SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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: Thursday, 2 August 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday. Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact Martin Royston-Wright Ext 7217
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The Patriotic Vanguard  
Sunday, 29 July 2012  
Press Release

Monument to Sam Hinga Norman

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It has come to the attention of the family of Chief Samuel Hinga Norman (photo), Late of Valunia Chiefdom, Bo District, Southern Region, that members of the Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) under the direction of the Hon. Paul Kamara, Member of Parliament for Valunia and Gbo Chiefdoms, are in the process of erecting a monument or statue in the likeness of Chief Hinga Norman at or near his birth and burial place in Nguala near Mongere. While the Norman family appreciates any legitimate efforts by his fellow citizens to keep Chief Norman’s name and memory alive following his untimely death at the hands of the special court for Sierra Leone, the family also wishes to make it known to the general public and all the parties involved in this project that the Hinga Norman family has no prior knowledge of or involvement in this matter and has given no consent implied or otherwise for the establishment or erection of any monument or statue in Chief Norman’s honour. Neither does the Hinga Norman family plan to be a part of any ceremonies relating to the unveiling of such a monument or statue. Despite his status as a national hero, the children of Chief Hinga Norman are particularly disturbed by the fact that any group or political party would undertake such a project without their opinion or consent.

It is also to be recalled that:-

- Both Chief Hinga Norman and his elder brother Albert also buried at this site were veterans of the Armed Forces of Sierra Leone;

- Both Hinga and Albert Norman were at their time of death, ranking members of the Poro and Wunde Societies;

- Chief Hinga Norman was at a time Regent Chief of Jaiama-Bongor Chiefdom;

- Chief Hinga Norman was a member in high ranking of the Society of Kamajors.

In any or all of those capacities, the family regards the burial site of Albert and Hinga Norman a sacred site. As such, no ceremonies, icons, monuments or likeness of Chief Hinga Norman should be erected at the site without the expressed permission of the family, and no ceremonies, libations or similar acts should be performed at the site without the expressed permission of the High Priest of the Kamajors and his counter-parts in the above named societies in consultation with the Hinga Norman family. Any monument as described above that may have already been erected prior to this release will be removed forthwith at the discretion of the family, and any disturbance or damage to the resting places of Albert and Hinga Norman will be the responsibility of the those parties involved.

The Resident Mister South, the Senior Paramount Chief, Bo District, the Paramount Chief of Valunia Chiefdom, the Town Chief of Nguala, the Member of Parliament, Bo North, the Assistant Inspector General of Police, South, the Chief Imam, Bo District, the Leader of the Peoples Movement for
Democratic Change (PMDC) and all other affected authorities are by this posting informed accordingly. The cooperation of everyone involved will be highly appreciated by the Hinga Norman family.

Respectfully;

Alfred M.SamForay, Head, Hinga Norman Family.

**COMMENTS**

Susan Manga • 3 days ago

First of all Sam Hinga Norman was not a national hero. He was a war crime suspect. Secondly, the Kamajor movement is not a society. It was a movement that has been disbanded. I agree any monument to be built in honour of the late Chief Norman must be in consultation with the Hinga Norman family. The Honourable Kamara representing Valunia Gbo constituency is also a distance relative of Chief Norman. It will therefore make sense if such family issues are settled at family level and not in the press in a form of a press released. It is like some one is trying to gain special fame on Norman wings.
Human Rights Watch Report on Charles Taylor’s Trial

By Julien Maton

The trial of the former Liberian President Charles Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity during Sierra Leone’s armed conflict was a largely well-run proceeding, Human Rights Watch said in a report released last week. The trial benefitted from a high-quality defense, sound handling of witnesses, and dynamic outreach to communities affected by the crimes. At the same time, Human Rights Watch’s analysis identified areas in which practice should be improved for future trials of the highest-level suspects before domestic, international, and hybrid war crimes tribunals.

The 55-page report, “Even a ‘Big Man’ Must Face Justice: Lessons from the Trial of Charles Taylor”, analyzes the practice and impact of Taylor’s trial by the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. The report examines the conduct of the trial, including issues related to efficiency, fairness, and witnesses and sources. It also examines the court’s efforts to make its proceedings accessible to communities most affected by the crimes, and perceptions and initial impact of the trial in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Continue reading ‘Human Rights Watch Report on Charles Taylor’s Trial’
Taylor's Ex - Security Advisor Descends On UN

A former security advisor to former Liberian President Charles G. Taylor, Mr. John T. Richardson, has descended on the United Nations(UN), describing the world body as "undemocratic".

Mr. Richardson is one of the 17 Liberians who were recently delisted on the United Nations Travel Ban List and Assets Freeze list by the Security Council.

It can be recalled that on July 20, 2012, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia delisted 17 Liberians from the list of individuals that were subjected to a long running assets freeze and travel restrictions imposed by paragraph 4 (a) of resolution 1521 2003 and in 2004, the list of individuals and entities subject to the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1532.

Among other things, the Security Council Committee stated: "The measures no longer apply to these individuals."

Those delisted from the sanction list include: Adolphus Dolo, Belle Dunbar, George Dweh, Edwin Snowe, Agnes Reeves-Taylor, Jewel Howard-Taylor and Tupee Taylor.

Others are: Myrtle Francelle Gibson, Martin George, Chief Cyril Allen, Randolph Cooper, and the late Victoria Refell.

The rest are: John T. Richardson, Reginald Goodridge, Emmanuel Shaw, Sampson Gwen and Maurice Cooper, who is now deceased.

These Liberians were previously placed on the lists because the UN had considered them as threat to the peace and stability of the country. Most, if not all of those placed on the list, had close ties with former President Taylor, who has been convicted of committing war crimes in neighboring Sierra Leone.

According to Mr. Richardson, the UN placed him(Richardson) and other Liberians on its travel ban list and assets freeze list "unlawfully and impartially". Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Heritage on Monday, July 30, 2012 in Monrovia, the former security advisor to the former Liberian leader asserted that the UN did not accord them due process, insisting that the world body's action was "unlawful and unjust".

He stated: "I believe the UN is melding in the internal politics of Liberia because the listing and delisting was politically motivated...no due process." He continued: "Without due process, it is unlawful to stop people from traveling, the world needs to review the work of the UN."

Mr. Richardson, who also served as the Minister of Public Works during the Taylor's regime, averred that the UN through its five permanent members can decide the fate of the world anytime by themselves, saying "this is dangerous".

Quizzed as to whether he was happy for the delisting of his name, the former government official responded in these words: "No cause to celebrate because there is no justification for my name to be listed. They have corrected an injustice with no apology and reparation." He furthered that the news came as a surprise to him because he was not thinking about it.
When Mr. Richardson was further quizzed as to what effect the ban had on his outside movement, he said it hampered him greatly. However, Mr. Richardson vowed not to travel out of the country until other Liberians, who are still on the travel ban list and assets free list, are delisted.

Meanwhile, the former security advisor to president Taylor is demanding reparation from the UN for what he called "unjustly" punishing him and his other fellow compatriots. Background: The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia was established on 22 December 2003 to oversee the relevant sanctions measures and to undertake the tasks set out by the Security Council in paragraph 21 of the same resolution.

The 1521 Committee is the successor body to two previous Security Council Committees that are no longer in existence, namely the Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1997) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001).

The sanctions regime and the mandate of the Committee have been modified by subsequent resolutions, most notably Security Council resolutions 1532 (2004), 1683 (2006) and 1903 (2009). The regime was most recently extended by resolution 2025 of 14 December 2011.

States implement the travel ban and assets freeze measures in connection with individuals and entities included in the Travel Ban List and Assets Freeze List, which are maintained and regularly updated by the Committee.
The Sydney Morning Herald
Thursday, 2 August 2012

Pressure on ICC to complete inquiry into lawyer's conduct

Rory Callinan

THE Libyan government is pressuring the International Criminal Court to complete an investigation into Australian lawyer Melinda Taylor's controversial meeting with the son of the former dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

Ms Taylor and three other staff from the ICC's Office of Public Counsel for the Defence were arrested on June 7, accused of espionage and held in a makeshift jail for 25 days by an armed local faction of the Libyan government.

They had been visiting Gaddafi's son, Saif al-Islam, ahead of ICC hearings on charges of his alleged war crimes.

The group was only released after the ICC promised a full investigation into her conduct but Ms Taylor has vigorously denied any impropriety, saying her actions were "consistent with my legal obligations under the ICC Statute and rules and code of professional conduct for counsel".

On Monday, the Libyan government's legal team filed a motion raising concerns that it had not been given any information about the ICC's proposed investigation into the actions. "Almost a month later, as of the filing of the present submission, counsel for Libya have not been provided with any indication as to the status, progress or results of the court's investigation of the alleged misconduct of [ICC appointed defence] counsel," the Libyan's filing said.

Last night an ICC spokesman said: "These issues are presented to the ICC judges and we can not speculate on their decisions."