principle of international justice, wasn’t it?

RAPP: Well, it was unfortunate that the case didn’t reach judgment. I mean, an enormous amount
of evidence came in in that case. It was very, very well [indistinct] by the prosecution and there
could have been, I think, a judgment in that case that would have had enormous importance. As it
is, that evidence is on the public record but that’s not the kind of decision that you want.

Did you learn specific lessons from that case that you can now apply to make sure that the same
thing doesn’t happen with this vital prosecution of Charles Taylor?

RAPP: Well the crucial lesson is to really focus on the fighting issues. Now to some extent that’s
difficult in these cases because some accused people want to fight over every single issue. But it’s
our intention to put before the Judges a lot of written evidence, evidence that’s come in in other
cases, about the crimes committed in Sierra Leone – the terrorism, the killing, the child soldiers,
the rape, the sexual slavery – all of these kinds of things, we say, really can’t basically be
disputed. Those crimes occurred. We don’t need to bring in a hundred witnesses to prove what
everybody knows, and think we don’t that Charles Taylor can contest that or will contest that. So
we think that the case will turn on the linkage between him and the forces that directly committed
those crimes.

And this is the same thing that the prosecutors in the Yugoslavia tribunal had to prove. They had
to draw a direct line from crimes committed in Bosnia back to Milosevic sitting in Belgrade.
Milosevic only set foot in Bosnia once in the four year war there. And they failed, they failed to
demonstrate conclusively that there was a line of responsibility all the way back to Milosevic

RAPP: I think if you look at the evidence in the case it was conclusively shown in the prosecution
case, and if there’d been a judgment there would have been, Mr. Milosevic would have been
convicted. We don’t know the answer to that... (interrupted)

Can you draw a similar line all the way back to Charles Taylor?

RAPP: Yes...
He never set foot in Sierra Leone.

RAPP: I mean we have strong evidence to do that. But that involves some of the same kind of issues in Milosevic. You’ve got historical patterns. You had Sankoh of the RUF and Taylor involved from 1989 onward and working in tandem, so there will be historical evidence, but then there will be evidence specifically about what happened during the temporal jurisdiction, insider witnesses that will tie Taylor to those responsible for the offences and to him working in...

(interrupted).

Of course he’s linked to those responsible for the atrocities committed in Sierra Leone, but are these active crimes of direct commission by Charles Taylor in person?

RAPP: Well, understand that when you’re talking about tribunals whose responsibility it is to go after those who are the leaders, who bear the greatest responsibility, those are not likely to be the individuals out there chopping off limbs themselves. They are the persons that had put those forces in play for their own particular reasons and they are doing a variety of things to allow those forces to continue to be in the field. In international law you are required to show that the individual committed the crime, or instigated the crime, or ordered the crime, or aided and abetted the crime, or that they were people who were under his effective control and he didn’t do anything to control them...

(interruption, competing voices) ...punish them.

That’s a kind of omission, and the International Court of Justice, just in the last few days, decided that Serbia was not guilty of genocide in Bosnia, but was guilty of failing to prevent genocide in Bosnia, so they’re two quite distinct things. Are you saying essentially Charles Taylor is guilty of a crime of omission in failing to stop people loyal to him committing atrocities, or are you saying that he directly ordered atrocities to be committed?

RAPP: We’re saying both. We’re saying that he committed acts – in other words, active individual criminal responsibility. But beyond that, in international criminal law there is a way that you commit crimes for which you are directly responsible and which omission is relevant. But you have to show that those people were under your effective control, that you knew what they were doing or had good reason to know what they were doing, and then you failed to act to prevent or to punish their conduct, and you had the power to prevent or punish their conduct with that knowledge. Under those circumstances you are directly responsible in the same way that you’d be responsible as if you had the machete yourself and chopped off that arm, short sleeves or long sleeves.

Let me ask you about another of the indictees who was in custody for several years, and died – Sam Hinga Norman.

RAPP: Yes.

A popular hero in the streets of Freetown, associated with a lifetime’s commitment, at least certainly towards the latter part of his life, commitment to bring peace and democracy. A lot of people accuse the tribunal of bringing a prosecution against him, again for crimes committed by other people who were acting under his command, simply in the interests of some kind of a spurious balance, because you didn’t have anybody else from the government side.

RAPP: Well there are other people that are co-accused in that case and two others that are living and on which judgments will be rendered in the next few weeks, and we believe that that
judgment will also touch on the conduct of, on the orders, and on the activity of Chief Norman himself. I think in your introduction you noted the fact that these courts are often accused of being “victors’ justice”, of only prosecuting one side. My predecessor courageously indicted Chief Hinga Norman, who was then a government minister, and two of his alleged accomplices and charged them and put on compelling evidence of their activities. And in terms of Mr. Norman, Chief Norman, who’s no longer with us, and that’s enormously regrettable, we wish he were here...

He died in custody.

RAPP: He died in custody, he died after elective surgery that he chose to have and that was done in Dakar. Another individual was also receiving surgery, and some 15 days after that surgery, so that’s extremely regrettable, very unhappy about that. But fundamentally, I mean getting back to your question, in his case there was evidence presented that he ordered broad scale killing of civilians. One time he expressed anger in a meeting that there were some civilians left alive in a particular community of Koribondu. On another occasion his supporters cut foetuses out of the wombs of pregnant women and mounted their heads on pikes in order to celebrate his arrival, and he praised their activities in that particular area. He’s an individual who went in and crossed the line. We’re not saying that he wasn’t necessarily fighting on the right side, but it makes no difference what side you fight on, there are rules that you don’t violate. You don’t kill civilians, you don’t engage in ritual murders, you don’t employ children under the age of 15 and utilise them through the act of being soldiers. And that’s what we’re saying he did.

Your predecessor indeed said that “I’m afraid you can fight on the side of the angels and nevertheless commit crimes against humanity”. But was no part of the motivation, not a single part of the motivation of bringing that prosecution against Hinga Norman, a desire to show that you were willing to go after the victors as well as the losers?

RAPP: Well, I deal with these cases, and I come of course from the Rwanda tribunal and I’ve been working in this area for six years. You look at the evidence and take that evidence where it leads, and determine whether you have strong evidence of the commission of acts by people in these war zones that constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law. And when you have that kind of evidence, you bring those cases.

The former British High Commissioner Peter Penfold said, “the arrest of Hinga Norman and incarceration was a grave injustice. His death is a tragedy for all those who not only talk about peace and democracy, but are prepared to fight and die for these causes”. He has a lot of support internationally as well as at home.

RAPP: Well, Ambassador Penfold was a good friend of his. He testified in his behalf. But we presented evidence of grave crimes committed by this particular individual. I know Ambassador Penfold said the other night, “sometimes you have to fight fire with fire”. If the fire...

Justifying atrocities against civilians then?

RAPP: If the idea is, that if the other side is committing these horrible atrocities, you’re justified in committing those horrible atrocities, that’s fundamentally that argument. That is not the way we protect civilians in war zones. And one has to enforce the law against both sides, and one has to go against those that are responsible even if their cause was noble.
Why have so many of your indictees, themselves facing war crimes charges but who could also have provided very useful evidence for you in the case of Charles Taylor, died in custody?

RAPP: Well you’re talking obviously about Chief Norman who certainly wouldn’t have been a witness I don’t think in the Taylor...

Foday Sankoh, the former...

RAPP: Foday Sankoh, who’d been in prison I think for about three years he was transferred to our custody after he’d already had a stroke and was very, very ill. Another individual, Sam Bockarie, was killed under suspicious circumstances in Liberia before we were able to arrest him. There’s another indictee, Johnny Paul Koroma, who may be dead. We have no solid evidence on that and we’re seeking information about it.

That’s three potentially very valuable witnesses against Taylor who have died.

RAPP: Or are not available to us, and there are certainly other people, there are thousands of other people across the region that are dead in fact because of these particular crimes.

It doesn’t matter, we’re talking about very, very high-level people who could be the living – if they were alive – link between Taylor and the crimes you (interruption).

RAPP: Sam Bockarie, if he were alive, would be in the dock in the RUF case, and Johnny Paul Koroma would be in the dock in the AFRC case. We don’t know if they would be witnesses. But I mean fundamentally there’s a different issue between whether somebody is dying in a war zone, someone who’s lived by the gun and who may die by the gun, and situations of people who are older who may die in custody because of whatever circumstances.

Are you getting the support you need from the international community?

RAPP: We are getting that support. Understand that’s a constant challenge. Unlike our colleagues in the Rwanda tribunal or Yugoslavia tribunal who rely essentially on UN dues, we rely on voluntary contributions.

You’re not getting the money, or not in sufficient quantities.

RAPP: Well we are. I’ve been out – part of my job, I’ve been at this for two months. Not quite half of that time has been spent dealing with...

fundraising.

RAPP: ...with diplomatic missions, etc., talking about what we’re doing and raising the money we need.

You’re the prosecutor in a vital new process and you have to spend much of your time and expertise fundraising, going cap in hand to reluctant donors.

RAPP: Well that’s part of the challenge, that’s [what the world] decided in regard to this particular court, that it would be supported by voluntary contributions... (interrupted, indistinct)

Is it frustrating? Is it just a very lukewarm commitment to the pursuit of justice.
RAPP: Among a variety of countries there’s an intense commitment, on the part of the United Kingdom, on the part of the Netherlands, on the part of Canada and the United States, an enormous support that they provide both cash and kind to the tribunal. A great many other countries that are now stepping up, France and the Scandinavian countries, countries in Asia that have recently made contributions. So we are getting support because of what we’re doing. [It’s] a very intriguing way to proceed.

Have you got enough cash to see you through to the end of the Charles Taylor prosecution?

RAPP: Obviously we don’t have enough cash. We raise our money in each of these political processes that are involved in countries as they pass budgets year after year. We’re proposing now finally a three-year budget, which is a great idea. We’re saying this year we’ve got these needs for the Taylor trial and to finish these judgments in Freetown, bringing the Appeals Judges in to hear the appeals, next year we’ll have the Taylor trial continuing... (interruption) ...the last of the judgments and then at the end of 2009 we’ll...(interrupted).

You say it’s an intriguing way to run a system of justice. It’s actually rather hand to mouth. What happens if you run out of money?

RAPP: If we run out of money we would go out and raise money and we believe that we would receive the support of the international community. The Management Committee consists of seven countries. Their ambassadors in New York are actively involved in building additional support. And we have commitments this year, through this process, I’m confident to deal with this year. Next year we’re going to need less resources. We’ve got in a number of countries very active supporters in parliament and in budget committees, etc. I’m confident we’ll do the job provided we meet the kind of deadlines that we’re talking about in our plans.

What will it cost to put Charles Taylor on trial?

RAPP: Well, these are difficult things to calculate. As far as the Court itself, we have a $33 million budget this year. That includes everything we’re doing in Freetown, which means finishing up two big cases, continuing the third big case, bringing down Appeals Judges that are going to hear the appeals in the other cases, and then we’ve got Taylor. I suspect that maybe the cost of Taylor this year may be a third of our real costs. Next year it may be closer to half of our costs as other things fade away, but some have said $20 million, something along those lines, to do Taylor, which is a relatively small amount of money considering how much damage was done according to our evidence by Taylor in the region, as if you can even put a price tag to human life. And all these cases cost money. I mean Timothy McVeigh case in the United States: 169 victims, a horrible case, but it was a crime done and over with in a single bombing... (interrupted) ...$82 million, the court put on... (interrupted)

Excuse me, the prosecution didn’t have to go cap in hand and spend half its time raising funds to prosecute Timothy McVeigh. Let me ask you about Rwanda because you were on the prosecution team at the International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda. That tribunal has failed to bring a single prosecution against anybody from the Rwandese Patriotic Front. Why?

RAPP: Well – and understand, I’m no longer at that court and that decision is in the hands of my former boss, Prosecutor Jallow. He has announced to the United Nations Security Council that he’s weighing the evidence that’s been developed in investigations regarding the Rwanda Patriotic Front, and will make decisions by the middle of this year in terms of... (interrupted)
But it’s been ten years. The court has been sitting for a decade now and it’s only heard cases against the former government, not against the new government.

RAPP: Well you talk about false balances and trying to figure out exactly how to approach the cases and the crimes allegedly committed by different sides. The Rwanda tribunal was established because of one of the great crimes of the Twentieth Century, the genocide of the Tutsis – 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus that were protecting them murdered in the course of 100 days. That’s why the court was established. And those cases that involve the use of an entire government, the government, the military leadership, the media leadership... (interruption, competing voices) that is an enormous case, and that needed to be done. Now if other forces committed crimes, if they killed civilians, if other things occurred, they were of much lower dimension than the crime committed by what we in the prosecution... (interruption, competing voices)

Is it conceivable that no high-level crime was committed by anybody from the RPF in the pursuit of trying to stop the genocide?

RAPP: Well, understand that one has to [indistinct] the evidence, develop cases not on the basis of reports of massacres in particular locations but based on the evidence you have of the direct responsibility of individuals for those events. And that’s what would be involved if cases are brought.

So far, no single individual from the RPF has been found to be suspected of the commissioning (sic.) of war crimes. No case has been indicted. And investigations have gone forward. (competing voices). It sounds to the whole world like “victors’ justice”. The RPF have got off scot-free.

RAPP: The tribunal is not done with its business, and we shall see what happens and how it’s all put together at the end of the day. I mean, it is important to make those genocide cases and then one can look I think at the other things, but obviously that’s part of the challenge and the mandate that’s in the hands of the prosecutor and the hands of the whole tribunal. And judge at the end of the day... (interrupted) ...don’t judge it at midday.

Do you feel uneasy about it?

RAPP: Do I feel uneasy about the way that it’s...

That all the prosecutions have been against one side?

RAPP: Not when you deal with the fact that there were 800,000 people killed. I mean, you can go to Nuremberg which of course had the same sort of criticism. (interruption, competing voices).

RAPP: In your defence of the prosecution of Hinga Norman in Sierra Leone, you said you sometimes had to prosecute those who were fighting one the side of the angels. When fighting on the side of the angels they nevertheless committed crimes against humanity. Nobody doubts that the RPF was fighting to stop the genocide, that they were fighting on the just cause side at that time. But does it make you uneasy nonetheless that ten years after the court sat it hasn’t found a single crime worthy of prosecution committed on the side of the RPF?

RAPP: It would make me uneasy if that evidence was swept under the rug, if there were no investigations, if there were no effort to put things together. But that has been done in the Office
of the Prosecutor, and there will be a decision about whether there are prosecutable cases to bring forward.

Why has there been no investigation into the shooting down of the president’s aircraft in 1994, the event that triggered the genocide?

RAPP: Well, understand that the prosecutors at the Rwanda tribunal, beginning with Louise Arbour, prosecutor in the ‘90s at both tribunals – both Yugoslavia and the Rwanda tribunal, and Carlo del Ponte and the current prosecutor – have taken the position that that particular offence, the shooting down of the plane, if it were committed by the RPF, would not be a violation of international humanitarian law because under the statute you prosecute cases of the killings of civilians, of targeting large groups of civilians. Those are the kinds of offences that can be tried at the international level. Prosecutor del Ponte assisted the French investigation, made sure that they had the information that was in our files so that they could proceed at the French level. But there’s been a consistent decision that the plane crash itself, the attack on the plane crash, even if it were an assassination attempt, was targeted at a Major-General who was essentially the commander-in-chief of the force involved in a (interruption, indistinct) armed conflict.

He was on his way back from peace talks in Arusha.

RAPP: You can say that someone broke rules in the sense of breaking ceasefires, etc., but that is a crime of aggression. The tribunals are established to prosecute violations of humanitarian law, and if you filed a case like that tomorrow and had strong evidence the defence would knock it out. It may seem strange from a legal standpoint, but that’s the answer.

Let me put a charge to you that you’ll be very familiar with, that the international tribunal stepped back from going after RPF figures because they were afraid of losing the cooperation of the Rwandese government if they did so.

RAPP: Well the court has needed, I should note, the cooperation of the Rwandan government, and has the cooperation of the Rwandan government when it comes to bringing witnesses to Arusha, and hundreds of witnesses have come, and the tribunal expects the cooperation of the Rwandan government when it comes to proceeding with cases against the RPF. Now I’m confident we’ll have that.

And if you lost that. If at any time in the last ten years you had lost that cooperation it would have been a disaster, wouldn’t it?

RAPP: Well, it would have made it more difficult for the cases to proceed. There’s no question about that. But there are other ways that one can make cases. There are people in the diaspora, there are other witnesses all over the world that one can bring. I suggest that the manner that they proceeded in is a manner that makes sense given the respective gravity of these alleged offences.

Where does this process go from here – the Yugoslav, the Rwandese and the Sierra Leonean courts will all be wound up in the next few years. But is this a process that the world is going to get used to and develop? And what effect will it have in the prosecution of war in the future?

RAPP: Well I think it’s had its effect already. When the Yugoslavian and the Rwandan tribunals were established, no one expected a great deal from them, frankly. I mean it was sort of like the world hadn’t put robust Chapter 7 peacekeeping forces into either conflict, hadn’t prevented the atrocities, and the attitude to some extent was, “send in the lawyers – maybe they can do
something about it”. But I think a lot of people didn’t have a lot of faith that it would accomplish what it’s accomplished. Both tribunals have rendered judgments against scores of individuals for these very, very grave crimes, and created an expectation that leaders who commit these crimes will end up in the dock. I think this is part of the reason we got Taylor. You know, he was essentially allowed out of Liberia into a peace versus justice kind of situation. And because of [that] happened, we got him.

We must leave it there. Thank you very much indeed for joining us.

RAPP: Thank you.

_Transcribed by the Office of Press and Public Affairs_
International Clips on Liberia

VOA 02 March 2007
Liberia: UN Launches Sports for Peace Program
By James Butty, Washington, D.C.

The UN Mission in Liberia Friday will launch a Sports for Development and Peace program. Launching the program would be former Swiss President Adolf Ogi, who is currently Special Advisor to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. Ben Dotsei Mark Malor is spokesman for the UN Mission in Liberia. He said the five-week long program will promote peace, reconciliation and development in Liberia. "The Sports for Peace program is basically trying to use sports as a vehicle to promote peace and development. Basically as special advisor to the secretary general, Mr. Adolf Ogi, who happens to be a former president of Switzerland, put it, and I quote him, he says: In sports I learned to win without thinking I am the best; I learn to lose without thinking it is the end. I learned to respect the opponent and the rules; I learned to respect the decision of the referee. So basically, it's the same. Here in Liberia, there is the strong potential of using sports as a way uniting people," he said.

International Clips on West Africa

UN providing 35 million dollars in aid to Sierra Leone

UNITED NATIONS, March 1, 2007 (AFP) - The United Nations on Thursday said it was extending 35 million dollars from its Peacebuilding Fund to Sierra Leone to fund employment and democracy projects in the west African country recovering from a recent civil war. "The Peacebuilding Fund will support critical interventions in Sierra Leone and we hope that it can play an important catalytic role in attracting additional donor support to further consolidate the peace process," said UN Assistant Secretary General for Peacebuilding Carolyn McAskie.

Local Media – Newspaper

Liberian President and UN Official Launch Sports Event Today
(The Inquirer, The Analyst, New Vision and Heritage)

- In his remarks at a forum, the United Nations Under Secretary-General and the Advisor on Peace and Development to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, Mr. Adolf Ogi enjoin Liberians to consider sports as a major contributor to peace and stability.
- Mr. Ogi who is in the Country to launch, in conjunction with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, UN’s Pilot Sports Programme, said that the project decided one year ago by the former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as a means to foster peacekeeping activities.

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

UN Official Launches Major Sporting Event Today
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

**U.S. to Present Law Books to Judiciary Today**
- United States Ambassador to Liberia, Donald Booth will today present a consignment of law books to Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis to be distributed to circuit courts throughout the country as part of the U.S. government’s program to strengthen the judiciary in post-war Liberia.
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

**Over 150 Deactivated Police Officers to Receive Benefit**
- Over 150 deactivated police officers will begin receiving their demobilization package next Monday.
- According to Police Inspector-General, Beatrice Munnah Sieh the ex-officers are those who were not part of the first phase of the deactivation process and disclosed that the payment was part of the U.K. fund given government during the transitional period to carry out the process.
- Britain provided US$9 million to government through the United Nations Development Program to carry out the deactivation process.
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)
Peace plan for Ivory Coast agreed
The Ivory Coast government and the rebel movement have signed an accord in a fresh attempt to revive the country's stalled peace process.

The two sides agreed to form a new power-sharing government within five weeks and set up a joint army command.

The deal was signed in Burkina Faso by President Laurent Gbagbo and rebel leader Guillaume Soro.

Its aim is to unite Ivory Coast, which has been split since rebels seized the northern half of the country in 2002.

The accord, signed in the capital of Burkina Faso Ouagadougou, comes after a month of negotiations between the two sides.

It is not yet clear who will be named prime minister of the new government, but there is strong speculation that Mr Soro has been offered the job.

The buffer zone between the two sides - known as the confidence zone - is to be removed. It is currently patrolled by 10,000 French and UN troops.

The joint army command - to be set up within two weeks - is to include both rebels and supporters of Mr Gbagbo.

The deal sets a timetable for disarmament and for a mass identification programme to give identity cards to the millions of Ivorians who do not have them.

It is estimated that elections, which have been postponed twice already, could be held in 10 months.

Cautious optimism
The BBC's James Copnall in Ouagadougou says the accord is Ivory Coast's best ever hope for lasting peace, but past failures suggest there is no guarantee the chance will be taken.

This is only the latest in a long list of deals and Ivorian politicians are famous for not respecting the accords they have signed, our correspondent says.

The executive secretary of West African grouping Ecowas, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, said Sunday's accord could succeed where others have failed because Mr Gbagbo and Mr Soro have been involved.
"What is different this time is that the two major protagonists have agreed, and have negotiated directly," Mr Chambas said.

"That gives cause for some optimism," he added.

France, the former colonial power welcomed the agreement, saying it should enable peacekeepers to begin pulling out immediately.

The rebels from the mainly Muslim north launched an attempted coup against Mr Gbagbo in September 2002, complaining of widespread discrimination.
Visit of Commonwealth Delegation, led by Secretary-General Don McKinnon, to the Special Court
Sunday, 4 March 2007
Special Court Supplement
Photos from the Personnel CV Writing and Interviewing Skills Workshop
Friday, 2 March 2007