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SCSL-2004-15-PT

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**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE**

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

FREETOWN – SIERRA LEONE

Before: Judge Bankole Thompson, Presiding Judge

Registrar: Robin Vincent

Date filed: 5 May 2004

**THE PROSECUTOR**

**Against**

**ISSA SESAY  
MORRIS KALLON  
AUGUSTINE GBAO**  
(Case No. SCSL-2004-15-PT)

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**PROSECUTION'S RESPONSE TO "ORDER TO FILE DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF  
JUDICIAL NOTICE MOTION" DATED 4 MAY 2004**

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Office of the Prosecutor:

Luc Côté  
Robert Petit

Defence Counsel for Issa Sesay:

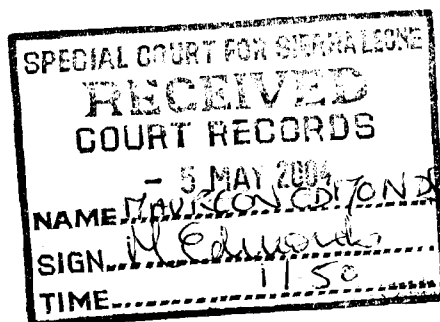
Timothy Clayson

Defence Counsel for Morris  
Kallon:

Shekou Toure

Defence Counsel for Augustine  
Gbao:

Andreas O'Shea



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1. Pursuant to the "Order to File Outstanding Documents in Support of the Judicial Notice Motion" dated 4 May 2004, the Prosecution thereby files the following documents as referred to in Annex B of the said Motion:

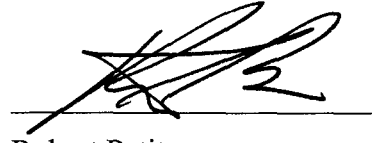
No 12: Secretary General Report on the Situation in Freetown, 9 June 1998 (S/1998/486);  
No 16: UNOMSIL Fifth Report, 4 March 1999 (S/1999/237);  
No 21: Sierra Leone Humanitarian Situation Report, 17 May 1999;  
No 27: Report of the Panel of Experts Appointed Pursuant to the UN Security Council Resolution 1306, December 2000;  
No 29: UNHCR Report on atrocities Committed Against the Sierra Leone Population, UNHCR Conakry Branch Office, 28 January 1999;  
No 70: UNAMSIL Report, 6 December 1999 (S/1999/1223);  
No 81: Record of deaths 1-19 January 1999, Births and Deaths Registry, Freetown, Sierra Leone;  
No 87: Speech by the President of Sierra Leone His Excellency Alhaj Dr. Ahmed Tejan Kabbah at the ceremony marking the conclusion and disarmament and the destruction of Weapons, Lungi 18 January 2002.

Freetown, 5 May 2004.

For the Prosecution,



Luc Côté  
Chief of Prosecution



Robert Petit  
Senior Trial Counsel

**PROSECUTION LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

- No 12: Secretary General Report on the Situation in Freetown, 9 June 1998 (S/1998/486);  
No 16: UNOMSIL Fifth Report, 4 March 1999 (S/1999/237);  
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12. Secretary General Report on the Situation in Freetown, 9 June 1998 (S/1998/486) -





## Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/1998/486  
9 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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### FIFTH REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. By paragraph 5 of its resolution 1162 (1998) of 17 April 1998, the Security Council authorized the deployment, with immediate effect, of up to 10 United Nations military liaison and security advisory personnel in accordance with paragraph 44 of my report of 18 March 1998 (S/1998/249) to Sierra Leone for a period of up to 90 days, to work under the authority of my Special Envoy, to coordinate closely with the Government of Sierra Leone and with ECOMOG, the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to report on the military situation in the country, to ascertain the state of and to assist in the finalization of planning by the Government of Sierra Leone and ECOMOG for future tasks, such as the identification of the former combatant elements to be disarmed and the design of a disarmament plan, as well as to perform other related security tasks as identified in other paragraphs of my above-mentioned report.

2. By paragraph 10 of that resolution, the Council requested me to report periodically, including on the activities of those military liaison and security advisory personnel and on the work of the office of my Special Envoy in Sierra Leone, within the reporting time-frame set out in paragraph 16 of resolution 1132 (1998) of 8 October 1997. The present report is submitted in accordance with that time-frame, by which the Security Council requested the submission of a report every 60 days.

#### II. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE MY LAST REPORT

##### Action taken by the Government of Sierra Leone

3. Following its restoration on 10 March 1998, the Government of Sierra Leone has acted to consolidate its authority throughout the country as far as possible. On 16 March, President Kabbah, acting with the support of Parliament, proclaimed a state of emergency empowering him to take measures to ensure security and stability. These measures included the right to detain suspects and restrict their movements, the imposition of a curfew and the right to

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requisition property. The Government also announced the expulsion of 22 persons and the deprivation of 10 others of Sierra Leonean citizenship for collaborating with the junta and for economic crimes and immigration irregularities.

4. On 20 March 1998, President Kabbah announced that his new streamlined Cabinet would comprise persons of known competence and integrity. The members of the Cabinet, which consists of 15 Ministers, 11 Deputy Ministers and 5 Ministers of State, have all been confirmed by Parliament, as have the President's nominees for the post of Chief Justice and many positions in parastatal bodies. The President has also appointed a Policy Advisory Committee to guide the Government on crucial issues of national interest and to monitor the functioning of the public institutions.

5. The Government has also taken steps to establish a National Commission for Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, responsible for stimulating and coordinating related donor, Government and non-governmental activities. In accordance with its terms of reference, the National Commission would, in close collaboration with domestic and international funding agencies, draw up a two-year national rehabilitation, resettlement and reconstruction plan involving, inter alia, the repatriation and resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees.

6. On 27 March 1998, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe, Mr. Stan Mudenge, led a five-person Commonwealth delegation on a visit to Freetown in order to explore ways in which the Commonwealth could assist Sierra Leone in the task of national reconstruction and peace-building. At the conclusion of the visit, the participants announced that they would urge all member Governments of the Commonwealth to assist Sierra Leone bilaterally in every practicable way in its efforts to achieve national reconstruction and reconciliation, and to contribute to the Trust Fund to support peacekeeping and related activities in Sierra Leone.

7. On 21 April 1998, a three-man team of British police experts visited Sierra Leone to advise the Government on the restructuring of the police force and the improvement of its equipment. The team also discussed the recruitment and role of police advisers and relations between the police and armed forces, among other matters. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has also provided the Government with communications equipment for the police.

8. From 4 to 8 May 1998, the Government received a multi-donor joint mission by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the European Union (EU) to discuss a range of development-related matters. The joint mission also discussed the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, as described in more detail in section V below.

9. As described in section III below, on 6 May 1998, the Government instituted, in Freetown, the trials of a number of persons accused of plotting, participating in or collaborating with the coup d'état and the illegal junta.

10. On 22 May 1998, President Kabbah, in a comprehensive policy statement delivered at the State opening of the second session of Parliament, outlined major national policies his Government intends to pursue. These include: establishing guidelines for development activities, a framework for the creation of a new army and the restructuring and retraining of the police force; improving relations with neighbouring countries; reviving the national economy; strengthening key sectors of activity; and promoting civic education to sensitize Sierra Leoneans to the true meaning of peace and democracy. The President has also called for national reconciliation.

11. From 30 to 31 May 1998, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Charles Margai, and the Deputy Defence Minister, Chief Hinga Norman, visited Makeni and Kenema and called on all remnants of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council/Revolutionary United Front (AFRC/RUF) forces to surrender within two weeks, promising them that they would be protected and treated fairly in accordance with the law.

12. On 4 June 1998, at a summit meeting of the leaders of the three Mano River Union countries, President Conteh and President Kabbah of Sierra Leone met at Conakry to discuss mutual cooperation in the subregion and relations between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Liberia was represented by the Vice-President, Mr. Enoch Dogolea.

Action taken by the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States

13. Following the expulsion of the illegal military junta from the capital, Freetown, in mid-February and the restoration of the democratically elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in the capital, ECOMOG moved swiftly to secure the area around Freetown, as well as the northern and southern provinces of the country, especially the towns of Makeni, Kambia and Kabala in the north and Bo and Kenema in the south. ECOMOG forces also advanced eastwards towards the Kono and Kailahun districts, where the forces of the former junta were concentrated.

14. Though ECOMOG has continued to make progress, it is severely overextended and its advance has been beset by logistical constraints, as well as by fierce resistance from elements of the AFRC and the RUF, the partners in the former junta. In mid-May, however, ECOMOG seized Koindu and Buedu on the eastern border of Sierra Leone with Guinea.

15. As ECOMOG troops approached, armed former junta elements attacked the local civilian population, killing, raping and mutilating hundreds of them, causing tens of thousands of Sierra Leoneans to flee into Liberia and Guinea in the last few weeks and tens of thousands more to flee into the interior of Sierra Leone. Hundreds of patients have been admitted to hospitals suffering from amputation of limbs and ears and severe lacerations. Humanitarian organizations fear that the actual number of victims may be much larger (see sect. III below).

16. ECOMOG is being supported by units of the Sierra Leonean Civil Defence Force (CDF), which is composed of irregular community-based fighters who fought the junta before the restoration of the legitimate Government. The Civil

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Defence Force includes Kamajors, who are regionally based rural militia mainly from the south and parts of the east, as well as Tamaboros from the Koinadugu district, Donsos from the Kono district and Kapras, who are mainly from the Tonkolili district in the north. Though many CDF members are hunters who use traditional weapons, others are primarily farmers or students who joined the armed struggle against the junta. They are armed with a wide variety of weapons and often lack formal training and discipline. Though technically under ECOMOG control, their command and control structures are loose and informal.

17. On 4 and 5 May 1998 at Accra, my Special Envoy attended the seventeenth meeting of ECOWAS Chiefs of Staff convened to discuss the situation in Sierra Leone. At the meeting, the Nigerian Chief of Defence Staff, Major-General A. A. Abubakar, outlined ECOMOG's objectives in Sierra Leone as follows: the attainment of peace, the training of a new Sierra Leonean army, and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Sierra Leonean combatants into society, accompanied by humanitarian assistance. The achievement of these objectives would be followed by the withdrawal of ECOMOG.

18. ECOMOG has deployed three brigades and an independent battalion, altogether comprising approximately 12,000 men, in Sierra Leone and has appealed for a further 6,000 to enable it to carry out its functions more effectively. A number of participants expressed willingness, in principle, to contribute forces to ECOMOG's operations in Sierra Leone. However, the countries concerned stressed that they were not in a position to do so without substantial financial and logistical assistance.

#### Action taken by the United Nations

19. Beginning on 4 May 1998, pursuant to resolution 1162 (1998), eight military liaison personnel were deployed in Freetown under the authority of my Special Envoy. The military officers, who are led by a Brigadier-General from India, are from Kenya (two), the Russian Federation (two), the United Kingdom (one) and Zambia (two). Two police advisers, one from Namibia and one from Kenya, as well as an adviser on planning for disarmament and demobilization, are expected to be deployed shortly. Some vehicles and communications equipment have also been deployed to Sierra Leone for the use of the officers.

20. The liaison officers have begun to travel through parts of the country to assess the situation with a view to finalizing plans for their deployment and for the disarmament of former combatants. The ECOMOG Force Commander, Brigadier-General Maxwell Khobe, has welcomed their arrival and promised his full cooperation.

21. The office of my Special Envoy has also been strengthened by the addition of a political affairs officer and a human rights adviser. In addition, I have taken steps to strengthen the human rights element of the office of my Special Envoy and have approached a number of Governments on an urgent basis to request them to make available suitably qualified trial monitors.

22. From 26 to 29 May 1998, my Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict, Mr. Olara A. Otunnu, visited Sierra Leone to assess the plight of children affected by the conflict. During his visit, Mr. Otunnu met with

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President Kabbah, Ministers and Parliamentarians, as well as with the Force Commander of ECOMOG, the National Coordinator of CDF and representatives of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. He visited Daru, Segbwema and Kenema, accompanied by the Minister for Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, Mrs. Shirley Gbujama, my Special Envoy, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the representative of UNICEF.

23. In discussions with the Government, ECOMOG and CDF, important commitments were made to my Special Representative in relation to the rights, protection and welfare of children. It was agreed that a joint task force for the demobilization of child combatants, comprising the Government, ECOMOG, CDF, the United Nations and international humanitarian agencies, would be constituted. The Government agreed not to recruit children under 18 years of age into a new national army. The Civil Defence Force committed to stop recruiting and initiating children under 18 and to begin the process of demobilization of child combatants within their ranks. Along with ECOMOG, CDF also undertook that children captured in or fleeing from areas held by junta elements would receive special protection. President Kabbah directed that a coordination group consisting of relevant Ministries, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, be established to coordinate an effective national response to the needs of children affected by armed conflict. Following their discussion with Mr. Otunnu, an all-party group of Parliamentarians constituted a caucus to serve as parliamentary advocates for the rights, protection and welfare of children affected by armed conflict in Sierra Leone.

24. At the conclusion of his visit, Mr. Otunnu proposed that the international community make Sierra Leone one of the pilot projects for a more concerted and effective response in the context of post-conflict peace-building.

#### Military and security situation in Sierra Leone

25. The security situation in Freetown continues to be favourable, with a strong but discreet ECOMOG presence and widespread deployment of the Sierra Leonean police. Schools, banks and markets are functioning normally, some international air links to the airport at Lungi have been restored and food and fuel products are widely available. Nevertheless, ECOMOG has continued to recover weapons in house-to-house searches conducted on the basis of information received about the presence in Freetown of former junta members and common criminals.

26. Despite ECOMOG's initial success in driving the elements of the junta rebels back towards the east of the country, several groups of rebels appear to have broken out of the Kailahun district and have moved northwards and westwards in an apparent attempt to re-establish some of their former bush camps in the north. They have been attacking towns and villages, terrorizing local communities and extorting food from them. The situation in the north is now considered unsatisfactory and food convoys have to be guarded by armed escort.

27. Moreover, in the course of their retreat towards the eastern part of the country, former junta elements inflicted extensive damage and engaged in indiscriminate looting and property destruction. In particular, hospitals in most communities lack beds, drugs and equipment.

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28. The United States has contributed \$3.9 million to ECOMOG over a four-month period through the logistics services company Pacific Architects and Engineers, which provided services to ECOMOG in Liberia. Some vehicles have already been made available. It is anticipated that this assistance will result in further gains by ECOMOG against the former junta forces. However, this contribution is not expected to assist in the deployment of additional ECOMOG forces, for which further contributions, whether bilaterally or through the Trust Fund to support peacekeeping and related activities in Sierra Leone, will be needed.

29. There are reports that many of the fighters supporting the former junta in the east are in fact Liberian nationals. The Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States believes it has identified some of the dead combatants as Liberians after clashes with junta elements and has reportedly captured more than 100 Liberian fighters in the vicinity of Kailahun and in Kono district.

30. On 5 May 1998, President Taylor wrote to me deprecating the "disturbing allegation" that the Government of Liberia was involved in the conflict in Sierra Leone and stressing his commitment to the maintenance of peace in the region. President Taylor informed me that he had proposed to the Chairman of ECOWAS that ECOMOG "cordon off" the border between the two countries, and said he would welcome the concurrence of the United Nations with his suggestion that United Nations monitors be deployed in the border area.

31. On 7 May 1998, the Liberian Government issued a policy statement reaffirming that it would not permit its territory to be used to destabilize any neighbouring country and stating that President Taylor had approved the deployment of an ECOMOG observer unit at the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone in Lofa County, Liberia.

32. The Government of Sierra Leone has welcomed the issuance of the policy statement and has disclosed that a Liberian delegation visiting Freetown to attend the funeral of the late spouse of the President, Mrs. Patricia Kabbah, had met with President Kabbah and discussed the improvement of relations between the two countries.

33. In some parts of the country, misconduct by some members of CDF, arising from their indiscipline and lack of training, has given rise to complaints from civilians.

### III. HUMAN RIGHTS

34. Since early May 1998, a human rights adviser has been attached to the office of my Special Envoy. His main tasks have included the observation of the treason trials and, in close consultation with the Special Envoy and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, examining modalities to increase the capacity of the office to monitor the human rights situation in Sierra Leone and to assist the Government in meeting its international human rights obligations in a sustainable manner. In carrying out its human rights functions, the office will work closely with all relevant elements of civil society, including national and international non-governmental organizations. Both the

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Attorney-General and the Chief Justice of Sierra Leone have offered their full cooperation to my Special Envoy and his staff in the exercise of his human rights functions.

35. The main focus of human rights concerns since my last report has been the attacks on civilians by armed, uniformed groups, which are consistently reported to be members of the rebel forces. They have systematically mutilated or severed the limbs of non-combatants around the towns of Koidu and Kabala, in a zone that stretches as far west as Masiaka, south of Port Loko. The scale of the attacks can be estimated from the accounts of victims who have been admitted to hospital. For instance, in the period from 6 April to 21 May 1998, 225 people were admitted to Connaught Hospital in Freetown with war wounds. All but one were reported to be civilians. Of these, a quarter were amputees and half were victims of deep lacerations. The patients report that for every one person who reached the hospital, some five other victims of attacks are either dead or missing. In the same period, there have been some 500 admissions of war-wounded persons to other hospitals in Sierra Leone.

36. Of those victims who have received treatment, most are male, ranging in age from 8 to 60 years. The youngest amputee admitted to hospital is, however, a six-year-old girl, one of whose arms was completely severed. Victims also report that babies have been taken from their mothers' arms and burned alive. There are numerous reports of rape, including one of the multiple rape of a 12-year-old girl. Doctors at one hospital state that lacerations inflicted on one 60-year-old woman are the result of a failed attempt to behead her.

37. The office of my Special Envoy continues to receive information about human rights abuses perpetrated by forces loyal to the junta in the period before the restoration of the Government. From all parts of the country there are reports of extrajudicial killings, rape, arbitrary detention, including for purposes of sexual abuse, torture of children (especially of child-combatants), forced labour and the looting and destruction of residential and commercial premises and property. It will remain important to document these actions with a view to tackling issues of impunity and as an element in the process of promoting reconciliation and healing of society.

38. Information has also been received regarding widespread acts of extrajudicial revenge killings perpetrated against alleged junta collaborators following the restoration of the Government. In just one town, Kenema, there are reports of some 50 revenge killings. Some of those killed were children, with at least one case occurring in Freetown. There are reportedly still many people in hiding for fear of being subjected to revenge attacks. Reportedly some 100 of those hiding in the Freetown area are children. The Government has given assurances that revenge attacks will be investigated and prosecuted.

39. Reports indicate that elements of the Kamajors are responsible for violation of the human rights and rights under humanitarian law of both combatants and non-combatants. This militia force continues to include large numbers of male children. Concerns have been expressed to the Government on these matters and it has indicated that it is taking action to correct the situation (see paras. 22-24 above).

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40. My Special Envoy continues to monitor the implementation of the state of emergency declared by the President on 10 March 1998, under which, inter alia, persons may be detained indefinitely without being charged or tried. There are more than 1,000 such detainees held at Pademba Road Prison in Freetown. The Government has established a screening committee to expedite the process of releasing detainees and bringing others to trial.

41. The Government is prosecuting 59 persons in the regular courts for charges, variously, of treason, murder and arson. Another trial of some 20 people is scheduled to start in the coming weeks, as are a number of courts martial. The civilian trials have, so far, proceeded in conformity with normal criminal procedure. Matters of concern are brought to the attention of the Government. The office of my Special Envoy will continue to observe the trials and will seek to augment its capacity in this regard.

42. On 27 May 1998, a delegation of Amnesty International, which had been studying the situation in Sierra Leone, met with my Special Envoy. The purpose of the Amnesty mission was to examine incidents that had occurred during the period of junta rule, as well as the extent of atrocities currently being committed by the remnants of the junta. Amnesty International is also reviewing the detention and trial in Freetown of persons accused of participating in or collaborating with the junta.

#### IV. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

43. The humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone is fluid. In the western area and the southern and eastern provinces (with the exception of Kailahun district), aid agencies have begun to reactivate programmes as they have benefited from improved security and access. In northern and north-eastern Sierra Leone, however, the situation has continued to deteriorate as a result of the activity of the former junta forces described above.

44. The humanitarian consequences of the wave of atrocities are very severe. Government hospitals in Makeni, Magburaka and Kabala and health clinics throughout the north have been overwhelmed by the influx of civilians suffering from amputations and maimings and are hampered by staff shortages and logistical constraints.

45. There has already been an outbreak of measles in two camps in the north and there is a severe risk of further outbreaks of epidemics such as cholera with the imminent onset of the rainy season. Furthermore, the non-governmental organization Action contre la Faim, which operates therapeutic feeding centres in Makeni and Magburaka, has reported a large influx of malnourished children under the age of five. Admissions have doubled during the past week. Malnutrition levels are increasing, and there are indications that the 10 per cent global acute malnutrition threshold, at which an emergency response is required, is being breached. If the security situation in the north continues to deteriorate, there is a serious risk that the harvest will be looted by armed elements, thus further undermining the food security of the rural population.



46. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported that refugees from Sierra Leone are continuing to flow into Faranah, Kissidougou and Guéckédou prefectures in eastern Guinea at a rate of 300 people per day. Many new arrivals, particularly children, suffer from malnutrition. UNHCR has documented the recent cases of at least 82 victims of rebel atrocities, including 28 who were mutilated. The refugees come mainly from the districts of Kailahun, Kono and Kenema. The influx is taking place despite reported attempts by the remnants of the junta to prevent people from leaving those areas. At the same time, about 40,000 internally displaced persons have flooded into the towns of Masingbi, Makeni, Kabala and Magburaka. Over the past three months, some 237,000 Sierra Leoneans have poured into Guinea and Liberia, bringing the total number of Sierra Leonean refugees in the two neighbouring countries to 530,000 people since the start of the conflict in 1991.

47. On 2 June 1998, UNHCR issued an urgent appeal for \$7.3 million to help refugees who have fled from the rebel forces. The amount is designed to cover relief assistance to new arrivals in Guinea and Liberia until the end of the year. This followed a visit to Freetown from 2 to 3 June 1998 by the Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Soren Jessen-Petersen.

48. The humanitarian response to the crisis in the north has been severely constrained by the difficulty of access owing to security risks. Road travel from Freetown to Makeni and Koidu is restricted, since agencies are reluctant to travel by road for fear of attacks. Furthermore, many aid agency staff were threatened by AFRC/RUF elements during the period of the ECOMOG intervention and no relief agency has deployed international staff permanently up-country since then.

49. Nevertheless, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the non-governmental organization Médecins sans Frontières have sent medicines, bedding and plastic sheeting to the north. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins sans Frontières have offered to coordinate the joint distribution of medical supplies to hospitals in Makeni, Magburaka and Kabala. UNICEF has delivered supplies to Kenema and supported efforts by the local authorities to immunize more than 400 children against measles, and the World Food Programme (WFP) is providing assistance to health institutions.

50. From 5 to 6 May 1998, the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit also co-sponsored a workshop for community leaders in the Bo district concerning the code of conduct that governs the activities of relief workers. The workshop was planned in response to incidents of the commandeering of vehicles by Kamajors and ECOMOG in the area. Non-governmental organizations have since reported that the Kamajors have facilitated the safe passage of relief supplies and it is now intended to conduct similar workshops in other parts of the country, including Kenema.

51. An inter-agency mission led by the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator on 19 May 1998 to Daru and Segbwema found the situation in the south-east of the country, which had been inaccessible for some months for security reasons, more favourable than expected in some respects. However, large numbers of

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unaccompanied children were identified who are in need of family-tracing services, feeding and health care.

52. Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, will visit Sierra Leone from 10 to 12 June 1998 in order to observe at first hand the ongoing humanitarian programmes and the current difficulties faced by the humanitarian community.

#### V. DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION

53. Both the Abidjan Agreement of 30 November 1996 between the Government of Sierra Leone and RUF and the Conakry Agreement of 23 October 1997 between ECOWAS and AFRC contain provisions for the disarmament and demobilization of Sierra Leonean fighters and their reintegration into society. In his statement at the State opening of Parliament, President Kabbah called on all remnants of the AFRC/RUF to surrender, offering them assurances that they would be treated humanely in accordance with the Geneva Convention and its additional Protocols. The President also indicated that elements of the Conakry Agreement and the Abidjan Agreement would be taken into consideration in the implementation of the disarmament and demobilization programme. The prompt implementation of such a programme is regarded as essential to the stability of Sierra Leone and of the subregion in general.

54. Following the removal of the junta by force by ECOMOG in February and the subsequent ECOMOG action throughout the rest of the country, the Abidjan Agreement and the Conakry Agreement are considered to have been effectively superseded. However, in the parts of the country that have now been brought under Government control, some aspects of those instruments that govern the disarmament and demobilization of former Sierra Leonean fighters might still be applicable. These include the following categories: members of the former Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces (RSLMF), including members of AFRC, the country's former army, which has now effectively been dissolved; members of RUF; members of CDF; and child soldiers.

55. Both ECOMOG and the Government have developed plans for the disarmament and demobilization of former combatants and for their reintegration into society. Pursuant to the recommendations of the joint mission described in paragraph 8 above, the Government has adopted a comprehensive framework for the disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration of ex-combatants and their families. The plan envisages the establishment of a Sierra Leone veterans assistance board to be chaired by President Kabbah, which would, in close cooperation with ECOMOG, the United Nations and donors, supervise the disarmament and demobilization of an estimated 32,000 former combatants in three phases, provisionally over the next 19 months. A small executive secretariat will be charged with the implementation of the policies of the Board in close coordination with ECOMOG and the United Nations.

56. The demobilization process will begin with a rigorous registration process to ensure that eligible ex-combatants receive identification documents. The first priority is the demobilization of some 5,000 to 7,000 former members of the Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces already disarmed by ECOMOG and

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assembled in camps around Freetown, i.e., at Wilberforce Barracks, Benguema Training Centre and Lungi. ECOMOG has recently reported that the numbers of men at each camp have fallen, apparently because some of the men have been provisionally released. Units of CDF in parts of the country deemed secure by the Government and local authorities will also be demobilized in phase I and will undergo a similar and registration exercise. Some CDF units have already returned to their communities of origin in preparation for the disarmament process, though many CDF fighters have also recently been moved up to the Daru area, apparently to join the offensive against the former junta forces at Kailahun. On 25 March 1998, President Kabbah formally requested the international community to provide food for the maintenance of the 7,000 ex-combatants for a two-month period.

57. Preliminary estimates indicate that there are some 1,000 disabled soldiers, 500 female ex-combatants and about 2,500 children. Under the plan, all adult ex-combatants will receive the same reinsertion assistance, the level and nature of which will be determined by the Sierra Leone Veterans Assistance Board, in consultation with donors. The reinsertion assistance will be provided in instalments in order to provide a transitional safety net to ex-combatant families, to encourage them to remain in their areas of resettlement and to monitor their reintegration progress. Furthermore, the Government intends to provide a community-based social and economic reintegration assistance to assist ex-combatants to return to sustainable and productive lives in their communities. Particularly vulnerable groups of ex-combatants, such as child soldiers and the disabled, will receive specialized assistance.

58. The Government intends to proceed with the disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration process as far as possible, notwithstanding continuing fighting in some parts of the country. The rapid demobilization of the encamped RSLMF will reduce the security and cost burden borne by the Government and ECOMOG in maintaining the camps. Insofar as adequate reinsertion and reintegration assistance and effective monitoring systems are put in place as planned, the Government is confident that this process will contribute to national reconciliation and reconstruction.

59. Though the plan envisages specific phases, provisionally scheduled to culminate in January 2000, these depend in part on the willingness of those who are still resisting ECOMOG's advance and terrorizing civilians in the north to surrender. It is not clear at this time whether these men, who appear to include the most violent and ruthless supporters of the former junta, intend to surrender or, if so, under what circumstances this might take place.

60. Another important aspect of the plan that remains to be clarified concerns the source of the funding. The plan is not accompanied by a cost estimate, but an earlier Government assessment of the likely costs arrived at a figure of some \$14 million. Since that estimate was arrived at in respect of a more modest operation, the likely cost of the current exercise is likely to exceed it. No commitment has yet been made by donors for the funding of the exercise. However, the Government believes it has made some progress in identifying sufficient funds to continue to feed the surrendered soldiers for the next two months or so.

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61. On 5 June 1998, my Special Envoy convened a meeting of United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and donor representatives to discuss the coordination of international support and contributions to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the 7,000 ex-combatants.

62. On 12 June 1998, the World Bank, which participated in the multi-donor joint mission mentioned in paragraph 8 above, will send two consultants to Sierra Leone to discuss with all participants the further refinement of the plan, including practical arrangements to make it operationally effective. These arrangements are expected to include the provision of strong technical assistance to the executive secretariat of the Sierra Leone Veterans Assistance Board.

#### VI. PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS

63. In the complex and volatile situation currently prevailing in Sierra Leone, the priority task is to promote stability and security by disarming and demobilizing as many former combatants as possible, as soon as possible. The plan adopted by the Government on the advice of the multi-donor joint mission provides a useful basis to accomplish this goal, though much remains to be done in terms of identifying sources of funding and determining the precise roles to be played by the international community. In general terms, I would envisage that, under the overall authority of the Government, my Special Envoy would ensure that the various donors continued to coordinate their activities closely. Within that framework the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), working through the United Nations Office for Project Services, and in close cooperation with donors and implementing partners, would carry out the arrangements put in place for disarmament and demobilization prior to the May 1997 coup.

64. In this context, I intend to convene a high-level conference in the near future in order to mobilize assistance for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, and for the reconstruction, rehabilitation of Sierra Leone. The conference would also address the need to provide logistical and other support to ECOMOG in order to improve its capacity to carry out its peacekeeping role, as well as for emergency and humanitarian needs.

65. Moreover, I believe the United Nations could render immediate assistance to Sierra Leone by deploying a limited number of unarmed military observers to assist in tasks of pressing importance. Such a deployment at this stage could lend much-needed impetus to a fragile but vital process, which deserves the support of the international community. It could also assist my Special Envoy to avert further bloodshed among civilians and combatants alike - both ECOMOG and Sierra Leonean - by helping to encourage the surrender of former junta elements in the event that this appeared to be possible. Finally, a more visible United Nations presence could serve to bolster the confidence of the Government and people of Sierra Leone in the commitment to their cause of the international community and encourage more substantial donor support for disarmament, demobilization and longer-term rehabilitation and development.

66. I have therefore developed a concept of operations for a United Nations peacekeeping observer mission, initially for a six-month period, whose immediate objectives would be the following:

(a) To monitor the military and security situation in the country as a whole with a view to assisting the Government and ECOMOG in the subsequent implementation of disarmament and demobilization phases as outlined in the Government's plan;

(b) To monitor the demobilization of former combatants already disarmed by ECOMOG and concentrated in secure areas of the country. This would involve collaboration with ECOMOG in its activities, including the provision of security and arms collection and destruction;

(c) To assist in monitoring respect for international humanitarian law at disarmament and demobilization sites;

(d) To monitor the voluntary disarmament and demobilization of members of CDF in their home regions and to monitor progress in the creation of a new national army;

(e) To observe, as security conditions permit, the situation in the north and east of the country, with a view to assisting in the disarmament and demobilization of surrendering former junta forces;

(f) To continue to provide my Special Envoy for Sierra Leone with regular information concerning the military and security situation in the country as a whole.

67. The mission would be known as the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) and would be led by my Special Envoy, Mr. Francis G. Okelo, who would be designated Special Representative for Sierra Leone. The Chief Military Observer would be Brigadier-General Subhash C. Joshi (India), who is currently the team leader of the small military liaison cell deployed to Sierra Leone pursuant to resolution 1162 (1998). UNOMSIL would subsume the office of my Special Envoy and its staff and the related cost estimates will be issued shortly as an addendum to the present report.

68. The activities described above would require up to 70 officers, as well as a medical unit of up to 15 persons, with the necessary equipment and civilian administrative support staff.

69. In view of the volatile security situation outside the capital, the deployment would take place in phases, with the first group of approximately 40 military observers being deployed, starting during the month of July 1998, to Freetown, Hastings and Lungi. The timing of subsequent deployments would then depend on the security situation, the progress of implementation of the Government's disarmament and demobilization plan and the availability of the necessary logistical equipment and resources. In this connection, I would call on the Government of Sierra Leone to be prepared to make available to the mission such premises and services as they can. At this stage, I would provisionally anticipate that the second phase of deployment would then take place in August-September, with the final phase beginning in October.

70. The observers would be deployed at each of the three camps where former Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces are now being detained, i.e.,

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Wilberforce Barracks, Benguema Training Centre and Lungi; at the three ECOMOG Brigade headquarters at Hastings, Makeni and Bo; and at a headquarters location to support the Chief Military Observer. During the next phases, subject to the considerations identified above, observers could be deployed outside the immediate area of Freetown, including to the home regions of CDF members returning to undertake voluntary disarmament and demobilization as and when they considered their home communities sufficiently secure.

71. The mission would be provided with adequate air support in order to ensure mobility and security, as well as casualty and medical evacuations. A boat would also be required to facilitate travel and communications between Lungi and Freetown.

72. Should the Security Council agree to these measures, I will establish security arrangements for United Nations personnel with the Chairman of ECOWAS and conclude a status of mission agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone.

73. The deployment described above would require a commensurate expansion in the size of the office of the Special Representative, including information and political officers, as well as the necessary administrative and support staff.

74. I would also propose to increase to four the number of human rights officers attached to the office of my Special Envoy. These officers, under the direction of the Special Representative, and in close cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, would have a monitoring role and the task of addressing the country's long-term human rights institution building needs.

75. An increase in the number of civilian police advisers from two to five would also be required. These officers would advise the Government and local police officials on police practice, training and recruitment, in particular on the need to respect internationally accepted standards of policing in democratic societies. They would also monitor the progress of the restructuring of the Sierra Leonean police force.

76. At this point, it is difficult to assess whether an expansion of the mission might be needed six months from now and, if so, what form it might take. My recommendations on this matter will depend on ECOMOG's progress in restoring security throughout the country. If the presence of United Nations personnel in areas of continuing insecurity is considered desirable in order to reduce bloodshed by encouraging armed elements to surrender, or if areas of Sierra Leone now secure come under threat from hostile elements, thought must be given to ensuring the security of United Nations personnel. Although ECOMOG is a capable force and has indicated it would guarantee the security of the observers, it is also a potential target of attacks by the remnants of the junta. Unarmed military observers under its protection might not be regarded as neutral by hostile armed elements and their safety might therefore be jeopardized.

77. For those reasons, I could envisage the possibility, at a future stage, of recommending the deployment of a highly mobile unit of armed United Nations troops, operating in close cooperation with ECOMOG but independent of it, to

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protect observers in locations where their security might be at risk, but where their neutral presence may be helpful in encouraging armed elements to surrender. However, I do not believe that the time is ripe to make such a recommendation to the Council at this stage.

78. The deployment of ECOMOG troops at the border with Liberia could help lay to rest allegations of the influx of arms or the provision of armed assistance to the junta by foreign forces. I commend the Government of Liberia for its policy statement reaffirming that it will not permit its territory to be used to destabilize any neighbouring country. Verification that this was the case would, in my view, improve the security climate throughout the entire subregion and improve mutual confidence among its member countries. I hope there will be further discussions between the Heads of State of the subregion on these matters.

79. I therefore intend to pursue with President Taylor his proposal for the deployment of a small contingent of United Nations military observers at the border with Sierra Leone, in order to assist in verifying that Liberian territory is not being used to destabilize Sierra Leone and that foreign forces are not assisting the remnants of the former junta there. I will also discuss the matter with President Kabbah and with the Chairman of ECOWAS and revert to the Council in due course.

#### VII. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

80. Since my last report, the situation in Sierra Leone has in some respects improved considerably. Since its restoration on 10 March 1998, the Government has moved rapidly to reassert its authority throughout much of the country. President Kabbah has nominated a compact Cabinet of acknowledged experts in their fields, all of whom have been confirmed by Parliament, as well as a Chief Justice.

81. However, in the eastern part of Sierra Leone and parts of the north, the remnants of the former junta continue to resist ECOMOG forces and attack Sierra Leonean civilians. I join with the Council in deploring the continued resistance to the legitimate Government, in calling on the supporters of the junta to lay down their arms, and in condemning the mutilations, rapes, looting and other atrocities carried out by junta elements against the civilian population. I also align myself with the commendation expressed for ECOWAS and ECOMOG in the presidential statement adopted on 20 May 1998 (S/PRST/1998/13) for the important role they are playing to restore peace and security in Sierra Leone, and support the call for Member States to provide technical and logistical support to assist ECOMOG to continue to enhance its ability to carry out its peacekeeping role and contribute to bringing an end to the atrocities being committed against the people of Sierra Leone. In this context, I welcome the logistical assistance provided by the United States. I am also grateful for the contribution made by the United Kingdom, and invite other Member States to make contributions to the Trust Fund to support peacekeeping and related activities in Sierra Leone.

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82. It is clear that there are a significant number of victims of rebel atrocities who remain in the bush or who are otherwise unable to receive medical attention. I applaud the efforts of United Nations humanitarian personnel, ECOMOG and the non-governmental organizations in locating and aiding victims. However, more must be done as a matter of urgency, including the provision of additional medical and surgical capacity, including hospital beds. In the longer term, the agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned will need to offer support in the form of prosthesis services for all amputees and psycho-social treatment of traumatized victims and their families. In this context, I welcome the intention of ICRC to dispatch a surgical team to Sierra Leone to augment local medical facilities.

83. I call on the Government of Sierra Leone to continue to show the necessary resolve to adhere to international human rights standards and its own distinguished legal traditions in ensuring that those accused of the gravest crimes against the State and its people receive fair trials. I am aware that the Government has held to this course so far in the face of strongly voiced public contempt for the accused.

84. I express my appreciation to those Member States and others who have contributed to the flash appeal for humanitarian assistance and for various humanitarian projects.

85. I recommend that the Security Council establish an observer mission in Sierra Leone, to be known as the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL), with the mandate and concept of operations described in paragraphs 66 to 71 above and with the necessary augmentation of civilian and civilian police staff as set out in paragraphs 73 to 75 above.

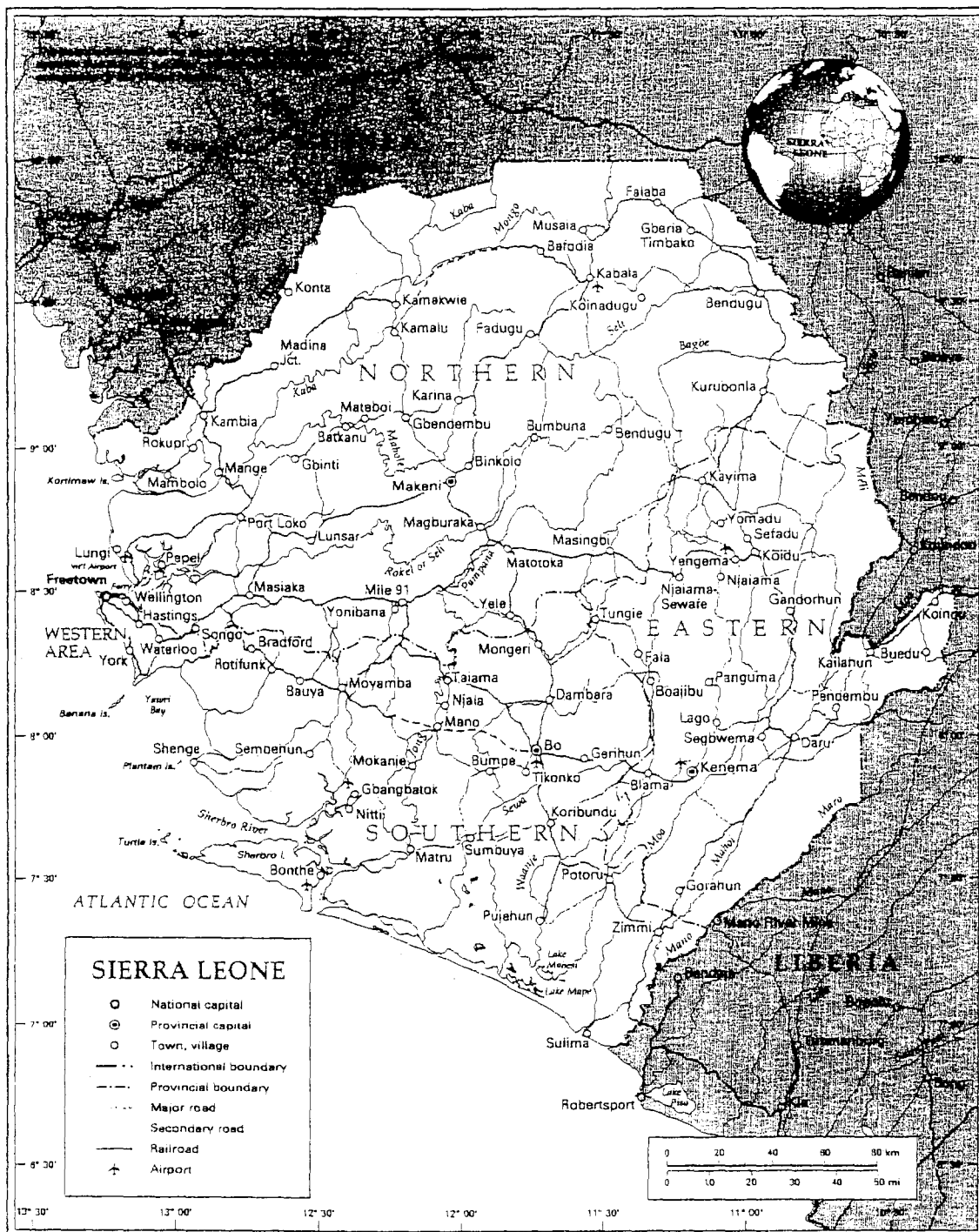
86. During the six-month period of the mandate, I would keep the situation closely under review and would make further recommendations to the Council concerning a possible extension or expansion of the mission as the circumstances permitted.

87. I support the recommendation of my Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict that Sierra Leone be made one of the pilot projects for a more concerted and effective response in the context of post-conflict peace-building.

88. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to my Special Envoy and to all United Nations staff in Sierra Leone for their efforts over the past several weeks.

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16. UNOMSIL Fifth Report, 4 March 1999 (S/1999/237)

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## Security Council

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### FIFTH REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. On the basis of my reports dated 16 December 1998 (S/1998/1176) and 7 January 1999 (S/1999/20), the Security Council, on 12 January 1999, adopted resolution 1220 (1999). By paragraph 3 of that resolution, the Security Council requested me to keep the Council closely informed on the situation in Sierra Leone and to submit a further report, by 5 March 1999, with recommendations on the future deployment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) and the implementation of its mandate. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.

#### II. MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

##### Rebel attack on Freetown and its aftermath

2. As described in my report of 7 January 1999 (see S/1999/20, para. 10), rebel fighters belonging to the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) attacked Freetown on 6 January 1999. The rebels attacked the city from the east and penetrated as far as the centre, which they held for four days before being forced to withdraw by a counterattack. The fighting resulted in the deaths of between 3,000 and 5,000 persons, including rebel fighters, soldiers of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), members of the Civil Defence Force (CDF) militia who were defending the capital and large numbers of civilian inhabitants. Many civilians were severely mutilated by the rebels. Up to 150,000 people were displaced in and around Freetown, and the rebels burnt down large numbers of public buildings and homes. A fuller description of the atrocities is contained in section IV below.

3. After fierce fighting, ECOMOG forces located in the western part of Freetown, reinforced from the main ECOMOG base at Lungi, managed to expel the rebels and regain control of the city. However, several thousand rebels are thought to remain in the Peninsula Mountains surrounding Freetown, despite ECOMOG and CDF efforts to dislodge them. It is also believed that unknown numbers of rebels might have infiltrated the city and remain there ready to



launch further attacks. Consequently, the security situation in Freetown, despite recent improvements, should still be considered volatile. On 24 February, ECOMOG succeeded in expelling the rebels from Waterloo, although they remain in a position to cut the main road from Freetown to Bo and Kenema.

4. The rebels are now thought to control much of the north of the country, though ECOMOG has, with varying success, contested rebel control around Lunsar, Port Loko and Kambia, and retains possession of Kabala and Bumbuna. In the south, ECOMOG has repulsed several rebel attacks on Kenema. Around Bo, the second largest city in Sierra Leone, the situation remains calm but tense. Rebel forces reportedly rely on some foreign mercenaries, including Europeans and Liberians, and are reported to be receiving weapons from outside the country.

5. During the crisis, which began in mid-December, ECOMOG received several thousand reinforcements from Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea and Mali. However, some doubt has been cast over the longer-term future of ECOMOG in Sierra Leone in the light of statements made by candidates in the Nigerian elections. The contribution of Nigeria to ECOMOG has been so central that ECOMOG's military viability could be threatened if that contribution were reduced. Though efforts to create a Sierra Leonean army deserve further support, the army is unlikely to be able to bear the burden alone, at least for the foreseeable future.

6. UNOMSIL evacuated all its international personnel, many of its vehicles and much of its equipment immediately prior to the 6 January attack, as did other United Nations agencies, Governments and many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) represented in Sierra Leone. The relocation was followed by a substantial reduction in the number of staff, in particular military and civilian police. The remaining staff will stay in Conakry until the security situation is considered acceptable. My Special Representative, Francis G. Okelo, and members of his civilian and military staff, including the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General Subhash Joshi (India), have paid brief visits to Freetown to study the situation first-hand and to maintain contacts with the Government of Sierra Leone and with ECOMOG, as well as with civil society. On 3 March, following improvements in the security situation, it was decided to permit the return of a limited number of United Nations personnel as soon as possible. The security situation will continue to be kept under close review.

#### Disarmament and demobilization

7. Following the rebel offensive in December and January, ex-soldiers in the disarmament and demobilization camp at Lungi were relocated by the Government in Freetown. The majority of them appear to have either joined the rebels or disappeared, while some lost their lives during the rebel attack on Freetown. On 4 February 1999, the National Committee on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration held an emergency meeting to examine the situation regarding ex-combatants. During the meeting, the Vice-President stated that there was no change in the Government's policy on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. As of February 1999, approximately 1,000 of the 3,000 ex-combatants originally at the Lungi Demobilization Centre had reported to ECOMOG and now are temporarily located within Freetown. At the meeting it was

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decided that these ex-combatants should be accommodated and cared for separately. It welcomed the offer by the Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to provide food and medical treatment for ex-combatants in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and to assist in measures to improve the camp security. The Department for International Development has also been providing food, at Lungi Garrison, for 600 dependants of ex-combatants in the programme. The meeting also agreed that ex-combatants would be relocated to Lungi following an overall improvement in the security situation.

8. It may be noted that the two remaining UNOMSIL medical doctors have provided medical assistance to some of the ex-soldiers in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. This humanitarian gesture has been appreciated by the Government, ECOMOG, ex-soldiers in the programme and the public.

#### Civilian police

9. As described in my earlier reports, prior to the rebel attack on Freetown, UNOMSIL civilian police had undertaken a wide range of activities to promote the reconstitution of the police force in Sierra Leone. During the rebel attack on Freetown, more than 200 policemen and members of their families were killed, and police equipment and infrastructure were destroyed, including the Criminal Investigation Department headquarters and all its files, records and documentation. The Pademba Road prison was also broken into and all of the prisoners escaped, a situation which poses a serious security threat. This has significantly impaired the Government's efforts to maintain law and order in the city. As a result, the Government's plans to reorganize the police force will require substantial external assistance.

### III. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

#### Activities of the Government of Sierra Leone

10. The Government of Sierra Leone has continued to refine its policy with regard to negotiations with the rebels, and to take initiatives accordingly. On 7 January 1999, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah met with Corporal Foday Sankoh, the leader of RUF, in an effort to arrange a ceasefire. On 16 January, the President issued a statement reiterating his readiness to pursue political dialogue and repeating his offer of amnesty to the rebels.

11. On 7 February 1999, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah delivered a radio broadcast in which he again indicated his readiness to engage in a dialogue with the rebel leaders, and to allow Foday Sankoh to meet other RUF leaders, provided that RUF accepted the legitimacy of the Government. The President stated that the Abidjan Peace Agreement of November 1996 (S/1996/1034) could be used as a frame of reference for such a dialogue.

12. On 21 February, President Kabbah addressed the people of Sierra Leone in a nationwide radio broadcast in which he called on the Security Council,

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especially its permanent members, to exert pressure on those States and individuals who continue to supply the weapons and logistics which are being used to kill Sierra Leoneans. President Kabbah stated that it was no longer enough for the Council to condemn the activities of the rebels, but to consider the possibility of taking further action, not excluding the threat of force, against the rebels in order to give effect to the Council's previous demands that the rebels cease all violence and seek genuine dialogue for the restoration of lasting peace and stability in Sierra Leone. President Kabbah also reasserted his Government's determination to defend the territory of Sierra Leone. President Kabbah's address has been circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/1999/186).

13. On 25 February, the Minister of Information, Communications, Tourism and Culture reaffirmed the Government's commitment to dialogue with the rebels, stressing the crucial importance of seeking the views and suggestions of the civil society and expressing the Government's readiness to review the Abidjan Peace Agreement in the light of the prevailing situation.

14. On 28 February, President Kabbah again addressed the nation in a radio broadcast in which he agreed that Foday Sankoh and RUF members could hold their internal consultations in Lomé or Bamako. He stressed that, following these consultations, the RUF leader should be returned to Freetown to resume his appeal against his conviction for treason and related offences (see S/1998/1176, para. 4). The President also called for the immediate release of all civilians being held in detention by the rebels, including children and women whom they had abducted during the recent attack on Freetown.

#### Activities of the United Nations

15. In the aftermath of the rebel attack, my Special Representative, in close consultation with the Governments of Sierra Leone and of a number of countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), initiated or participated in a series of diplomatic efforts aimed at strengthening ECOMOG while opening up dialogue with the rebels. Following the initial involvement of the Government of Togo, the current Chairman of ECOWAS, and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, my Special Representative visited Abuja, Lomé and Accra towards the end of January in order to help coordinate the ECOWAS response to the crisis.

16. These diplomatic activities culminated in the meeting, in Conakry, on 29 January, of the Heads of State of the three troop-contributing countries of ECOMOG: Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria. At that meeting, President Rawlings, President Conte and President Abubakar agreed on the need to convene an ECOWAS summit meeting on Sierra Leone, to be followed by a visit by representatives of the ECOWAS Committee of Six on Sierra Leone to New York to brief the Security Council. The Committee of Six on Sierra Leone comprises those three countries, as well as Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. The three Heads of State also instructed their Ministers for Foreign Affairs to develop a strategy for pursuing the dual-track approach outlined in paragraph 15 above.

17. Following a visit to Freetown, from 13 to 16 February, for consultations with the Government, my Special Representative met with representatives of RUF

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in Abidjan on 21 February to ascertain the RUF commitment to the dialogue and the peace process and to discuss how best to expedite the internal RUF consultations pursuant to President Kabbah's offer of a dialogue. These discussions also dealt with a number of issues, including the venue, format and duration of the internal RUF consultations; a ceasefire; respect for human rights; and the provision of humanitarian assistance. The outcome of these preliminary discussions is now being reviewed by the Government of Sierra Leone and other members of ECOWAS. Should agreement be reached on a venue for talks outside Sierra Leone, it would be necessary to temporarily lift the ban on the travel of RUF leaders imposed by Security Council resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997.

#### Relations between Sierra Leone and Liberia

18. In response to repeated allegations that the Government of Liberia was supporting the Sierra Leonean rebels (see S/1999/20, paras. 14 and 15), the Liberian Government issued a statement, circulated as document S/1999/193, on the conflict in Sierra Leone. In the statement, the Government reaffirmed its recognition of the Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah as the legitimate Government of Sierra Leone, and stated further that it had not and would not support, nor be a party to, any attempt to destabilize the Republic of Sierra Leone or any other country.

19. The Government of Liberia also announced in its statement that it had launched an effort to repatriate and offer amnesty to Liberians fighting in Sierra Leone and, as a matter of urgency, requested the United Nations to assist the Governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia in identifying, documenting and processing Liberians fighting in Sierra Leone for an organized repatriation. The Government of Liberia also renewed its request to the Security Council to approve the deployment of United Nations monitors along with ECOMOG forces at the Liberia/Sierra Leone border in the light of repeated allegations of illegal shipments of arms to the rebels.

#### IV. HUMAN RIGHTS

20. In late January and early February, UNOMSIL human rights officers visited Freetown to conduct an assessment of the situation there. The assessment team travelled extensively within the city and interviewed numerous people, including victims of mutilations and other human rights violations. Members of the team witnessed violations during their visit. UNOMSIL human rights officers have also continued to monitor the situation in the rest of the country and have undertaken a range of technical assistance activities.

21. The team found that the ultimate responsibility for the fighting, for most of the civilian casualties and for the related humanitarian emergency in Freetown rested with the rebel forces. Though it was impossible to state with precision the actual number of civilian casualties, most estimates put the total casualty figure at between 3,000 and 5,000, including rebel fighters and ECOMOG and CDF combatants. It is feared that at least 2,000 of those casualties were civilian inhabitants of Freetown. Many civilians were killed while being used by the rebels as human shields in combat, or because they reportedly refused to

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come out into the streets to demonstrate in favour of the rebels. Many were killed while trying to protect family members from death or rape, or while trying to protect their property from looting and destruction.

22. Much of the killing seems to have been arbitrary and to have been carried out by child fighters or rebel fighters under the influence of drugs or alcohol. However, there is also evidence that some of the murders were targeted, including, reportedly, the murder of 200 police personnel. The Solicitor General was killed during the fighting, as were the Resident Minister for the North, an adviser to President Kabbah and at least two journalists. Other victims who appear to have been deliberately targeted include senior officials of the Sierra Leonean National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights, the Council of Churches and the National Commission for Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Reintegration, as well as Nigerian nationals.

23. According to medical sources interviewed by the human rights assessment team, many hundreds of civilians were treated for the amputation of limbs or other forms of mutilation, including some 70 at Connaught Hospital alone. It is feared that hundreds of other victims of mutilation did not survive to seek treatment. Victims of amputation and mutilation included men, women and children, some as young as six years old. The mutilations were usually inflicted with machetes or axes. During February, there was a sharp drop in reported incidents of mutilation by rebel elements in areas where they are located.

24. There have been reports of widespread rape and other forms of sexual abuse by rebel elements in Freetown and Makeni. In Freetown, eyewitnesses reported incidents of violent group rape of young women and girls rounded up by the rebels for that heinous purpose. Many rape victims were reported to have been subsequently abducted, mutilated or killed.

25. A significant number of the rebel combatants were children. Reports were received of death and injuries being inflicted by boys as young as eight to 11 years old.

26. The rebels abducted a large but unverifiable number of people in Freetown and other places they attacked. By mid-February, child care agencies reported that some 2,000 children had gone missing in Freetown alone since 6 January. Agency staff said they had witnessed the abduction by rebels of some 300 of these children. Escapees reported that abducted boys were selected for training as fighters, or used as porters. Women and girls were taken for sexual purposes or to cook food. A small number of prominent Sierra Leonean personalities and foreigners were also abducted, including the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Freetown. Foreign abductees included several Indian workers, Roman Catholic nuns of Indian and Kenyan nationality and one Spanish and one French journalist. Though some managed to escape, at least eight abductees were killed and two seriously injured. Rebels continue to hold Roman Catholic Mission personnel abducted at Makeni and Kambia.

27. Rebel forces were also responsible for the deliberate widespread destruction of civilian property and public utilities in Freetown and other locations, such as Makeni and Kambia. In the centre of Freetown, about

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20 per cent of the housing stock was destroyed, with as much as 90 per cent destroyed in the eastern outskirts of the city. Some public facilities appear to have been deliberately demolished, including police stations, the Pademba Road prison, the Nigerian High Commission and UNOMSIL headquarters. The residences of human rights activists, lawyers, journalists and Government officials were also targeted, as well as churches, mosques and hospitals.

28. Eyewitnesses interviewed by the assessment team also reported summary executions of alleged rebels or rebel sympathizers by ECOMOG soldiers. Persistent reports were received of executions in various parts of Freetown, sometimes carried out after a cursory interrogation. One alleged victim of summary execution was an eight-year-old boy caught in possession of a pistol. Members of the assessment team witnessed an execution at Connaught Hospital on 3 February by men in ECOMOG uniforms. Members of CDF are also accused of mistreating civilians during the crisis in Freetown. ECOMOG jets attacking Freetown during the fighting are also reported to have caused civilian casualties. ECOMOG soldiers also detained and physically mistreated national staff members of a number of humanitarian NGOs and the International Committee of the Red Cross, apparently accusing them, without evidence, of being rebel collaborators. ECOMOG High Command has subsequently indicated to my Special Representative their intention to investigate these allegations and to take corrective action as necessary.

29. UNOMSIL continues to provide technical assistance to the National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights and the National Forum for Human Rights to assist them in carrying out their human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy activities within Sierra Leone. It also works closely with the humanitarian community to ensure that they integrate issues of human rights into their current activities.

30. Facilitated by UNOMSIL, a Human Rights Committee for Sierra Leone has been temporarily established in Conakry, comprising the Sierra Leonean National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights, the National Forum for Human Rights, United Nations agencies, humanitarian organizations and UNOMSIL. The Committee is facilitating the active participation of the human rights community in the process of peace-building in Sierra Leone. In the coming weeks, if possible, significant activities of the Committee will be re-located to Freetown.

#### V. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

31. Since my previous report, the humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone has drastically deteriorated, following the latest round of fighting, which culminated in the rebel attack on Freetown on 6 January 1999. The number of refugees in neighbouring countries has increased to an estimated 450,000, with an estimated 700,000 internally displaced persons. With ECOMOG expanding its hold on the capital, the number of known vulnerable displaced persons in Freetown is now estimated at 200,000, out of which some 60,000 have sought refuge in the national stadium. Many more are living in abandoned churches and schools.

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32. Following a recent eight-day tour of the region that included Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, has called for more support for repatriation programmes in the region. She also discussed plans with Guinean authorities to move 50,000 Sierra Leonean refugees away from the Guinean border to prevent the camps from becoming rear bases for the rebels. The European Union and the United States of America have promised 4 million dollars to aid this operation. The estimated number of Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea today stands at 350,000.

33. UNOMSIL has facilitated the delivery of humanitarian aid by making its helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft available, to the extent possible, to United Nations agencies and international NGOs.

34. Outside Freetown, OXFAM has identified 30,000 displaced persons living in the Lungi peninsula. Further up country, approximately 50,000 internally displaced persons, who were reported to have fled Kenema during heavy fighting between the rebel forces and ECOMOG in early February 1999, appear to be returning to the area. While there are no reliable reports from further inland because of the insecure situation, thousands more are believed to have fled into the bush.

35. The suffering of vulnerable civilian populations is exacerbated by increasing levels of malnutrition, especially among children under five years of age. Preliminary surveys show that in some areas, as many as 25 per cent of the children are suffering from acute malnutrition. Furthermore, appalling sanitation conditions are rampant and health care is inadequate. Diarrhoeal diseases are on the rise in almost all the accessible areas. In addition, the disruption of routine vaccination activities has increased the risk of epidemics. The town of Kailahun is believed to be the origin of the more than 400 measles cases now being identified among displaced persons in Kenema. While a vaccination campaign has begun in Kenema, with 10,000 doses of antigen provided by UNICEF, many children are out of reach of the humanitarian community. Meanwhile, doctors and nurses at Connaught Hospital and elsewhere are struggling to treat about 500 victims of amputation and mutilation requiring extreme surgery. Lastly, approximately 1,750 children have been reported missing by their families. Very few have been reunited, while many are believed to be trapped in inaccessible areas.

36. The humanitarian community's ability to provide relief to these populations continues to be impaired by the ongoing hostilities and resultant insecurity. Following the widespread looting and destruction of humanitarian offices, warehouses, vehicles and relief supplies, humanitarian activities remain drastically reduced. Approximately two thirds of the country, roughly all of the territory north of Port Loko, Bo and Kenema, remains inaccessible by road. This has confined humanitarian interventions to the peninsula and the southern and western provinces, leaving thousands of Sierra Leoneans without basic assistance. The provision of humanitarian assistance to the needy is today being carried out, at great cost, by air. Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that if the roads to Freetown are not opened soon, allowing the free flow of commercial imports and food from upcountry, food shortages in the city could become more acute within one to three weeks.

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37. Despite these constraints, the international humanitarian community has continued operations in accessible areas, particularly in the south where programmes continue in Bo, Kenema, Pujehun and Moyamba. From Conakry, international humanitarian staff continue to make day trips into the capital while national staff maintain a permanent presence in the city, where they work in collaboration with their governmental humanitarian counterparts. The humanitarian community's capacity to carry relief supplies and personnel to accessible areas of the country has been improved by the leasing of a helicopter for that purpose by the European Community Humanitarian Office and the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (ECHO/OFDA).

38. In order to streamline operations, a 60-day humanitarian plan of action is being finalized by the international humanitarian community in consultation with the Government. The plan is based on five basic operational requirements. These include: full access by all humanitarian organizations to communications equipment; cooperation between the Government and humanitarian agencies; unhindered access for humanitarian assistance; effective coordination with military and security forces; and the establishment of a forward logistics base at Lungi Airport. Because the plan uses existing assets, considerable progress has already been achieved. Approximately 140,000 metric tons of food has been distributed to vulnerable groups in Freetown with an additional 100,000 reaching accessible upcountry populations. A total of 21 clinics and four hospitals in Freetown are fully operational with support from United Nations agencies and partners, and more than 1,300 rolls of plastic sheeting and 40,000 blankets are now available in Freetown for distribution.

39. The humanitarian community is committed to continuing its work of providing assistance in spite of insecurity and the difficult working environment. Relief workers and the civilian population need your support in continuously calling on all parties to the conflict to re-commit themselves to respecting international humanitarian law by: recognizing the neutrality and impartiality of all humanitarian organizations; fully guaranteeing the absolute safety and security of humanitarian personnel, including relief items and equipment; and calling upon the Government of Sierra Leone to confirm its willingness to permit the unimpeded flow of humanitarian assistance to all parts of the country.

## VI. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

40. The General Assembly, by its resolution 53/29 of 20 November 1998, appropriated an amount of \$22 million for the establishment and operation of the Observer Mission for the period ending 30 June 1999. The resources provided by the Assembly covered the Observer Mission's start-up costs as well as its maintenance at the full strength authorized by Security Council resolution 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998.

41. Therefore, should the Council decide to extend the mandate of UNOMSIL, as recommended in paragraph 51 below, the cost of maintaining the Observer Mission during the extension period will be well within the resources already provided by the General Assembly.

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42. As at 15 February 1999, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNOMSIL special account amounted to \$12.5 million. As at the same date, the total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to \$1,666.6 million.

43. With regard to the Trust Fund to Support United Nations Peacekeeping-related Efforts in Sierra Leone, contributions received as at 28 February 1999 amounted to some \$2.1 million, with authorized expenditure amounting to some \$0.1 million.

#### VII. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

44. Sierra Leone continues to face an extremely complex and difficult situation fraught with serious risks. Though ECOMOG has succeeded in driving the rebels from Freetown and restoring order in its immediate vicinity, the capital is still threatened by rebel forces in the peninsula.

45. I unreservedly strongly condemn the merciless murders, inhuman mutilations and other appalling human rights violations perpetrated by the rebels on the innocent civilian inhabitants of Freetown, and the widespread property damage they have inflicted. In the light of some allegations that members of pro-Government forces may also have been guilty of violations, I hope that the Government will fulfil its assurances that such allegations will be investigated and welcome its assurances that these forces will adhere to international human rights standards in the future.

46. Concern over violations of human rights and the prevention of further violations stand at the heart of the Sierra Leonean conflict. For that reason, and in view of the scale and enormity of the violations inflicted recently in Freetown, I intend to deploy an additional human rights officer to UNOMSIL. This will enable the human rights component to expand its reporting and deepen its coverage of human rights abuses in Sierra Leone, as well as to maintain its technical cooperation activities with Sierra Leonean human rights organizations.

47. ECOMOG is to be congratulated on its success in repelling the rebels from Freetown and restoring a measure of order to the city. I also commend the Government of Mali for providing additional troops to ECOMOG and donor Governments, in particular the Netherlands, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, for the logistical support they have provided and continue to provide to ECOMOG.

48. In the meantime, I would urge the international community to continue to support ECOMOG logistically and to consider the provision of prompt bilateral assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone in the creation of a new Sierra Leonean army to defend the country. The Governments of Nigeria and the United Kingdom have taken the first steps in this regard.

49. The possible partial withdrawal of Nigerian forces from ECOMOG following the elections in that country and the consequent effects on ECOMOG's military effectiveness in Sierra Leone could require a major reappraisal of the situation. In particular, the dual track approach pursued so far, which

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combines support for ECOMOG military action to maintain law and order with a willingness to negotiate with the rebels, may need to be reviewed. The Security Council may wish to consider the implications of this important new potential development.

50. I intend to pursue further with President Taylor some of the suggestions contained in the statement of the Government of Liberia (S/1999/193). Since practical obstacles to the proposal to deploy United Nations monitors at the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia remain, as deployment of the ECOMOG forces required to protect them is unlikely, the steps taken by the Government to encourage the repatriation, disarmament and demobilization of Liberian fighters in Sierra Leone are welcome.

51. President Kabbah's decision to allow the leader of RUF, Corporal Foday Sankoh, to meet with rebel leaders in order to develop a coherent set of political demands, which would form the basis of subsequent negotiations with the Government, is a bold and valuable initiative. The United Nations will continue to facilitate the conduct of talks through the provision of its good offices as required.

52. The preliminary meeting my Special Representative held with representatives of RUF in Abidjan on 21 February may have helped lay the groundwork for further negotiations, which might be based on the Abidjan Peace Agreement signed in November 1996 by the Government and RUF. In order to proceed, RUF must recognize the legitimacy of the Government, agree to a ceasefire, renounce violence, especially attacks on civilians, and permit humanitarian access to the areas they control under conditions of adequate security.

53. As I indicated in my report of 7 January (S/1999/20, para. 37), UNOMSIL has been substantially scaled back since its relocation to Conakry and now comprises only a small core of essential civilian and military personnel under the leadership of my Special Representative (see annex). The recent decision of the Government to allow Foday Sankoh to meet with the RUF leaders in Lomé or Bamako opens prospects for the start of a dialogue which should be encouraged. Should negotiations between the Government and the rebels take a favourable turn, UNOMSIL should remain in a position where it is capable of rendering further assistance to the peace process. I therefore recommend the extension of UNOMSIL's mandate for a further period of three months, until 13 June 1999. Its mandate will continue to be to provide information to me, and through me to the Security Council, about the situation in Sierra Leone in its political, military, security, human rights and humanitarian aspects; to continue to liaise closely with the Government of Sierra Leone and with ECOWAS and ECOMOG; to explore, in close consultation with the Government, ways of pursuing dialogue with the rebels aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict; to advise me on further actions the United Nations could take in the event of developments in and around Sierra Leone; and to stand ready to take quick action, on the basis of such expansion as the Security Council may authorize, to assist the implementation of any peace agreement.

54. In view of the improvement in the security situation in and around Freetown achieved during the past few days, it is my intention to re-establish UNOMSIL in Freetown as soon as possible. At least initially, the re-establishment will

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take place on a small scale and with strict attention to the security situation. I therefore intend to increase the current number of military observers from 8 to 14, and to redeploy the necessary staff to support the relocation to Freetown. In the meantime, the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations programmes and agencies have also been authorized to re-establish a limited presence in Freetown.

55. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to my Special Representative, Francis G. Okelo, and his staff. My thanks also go to the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General Subhash C. Joshi and the military observers of UNOMSIL, including those who have been repatriated following the relocation to Conakry. The valuable contribution made by the five civilian police advisers, who have now been repatriated, also deserves recognition.

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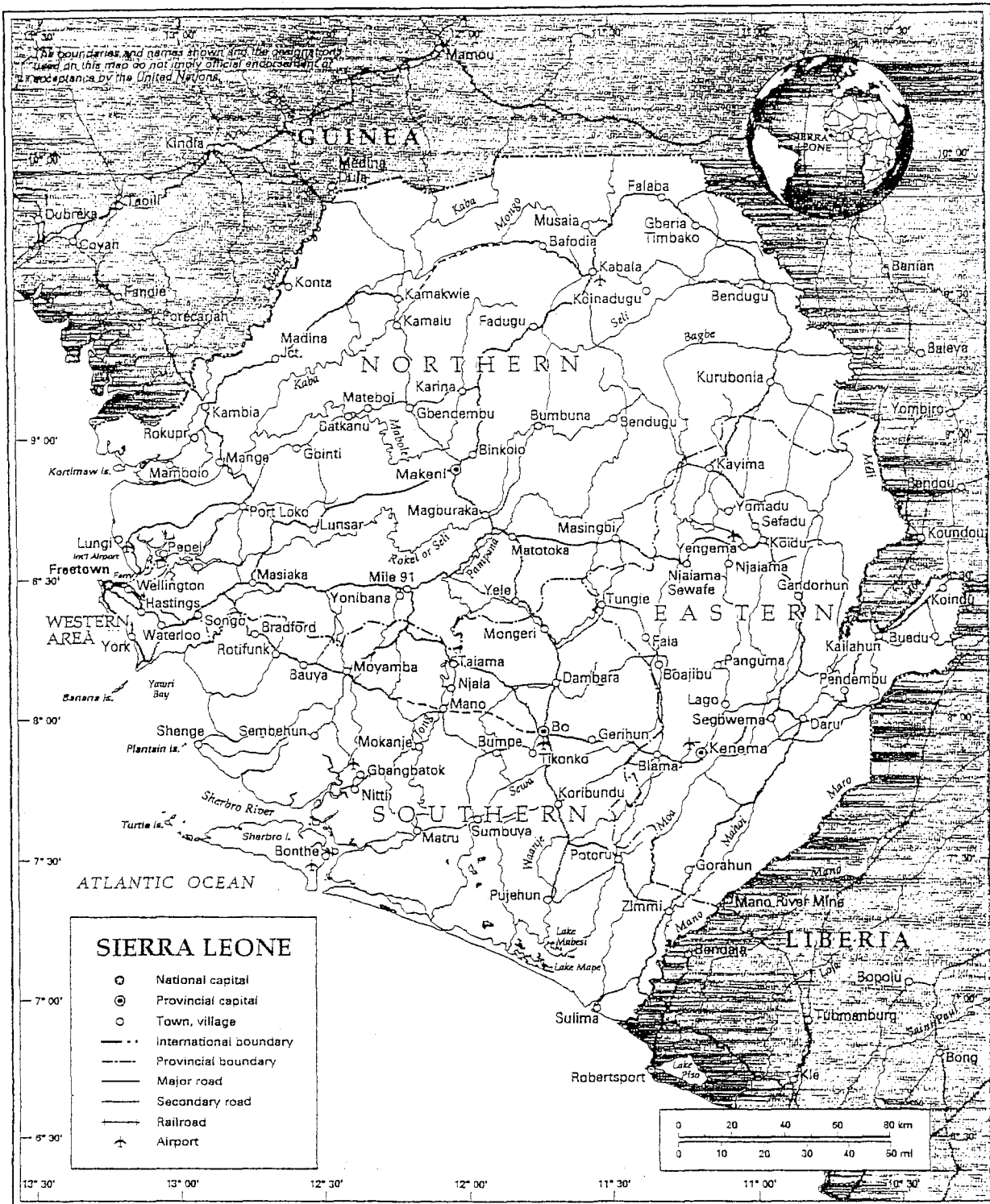
AnnexUnited Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone: contributions  
as at 1 March 1999

	Military observers	Others <sup>a</sup>	Total
China	—		—
Egypt	—		—
India	2	2	4
Kenya	1		1
Kyrgyzstan	1		1
New Zealand	—		—
Pakistan	1		1
Russian Federation	1		1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1		1
Zambia	—		—
TOTAL	7 <sup>b</sup>	2	9

<sup>a</sup> Medical team.

<sup>b</sup> Including the Chief Military Observer.

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## **Sierra Leone Humanitarian Situation Report 1 - 17 May 1999**

### **1. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

The period under review saw continuing debate on the political future of Sierra Leone, as the RUF delegation in Lome ended in-house consultations and preparations began for direct talks with the Government. Today Sankoh's latest announcement that the RUF would be ready to begin dialogue with the Government without pre-conditions was viewed as a welcome initiative. Peace negotiations are expected to begin before the end of the month, preceded by the ministerial and head of state meetings on the 24th and 25th of May, under the auspices of "Committee of Seven". The Committee of Seven will specifically consider the positions of both parties and make recommendations for a framework for the talks.<sup>1</sup>

#### **The Cease-fire Debate**

Calls for a cease-fire to support the peace process have been made amongst continuing doubts about the actions of both parties to the conflict. RUF forces continue to be accused of severe human rights abuses, while the Government and ECOMOG have been criticized by the RUF for continuing their offensive. However, Sierra Leone civil society organizations and newspapers have questioned the wisdom of a cease-fire agreement at a time when the rebels control large sections of the country including resource-rich areas. The Government, on its part, said it would only consider a cease-fire agreement with the RUF if and when the UN would deploy up to 1,000 military observers to monitor the process, a commitment the UN Security Council said it would not be prepared to make as a pre-condition to a cease-fire agreement.

#### **UN Security Council urges parties to talk**

In a Presidential Statement on Sierra Leone released on 8 May, the UN Security Council reiterated the importance of an overall political settlement and national reconciliation as the only means to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Sierra Leone. In this context, it welcomed the recent holding of internal talks by the rebel delegation in Lome, and urged the GoSL and rebel representatives to start direct talks without further delay and without preconditions. It called upon the rebels to cease atrocities committed against civilians immediately, and for both sides to refrain from any hostile or aggressive act or troop movement which could undermine the peace process. The Council also called on the rebel leadership to release all hostages and abductees without delay, and for both parties to commit to a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Lome talks.

#### **UN increases support for humanitarian interventions**

Recognising the serious humanitarian situation in the country, compounded by

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difficulties in accessing populations in need, the UN has provided a helicopter to the Government to support its humanitarian operations. The helicopter, which is financed by the Trust Fund for Sierra Leone, comes with operational and maintenance support, including two pilots and two engineers.

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) addressed the National Consultative Forum constituted by Government Line Ministries, UN humanitarian agencies and NGOs on the political process and its impact on the humanitarian situation. Noting that humanitarian crises arise when political needs are not adequately addressed, the Ambassador told the forum at its regular coordination meeting on 10 May that the UN's main concern was to ensure that the dialogue process was given a fair chance to succeed. He said he had recommended military restraint to all parties for the duration of the talks so as to allow free movement of civilians and access for humanitarian intervention. He also highlighted the role that the UN has played in mobilising resources for the current emergency.

### **The Challenge of Lome**

While a cross-section of Sierra Leoneans and sympathizers continue to hunger for a peaceful resolution to the conflict, no group is more anxious for a successful outcome of Lome than the direct victims of this brutal conflict. They are the internally displaced who must face the current rainy season with little or no roofs over their heads; the refugees across the Guinean border whose individual and collective security continue to be threatened by the spill-over effects of the conflict; the farmers and bread winners humiliated by the fact that they can no longer provide for their dependants; and the children who have maimed and been maimed and whose education has been consistently interrupted for almost a decade. As leaders of the parties to the conflict meet in Lome, their sincerity will be tested on their ability to hear the silent voices of these victims. There will be no greater failure than an outcome that does not provide a stable environment within which the devastated and incapacitated Sierra Leoneans could begin to heal and to mend their broken limbs and fences.

## **2. Security**

The last two weeks have seen a changing security situation in the country. While ECOMOG and CDF forces have made some advances from the Western Area, new RUF force movements have caused concern in the last week. The onset of the next round of Lomé talks may have a considerable impact on security.

### **Freetown, The Western Area and The Northern Province**

ECOMOG and CDF forces continued their push to open the main road from Freetown to Guinea. By the 5th of May, it was possible for humanitarian staff to travel to Masiaka and Rogberi junction. ECOMOG also stated at the time that it was possible to continue to Port Loko, and then to Kambia. A UN Security mission successfully traveled to Rogberi junction on Friday 7th May.

The recent fighting between Songo, Masiaka and Port Loko caused extensive damage to property and reprisal attacks against the local population. Masiaka, the key town

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which controls Sierra Leone's main highways, had over 90% of its buildings damaged or destroyed. Additionally, trenches had been dug in the road in several locations by captives of the RUF to impede the ECOMOG advance. These have since been temporarily repaired by ECOMOG / CDF. The strategic Magbile bridge, which allows onward travel to Rogberi junction, was taken intact. In addition to property damage, the retreating rebel forces have been accused by civilians of committing numerous human rights abuses (see Human Rights section, below). New arrivals of war-wounded continue to be registered at the time of writing, which indicates that insecurity is still considerable between Songo and Mile 38.

The Malian ECOMOG contingent at Port Loko was attacked by the RUF on Friday 7th May. Seven soldiers were killed and eleven injured. Three vehicles were also destroyed. A second RUF attack on Port Loko was broken up by ECOMOG forces, supported by the helicopter gunship. The Malian troops have since withdrawn from Port Loko to Lungi, and have been replaced by Nigerian and Guinean troops. Other RUF attacks were reported in five villages south of Port Loko.

RUF forces attacked the area around Songo (45 km from Freetown) on Thursday 13th May. ECOMOG resisted the attack at Songo Junction, where an ECOMOG battalion headquarters is located. ECOMOG claimed to have inflicted up to thirty casualties on the attackers before they withdrew. A similar attack took place at Mile 38 on Friday 14th May.

The attacks near Port Loko and Songo provoked a security build-up in both Freetown and Lungi, following speculation that both these areas were under threat. Large numbers of CDF were moved to Lungi from Freetown, while patrols were stepped up in Freetown itself. In the Northern Province, the only other remaining government strongholds are Bumbuna, Kabala and Masingbi.

### **The Eastern Province**

RUF forces in the Eastern Province have been pressuring ECOMOG forces in the area. A large build up around Segbwema has been reported, with two main groups on either side of the Segbwema - Bo road. It is not clear what the objectives of these groups are.

### **The Southern Province**

Attempts to open road access to Bo continue. The main Freetown-Bo highway is still considered to be insecure between Masiaka and Mile 91. The alternative Songo-Moyamba-Bo route is still not open to regular traffic, although occasional commercial shipments have successfully used the route. Government states that it is giving the opening of the roads its highest priority.

## **3. HUMAN RIGHTS**

Recent missions have established a pattern of human rights abuses following recent fighting, especially between Songo, Masiaka and Port Loko. It has not been possible to assess the actual number of deaths, as the dead were buried swiftly. However, documented cases of killings in the last three weeks indicate a similar pattern, where

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people are gathered into one village from surrounding areas, and then a number of them are killed, tortured or abused. Women and children appear to be more vulnerable to these abuses, as they are less able to escape. Twelve people were reported killed in Madigba in the second week of May, including eight children. Another thirteen women and children were reported killed in the village of Mangarma, near Port Loko. Residents in areas around Masiaka claimed that scores of people had been abducted from Masiaka alone. At least equal numbers are missing, either presumed dead, abducted or still living in bush camps. Finally, the period between 26 April and 16 May saw 42 new war-related cases arrive at Connaught Hospital in Freetown, of whom 8 were amputees. Additionally, in three documented cases, children were found with severe axe wounds to the head.

The first substantive meeting of the ECOMOG Civil Military Relations Committee took place at the ECOMOG Headquarters on 11 May. The Committee was set up last month by the ECOMOG Force Commander, Major-General Felix Mwakperuo to investigate allegations of human rights abuses by ECOMOG personnel. At the meeting, members decided to extend their scope to cover violations by other pro-government armed groups such as the Civil Defence Forces and the Sierra Leone Army. The Committee also resolved to hold workshops and seminars to sensitize members of the public about their rights and explain procedures for filing complaints if aggrieved by the security forces. This latest initiative will play a significant role in restoring the public's confidence in the security forces. The UNOMSIL Human Rights Unit has chosen observer status in the committee in order to maintain independence and impartiality with regard to local judicial processes and procedures.

#### 4. HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS

##### **Emerging Humanitarian Concerns**

###### ***Masiaka and surroundings***

As ECOMOG continued its military advance beyond Waterloo town, inter-agency rapid assessment missions have been carried out in Songo, Mile 36, Mile 38, Masiaka and surrounding villages. Initial reports indicate that the occupation of the RUF caused considerable suffering amongst the civilian population, who were either forced to support the rebel forces, or to live in bush camps. Those currently in the main villages appear to have nutritional and medical problems which must be assessed in greater detail when security permits. At the time of visiting, Masiaka town was still empty. Concentrations of displaced were seen at Mile 36 and Mile 38, closer to ECOMOG positions. ECOMOG and villagers estimated that another 5,000 to 10,000 people were still subsisting in the bush. Recent insecurity continues to prevent large scale humanitarian work. In particular, humanitarian agencies fear that emergency resources may draw further attack.

###### ***Tasso Island***

Humanitarian needs have developed on Tasso Island in the Western Area. The Epidemic Rapid Intervention Team made up of MOHS and WHO undertook an assessment mission this month to investigate reports of diarrhoea, dysentery and cholera on the Island. According to their report, the outbreaks were caused by a lack of good water supply, poor environmental sanitation and over-crowding by IDPs. The problem was further compounded by the lack of drugs in the area. About 5,000

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displaced people are said to have joined the host population of 2,500 on this small Island. Deaths resulting from diarrhoea and dysentery amounted to 23 by end of April, a case fatality rate of 6.6 per cent. During the mission, the team treated 1,104 patients at the Community Health Post. Emergency response by health agencies and the MOHS will include: immediate support to the local community health services; health education campaign on cholera prevention and control; and a rapid nutritional assessment of the vulnerable IDPs. International Medical Corps (IMC) has agreed to lead emergency activities in the area, with support from UNICEF and other agencies. OXFAM and ACF have been requested to assist with WATSAN activities. The existing eight wells in the area are adequate to serve the entire population of 7,500 but will need rehabilitation.

### ***Refugees in Guinea/Gbalamuya/Kambia/Pamelap***

UN-HACU in Forecariah reports that the animosity against Sierra Leone refugees in Guinea after the rebel attack on Mola was gradually dying down. The UNHCR and local authorities appear to be effectively managing the situation through sensitization programmes for host and refugee populations. Security at the camp has also been reinforced. The Mola incident triggered some population movements from other camps, particularly Faramoia, some 30 km from Mola. Vehicular traffic from Forecariah to Pamelap increased in the last week as some of the refugees headed back to Sierra Leone via Dakhagbe border. Most of the refugees are believed to be moving in the direction of the Pamelap border area, while others are aiming to reach Lungi and Freetown. IDPs who sought refuge in villages close to the border following the attack on Kambia in February have also been reported to be moving further inland, away from the major routes. An increasing number of IDPs appear to be returning to settlements along Gbalamuya-Kambia route. Aid workers reported food scarcity and signs of moderate malnutrition among some of the displaced, especially children and the elderly. Security in the area of Kambia continues to be uncertain, as access to the area is restricted.

### ***Makeni***

Interviews with refugees indicated that a food crisis may be developing in Makeni. Signs of malnutrition among civilian populations in the area were also reported. Rebels continue to maintain their hold on the town and surrounding villages. Although reports of atrocities against civilians are rare, widespread abductions and training of captives are said to be common practice. The area remains out of the reach of humanitarian agencies.

### **Non-food Items**

#### ***Rains and Roofs***

Agencies have two objectives as the rains approach. The first is to provide assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged or destroyed houses in areas that have recently become accessible and relatively safe for resettlement. The second is to provide temporary shelter for the displaced whose areas of origin remain unsafe. While priority is given to emergency shelter needs, the government and agencies continue to explore the options for resettlement where possible. According to the Ministry of Housing, up to 5,000 houses were destroyed in the Greater Freetown area.

Agencies have divided affected areas into zones to ensure adequate coverage. During

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the first week of May, CRS began distribution of food-for-work rations, bush sticks, nails and zinc sheets to assist 401 resettling households in Calaba Town. To date, CRS has distributed approximately 30 MTs of Title II food, 9,000 packets of nails and 800 bundles of zinc in the area. This initiative is the first of a series of emergency housing reconstruction activities aimed at rehabilitating the devastated eastern part of the peninsula, parts of which had up to 75 % of their structures burned down. CRS also plans to re-roof 110 low-cost housing units destroyed during the rebel incursion into Freetown in January. Construction contractors have been identified and work is expected to start during this month.

On 8 May, World Vision International (WVI) commenced distribution of building materials to families rebuilding 350 houses in eastern Freetown. As at 9 May, 112 family heads had received corrugated iron sheets, roofing, nails and bush sticks.

CARE is also providing construction materials to the war affected people in eastern Freetown.

Concern Worldwide (CW) has accelerated its work as the rains approach. At the time of writing, they reported completion of construction work at some of the IDP sites: Parade Grounds (160 rooms/10 kitchens/one Palava Hut); Mandella Playing Fields (72 rooms/5 kitchens/one Palava Hut); Approved School (40 rooms/20 kitchens); and Murray Town (32 rooms/10 kitchens). Construction work is ongoing at the Approved School and Murray Town locations where additional booths have been planned.

The specifications of all emergency temporary shelters are as per Ministry of Housing regulations. Bushsticks are used for skeletal structures. CW's plastic sheeting is used for partitions and walls while USAID contribution is used for roofing. With an estimated eight persons per room, Concern Worldwide reported temporary shelter provision to 4,928 persons by the time of this review.

The shelter situation at the Waterloo camp is also being addressed by CW. The camp, which is managed by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), formerly accommodated about 14,000 displaced people including 1,500 Liberian refugees and 984 amputees and caretakers. The populations vacated the camp during the December attack. Since ECOMOG secured the area, new influxes from the nearby towns of Newton, Songo, Masiaka and Port Loko, have joined those who returned to the camp. After an assessment of the camp on 7 May, CW reported that 371 of the 1,568 original booths had been damaged and more than 1,000 were without appropriate roofing. They have begun rehabilitation of the booths with CARE providing the plastic sheeting. With the construction of an additional 400 booths, up to 15,000 people can be accommodated at the camp.

With relative security around Waterloo, ADRA reports that it has fully resumed normal relief operations in the camp, including general camp management, running the camp clinic, organizing feeding programmes for malnourished children, and distribution of VGF rations provided by WFP. They will also assist CW in the rehabilitation and construction of shelters at the camp. A WFP-led exercise has registered and verified close to 9,000 displaced residents at the camp. Resettlement and relocation of the caseload at the Post Office Community Centre and surrounding villages will begin after a registration and verification exercise which is being coordinated by CRS, WFP and the Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone (EFSL).

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Concerned that the number of IDPs in the Greater Freetown area currently exceed shelters available, the NCRRR has appealed to agencies with the capacities and resources to step in and assist ongoing efforts. Two new sites have been identified in Calaba Town. CRS and EFSL have indicated their interest in providing assistance for the new sites. Cause Canada has resources for camp construction in Bo, Freetown and possibly Kenema.

Non-food items continue to be distributed at the various IDP sites. CARE has 5,000 sets of items available after a recent distribution at the camps. The Christian Children's Fund which operates in central Freetown has also provided non-food items including mats, clothing, blankets and toiletries to some 10,000 beneficiaries at various displaced centres, hospitals and clinics.

## Health Interventions

### *Bonthe District*

An inter-agency assessment mission to Bonthe on 8 May determined that the hospital and clinics were in reasonable condition and that the EPI support given to health staff there had paid off. The mission, which included UNICEF, HACU and WVI, said the hospital was poorly equipped. UNICEF provided two hospital kits, and will provide further equipment and logistical support for the District Medical Officer and his team. They will also assist in revitalizing two additional PHUs on the Island. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) will provide a generator for the cold chain and seek to address the acute staffing problem there. There are only two to three nurses on the Island.

On 7 May, WVI sent a consignment of medical supplies to support its health programmes in Bonthe District. WVI is expanding its health programme to Imperi and Jong chiefdoms in the second phase of the project which began this month. Two PHUs will be supported in Imperi, and three MCH posts in Jong, Kpandakemo and Nogoba Bullom chiefdoms. Measles immunization campaigns are ongoing in the various chiefdoms, in addition to basic health activities in the six clinics already supported.

According to UNICEF, two significant events in the health sector during this period included the first EPI coordination meeting this year. The meeting, which had a strong NGO and Government representation, identified key issues requiring urgent intervention, including the issue of fees being charged for immunization despite a health policy that all EPI services should be free of charge, and the issue of safety of injections. On the first issue, agencies agreed to speak to staff and to support social mobilization and sensitization programmes which would inform communities of their right to free immunization services. With regard to the second issue, the meeting agreed that the current policy of using sterilizable equipment was unsatisfactory as sterilization was time-consuming and difficult under present circumstances. It was decided that single-use injection materials should be introduced for the next six months. UNICEF is making efforts to bring the required materials into the country and has requested other partners with the resources in-country to assist.

On 15 May, MSF-B and MOHS undertook a re-supply mission to Kabala by helicopter. The team carried one-month drugs and medical supplies for the hospital and four health centres. One medical doctor and a dispenser have now taken up



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residence in the town to begin health operations. MSF-B said it would continue regular helicopter visits to the area. The next mission will carry vaccines in preparation for an immunization campaign against the measles outbreak there.

MSF-F reported a significant increase in the number of war-wounded arriving at Connaught hospital in the last two weeks (see security section). This is largely due to recent rebel activities between Songo and Masiaka, although some victims have arrived from Port Loko. A total of 88 new surgeries were performed in the last two weeks. MSF-F acknowledged ECOMOG's efforts in bringing some of the victims to the hospital in time to save their lives. Handicap International reported that it had provided 150 pairs of crutches and 47 wheel chairs to war-wounded patients in its care. With the assistance of Concern Worldwide, it plans to set up a rehabilitation unit at the Murray Town camp for patients who will be given prosthesis.

In Kenema District, MERLIN continues to support the District Health Team and 10 PHU's. An additional PHU at Giema is also being supported. Assistance to two more PHU's at Hangha and Largo is being offered on a mobile basis following recent insecurity in the area. MERLIN is also operating three emergency clinics for IDPs located at Baama/Konta, the Lebanese School in Kenema and those at the St. Joseph's school in Blama. The measles isolation unit in Blama has now been closed as there are no more cases reported. Support for the paediatric ward at the Kenema hospital is ongoing.

Contrary to recent reports of a drug shortage in Bo, MERLIN confirmed that medical supplies in Bo were sufficient to meet current needs. The next round of supplies will be sent at the end of this month. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (SLRCS) is re-activating clinics in Bo and Kenema and also plans to airlift drugs to both locations.

CRS supports three mobile medical teams in the accessible parts of the southern province who operate outreach clinics in three rural chiefdoms not covered by the national health system. During the period under review, these teams were able to access and treat 800 patients. More than 1,500 people in the area also benefited from health education programmes.

#### **Nutrition:**

ACF continues nutritional programmes in operational areas. At the time of reporting, a total of 130 severely malnourished children were being treated at the Therapeutic Feeding Centre (TFC) in eastern Freetown. This represents an increase of 18 cases in the last two weeks. On 3 and 4 May, ACF conducted nutritional screening in Waterloo. Of the 376 children screened, 80 were found to be moderately malnourished while another 16 severely malnourished were admitted at the TFC. Nutritional screening is being planned for Newton and Songo areas where populations are starting to return. Screening programmes will also be undertaken for the Masiaka area as soon as the security situation improves. Dry ration distribution continues at four centres in Freetown for some 1,451 beneficiaries. ACF plans to set up a dry ration centre in Waterloo town within the next few weeks. An assessment of Barma/Konta (Kenema District) found 15 severely malnourished children who were transferred to Bo. Finally, data on new surveys in Bo and Yele will be made available in the next sitrep.

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In Kenema District, MERLIN is providing therapeutic feeding at three sites, including Kenema hospital, Nongowa clinic and in Blama. By mid May, there were a total of 330 patients in all the centres. Supplementary feeding programmes are run from Kenema and Blama for over 2,000 beneficiaries.

### **Water and Sanitation**

Watsan activities are ongoing in different IDP camps in Freetown and in Waterloo. At the Waterloo camp, ACF provided a 45-cubic meter water tank which will be connected to the dam. It also repaired seven pumps and constructed emergency latrines.

OXFAM continues to appeal for space for the construction of latrines at the Approved School camp which currently lacks toilet facilities. The Deputy Commission of NCRRR, Mr. Kanja Sesay, will address the issue with the relevant ministry.

The water problem at Parade Grounds camp is being addressed by the Water and Sanitation Division (WSD) in collaboration with OXFAM. UNICEF is also willing to assist if necessary.

The Christian Children's Fund (CCF) has donated garbage clearing and sanitary tools to the health and sanitation committee at the National Stadium.

Agencies involved in WATSAN activities are currently preparing their work plans for better coordination of WATSAN interventions at this critical period of the cholera season. The plans will be reviewed on a quarterly basis to highlight progress and constraints.

The water treatment plant and the two main pumps in Bo have not been functioning. There is also a need for fuel to restore water supply. MSF-B has offered to contribute Le5 million towards the repair of the pumps. The Government is also undertaking some measures to solve the problem. NGOs have been requested to assist with the cost of fuel which is estimated at Le 8 million. The European Union is willing to provide some funds through NGOs. ACF, MSF-B, OXFAM and WSD are meeting to work out the modalities for appropriate WATSAN intervention in the town. Also, CARE has commenced well construction in the area.

In Pujehun district, CRS is in the process of supporting six rural communities to construct or rehabilitate 10 wells and 20 latrines and to train and equip community maintenance teams.

WVI continues to provide Watsan assistance in Bonthe district through the cleaning of wells and installation of pumps and pulleys. As at end of April, 22 wells had been rehabilitated in the chiefdoms of Yawbeko, Kpandakemo and Jong. They plan to rehabilitate a total of 65 wells in the District.

### **Food Aid**

Food aid intervention in areas outside Freetown have continued to be constrained by

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the closure of the Freetown-Bo highway and harassment of aid workers at various checkpoints. Recognising the consequences of these problems on vulnerable populations who are now facing a food crisis in Bo and Kenema, food aid agencies intensified efforts to seek a speedy solution to the problem. On 13 May, the interim UN Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Kingsley Amaning led an inter-agency team to a meeting with the Minister of Presidential Affairs, Mr. Momodou Koroma and the Secretary to the President, Dr. James Allie, who chairs the Government humanitarian taskforce. Mr. Amaning said the team was seeking the Government's assistance in finding a common solution to a shared problem: that of facilitating the delivery of emergency and commercial food to the Southern Province in particular. WFP Representative Patrick Buckley explained the food situation in the country, noting that over 100,000 MTs of food were imported to the country during 1998. Thus far in 1999, well under half of the normal requirement had been delivered. He advised the Government to seek alternative ways of meeting this year's shortfall, and said WFP would be willing to support initiatives aimed at increasing bilateral donations. He also told the officials that both relief and commercial trucks were being asked to pay unnecessary levies at checkpoints. The Government acknowledged that some problems had been reported to them, and stated it was willing to take necessary steps to address this situation. A number of follow up meetings have taken place to clarify clearance procedures, and further develop security procedures.

As the primary route between Freetown, Bo and Kenema continues to be unavailable for movement of relief goods, food aid agencies continue to pursue the possibility of using secondary options, particularly the Freetown-Nitti route. As part of its effort to address the problem, WFP has chartered a vessel for Food aid agencies to move substantial quantities of food required to address the needs of populations in Bo and Kenema for a one-month period. The boat is expected to begin operations before the end of the month. The Sierra Leone Roads Association (SLRA) has been provided with the necessary materials for the repair of the road between Nitti and Bo. Meanwhile, agencies will continue to prioritize vulnerable groups in Bo and Kenema with the remaining food stocks in Bo. WFP, WVI and CARE currently have sufficient quantities for Therapeutic and Supplementary Feeding Centres and for institutional feeding programmes.

With regard to the recent ECOMOG requirement for all food consignments to be de-stuffed and searched at the Freetown Port, WFP has written a letter to the appropriate authorities requesting that containers are searched only at the warehouse to avoid unnecessary delays, losses and extra labour costs.

On 4 May, WVI led an overnight verification at the Approved School camp. A total of 10,981 people were registered but due to security problems, an additional 4,000 people were not registered. The CFA has formally requested the NCRRR to guarantee security arrangements for such an exercise that takes place during curfew hours.

On 12 and 13 May, WVI carried out vulnerable group feeding to 3,196 IDPs at the Bailor Barrie camp in Kissy. The food was provided by USAID.

WFP completed verification of IDPs at the Waterloo camp last week and will distribute two-week food rations to 8,953 beneficiaries on 18 May.

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**Agriculture:**

The Agricultural Technical Committee chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Environment has been holding a series of meetings to discuss the 1999 cropping season within the context of continuing insecurity and accessibility constraints. As part of an effort to better coordinate activities in the sector, and to identify existing gaps, input distribution forms are being sent to operational agencies to update the Agriculture Database currently maintained by UN-HACU.

AFRICARE is continuing to support agricultural activities in Kenema District. It recently extended programmes to the lower Dama chiefdom where programmes were suspended in December 1998 due to the deterioration of security. Food production and seed distribution activities have also been extended to Blama where beneficiaries are receiving cassava cuttings, seed rice, groundnuts and vegetables. For this planting season, AFRICARE is targeting a total of 7,000 farming families in Bo, Pujehun and Kenema.

Also in the southern province, CRS is implementing an agricultural recovery project with a caseload of about 5,000 farming families in four chiefdoms. Distribution of upland seed rice and tools to approximately 2,000 farmers started in early May, while groundnut seeds and cassava cuttings will be distributed to households and community groups as soon as possible.

WVI has completed registration of 2,000 farming families in Sorogbema and Makpele chiefdoms in Pujehun district for distribution of seeds and tools. They have also planned the provision of inputs for roots and tuber production for 736 acres in Mattru Jong, 98 acres in Torma Bum and 220 acres in Kenema.

CAD will be commencing its initial distributions in Loko Massama in the next two weeks, security allowing.

**Child Protection**

As of mid May, UNICEF registered a total of 3,384 children missing since January 1999 in the Freetown area. Some 517 of those documented had been found and reunified with their families, leaving another 2,767 still missing. Social workers continue to visit the families of all registered missing children. In the last two weeks, the team identified 149 children who had returned to their homes. ADRA reported that it has had to intensify its family tracing and reunification programme in collaboration with UNICEF and other agencies in order to adequately respond to the escalation of rebel atrocities on children.

Over 500 cases of gross child rights violations have now been registered. Support to these children is provided through a consortium of organizations under the Child Protection Network. The CCSL Secretariat, which is supported by UNICEF, is in the process on finalising its quarterly report on child rights violations.

A number of agencies and the Ministry of Social Welfare attended a meeting in Liberia on the issue of separated Sierra Leonean children in refugee camps. The aim was to examine cross border tracing and reunification between Guinea, Liberian and

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Sierra Leone. The meeting proposed that a centralised database be created for the three countries to facilitate family tracing.

UNICEF recently signed an agreement with the Irish NGO GOAL, to provide services to street children in Freetown. GOAL is working in collaboration with the City Council. A proposal to carry out a situation analysis of street children in Freetown and Bo is currently being finalised.

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) Child Protection Division is beginning programmes aimed at meeting the psychosocial needs of children and youth in IDP centres. Recognising that children and youth have a complex set of needs in addition to those of basic survival, the programmes attempt to address needs through a comprehensive approach, including education, recreation and healing programmes. Support for temporary formal and non-formal education in IDP centres, within the existing child protection framework will meet immediate needs while facilitating continued education once children are resettled in their communities. Recreation activities, coordinated by IDPs themselves, provide a basis for healthy development. Healing programmes, as an extended service, will address the needs of those who have difficulties coping with their experiences.

At the beginning of the month, CRS began supporting 25 non-formal education centers for over 3,000 at-risk youth in Freetown. These centers, which cater to displaced, orphaned, street and other disadvantaged children were forced to close following the rebel incursion into Freetown in January. CRS will support the centers with food aid, reconstruction material and education/recreational items.

## Refugees

Verification of Liberian refugees in Freetown, Bo and Kenema continued throughout the period being reviewed. UNCHR reported that it was still in the process of determining the number of refugees willing to be repatriated. By end of this period, it had verified a total of 3,790 in Freetown and Waterloo. Only 15 per cent of this number have indicated their interest to be repatriated.

For comments/contributions, please contact: Ahunna Eziakonwa, Humanitarian Affairs Officer (Information)  
Email: [aeziaki@hotmail.com](mailto:aeziaki@hotmail.com); Tel: 232 22 227764/227759

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27. Report of the Panel of Experts Appointed Pursuant to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1306 (2000), December 2000, paragraph 180. -

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REPORT OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS  
APPOINTED PURSUANT TO  
UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1306 (2000), PARAGRAPH 19  
IN RELATION TO SIERRA LEONE

December 2000

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### A. Diamonds

1. Diamonds have become an important resource for Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in sustaining and advancing its military ambitions. Estimates of the volume of RUF diamonds vary widely, from as little as \$25 million per annum to as much as \$125 million. Whatever the total, it represents a major and primary source of income for the RUF, and is more than enough to sustain its military activities.
2. A certain volume of RUF diamonds are traded in Kenema and elsewhere in Sierra Leone. These are most likely smuggled out of the country. Some RUF diamonds have also been traded informally in Guinea. But the bulk of the RUF diamonds leave Sierra Leone through Liberia. The diamonds are carried by RUF commanders and trusted Liberian couriers to Foya-Kama or Voinjama, and then to Monrovia. Such trade cannot be conducted without the permission and the involvement of Liberian government officials at the highest level. Very little Liberian trade, in fact, whether formal or informal, takes place without the knowledge and involvement of key government officials. This is true of all imports, and where exports are concerned, it is especially true of diamonds.
3. The Lomé Peace Agreement appointed Foday Sankoh Chairman of the Commission for the Management of Strategic Mineral Resources (CMRRD). Between the time he returned to Sierra Leone in 1999 and the resumption of hostilities in May 2000, the Commission never actually functioned, but Foday Sankoh spent money lavishly, without an obvious source of income. Sankoh was, in fact, encouraging a wide variety of potential foreign investors, many thinking they would reap exclusive benefits from the same things. A picture emerges of a double-dealing leader, clutching at financial opportunities for personal and political gain, outside of the governmental framework in which he was ostensibly working. Most of this related to the diamond trade.
4. The report comments on Sierra Leone's new certification system. Where the RUF's conflict diamonds are concerned, the legitimate export system is largely irrelevant. As long as there are no controls in neighbouring countries, the RUF will continue to move their diamonds out with impunity. For this reason, it is imperative that a standardized global certification scheme be introduced as soon as possible.
5. A major difficulty in tracking the movement of rough diamonds, whether conflict or otherwise, is the inconsistent manner in which the governments of major trading centres record diamond imports and exports. One issue has to do with the general availability of statistics. Another has to do with a distinction made between 'country of origin' and 'country of provenance'. Country of provenance refers to the country from which diamonds were last imported; country of origin indicates where they were mined. Until recently, little serious attention was paid anywhere to the issue of where diamonds were actually mined. The result is a wide range of anomalies. For example, 41 per cent of British rough diamond imports in 1999 were said to originate in Switzerland, while Switzerland officially imports almost no rough diamonds at all. This is a consequence of diamonds passing through Swiss free trade areas, until recently without record and without serious government oversight.
6. In its search for conflict diamonds from Sierra Leone, the Panel discovered that there is a much greater volume of 'illicit' diamonds, and that distinguishing between the two is extremely difficult. A large volume of diamonds entering Europe is disguised as Liberian, Guinean and Gambian in order to evade taxation and launder money. The report describes flagrant examples in Belgium of fraudulent commercial reporting. A country like Liberia, whose name has been used with or without its knowledge by illicit traders, can thus conceal its own very real trade in illicit and conflict diamonds behind larger rackets being perpetrated by others.

### B. Recommendations on Diamonds

7. In order to better regulate the flow of rough diamonds from producing countries, a global certification scheme based on the system now adopted in Sierra Leone is imperative. It will give added impetus to current discussions on this subject if the Security Council endorses the concept of a global system.
8. In the short run, and in the absence of a global system, it is recommended that certification systems similar to that adopted by Sierra Leone, be required of all diamond exporting countries in West Africa, with special and immediate reference to Guinea and Côte D'Ivoire, as a protective measure for their indigenous industries and to prevent their exposure to conflict diamonds. If this has not been completed within a period of six months, the Security Council should impose an international embargo on diamonds from these countries.

9. The Panel further recommends a complete embargo on all diamonds from Liberia until Liberia demonstrates convincingly that it is no longer involved in the trafficking of arms to, or diamonds from, Sierra Leone. The ban should not be lifted until this condition has been met, and until Liberia too has joined the proposed standardized certification system.

10. The Security Council should place an immediate embargo on trade in all so-called Gambian diamonds until such time as its exports of diamonds can be reconciled with imports.

11. Other diamond exporting countries in the region have been designated by the Belgian government as 'sensitive' countries, where special attention to imports is required. In addition to the three countries suffering directly from conflict diamonds and those mentioned above, these include Uganda, Central African Republic, Ghana, Namibia, Congo Brazzaville, Mali, Zambia and Burkina Faso. This list is commended to other major importing countries, including Switzerland, South Africa, India, Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States. Invoices from these countries need to be thoroughly checked, and where there is doubt about either provenance or origin, parcels should be seized until the authorities have checked the facts. Delays in processing will increase the cost of doing business and will encourage better paper work. Forfeiture of improperly labelled goods will discourage the habit decisively.<sup>1</sup>

12. Urgent attention should be given to extending a Sierra Leone-style certification system to these countries as soon as possible.

13. The United Nations, the World Diamond Council and the import control authorities of all rough diamond importing countries should be vigilant for other exporting countries, or for countries in the future, where trade in diamonds has little to do with domestic production or legitimate trading.

14. It is essential, and a matter of urgency, that major trading centres (Belgium, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, South Africa, India, the United States and Israel) come to a common agreement on the recording and public documentation of rough diamond imports that is consistent from one country to another, and that clearly designates the country of origin in addition to country of provenance.

15. An annual statistical production report should be compiled by each exporting country and gathered into a central annual report, compiled by the World Diamond Council and/or by the certification body that is expected to emerge from the 'Kimberly Process' of intergovernmental negotiation. Countries of origin must be distinguished from countries of provenance.

16. If diamonds are mixed and/or re-invoiced in a free trade zone, it is imperative that the government of that country take responsibility for verifying the bona fides of the diamonds before they are re-exported. This is especially important with regard to Switzerland because of the large volumes that pass through its *Freiläger*, losing their identity in the process. The same is true of the United Arab Emirates. In other words, all countries importing rough diamonds must be part of the anticipated 'rough controls' system.

17. Throughout its work, the Panel was struck by the widespread breaking of UN Security Council sanctions on both weapons and diamonds. If existing and future sanctions are to be effective, the Security Council will require an on-going capacity to monitor their observance and conduct research. Where diamonds are concerned, there have been three Expert Panels examining many of the same issues concurrently. There has been useful collaboration, but there has also been overlap and duplication. Considering the complexity and the changing nature of the conflict diamond issue the Panel recommends that in future, it would serve the Security Council better to have an on-going focal point within the UN to monitor adherence to sanctions, as well as progress towards the goals stated in the December 1, 2000 General Assembly resolution on conflict diamonds.

18. The attention of the Security Council, the Government of Sierra Leone, donor agencies and other interested parties is drawn to observations contained in the report about the need for probity and transparency. Without serious reform and due diligence within government and government agencies in Sierra Leone, international efforts to assist will be wasted.

### C. Weapons and Air Traffic Control

19. Despite an ECOWAS-Moratorium on arms shipments to West Africa, the region is awash in small arms. Guerrilla armies receive weapons through interlinked networks of traders, criminals and insurgents moving across borders. Systematic information on weapons smuggling in the region is non-existent, and information that could be used to combat the problem on a regional scale - through ECOWAS or through bilateral exchanges - is generally not available. Few states in the region have the resources or the infrastructure to tackle smuggling.

20. In Sierra Leone, the RUF depends almost exclusively on light weaponry, although it does have access to more sophisticated equipment. It has captured many weapons during confrontations with the Sierra Leone Army, ECOMOG and UNAMSIL forces. The Panel, however, found unequivocal and overwhelming evidence that Liberia has been actively supporting the RUF at all levels, in providing training, weapons and related *matériel*, logistical support, a staging ground for attacks and a safe haven for retreat and recuperation, and for public relations activities.

21. There is also conclusive evidence of supply lines to Liberia through Burkina Faso. Weapons supplied to Burkina Faso by governments or private arms merchants have been systematically diverted for use in the conflict in Sierra Leone. For example, a shipment of 68 tons of weapons arrived at Ouagadougou on 13 March 1999. They were temporarily off-loaded in Ouagadougou and some were trucked to Bobo Dioulasso. The bulk of them were then trans-shipped within a matter of days to Liberia. Most were flown aboard a BAC-111 owned by an Israeli businessman of Ukrainian origin, Leonid Minin. Details of the flights and dates are included in the report.

22. The role of aircraft in the RUF's supply chain is vital, especially over the past two years as their sphere of influence in Sierra Leone has widened. It is known that the RUF were supplied by helicopter on a sporadic basis before 1997, and on a regular basis since then. Helicopters originating in Liberia land at Buedu, Kailahun, Makeni, Yengema, Tumbudu and elsewhere in Kono District.

23. President Charles Taylor is actively involved in fuelling the violence in Sierra Leone, and many businessmen close to his inner-circle operate on an international scale, sourcing their weaponry mainly in eastern Europe. One key individual is a wealthy Lebanese businessman named Talal El-Ndine. El-Ndine is the inner-circle's paymaster. Liberians fighting in Sierra Leone alongside the RUF, and those bringing diamonds out of Sierra Leone are paid by him personally. The pilots and crew of the aircraft used for clandestine shipments into or out of Liberia are also paid by El-Ndine.

24. Regional air surveillance capacities are weak or totally inadequate in detecting, or in acting as a deterrent to the arms merchants supplying Liberia and the RUF. Weak airspace surveillance in the region in general, and abusive practices with regard to aircraft registration, create a climate in which arms traffickers operate with impunity.

25. Because of its lax licence and tax laws, Liberia has for many years been a flag of convenience for the fringe air cargo industry. Liberia also has lax maritime and aviation laws that provide the owners of ships and aircraft with maximum discretion and cover, and with minimal regulatory interference. A schedule of Liberian-registered aircraft provided to the Panel by the government listed only 7 planes. No documentation was available on more than 15 other aircraft identified by the Panel. Many aircraft flying under the Liberian flag, therefore, are apparently unknown to Liberian authorities, and are never inspected or seen in the country.

26. In November 1999, a Kenyan national named Sanjivan Ruprah was authorized by the Liberian Minister of Transport to act as the 'Global Civil Aviation agent worldwide' for the Liberian Civil Aviation Regulatory Authority, and to 'investigate and regularise the ... Liberian Civil Aviation register'. During its visit to Liberia the Panel asked the Transport Ministry, the Ministry of Justice and police authorities about Ruprah and his work, but was told that he was not known to them. Ruprah is, in fact, a well-known weapons dealer. He travels using a Liberian diplomatic passport in the name of Samir M. Nasr, and carries additional authorization from the Liberian International Ship and Corporate Registry.

27. Victor Bout is a well-known supplier of embargoed non-state actors - in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere. He oversees a complex network of over 50 planes and multiple cargo charter and freight-forwarding companies, many of which are involved in shipping illicit cargo. Bout has used the Liberian aviation register extensively, operating mainly out of the United Arab Emirates. Sharjah Airport is used as an 'airport of convenience' for planes registered in many other countries. One of Bout's aircraft, an Ilyushin 76, was used in July and August 2000 for arms deliveries from eastern Europe to Liberia. This aircraft and an Antonov made four deliveries, on July 4 and 27, and August 1 and 23, 2000. The cargo included military helicopters, spare rotors, anti-tank and anti-aircraft systems, missiles, armoured vehicles, machine guns and ammunition.

28. It is difficult to conceal something the size of an Mi-17 military helicopter, and the supply of such items to Liberia cannot go undetected by customs authorities in originating countries unless there are false flight plans and end-user certificates, or unless customs officials at points of exit are paid to look the other way. The constant involvement of Bout's aircraft in arms shipments from eastern Europe into African war zones suggests the latter.

29. In addition, there have been few significant cases of aircraft with weapons being grounded at important fuelling points such as Cairo, Nairobi or Entebbe, or anywhere in West Africa. Although some countries have temporarily or permanently stopped aircraft registered in Liberia from entering their airspace, the Liberian register continues to be used fraudulently. The

practice has clearly been organised from Liberia in cooperation with shrewd businessmen abroad, and Liberian-registered planes remain prominent in many African countries, particularly in countries at war.

30. In short, Liberia is actively breaking Security Council embargoes regarding weapons imports into its own territory and into Sierra Leone. It is being actively assisted by Burkina Faso. It is being tacitly assisted by countries allowing weapons to pass through or over their territory without question, and by those countries that provide a base for the aircraft used in such operations.

31. The report concludes with a full technical report on the adequacy of air traffic control and surveillance systems within the region.

#### **D. Recommendations on Weapons and Air Traffic Control**

32. The Panel strongly recommends that all aircraft operating with an EL-registration number and based at airports other than in Liberia, should be grounded immediately and until the provisions in the following recommendation are met. This includes planes based in Sharjah and other airports in the United Arab Emirates, in Congo Brazzaville, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Angola, Rwanda and Kenya. Airport authorities and operators of planes registered in Liberia over the past five years should be advised to keep all their documentation, log books, operating licences, way bills and cargo manifests for inspection.

33. It is further recommended that all operators of aircraft on the Liberian register, wherever they are based, be required to file their airworthiness and operating licences and their insurance documents with the International Civil Aviation Organisation's headquarters in Montreal, Canada, including documentation on inspections carried out during the past five years. The aircraft of all operators failing to do so should be grounded permanently. Aircraft that do not meet ICAO standards should be grounded permanently.

34. The Security Council, through ICAO, IATA and the WCO should create a centralized information bulletin, making the list of grounded Liberian aircraft known to all airports in the world.

35. Burkina Faso has recently recommended that the UN Security Council supervise a proposed mechanism that would monitor all arms imports into its territory, and their use, for a period of three years. The Panel endorses this proposal. The Panel also recommends that under such a mechanism, all imports of weapons and related matériel into Burkina Faso over the past five years be investigated. The Panel further recommends that any state having exported weapons during this period to Burkina Faso should investigate the actual end-use of these weapons, and report their findings to the Security Council and to the Program for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED) established under the ECOWAS Moratorium.

36. In view of the sanctions-breaking cases investigated by the Panel and the information gathered in the region, it is recommended that the Security Council encourage the reinforcement of the ECOWAS Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED) with support from Interpol and the World Customs Organisation. PCASED should have an active capacity to monitor compliance with arms embargoes and the circulation of illicit weapons in the region.

37. The Security Council should encourage ECOWAS member states to enter into binding bilateral arrangements between states with common frontier zones, to initiate an effective, common and internationally agreed system of control that includes the recording, licensing, collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons. These bilateral arrangements can be promoted and facilitated through ECOWAS and through the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development. A common standard and the management of a database on significant cases of smuggling and sanctions busting in the region could be developed by Interpol. The IWETS (International Weapons and Explosives Tracking System) programme of Interpol could be used by all states and the United Nations for the purpose of tracking the origin of the weaponry.

38. In this report, the Panel has identified certain arms brokers and intermediaries responsible for supplying weapons to the RUF. A project should be developed to profile these arms brokers with the cooperation of Interpol. Similarly, considering the importance of air transport in the sanctions busting, profiles of major cargo companies involved in such practices should be developed, with a view to exploring ways and means of further strengthening the implementation of sanctions.

39. Responsibility for the flood of weapons into West Africa lies with producing countries as well as those that trans-ship and

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use them. The Security Council must find ways of restricting the export of weapons, especially from eastern Europe, into conflict areas under regional or UN embargoes. 'Naming and shaming' is a first step, but consideration could be given to placing an embargo on weapons exports from specific producer countries, just as diamonds have been embargoed from producer countries, until internationally acceptable certification schemes have been developed.

40. An analysis of the firearms recovered from rebels should be undertaken in cooperation with Interpol, and its International Weapons and Explosives Tracking System. This would help in further identifying those involved in the RUF supply line.

41. The World Customs Organization should be asked to share with the Security Council its views on creating adequate measures for better monitoring and detection of weapons or related matériel to non-state actors or countries under an arms embargo.

42. Current Security Council arms embargoes should be amended to include a clear ban on the provision of military and paramilitary training.

43. Countries in West Africa that have not signed the 1989 UN Convention on the Recruitment, Use, Training and Financing of Mercenaries should be encouraged to do so.

44. Consideration should be given to the development of special training programs on sanctions monitoring for national law enforcement and security agencies, as well as airport and customs personnel in West Africa, and the development of a manual or manuals on the monitoring of sanctions at airports for worldwide use by airport authorities and law enforcement services.

45. Consideration should be given to placing specialised United Nations monitors at major airports in the region (and perhaps further afield), focussing on sensitive areas and coordinating their findings with other airports. This would enable better identification of suspect aircraft. It would also create a deterrent against illicit trafficking, and would generate the information needed to identify planes, owners and operators violating UN sanctions and arms embargoes.

46. The Security Council should consider ways in which air traffic control and surveillance in West Africa can be improved, with a view to curtailing the illicit movement of weapons. Possibilities include:

- encouraging the installation of primary radar at all major West African airports, and finding the financial support to do so. Only primary radar can independently detect the movement of aircraft;
- an alternative to radio would be High Frequency Radio, or 'pseudo radar'. This, however, requires pilot cooperation;
- requiring the use in the region of a Global Positioning System and requiring aircraft to be equipped with the appropriate avionics, with installation of the corresponding equipment on the ground. This would entail requiring aircraft flying in West Africa to have on board or to be equipped with avionics which could enable controllers on the ground to identify any traffic, anywhere and at any time in their sector;
- encouraging ICAO and other interested agencies to assist states in reinforcing the financial autonomy of bodies established for the management of air navigation services.

#### **Other Recommendations**

47. In this report, the Panel makes a variety of specific recommendations that deal with diamonds, weapons and the use of aircraft for sanctions-busting and the movement of illicit weapons. Many of these recommendations and the problems they address are related to the primary supporter of the RUF, Liberia - its President, its government and the individuals and companies it does business with. The Panel notes with concern that Security Council resolutions on diamonds and weapons are being broken with impunity. In addition to the foregoing, the Panel offers the following recommendations with a view to making the message of this report more clear, and to ensuring that there is better follow-up to Security Council decisions in future:

48. A travel ban similar to that already imposed on senior Liberian officials and diplomats by the United States should be considered for application by all UN member nations until such time as Liberia's support to the RUF and its breaking of other UN sanctions ends conclusively.

49. The principals in Liberia's timber industry are involved in a variety of illicit activities, and large amounts of the proceeds

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are used to pay for extra-budgetary activities, including the acquisition of weapons. Consideration should be given to placing a temporary embargo on Liberian timber exports, until Liberia demonstrates convincingly that it is no longer involved in the trafficking of arms to, or diamonds from, Sierra Leone.

50. Consideration should be given to creating capacity within the UN Secretariat for on-going monitoring of Security Council sanctions and embargoes. This is imperative to the building of an in-house knowledge base on current issues such as conflict diamonds, as noted in paragraph 17 above, but it is even more important to creating greater awareness of, and capacity to deal with problems, which are not likely to be solved in the near future, such as the illicit trade in weapons and related *matériel*.

## INTRODUCTION

### A. General

51. On August 2, 2000, in reference to Security Council Resolution 1306 (2000) concerning Sierra Leone, adopted by the Security Council on July 5, 2000, the Secretary General of the United Nations appointed a Panel of Experts to collect information on possible violations of the measures imposed by paragraph 2 of Resolution 1171 (1998) and the link between trade in diamonds and trade in arms and related *matériel*, and to consider the adequacy of air traffic control systems in the region.

52. Paragraph 2 of Resolution 1171 (1998) states that The Security Council... decides, with a view to prohibiting the sale and supply of arms and related *matériel* to non-governmental forces in Sierra Leone, that all States shall prevent the sale or supply, by their nations or from their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related *matériel* of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment and spare parts for the aforementioned, to Sierra Leone other than to the Government of Sierra Leone through named points of entry on a list to be supplied by that Government to the Secretary-General who shall then promptly notify all Member States of the United Nations of the list.

53. In connection with this Resolution, the Panel took cognisance of Paragraph 8 of Security Council Resolution 788 (1992), which remains in force: The Security Council... decides, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, that all states shall, for the purposes of establishing peace and stability in Liberia, immediately implement a general and complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Liberia until the Security Council decides otherwise.

54. The Panel also noted paragraphs 1 to 7 of Security Council Resolution 1306 (2000), which dealt with the issue of Sierra Leone's diamonds, and in which the Security Council decided that 'all States shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the direct or indirect import of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to their territory.'

55. On October 6, 2000, the Chairman of the Sierra Leone Sanctions Committee informed the President of the Security Council that his Committee had agreed to exempt the export of diamonds controlled by the Government of Sierra Leone through a new Certificate of Origin regime from the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of the resolution.

56. The Panel of Experts consisted of Mr. Martin Chungong Ayafor (Cameroon - Chairman), Mr. Atabou Bodian (Senegal - Expert from the International Civil Aviation Organization), Mr. Johan Peleman (Belgium - Arms and Transportation Expert), Mr. Harjit S. Sandhu (India - Expert from Interpol), and Mr. Ian Smillie (Canada - Diamond Expert). The letter appointing the Panel is included in Annex 1.

57. The Panel first met at UN Headquarters in New York on August 21, and it was subsequently agreed with the Security Council Sanctions Committee on Sierra Leone that its report would be submitted on December 8, 2000. This was subsequently rescheduled to mid December, 2000.

### B. The Work of the Panel

58. The Panel received a great deal of logistical and moral support from the United Nations Secretariat, from UN Resident Coordinators and UNDP officials in almost every country it visited. Many governments helped with detailed information and advice, and many individuals and companies in the diamond industry provided helpful information. The Security Council exploratory hearings on Sierra Leone diamonds held in New York on July 31 and August 1, 2000 were also very helpful in setting the stage for the Panel.

59. The Panel was able to coordinate some of its work with the concurrent Angola Panel. In addition, Panel members were



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able to attend an important intergovernmental conference on conflict diamonds held in Pretoria in September 2000.

60. The Panel travelled widely to countries involved in the diamond trade, and to countries involved, or said to be involved in the trafficking of weapons and related *matériel* to Sierra Leone in contravention of UN Security Council embargoes. The entire panel visited Sierra Leone twice, and some Panel members visited three times. In addition to Freetown, trips were made to Daru and to the diamond trading centre of Kenema. In Guinea, Panel members visited Conakry and Nzerekore. The entire Panel also visited Liberia, South Africa and United Nations Headquarters in New York. Travel was undertaken by one or several of the Panel members to Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Ghana, France, India, Israel, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and the United Arab Emirates. Stopover visits were made to Abidjan, but because of elections and subsequent civil unrest, only a limited number of telephone conversations were possible.

61. In each country Panel members met with government authorities, and where relevant, with diplomatic missions, civil society organizations, aid agencies, private sector firms and journalists. The Panel had access to a wide range of public and confidential information provided by official sources, including law enforcement and intelligence agencies. The Panel also contacted a number of key individuals and informants whose names have been a subject of interest and controversy in recent months in connection with the Sierra Leone crisis. A full list of those contacted is contained in Annex 2. Given the sensitive nature of the subjects investigated by the Panel, however, it should be noted that many individuals spoke under conditions of confidentiality. Several meetings held in various countries have therefore not been listed.

62. In August 2000, the Panel requested detailed statistics dating back to 1987 on diamond exports from major producing countries, and imports to countries with significant trading, cutting and polishing industries. The reason for going back to 1987 was to determine what trends might have prevailed before the wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia. In September, the Panel sent reminders to all governments that had not yet provided the requested statistics. In the end, most of the data requested was provided by most governments. Three exceptions stand out, despite reminders: no statistics were received from The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire and the United Arab Emirates.

### C. Standards of Verification

63. The Panel agreed at the outset of its work to use high evidentiary standards in its investigations. This required at least two credible and independent sources of information to substantiate a finding. Wherever possible, the Panel also agreed to put allegations to those concerned in order to allow them the right of reply. In the past, allegations against various parties to the conflict in Sierra Leone have been denied with the question, 'Where is the evidence?' An example of this is the standard response to charges that weapons have been channelled to Liberia through Burkina Faso. In the report that follows, we have dealt in detail with this particular allegation. It might still be asked, 'Where is the evidence?' On this charge and others, full details of the sources will not be revealed, but the evidence is incontrovertible. The Panel examined the flight records maintained at the offices of Roberts Flight Information Region (FIR) in Conakry for all aircraft movement in West Africa during the period in question. It saw photographs of the aircraft being loaded in Burkina Faso. It examined flight plans. It spoke to eyewitnesses of aircraft movement in Burkina Faso and Liberia, and it spoke to individuals who were on board the aircrafts in question. In addition to its own detailed verification, the Panel received corroborating information from international intelligence agencies and police sources operating at international as well as national levels. The assistance of Interpol specialists was also taken as and when required. This is an example of one of the more difficult issues examined by the Panel. All issues have been judged and reported using the same standard.

### D. A Reminder

64. The Panel's mandate is described in Section A, above. The Panel was reminded of the background to its mandate, however, during its visits to Sierra Leone. There, thousands of civilians, many of them child victims of unspeakable brutality, face a future without hands or feet. Tens of thousands of Sierra Leoneans have lost their lives, half a million have become refugees and three or four times that number has been displaced. As the Panel concluded its report, much of Sierra Leone remained in rebel hands, where people lived without access to medical assistance, education or the means to a secure livelihood. The Panel remained cognizant, throughout its work, of its role and its responsibility in helping to end the suffering of the people of Sierra Leone, and this decade-long tragedy.

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[1] Note: the term 'sensitive country' is not used in this report to suggest wrongdoing. It is taken from a Belgian government report which seeks to protect these countries, Belgium and the industry from problems to which they are all clearly vulnerable. Namibia, for example, is one of the leaders in the fight against conflict diamonds.

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29. UNHCR Report on Atrocities Committed Against the Sierra Leone Population,  
UNHCR Conakry Branch Office, 28 January 1999

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UNHCR-PT



UNHCR BRANCH OFFICE CONAKRY

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REPORT ON ATTROCITIES COMMITTED  
AGAINST THE SIERRA LEONE POPULATION

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C.W.

Introduction

Ever since the ECOMOG forces regained control of Sierra Leon's capital Freetown, mid February 1998 reports have come in about serious atrocities being committed by retreating junta forces against the local population. It soon became clear that the scale and nature of the crimes perpetrated served only two purposes: intimidation and humiliation.

It has emerged that perpetrators of these crimes do not discriminate with regard to age, sex, ethnic origin or other criteria in the choice of their victims. In blind rage, they hack off peoples ears, hands and other parts of the body and then send them off with a message to ECOMOG, the President of Sierra Leone or other persons. If they do not die en route, the victims end up in Freetown and Makeni hospital or in a refugee camp in Guinea.

All victims of violence and armed conflict carry with them the indelible memory of their ordeal. What distinguishes the victims of the atrocities committed by the Sierra Leone junta forces from other victims is that they remain, in addition to being mentally affected, physically handicapped for the rest of their lives.

Unable to carry on with their work and dependent on an already burdened nation, the victims of this cruel behaviour demand from the international community that justice be served and that perpetrators of these terrible crimes be apprehended, tried and convicted.

UNHCR by virtue of its mandate and its *accord de siege* with the Government of Guinea has access to all newly arriving asylum seekers on Guinea territory. Information obtained from them may assist in determining their status but also serve as important country of origin information. If, as in the case of the maimed victims, UNHCR staff come across evidence of serious crimes committed against humanity, the public may be notified through the P.I. section, and policy makers are advised by means of various speeches made by Senior Executives. It is within the discretionary powers of the High Commissioner to assist the prosecutor of a competent court or tribunal with the evidence assembled. This information sharing may be especially appropriate as victims and witnesses may vanish over time. With these points in mind, the Senior Protection Officer at B.O. Conakry has initiated the preparation of this report. It contains interview reports based on standard questionnaires prepared by field and protection staff as well as medical certificates and digital pictures of registered victims of maiming that have arrived in Guinea since the retreat of junta forces to the diamond rich district of Kono located in Eastern Sierra Leone. In order to protect the confidentiality of the interviewed victims and witnesses, all names have been deleted whilst certain ~~the~~ digital pictures have been adjusted so as to avoid recognition. The original reports that includes names and signatures remains on confidential file with the protection unit of UNHCR.

August 1998

Assane Samb

Representative

UNHCR B.O. Conakry, Guinea

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CASE # 01

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of Birth: 15/9/74
5. Place of Origin: Kenema
6. Occupation: miner
7. Date/Place of Attack: end February at Kobola
8. Date of Arrival: end February 1998
9. Route Followed: Kenema - Makeni - Kobola (near Kabala) -  
Foroconia - Conakry
10. Accompanied by: Wife, two children
11. Physical Condition: Missing both hands, one ear
12. Date and Place of Interview: 27/5/98 at Conakry
13. Interviewing Officer: Gregory Mose, Associate Protection Officer

## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and his family fled Kenema at the end of February to escape fighting in that area in hope of reaching Guinea. They reached Makeni, but while on the road between Makeni and Kabala they were intercepted by a group of rebels and taken to their base at Kobola. He was accused of having tried to lead ECOMOG to the rebel base. His mother and wife were killed, but his second wife and two children remained with him.

He describes the camp as quite large and estimates having seen around 350 rebels, six cars/trucks (at least one marked UN) and eight motorcycles. The military commander was named Brigadier \*\*\*\*\*, who reportedly led a rebel attack on the hydroelectric plant at Bumbuna. Other men of authority were Major \*\*\*\*\*, who reportedly served as Under-secretary of State for \*\*\*\*\* under the AFRC, Lieutenant Colonel \*\*\*\*\*, and one \*\*\*\*\* whom Mr. \*\*\*\*\* describes as the head of the national lottery. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* reports having seen around 85 prisoners.

All prisoners were kept tied up in one area. As Mr. \*\*\*\*\* describes it, Lieutenant Colonel \*\*\*\*\* gave orders to Major \*\*\*\*\* to select six prisoners to be brought out and released. Lieutenant Colonel \*\*\*\*\* told the prisoners that he had received orders from "Superman" to release some prisoners. Each of the six prisoners remained bound and had a letter tied around his neck and was led away.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was taken in the next group of prisoners to be released on orders of "Superman." They too were bound and letters were tied around their necks, and then taken to a point near the Sierra Leone Guinea border not far from an ECOMOG base. When the rebel detachment there read the notes, they proceeded amputate them and then gave them new notes addressed to the government of Sierra Leone. Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s note said that the rebels were coming to Freetown and that they would fight to the last man.

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He saw two other people mutilated: the first lost a foot, a hand and an ear, while the other lost both ears and hands. He then crossed the border to Foroconia and from there travelled to Conakry.



# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr D. AGUIRRE

Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e).....

Age de 22 ans. Ce jour du 20 Mai 1998.

Etat General: Satisfaisant

Constantes Hemodynamiques:.....

Le patient presente des lesions mutilantes de type: Traumatique

Siege: Dans le bras et une cuisse droite

Stade de cicatrisation: cicatrisation complete

Etat de la lesion: les lesions ont completement gueries

Date probable du traumatisme: 3 mois

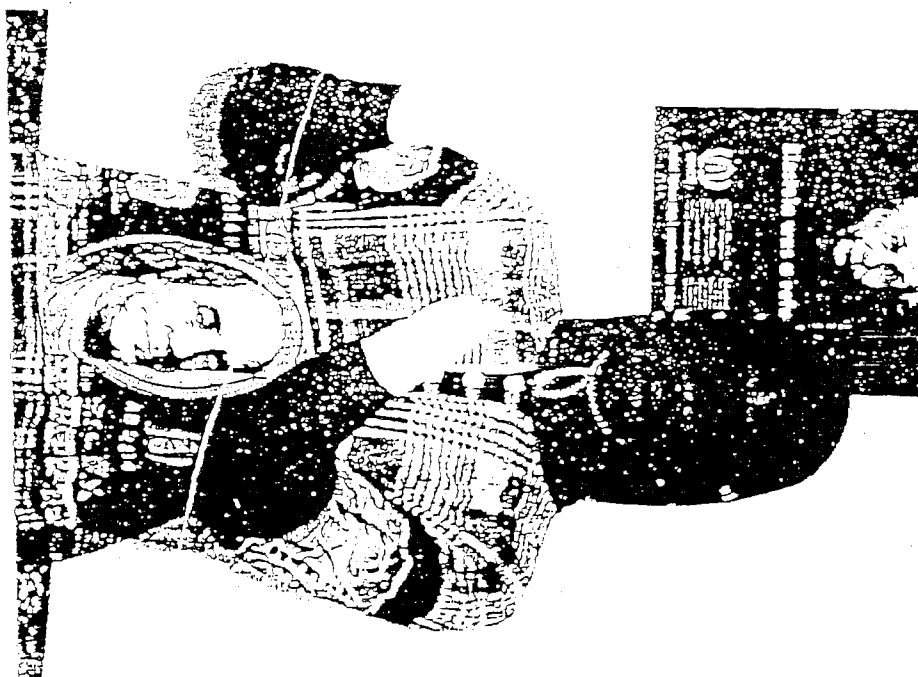
Conclusion / Remarques: le patient est inapte / incapable de faire ses besoins elementaires

Fait pour le HCR a Comakuy Le 16 / Juin / 1998

Signature:

D. Aguirre

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UNICR's Protection Unit B-9 Conakry Guinea

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Temne tribe
3. Sex: Female
4. Date of Birth: 26/10/70
5. Place of origin: Motema, Nemekoro chiefdom, Kono District
6. Occupation: Nurse (speciality: Pregnancy and children)
7. Date of arrival: around 26/4/98
8. Date/Place of Attack: 19/3/98 near Bakedou
9. Route followed: Motema town, Peyma village, Bakedou.  
Foroconia, Kobikoro, Gueckedou  
From 21.02 till 26.04 they lived in the bush.
10. Accompanied by: Her husband \*\*\*\*\*, her son  
XXX (7), and daughter YYY (5).
11. Physical Condition: multiple bruises and cuts from beating
12. Date and Place of Interview: 26/5/98 and 3/6/98 at Gueckedou
13. Interviewing Officers: Amadou Kemenani, Protection Officer  
Anne Paludan, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* and her husband, a trader, lived in Freetown with two of their children. Since 1992, two daughters have stayed in Makeni (Bombali District) with her elder sister, Mrs. \*\*\*\*\*, because it was safer there. They are \*\*\*\*\* (13) and \*\*\*\*\* (11). On 25 May, 1997, following attacks on the city, they left Freetown and arrived in Motema town in June. Here they stayed till the first attack in Kono on February 21, 1998. The Junta soldiers had had an argument with one of the townspeople about money which the soldiers refused to pay back. The soldiers threatened them that if they did not leave the town would be destroyed. She had seen one of the soldiers who issued the threats before but does not know his name.

The whole household of 16 people left before the town was attacked - herself, her husband and their two youngest children and their extended family. She brought a little medicine, 200,000 leones and some clothing. They hid in the bush before and after they had been attacked.

On March 19, Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* and her family were captured by a group of at least 10 Junta soldiers in the bush near Bakedou. They were held from about 11:00 a.m. till about 3:00 p.m.. Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* did not know any of the men or hear their names. She remembers that some wore military combat uniforms, others wore civilian clothing, and they carried guns, bayonets, cutlasses, knives, bows and arrows. They spoke Krio, Mende and Temne. They were commanded by a tall man around 50 years old with greying hair. There were some captured civilians with them, seven old and young women, 10 men, and more than 15 children. The soldiers gathered their prisoners in an open area. In front of all of them

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they ordered some of the women and children. "Come and lie down and we will sex you." Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* witnessed the sexual assault of three women, mothers of 27-30 years, and many children, both boys and girls. In one case she saw the rebels kill a woman after they had raped her. In total Mrs \*\*\*\*\* witnessed the killing of seven people. Later she saw six dead bodies.

The soldiers forced her to strip naked, took all her belongings and her clothes, tied her hands behind her back and ordered her to lie down on the ground, threatening to kill her. They then started cutting her neck with a knife. A young boy (she believes less than 15 years old) stabbed her arm with a sharp arrow, another young boy beat her in the back with the barrel of a gun, and a third stabbed her left leg and foot with a bayonet. This went on until one of the soldiers (whose face she did not see) asked the others to leave her and not kill her. She lost a lot of blood and was losing conscience.

During the attack on Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* her son and daughter lay on the ground together with her. The soldiers had also ordered them to lie down, but their hands were not tied. XXX received a deep cut in the head with a cutlass. YYY had a cut on her right hand with a cutlass. Both of them remember seeing three people being killed.

From 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* lay on the ground. She did not see or sense what happened after she was attacked as she was unconscious most of the time. When the soldiers had left, her son XXX touched her arm and untied her, and she woke up. Around her she saw many dead bodies and all the damage that had been done. Her husband was missing.

It was then getting late in the afternoon. Some women who had been hiding in the bush came back, washed the survivors, and gave them some clothes. They gave her and Mohamed some cloth to bandage their wounds. The survivors then started walking. After 4 days on the road some villagers they met told her that her husband had been carried away by the soldiers/rebels and had been killed with a cutlass at a place called Babwa. She herself did not go there and did not see her husband's body.

She and seven other survivors stayed in the bush till about 26 April. There were two women and two men, three boys and one girl. They lived on bananas, cassava, and potatoes. They built shelters of palm branches. The men were responsible for collecting food and a woman prepared it. They drank bad water which gave them diarrhoea. They were always moving from place to place, listening for gunshots and for the rebels. Mrs. Bangura recounts that she was unable to sleep due to the pain of her injuries. When they arrived in Foroconia she and her children were at once washed and treated by doctors and given medicine. An ambulance was called, and they arrived in Gueckedou Hospital on May 1st, 1998, after 4 days in Foroconia.

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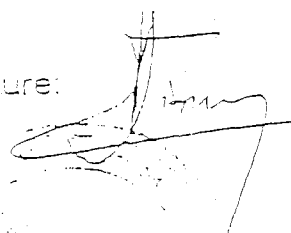
# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr Brikou Babou  
 Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e)                       
 Age de 28 ans. Ce jour du 14 Mai 1996.

Etat General bon  
 Constantes Hemodynamiques: CTE (negative) Hb 14,5%  
 Le patient presente des lésions mutilantes de type plaie respiratoire  
cutanée chronique  
 Siege: cephalique  
 Stade de cicatrisation: plaie en voie de cicatrisation  
 Etat de la lésion: Evolution favorable  
 Date probable du traumatisme: deux semaines avant

Conclusion / Remarques cette malade a été opérée avec des  
soutènements qu'elle a eus en petite chirurgie jusqu'à la  
cicatrisation en dernière intervention  
 Fait pour le HCR a Sakrebou Le 20 6 1996

Signature:



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CASE # 03

# SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

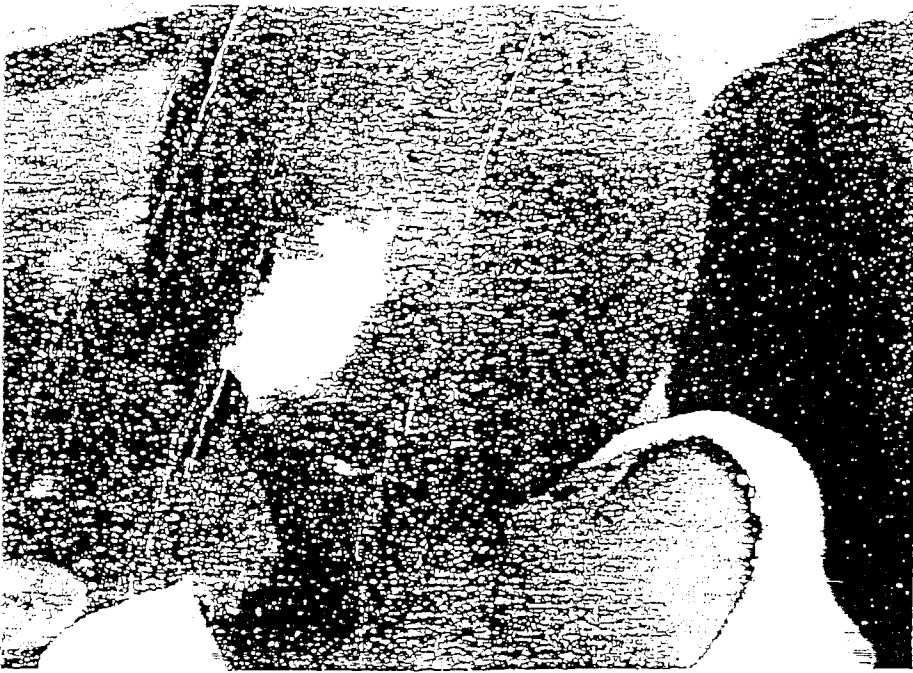
1. Name	*****
2. Nationality:	Sierra Leone, Temne tribe
3. Sex:	Male
4. Date of Birth:	26/7/91
5. Place of origin:	Motema, Nemekoro chiefdom, Kono District
6. Date and Place of Attack	19/3/98 near Bakedou
7. Date of arrival:	around 26/4/98
8. Occupation:	Student
9. Route followed:	Motema town, Peyma village, Bakedou, Foroconia, Kobikoro, Gueckedou From 21.02 till 26.04 they lived in the bush.
10. Accompanied by:	His father, his mother, and sister.
11. Physical Condition:	cut on head with machete
12. Date and Place of Interview:	26/5/98 and 3/6/98 at Gueckedou
13. Interviewing Officers:	Amadou Kemenani, Protection Officer and Anne Paludan, Field Officer

Narrative:

See interview CASE 02



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CASE # 04

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Mandingo tribe  
3. Sex: Male  
4. Date of Birth: 1970  
5. Place of Origin: Ngandahun, Kono District, Eastern Province  
6. Occupation: Farmer  
7. Date/Place of Attack : 20/2/98 at Ngandahun  
8. Date of Arrival: 20/2/98  
9. Route Followed: Ngandahun - Koundu - Fangamadou - Gueckedou  
10. Accompanied by: two unknown persons  
11. Physical Condition: blinded with caustic liquid, beaten  
12. Date and Place of Interview: 5/6/98 at Gueckedou Hospital  
13. Interviewing Officer: Charlotte Rostorf-Ridung, Field Officer

## Narrative:

On his way back to Ngandahun from a visit in Chukpandala, Mr. \*\*\*\*\* met a group of armed men in a forest about three miles from Ngandahun on 20 February, 1998. He was accompanied by two men unknown to him. One escaped, when he saw the rebels. The other was captured together with Mr. \*\*\*\*\*. The rebels asked them for their ethnic origin. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* told the rebels that he is Kissi though he considers himself to be Madingo. The other person said that he was Foulah.

Eight rebels captured him and the other person. They spoke Krio and wore civilian clothing. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* said that they must be from "Corporal Fodey Sankoh's faction" because, he explained, rebels from this faction always appear in groups of eight, twelve, eighteen or twenty-four persons. He did not know the names of his assailants. Several of the rebels attacked Mr. \*\*\*\*\* while the others formed a circle around the other man.

The rebels severely beat Mr. \*\*\*\*\* with the butt of a rifle, kicked him and slapped him. He fell to the ground and tried to pretend to be unconscious. A boy around the age of 13 who was with the rebels came forward and poured a liquid into Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s eyes. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* said that his eyes started burning severely. The rebels let him go and took the other man away.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* does not know exactly why he was attacked. He believes that the rebels thought that he was trying to escape. He explained that the rebels have a saying: if you are running away, it is because you are supporting President Kabbah.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* headed straight for the border when the rebels left him. After a couple of hours, the pain in his eyes grew worse. He reached Fangamadou the same day. He stayed in the camp for two days and then continued to Gueckedou. He can sense light but is otherwise blind.

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# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr ..... *Paula Bah* .....

Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e).....

Age de *28* ..... ans. Ce jour du *3 - 2 -* ..... 1998.

Etat General: ..... *pas altere* .....

Constantes Hemodynamiques: ..... *CG (-) Taux Hb 12 g/l* .....

Le patient presente des lesions mutilantes de type:

*synchie palpébrale (paupieres adhérentes)*

Siege: ..... *à la cornée* .....

Stade de cicatrisation: ..... *indeterminé* .....

Etat de la lesion: ..... *paupieres adhérentes à la cornée* .....

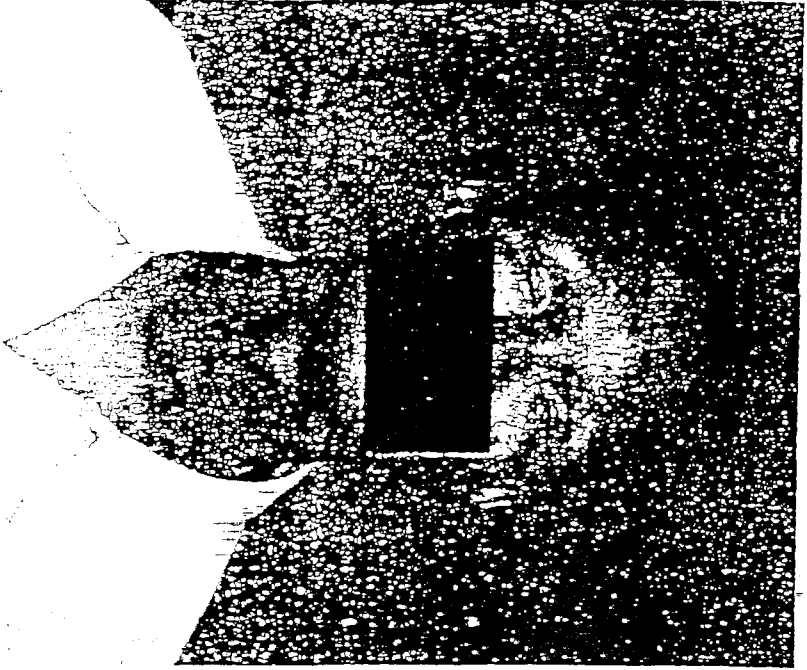
Date probable du traumatisme: ..... *premier semestre du mois de Février* .....

Conclusion / Remarques: ..... *Après tentative de décoller la paupière à la cornée au bain nous décidons de le transférer au l'hôpital d'Agua de* .....

Fait pour le HCR a ..... *Guéckedou* Le *22 - 6* ..... 1998

Signature: *[Signature]*

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UNHCR's Protection Unit, B.O. Conakry, Guinea

00004564

CASE # 05

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone
3. Sex: Female
4. Date of Birth: Approximately 1975
5. Place of Origin: Gbenekoro, Koinadugu District, Northern Province
6. Occupation: Farmer
7. Date/Place of Attack : Approximately one month and five days ago at Gbenekoro.
8. Date of Arrival: 9 June 1998
9. Route Followed: Faramah - Gbenekoro - Serekolia - Karifaia - Wallia - Songoya - Faranah
10. Accompanied by: Mother, brother, her three children and husband
11. Physical Condition: Three fingers on her right hand severed, the fourth cut at the joint (one digit), left hand little finger cut in half, machete wounds between left hand and wrist deep cut on calf of left leg.
12. Date and Place of Interview: 16 June 1998 at Faranah Hospital
13. Interviewing Officer: Charlotte Rostorf Ridung, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Ms. \*\*\*\*\* was living with her husband and children in Faranah in Sierra Leone. Her mother was living in Serekolia. The mother came to Faramah to get her daughter and family, so that they could escape the rebels together and thus proceed to Guinea. The family left Faramah to go to Serekolia.

In Gbenekoro, they encountered the rebels coming from Semesedu. Ms. \*\*\*\*\*, her mother and children dropped their belongings and escaped into the bush. The rebels pursued them into the bush. The mother was captured before Ms. \*\*\*\*\*. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* fell down in the bush, while she was trying to run away. She was carrying her youngest child on her back. As she was about to get back on her feet, the child fell down and the rebels captured her.

Ms. \*\*\*\*\* did not know her assailants. She said that some of them wore uniforms, while others wore civilian clothes. There were about a hundred of them. They spoke Temne, Kuranko and Krio. She does not know why she was attacked. The rebel, who mutilated her, had wounds on both cheeks, covered by band-aid. They were probably traditional marks.

The rebels ordered her to show them the place of the Tamaboro (fighting on the side of the NPRC). She replied that she did not know where the Tamaboro were. The rebels wanted to know the way to Serekolia and she showed them. They said to her that even if she showed them the way to Serekolia, they would have to do something to her.

One rebel mutilated her right hand, while another rebel mutilated her left hand. A third rebel cut the calf of her left leg.

Ms. \*\*\*\*\* witnessed the attack of her mother as it was the same group of rebels that mutilated her mother. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* After lips were cut, the right hand cut at the wrist and the left foot severed. She later died at the hospital (see medical documentation attached).

According to Ms. \*\*\*\*\*, the rebels took out a large knife to kill her child, C, but eventually no physical harm was done to the children. The children witnessed the attacks on their mother and grandmother.

After the attack, the rebels burned their belongings and food. Subsequently, the rebels left for Serekollia. They seemed to believe that the mother of Ms. \*\*\*\*\* had died.

The husband, Mr. \*\*\*\*\*, eventually came to help them. He had fallen behind, because he was carrying a heavy load of goods. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* went to get his wife's uncle, and these two men carried Ms. \*\*\*\*\*, her mother, and her three children back to their family. Someone went to get medicine from ECOMO, as ECOMOG was too far away for them to be carried there. The husband decided to go to Songoya to get people to help carry his family. Five persons from Songoya helped carry the wounded in hammocks to Songoya. From Songoya they were carried by vehicle to Faranah.

00004566

# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr. Guillaume Camus

Certifie avoir examiné le(a) patient(e)

Age de 27 ans. Ce jour du 12/07/1998

Etat Général: en bon état faisant aucun signe de

Constantes Hemodynamiques: aliments bien tolérés avec

Le patient présente des lésions mutilantes de type:

Amputation

Siege: main droite

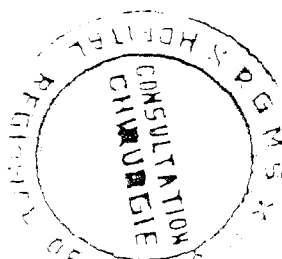
Stade de cicatrisation: plaie infectée

Etat de la lésion: ulcère

Date probable du traumatisme:

Conclusion / Remarques:

Fait pour le HCR à Fasoulah Le 18/07/1998



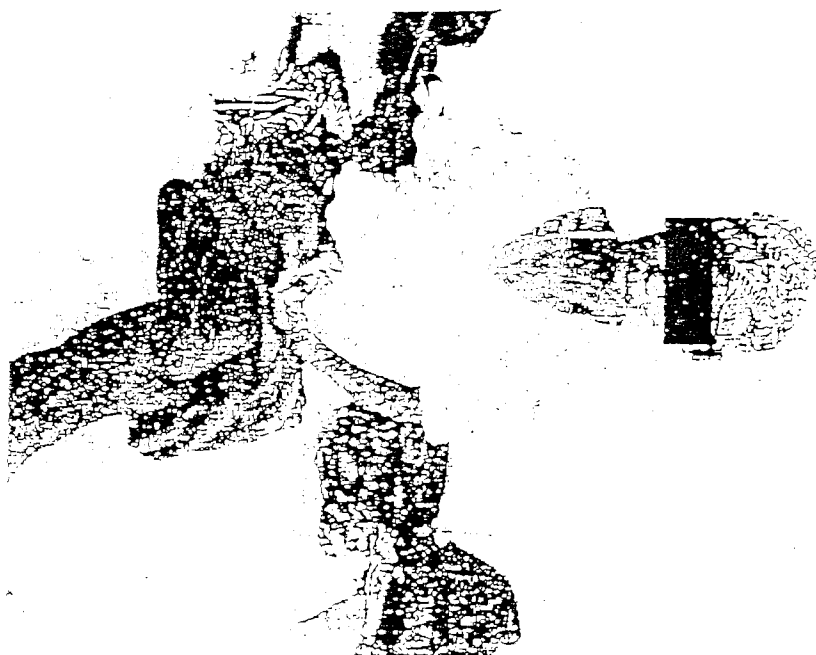
Signature:

[Signature]

Guillaume Camus

6825

00004567



UNHCR's Protection Unit, B.O. Conakry, Guinea

00004568

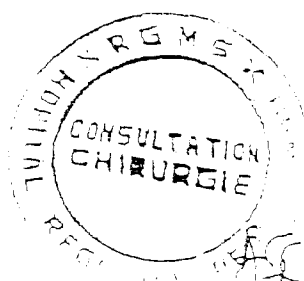
## CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigné Dr Quirine Camara

Certifie avoir examiné le(a) patient(e).....

Age de 60 ans. Ce jour du 14 juin 1998Etat Général: mauvais Pâleur conjonctivale fièvre  
Constantes Hemodynamiques: TA 29/10 FC 96 T = 38°C FR 20/H  
Le patient présente des lésions mutilantes de type AmputationSiege: 1/3 Tibia et péroné 1/3 moyen des 2 avant bras  
Stade de cicatrisation: Plaies très infectéesEtat de la lésion: Nécrotique fistulaire

Date probable du traumatisme: .....

Conclusion / Remarques: Avec mauvais état général  
doit être prise en charge dans un grand hôpitalFait pour le HCR à Farafra Le 14 juin 1998

Signature:

Quirine Camara



5827

00004569

REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE  
MINISTERE DE LA SANTE

SERVICE DE *Plaisance*

C.H.U. DONKA  
**DECLARATION DE DECES**

Le Directeur du C.H.U. de Donka déclare à Mr l'officier de l'Etat civil, que le (a) nommé(e)....., âgé(e) de *57* ans

Fils(le) de..... et de.....  
Né(e) à *HC R* Préf/Commune de.....  
Domicilié(e) à..... Préf/Commune de.....

Profession..... Entré(e) au dit hôpital le..... 199*8* à..... heures

Y est décédé(e) le..... par suite *Mort Tumorale à l'adénocarcinome de l'estomac*  
*Mec. adén. du cancer de l'estomac à l'adénocarcinome*  
*à la phase 3.*

*Secretariat*  
*12 Direction*  
Conakry, le *4/8/98*  
P/Le Directeur P.O.  
*[Signature]*

*Cherchez l'info*

5822  
00004579 ✓

CASE # 06

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name : \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality : Sierra Leone
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of Birth : 24/10/68
5. Place of origin: Bujehin District
6. Occupation: mechanic
7. Date/Place of Attack : 20/3/98 at Waimayma Town
8. Date of arrival : 30/3/98
9. Route followed : Kono-Waimayma town - Kelkadou - Manjama -  
Fangamadou-Guinea
10. Accompanied by : alone
11. Physical Condition : left hand severed mid-forearm
12. Date and Place of Interview: 2/3/98 at Gueckedou Hospital
13. Interviewing Officer : Angela Li Rosi, Field Officer  
Katharina Samara-Wickrama, Field Officer

## Narrative :

In March 1997, Mr \*\*\*\*\* left his home in Bujehin District to go to work in Kono as a mechanic. On the night of 21 February 1998, Kono was attacked by rebels. That night he walked to Waimayma Town. While in Waimayma Town, the villagers heard that the rebels had attacked a nearby neighbouring village of Jagbwema. Fearing an attack on Waimayma Town he fled with other villagers to the bush.

On 20 March 1998, Mr \*\*\*\*\* and 12 others who had fled from Waimayma Town were in the forest processing palm oil. They noticed that a group of 17 armed men had quietly surrounded them. Of the 17 men, five were dressed in military uniform, three were civilians who had been captured as porters and nine were rebels dressed in civilian attire.

Mr \*\*\*\*\* recognised clearly, and is able to identify, two of the men in military uniform as: (1) XXX, of average height, slim build and fair complexion, and (2) YYY, known as "Lieutenant Blood" of the "People's Army." Lieutenant Blood appeared to be in command of the group. Mr \*\*\*\*\* recognised both men from Koidu where the two were known as members of the junta during the military regime.

The soldiers asked the group to hand over their property. They then noticed a bicycle inner tyre and asked Mr \*\*\*\*\* for the bicycle. He replied that he did not know where the bicycle was. The soldiers then asked him where other people could be found. Mr \*\*\*\*\* responded that he was not from the area and therefore did not know. The soldiers appeared to be upset that he did not know where the bicycle was, and then accused Mr. \*\*\*\*\* of being a Kanajon.

3 The soldiers then separated out a young pregnant woman. Ms \*\*\*\*\* and two elderly men, Mr \*\*\*\*\* and Mr \*\*\*\*\*. These three were killed with a machete. Mr \*\*\*\*\* believes that they were killed because they were unable to act as porters for the soldiers. Mr \*\*\*\*\* offered to carry the soldiers luggage believing that the soldiers might spare his life and he may have a chance to escape at a later time. The soldiers refused his offer.

Lieutenant Blood then ordered two soldiers to take Mr \*\*\*\*\* to a tree stump some distance away but still within view. The two soldiers led him roughly away. Mr \*\*\*\*\* thought that the soldiers intended to kill him. During this time, the victim noted that approximately 10 of the soldiers spoke Mende, including the two soldiers leading him to the tree. Mr \*\*\*\*\* was the only Mende in the group being ambushed. He pleaded with the two soldiers in Mende, hoping that as they were of the same tribe the soldiers might be sympathetic. His pleas were to no avail.

One of the soldiers then told Mr \*\*\*\*\* to place his hand on the block. Mr \*\*\*\*\* is right handed and therefore chose to place his left hand on the block. The soldiers took one swing at the victim's forearm. Mr \*\*\*\*\* caught the soldiers arm with his free right hand as the blow fell. The soldier then warned Mr \*\*\*\*\* that if he did this again, he would be "cut in two". Fearing that he would be so severely injured that he would be unable to walk, Mr \*\*\*\*\* submitted to the second attempt to sever his hand. The soldier struck three times on the victim's forearm with a machete. His limb was cut almost right through but the hand remained attached by ligaments and skin. The soldiers then told him to go to the Kamajors and tell them that the soldiers are coming to attack them.

The group of soldiers took the remaining 19 people with them, including three small children of approximately five years old, two young women and 14 young men between the ages of 17 and 27 years old.

Mr \*\*\*\*\* walked directly towards Keikadou. About one and a half miles from the site of the attack Mr \*\*\*\*\* started to feel the pain of his injured arm. He continued walking but was forced to stop shortly after. He stopped and slept before continuing his journey.

About one mile from Keikadou, he was unable to continue and lay down. Shortly thereafter, he saw two farmers who ran away when he called out. He was then cautiously approached by another two people. He called out to them and asked them to call the Kamajors to come and collect him. Approximately two hours later some Kamajors arrived. Mr \*\*\*\*\* was unconscious for some of this time. The Kamajors made a ladder with which to carry him and transported Mr \*\*\*\*\* to Keikadou.

Mr \*\*\*\*\* stayed in the home of the paramount chief of Keikadou from 20 March 1998 to 28 March 1998. Most of the villagers had already fled, fearing an attack by the rebels. Only the Kamajors and a few others remained in the village.

During this time, Mr \*\*\*\*\* washed his wound every day. However, the arm was severely infected and swollen. In order to minimise the infection, Mr \*\*\*\*\* asked

unsubstantiated

the village dispenser to complete the amputation by severing the remaining skin and ligaments.

On 29 March 1998, two junta soldiers came to Keikudou, let off warning shots into the air and fled. The Kamajors pursued the rebels into the forest but did not find them. After the warning shots were fired, all remaining civilians, including Mr \*\*\*\*\* , fled into the bush towards Guinea. Mr \*\*\*\*\* followed a small group of people of whom one was a Sierra Leonean policeman. After about half a mile, the Policeman asked Mr \*\*\*\*\* to return to the village as he was too difficult to carry. He begged the group not to leave him but they moved on. He managed to return to the village where he spent that night. Fearing another attack, the Kamajors warned him to leave. The next morning he took the main road to Guinea. During the journey he saw approximately 10 bodies along the road. He passed through the village of Manitama where he also saw many dead bodies.

He arrived in Guinea on 30 March 1998. Mr \*\*\*\*\* survived 10 days after the attack without any medical treatment. On arriving in Guinea, Mr \*\*\*\*\* was taken by a UNHCR staff member to hospital where his wound was cleaned and dressed and he was given a tetanus vaccination. He was then transported to Gueckedou with other injured refugees. He was the only one in the group who had sustained a deliberate amputation.

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# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr Amor Abi  
 Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e)                       
 Age de 29 ans. Ce jour du 3 11 1998.

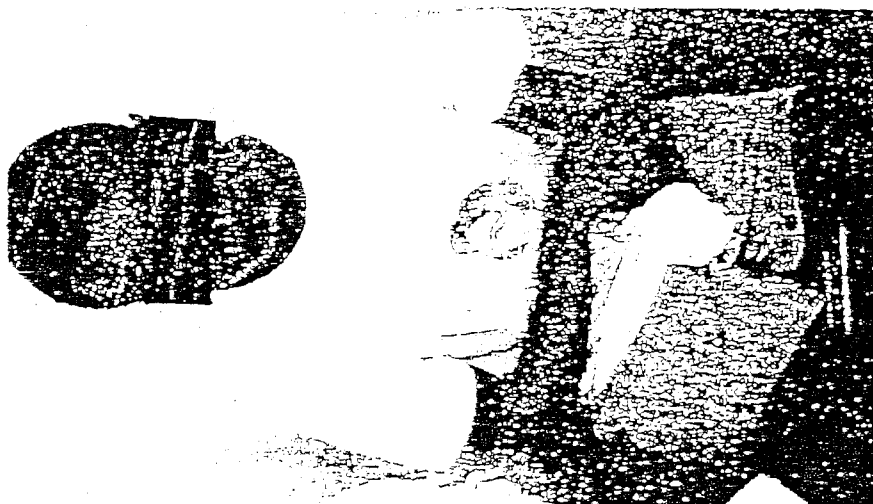
Etat General: satisfaisant  
 Constantes Hemodynamiques: Hg = 14.8 Créa = 1.2  
 Le patient presente des lésions mutilantes de type placé septé  
1988 PCR à la chute  
 Siège: bras droite  
 Stade de cicatrisation: chirurgie en 2 étapes  
 Etat de la lésion: lésion en voie de cicatrisation  
 Date probable du traumatisme: 28 juil 1988

Conclusion / Remarques Le malade a été hospitalisé 23  
jours durant lesquels il a subi une amputation à un résultat  
acceptable  
 Fait pour le HCR à Beau site de Le 3 11 1998

Signature Amor

00004574

UNITED STATES PROTECTION UNIT (U.S. PROTECTIVE GROUP)



5833  
00004575

CASE # 07

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kono tribe  
3. Sex: Male  
4. Date of Birth: 3/4/47  
5. Place of Origin: Saiama, Kono District  
6. Occupation: Gardener  
7. Date/Place of Attack: 7/4/98 at Saiama  
8. Date of Arrival: 2/5/98  
9. Route followed: Saiama - Koundu - Kolobengu - Gueckedou  
10. Accompanied by: alone  
11. Physical Condition: one finger severed, three cut, both hands mutilated  
12. Date and Place of Interview: 26/5/98 at Gueckedou Hospital  
13. Interviewing Officer: Charlotte Rostorf-Ridung, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Around noon of 7 April, 1998 Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was captured along with six other men and three women by a Junta/RUF commander named Lieutenant Chairman \*\*\*\*\*. The reason for the abduction, he explained, was that Mr. \*\*\*\*\* had not yet left Saiama and was therefore accused of being a thief. He gives no reason for the abduction of the others. The Junta soldiers informed him that as long as he lived in Sierra Leone, he would have to support Foday Sankoh, leader of the RUF. The soldiers advised him that people from Kono should stop joining the Kamajors, traditional hunters opposing the Junta forces.

He was questioned about the whereabouts of his older brother, \*\*\*\*\*, the paramount chief of Saiama. His brother had left for Guinea about three weeks before for medical reasons. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* recounts that his captors, Military Police XXX, Sergeant YYY and Corporal ZZZ, all from Sefadu and all known to him, then forced him to lay his left hand down on a piece of wood. Military Police XXX then struck Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s hand with a machete: the little finger of his left hand was almost entirely severed, and three other fingers on the same hand were cut at the joints, but not severed. He believes that this was done on purpose. The hand is not mobile. The right hand was also mutilated, but no fingers were cut off.

6 dec 98 According to Mr. \*\*\*\*\*, all of the other prisoners were shot by Sergeant YYY. The soldiers composed a letter to the Guinean troops that Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was told to hand over to any Guinean soldier he was to meet on his way. They gave him the letter and told him to run, after which he made his way to the Guinean border and on to Gueckedou.

00000000

Je soussigne Dr. Raymond Faye Koudougou  
 Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e).....  
 Age de 41 ans. Ce jour du 15 04 1998.

Etat General: Tu n'as pas de soucis en lecture

Constantes Hemodynamiques:  $\bar{A} = 100 \text{ mmHg}$   $\bar{V} = 100 \text{ ml/min}$

Le patient présente des lésions mutilantes de type: Section complète du 1<sup>er</sup> doigt de la main gauche - section incomplète des autres doigts

Sieder: Es ist ein Mann

Stade de cicatrisation: Stade de revascularisation

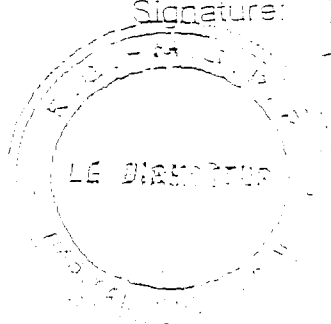
Etat de la lesion: Section du pectus droit et de l'immunoglobuline G. Section incomplète

Date probable du traumatisme: 2w.v. 1er 2e Semestre

Conclusion / Remarques: Malade d'un rhume avec un long moment  
d'absence de présence au travail.

Fait pour le HCR a Guelbéré Le 23/05 1998

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





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UNHCR's Protection Unit, B.O. Conakry, Guinea

00004578

CASE # 08

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
2. Nationality: Sierra Leonean  
3. Sex: Male  
4. Date of Birth: 3/2/75  
5. Place of Origin: Koidu Town, Kono District  
6. Occupation: Trader  
7. Date/Place Of Attack : uncertain, some time in April at Kurubora  
8. Date of Arrival: approximately 30/4/98  
9. Route Followed: Koidu - Sedou - Yormandu - Wordou - Kurubora  
- Namessedou - Faranah  
10. Accompanied by: various refugees from Koidu Town  
11. Physical Condition: beaten, burned, and dragged on the ground  
12. Date and Place of Interview: 2/6/98 at Faranah Hospital  
13. Interviewing Officer: Charlotte Rostorf Ridung, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* lived with his family in Koidu Town. He explained that there was a group of Kamajors based in Koidu Town. One day - he did not know the exact date, but he believes it was approximately the beginning of April - Junta soldiers came to Koidu Town. There was an exchange of gun fire between the Kamajors and the Junta forces. He was at the market when the shooting began so he was unable to return to his house.

He fled together with a group of people from Koidu Town, passing through several deserted villages before reaching Kurubora. There they encountered a group of Junta soldiers who arrested five people, including Mr. \*\*\*\*\*. They also had two women with them whom they took away to an unknown destination. He did not learn any names, but notes that the soldiers spoke Krio, and that some were in uniform while others were dressed in civilian clothing. They did not say why they had captured him, but Mr. \*\*\*\*\* notes that anyone who supports the ECOMOG intervention or President Kabbah is at risk.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was held captive for two days, during which time they took all his belongings and mistreated him in a number of ways: he was beaten repeatedly, burned with cigarettes, and dragged along the ground. His captors kept him tied up the whole time, and threatened to kill him. He witnessed three of his fellow prisoners dragged behind a car until they died.

The men fled when they heard gun fire, thinking that ECOMOG troops were approaching. ECOMOG soldiers did arrive later and untied Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and accompanied him to the Guinean border. There, he was handed over to the Guinean army, who took him to Faranah.

00004579

H. Duane Powers

5838  
00004580

CASE # 09

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Guinean
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of Birth: 1957
5. Place of Origin: Pita, Guinea
6. Occupation: diamond miner
7. Date/Place of Attack: 21/5/98 at Tumbodu
8. Date of Arrival: May 1998
9. Route Followed: Peyima - Tumbodu - Sefadou - Kora Koima - Conakry
10. Accompanied by: one brother
11. Physical Condition: severed one hand and one ear
12. Date and Place of Interview: 27/5/98 at Conakry
13. Interviewing Officer: Gregory Mose, Associate Protection Officer

## Narrative:

8 capt  
1 more  
Mr. \*\*\*\*\* worked as a diamond miner in the town of Peyima (Kono District). On the night of 21 April a group of rebels attacked the village and captured 12 people (11 men and one boy of approximately eight years). Four of these were then released, but the other eight were taken on foot to a nearby village called Tumbodu. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* relates that there were other groups of rebels among those who attacked Peyima who took other groups of prisoners in different directions. When asked why he in particular was captured, he suggested that it was because he is Guinean and Guinean soldiers play a prominent role in ECOMOG.

According to his description, there was not much of a camp at Tumbodu. He describes one hut and a large mango tree under which most of the rebels were sitting, but no infrastructure such as radios or vehicles. The commander of the unit of around 20 to 30 men was referred to as Staff Sergeant XXXXX. They arrived at Tumbodu at around 10:00 a.m. and were tied up. They were fed, and at 3:00 p.m. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was untied and told that he was to be killed. He was taken to a spot not far away, but upon arrival Staff Sergeant XXXXX told him that he had changed his mind, but that he would nonetheless leave a mark on him as a warning to others. They put his arm up against a block of wood and cut it off with a machete, and then cut off his ear. He was then released and walked until he reached an ECOMOG unit at Kora Koima, where he was treated and subsequently sent to Connaught Hospital in Freetown. Once he had reasonably recovered, he made his way to Conakry to join his brother.



00004582

UNHCR's Protection Unit B.O. Conakry, Guinée.



## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kono tribe
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of Birth: 55 years
5. Place of Origin: Kombayende, Kono
6. Occupation: farmer and tailor
7. Date of Attack: mid April near Kombayende
8. Date of Arrival: 24/4/98
9. Route Followed: Kombayende - Yambakor, Nyandawakor, Kwakor, Yeema, Torwa, to the crossing point at Gbordou, then to Tumandou and Gueckedou. It took two days from the border to reach Gueckedou
10. Accompanied by: Left alone, but found daughter in Guinea
11. Physical Condition: Arm cut at wrist but not severed
12. Date and Place of Interview: 26/5/98 at Gueckedou
13. Interviewing Officer: Anne Paludan, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* fled Kombayende during an attack by Junta soldiers which left most of the village burned. About one mile away from the village he was captured on his way to Bawoy along with one other person, a police officer named \*\*\*\*\*. His assailants included six men armed with knives and guns and were accompanied by two women and three children who had been captured, according to Mr. \*\*\*\*\*, to cook for the men. His captors proceeded to search him and take his money. They took his money and then forced him to hold his hand up against a tree and struck his arm three times at the wrist with a machete. The arm was injured but not completely severed. He reports that he was then told that they cut him because he was Kono, and Konos had supported President Kabbah. Finally, they told him "Go and tell the president to treat your hand."

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* does not know what happened to the police officer with whom he was captured. He is also unable to identify any of the assailants by name, although he notes that they identified themselves as rebels.

After the attack he bound up his arm in his shirt and began to walk toward the Guinean border. He travelled for two days through the bush until finally reaching the border and settling in Tumandou, where he found his daughter.

00004584

Je soussigne Dr. S. Boukari Enfant Victime  
Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e) Labo Mali  
Age de 2.5 ans. Ce jour du 15 1998.

Etat General: ..... Floureville  
Constantes Hemodynamiques: ..... PA = 80/47 ..... FC = 96  
Le patient presente des lésions mutilantes de type: ..... Section incomplète  
..... par un projectile du poignet gauche  
Siege: ..... PAU ..... droite du poignet gauche  
Stade de cicatrisation: ..... Non visible ..... cicatrisation ..... sous les drains  
Etat de la lésion: ..... Lésion de la paroi des ligaments et de la capsule articulaire  
Date probable du traumatisme: ..... 14/02

Conclusion / Remarques: *Mercedes met avec plaisir mes contacts et  
mon intérêt pour son projet de disques*

Fait pour le HCR a ..... Guelick adou ..... Le ..... 23.05 ..... 1998

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



S843

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00004586

CASE #11

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kono tribe
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of Birth: 30/6/50
5. Place of Origin: Lei Chiefdom, Kono
6. Occupation: agriculture
7. Date/Place of Attack: 25/4/98 at Fanemah
8. Date of Arrival: 28/4/98
9. Route Followed: Fanemah - Backondo - Foroconia - Kobikoro - Gueckedou
10. Accompanied by: wife and 6 children
11. Physical Condition: broken arm, 3 severed fingers at first digit
12. Date and Place of Interview: 5/6/98 at Gueckedou Hospital
13. Interviewing Officer: Gregory Mose, Associate Protection Officer

## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was captured by Junta forces on 25 April near Fanemah village, Sandon Chiefdom. That morning he had left the village with seven other people to go in search of food and was ambushed by a group of 15 soldiers. Ten of the soldiers had rifles, and the rest were armed with machetes. They were dressed mostly in civilian clothes, although the leader of the group (referred to as "Commando") was in military uniform. He also notes that they wore red cloth strips or bandannas tied around their heads. They already had around 15 captives with them, and took them along with their new prisoners to a farm nearby in search of food.

"Commando" then selected three of the prisoners, seemingly at random, and ordered that they be killed. They were held down on the ground and their throats cut with a machete. Commando then told Mr. \*\*\*\*\* that he would be killed that afternoon at 5:00. The soldiers spent the afternoon eating, drinking, and dancing.

Toward 5:00 Commando indicated that it was time to kill Mr. \*\*\*\*\*. He was led over to a large stone. Commando then placed the barrel of his AK47 on Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s shoulder and fired three times, presumably to frighten him. He was then ordered to take off his clothes and lie down on the stone. Commando pointed his rifle at him but did not fire. Instead he started beating him with the butt of his rifle, finally breaking his left arm. Meanwhile another soldier struck his right hand with a machete, severing the tips of three fingers. Their victim then lost consciousness and they left with the other captives. He spent three days in the bush, but finally arrived at Backondo and then Foroconia, where he received basic medical treatment before continuing on to Gueckedou.

6/11/98  
22  
22/11/98

CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr. *B. K. M.*  
Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e) *[Signature]*  
Age de *1.7* ans Ce jour du *25* *11* 1998

Etat General *[Signature]*  
Constantes Hemodynamiques *11-15* *[Signature]*  
Le patient presente des lesions mutilantes de type *lesions de type*  
*traumatisme* et *Fracture*  
Siege *[Signature]*  
Stade de cicatrization *[Signature]*  
Etat de la lesion *[Signature]*  
Date probable du traumatisme *plusieurs semaines*  
*avant l'admission*  
Conclusion / Remarques *Fracture consolidée*  
*[Signature]*

Fait pour le HCR a *[Signature]* Le *25* *11* 1998

Signature *[Signature]*

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

1. Name:

\*\*\*\*\*

2. Nationality:

Sierra Leone, Kono tribe

3. Sex:

Male

4. Date of Birth:

30 years old

5. Place of Origin:

Gbandema, Kono District

6. Occupation:

farmer

7. Date/Place of Attack:

early May at Gbandema

8. Date of Arrival:

early May

9. Route Followed:

Gbandema - Fangamandou - Gueckedou

10. Accompanied by:

7 brothers and uncles

11. Physical Condition:

gun barrel placed in mouth and fire, bullet passed through left lower cheek

12. Date and Place of Interview:

5/6/98 at Gueckedou Hospital

13. Interviewing Officer:

Gregory Mose, Associate Protection Officer

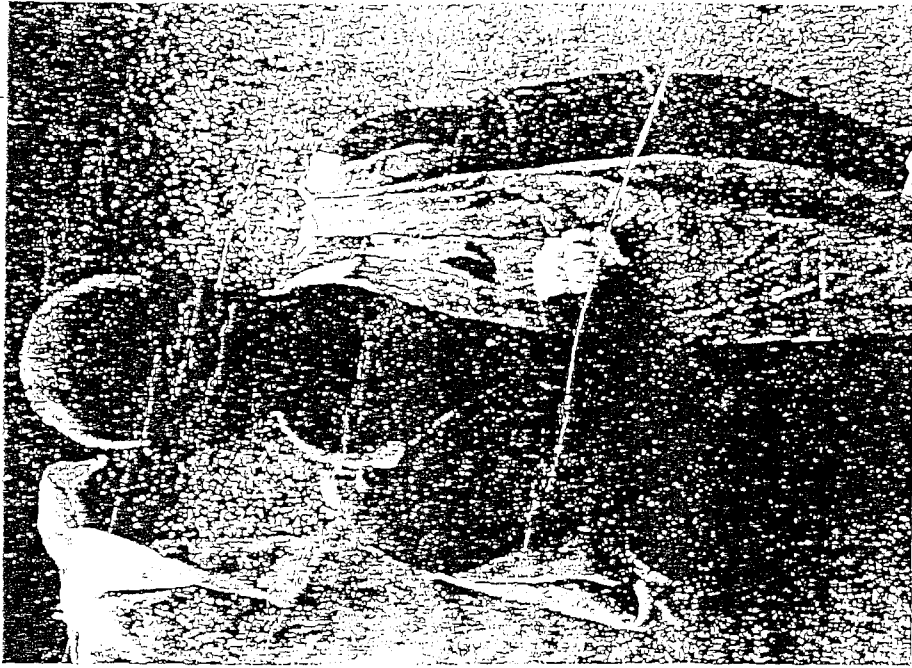
## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was in his village when eight rebels entered the village of Gbandema on foot bearing guns and machetes. Four of them were dressed in military uniforms, while the others were in civilian clothing. They said that they were looking for food and began taking food and money from the villagers.

He fled the village with four other villagers and headed toward the Guinean border at Fangamandou. On the way, they ran into a group of 10 junta soldiers in uniform, who appeared to be from various ethnic groups. He did not know any of them and heard no names mentioned. The other villagers managed to flee but Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was captured and shot in the arm. He begged the soldiers not to kill him, but one of them insisted that he be killed. A second soldier responded by putting the barrel of his rifle into the victim's mouth and pulling the trigger. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* fell to the ground and the soldiers left him. He proceeded to walk to Fangamandou, where he was treated and sent on to Gueckedou.

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UNHCR Protection Unit, B.O. Conakry, Guinea

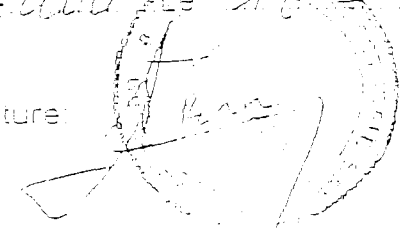


## CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr Birkas Rad  
 Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e) .....  
 Age de 35 ans. Ce jour du 27 Mai 1996

Etat General: bon  
 Constantes Hemodynamiques: Hb 9g/l, Tels (Taux) 07(-)  
 Le patient presente des lésions mutilantes de type plaie septique  
du membre par traumatisme par projectile  
 Siege: membre  
 Stade de cicatrisation: cicatrisation au cours 3<sup>e</sup> semaine  
 Etat de la lésion: léger, en voie de cicatrisation  
 Date probable du traumatisme: debut Avril

Conclusion / Remarques: ce malade souffre de fang avec chlore  
est reçu dans des conditions septiques. Cependant  
la cicatrisation sera complétée avec quelques  
 Fait pour le HCR a 6 heures du matin 27 1996

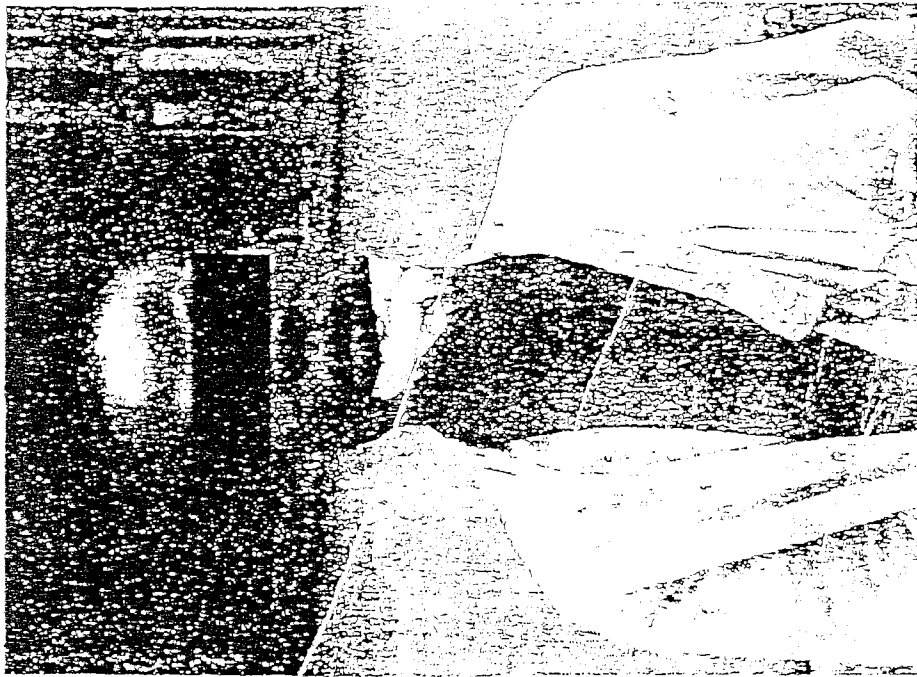
Signature: 

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UNHCR's Protection Unit, B. O. Conakry, Guinea



## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kissi tribe
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of birth: 60 years
5. Place of origin: Kissidou, Kono District
6. Occupation: Farmer
7. Date/Place of Attack: 1/5/98 at Sogbolo
8. Date of arrival: 2/5/98
9. Route followed: Kissidou, Sogbolo, Kondobengou
10. Accompanied by: alone
11. Physical Condition: four fingers of left hand severed
12. Date and Place of Interview: 26/5/98 at Cueckedou Hospital
13. Interviewing Officer: Anne Paludan, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* had fled his village of Kissidou around the end of April following an attack by Junta forces. He began walking toward Sogbolo, about a four hour walk from Kissidou. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* recounts that he was attacked near Sogbolo around noon on a Friday (judging from his arrival date of 2 May, this was most likely 1 May). He was walking on the road when he met some people sitting on the road. He reports seeing nine rebels and a number of other people who were apparently captives, as they were tied. He describes his attackers simply as "the rebels employed by Johnny Paul Koroma."

After the rebels had captured him they cut four fingers of his left hand at the first joint, leaving the thumb intact. Then they asked him to go. He was losing a lot of blood, which was soaking his shirt and trousers. They did not say or do anything else to him, so Mr. \*\*\*\*\* does not know why he was attacked.

After his fingers had been cut he walked towards the border, about one mile away. On the other side of the border he was met by people who helped him tie his hand and gave him injections. Accompanied by an army officer by the name of Mr. \*\*\*\*\* he then went to Bandadou, Yonnadou, Bassadou, and from there by ambulance to Cueckedou Hospital where he arrived Saturday, the day after he was attacked.



# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr. Dr. [Signature]  
 Certifie avoir examiné le(a) patient(e) [Signature]  
 Age de 68 ans. Ce jour du 28 10 1998.

Etat General: Bon

Constantes Hemodynamiques: TA = 120/80 FR = 88/min

Le patient présente des lésions mutilantes de type: Amputation complète  
du 4<sup>e</sup> doigt de la main gauche (pour index)

Sieger: Amputation

Stade de cicatrisation: Amputation

Etat de la lésion: Amputation

Date probable du traumatisme: Amputation

Conclusion / Remarques: Amputation complète par manivelle  
du 4<sup>e</sup> doigt de la main gauche en voie de guérison

Fait pour le HCR à Grenoble Le 28 10 1998

Signature: [Signature]



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UNHCR's Protection Unit B.O. Conakry, Guinea



## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. Name:

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2. Nationality:

Sierra Leone, Kuranko tribe

## 3. Sex:

Male

## 4. Date of birth:

57 years

## 5. Place of origin:

Dollah village, Koinadugu District.

## 6. Occupation:

Farmer

## 7. Date/Place of Attack:

3/5/98 at Dollah

## 8. Date of arrival:

Monday, maybe 15/5/98

## 9. Route followed:

Obarefeh, Serekolia, Walla, Songoya, Faranah

## 10. Accompanied by:

His own and his brother's family (27 people)

## 11. Physical Condition:

multiple cuts with machete

## 12. Date and Place of Interview:

2/6/98 at Faranah Hospital

## 13. Interviewing Officer:

Anne Paludan, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was at home on 3 May when around midnight three men - two armed with machetes and one with a gun - entered his house. The man with the gun tried to knock down Mr. \*\*\*\*\* , beating him on the spine. The others then began to cut Mr. \*\*\*\*\* with machetes, striking him repeatedly on the thigh, the back and the arm. They struck 10 times, but they drew blood only three times. Three people in the house were beaten and cut by the intruders. Out of the 10 people living in the house, seven ran away while the three wounded remained in the house.

The assailants proceeded to capture 15 people, locked them into a house and set fire to the house as well as other houses in town. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* escaped with the other captives. Five people in the village were killed, among them the town chief, recognisable from the drum in front of his house used by chiefs to collect the villagers. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* estimates that there were around 150 rebels, and he heard them speaking Krio and some Liberian English.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and many other villagers ran along the road into the bush. They scattered, but they could still hear each other. He was alone in his hideout. He suffered from his festering wounds, and he was hungry with nothing to eat but wild fruits and water from a stream.

After three days he came back to his village, but found it deserted and burned. A group of people passing by brought a message from him to his brother in Serekolia that he was seriously wounded. The brother sent six men from Serekolia to bring him there in a hammock. He stayed five days in Serekolia, then walked five days to Guinea with his own and his brother's family, 27 in all.

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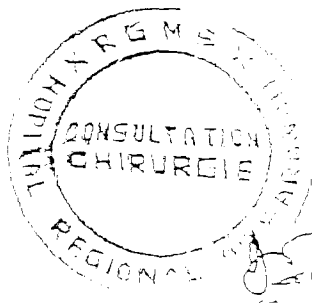
CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr. Dusumane Oumar  
Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e) .....  
Age de 57 ans. Ce jour du 15/05 1998.

Etat General: Bon  
Constantes Hemodynamiques: non relevee a l'arrivee  
Le patient presente des lesions mutilantes de type .....  
Plaie traumatica sifle  
Siege: Articulaire Coxo-temporale Gauche  
Stade de cicatrisation: en voie de cicatrisation  
Etat de la lesion: Pas de necrose  
Date probable du traumatisme: 22 mai 98

Conclusion / Remarques .....

Fait pour le HCR a Fatick Le 02/06 1998

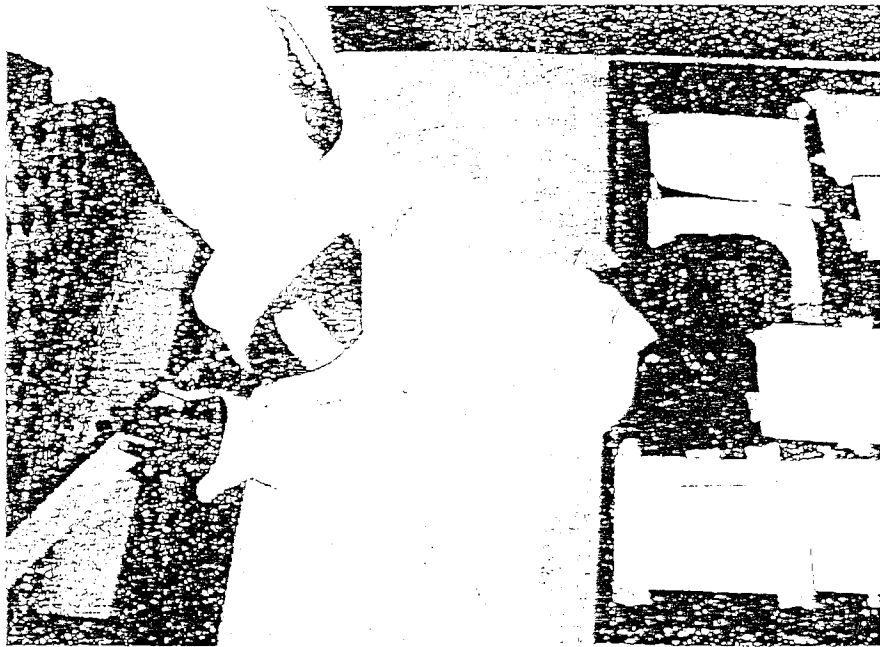


Signature:

Dusumane Oumar

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CASE # 15

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
 2. Nationality: Sierra Leone  
 3. Sex: Female  
 4. Date of Birth: 10/6/80  
 5. Place of Origin: Senu  
 6. Occupation: Trader  
 7. Date/Place of Attack: 22/5/98 at Serekollia  
 8. Date of Arrival: 26/5/98  
 9. Route Followed: Senu - Semsadou - Benikoro - Serekollia - Kalifaya -  
 Wala - Songoya - Faranah  
 10. Accompanied by: Various  
 11. Physical Condition: beaten, left hand severed  
 12. Date and Place of Interview: 2/6/98 at Faranah Hospital  
 13. Interviewing Officer: Charlotte Rostorf-Kidung, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Ms. \*\*\*\*\* left Senu 15 February, 1998, because she was pregnant and her husband had told her to go and live with her mother in Semsadou. In Semsadou, she received news that the rebels were approaching. One day - the date is unclear to her - in the middle of the night, someone came to Semsadou to inform the people that the rebels were approaching the village. Together with her mother and grandmother, the town chief and other villagers she went to live in the bush for more than one month. In the bush, someone informed the group that the rebels had gone to Kabbala. The rebels had originally come, they said, from Kono District.

The group then returned to Semsadou. After one week, they heard that the rebels had attacked Bafulabeh (3 miles away) and killed nine people there. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* left Semsadou to go to Telekolo. She was accompanied by her mother. All the men stayed in Telekolo, while the women, including Ms. \*\*\*\*\* and the children went into hiding in the bush. The women and children returned to Telekolo the next day and saw that the rebels had not come yet.

Most of the people that had come along with Ms. \*\*\*\*\* then returned to Semsadou. Her mother had work to do in the bush and Ms. \*\*\*\*\* spent five days there with her mother, after which they moved on to Gbenikoro. There, they heard that the rebels had arrived in Maya and people from Maya started arriving in Gbenikoro together with their belongings. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* delivered twins in Gbenikoro. Both children died, because they were premature. Her mother advised her to leave the village and said that she would join her later.

She went to Serekollia, and her mother joined her on the way. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* spent 21 - 22 days in Serekollia until a group of rebels arrived on 22 May. Her mother had returned to

Gbenikoro before the rebels came in order to get food, and according to one of the villagers, she had been captured by the rebels in the bush. She collected her belongings and went to another house in town together with a group of people.

The village was being attacked from more than one side, and eventually the rebels took control of the part of town where she was staying. The group left the house and went to another house. People came running towards them, trying to escape. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* started running and the rebels were shooting in the air. She was captured while trying to flee, forced to carry some heavy loads, and then handed over to a second group of rebels.

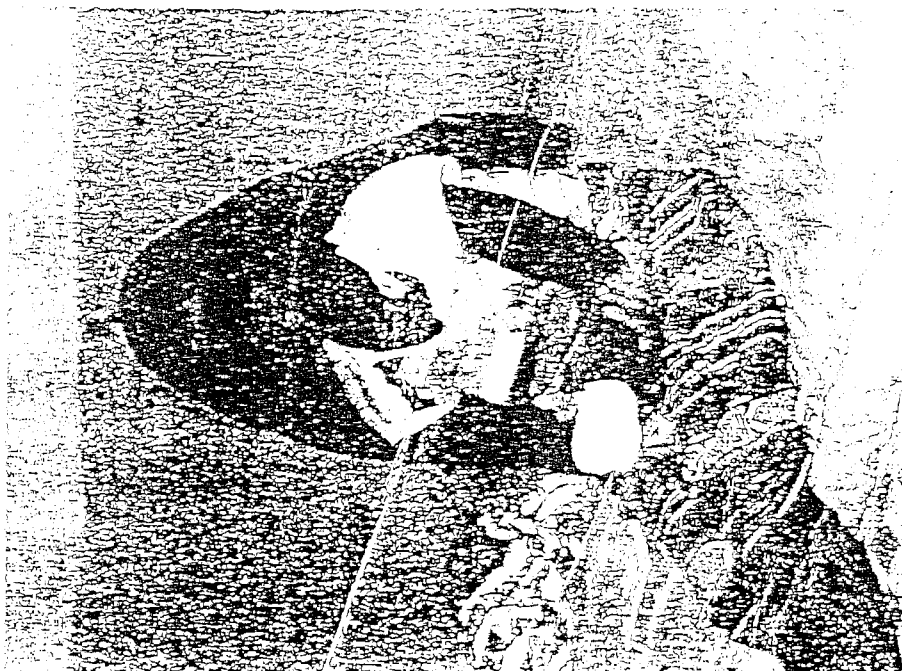
The men who now held her threatened to either kill her, gouge out her eyes or sever her hands. One rebel suggested to make her the "wife" of one of them. Some proposed to kill her, because they did not want to have anything to do with her. Others objected to killing. Instead, they suggested severing her hand. She and the rebels then left Serekolia in the direction of Gbenikoro. Outside of Serekolia, the rebels captured three more civilians, one of whom was CASE 22, whom she knew. The rebels cut off his hand in front of her. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* was then ordered to take her clothes off. She refused, but the rebels stripped her naked themselves. She was forced to place her left hand on the road. The rebels did not succeed in severing her hand with one blow, so they struck again, severing the hand completely. She was also beaten, but when asked if she was sexually abused in any way, she answered no. She was ordered to run and did so.

Ms. \*\*\*\*\* does not know the names of her assailants. The leader of the rebels that captured her was referred to as "Mosquito," but she does not know his real name. She had heard of him before and notes that he and his troops are reputed among the villagers as being very cruel. When asked why she thought that she had been attacked, the only response she could give was that she had voted for President Kabbah. After she had run for a couple of kilometres, she saw [her friend] behind her. One of his hands was severed and the other broken. They reached Serekolia together. There, they saw another group of rebels, and they were separated.

Ms. \*\*\*\*\* stayed in the bush for four days alone. She was looking for the road to Mongo, where ECOMOG was based. She met a group of people whom she knew and asked them to direct her to the road to Guinea. The group had seen her uncle cross into Guinea so they gave her something to drink and showed her the way. She was very weak and walked alone. Her mother had heard what had happened to her and had started looking for her. They finally met on the road, and her mother carried her on her back to Faranah.

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UNHCR's Protection Unit, B.O. Conakry, Guinea





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# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

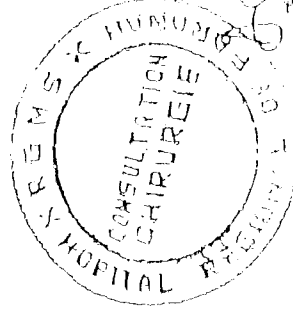
Je soussigné Dr. Quaranta R. M. A. R. G.  
 Certifie avoir examiné le(e) patient(e)  
 Age de 49 ans Ce jour du 28/06/1998

Etat Général Stable  
 Constantes Hemodynamiques: TA: 16/6, TSS: 37°C, FR: 20/min  
 Le patient présente des lésions mutilantes de type:

Sieger: Algodolent  
 Siècle de cicatrisation: Plaie ouverte  
 Etat de la lésion: Plaie ouverte  
 Date probable du traumatisme: 28/06/98

Conclusion / Remarques: Faiblesse musculaire  
Environnementale  
Libre suite  
Libre suite  
Libre suite

Fait pour le HCR à Forquilha Le 28/06/1998



Signature:

[Signature]

Quaranta R. M. A. R. G.

00004602

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✓ CASE # 16

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
 2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Temne tribe  
 3. Sex: Female  
 4. Date of Birth: 40 years old  
 5. Place of Origin: Magburaka (lived in Koidu Town)  
 6. Occupation: sells fish  
 7. Date/Place of Attack: early May at Tumbodu  
 8. Date of Arrival: 13/5/98  
 9. Route Followed: Koidu - Tumbodu - Foroconia  
 10. Accompanied by: Nephew, his wife and two children (2 children missing in Kono)  
 11. Physical Condition: right arm severed between wrist and elbow  
 12. Date and Place of Interview: 2/6/98 at Faranah Hospital  
 13. Interviewing Officer: Gregory Mose, Associate Protection Officer

## Narrative:

Ms. \*\*\*\*\* was at home when Koidu was attacked by Junta forces. She heard shooting and estimates that she saw around 50 people shot. She describes the attackers as not being in uniform and notes that they arrived in cars and on motorcycles. As the rebels entered the village, she fled as did many others. She headed north but was captured by a group of around 60 rebels and taken to Tumbodu. She notes that the rebels were of various ethnic groups but that she heard only two names: "\*\*\*\*\*" and "\*\*\*\*\*".

Ms. \*\*\*\*\* captors explained to her that they were killing civilians because the civilians supported the Kabbah government and not the rebels, and said that they would kill anyone they found in the bush. They killed three men in front of her, and then told her to lie down. She resisted, so they cut her on the neck with a machete and forced her to lie down. They took her right hand and lay it across a stone and proceeded to amputate her right arm between the wrist and elbow with a machete. They told her to go explain to Tejan Kabbah what had happened and then left her where she lay.

She wrapped her wound in cloth and at one point put salt on it to slow the bleeding. Before leaving she dug a hole to bury her severed arm, and then began walking. She walked for 10 days before finally crossing the border and reaching Foroconia. Along the way she met a group of traditional hunters of the Koranko tribe who had captured five rebels, whom they tied up and led off into the bush. Once in Foroconia she received preliminary treatment and was then evacuated to Faranah hospital.

50 dead

7, dead

10000

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CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr. Guillaume Comte

Certifie avoir examiné le(s) patient(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Age de...40...ans. Ce jour du...13 / 06...1998.

Elat General: la histobolant

Constantes Hemodynamiques: Non liées à l'âge

Le patient présente des lésions muqueuses de type: .....

Group 6012

Sieger: Alexander

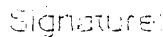
Stade de cicatrisation: ..... Plaie Nouvelle .....

Etat de la lésion: Abaisse de l'écriture

Date probable du traumatisme: 23/ mai 98

Conclusion / Remarques.....

Fait pour le HCR a afghanistan le 02/06 1998

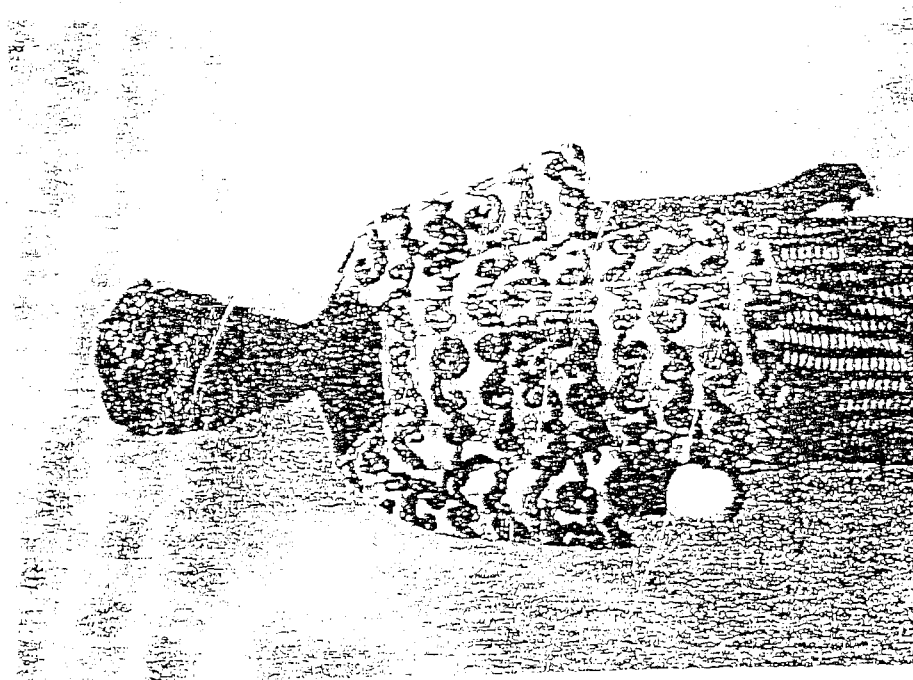


10-11-19

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UNHCR's Protection Unit, B. O. Conakry, Guinea



## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kuranko tribe
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of birth: 35 years
5. Place of origin: Serekolia village, Kolnadugu District
6. Occupation: Tailor
7. Date/Place of Attack: 22/5/98 at Serekolia
8. Date of arrival: 25/5/98
9. Route followed: Serekolia, Karifaria, 25-30 km to Songoya
10. Accompanied by: Wife, \*\*\*\*\*, and 7 children from 16 to 2 years
11. Physical Condition: left hand severed at wrist, right hand cut but not severed
12. Date and Place of Interview: 27/5/98 at Fardnah Hospital
13. Interviewing Officer: Anne Paludan, UNHCR Field Officer

## Narrative:

On the afternoon of 22 May, Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and his friend [Case # 22] were returning from Gbenekoro to Serekolia when they encountered a group of armed men who captured them. He believes there were about 20 men, but they accompanied by five women and two children whom Mr. \*\*\*\*\* believes they had abducted on their way to Gbenekoro. He describes the men as wearing arms, such as knives, guns, AK47 rifles, and some single barrel hunting rifles. They were dressed in civilian clothing. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* had not seen any of the men before, and he did not hear their names. They did not call each other by names, but whistled and made signs to each other. However, he did hear them call their commander "Mosquito". The commander was of middle height and skinny, had clean teeth and a shaved head. He was young, about 30 years old and spoke Krio. He spoke in a low voice so others could not hear. He was wearing a long khaki coat which ended below the knees, under it he wore ordinary clothes and khaki coloured sports shoes.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was tied with his right hand to the left arm of a young boy who was with the rebels. The boy was from a different village, and Mr. \*\*\*\*\* does not know his name. They were then taken back to Serekolia village. The inhabitants of the village had left, so the men set fire to the village and returned towards Gbenekoro.

Where the path to Gbenekoro splits off from the main Serekolia - Sinnikoro road the group halted, and the male and female prisoners were separated. The leader identified as "Mosquito" ordered his men to cut off Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s arm. Three men participated, one pointing a gun, the others cutting. They placed his left hand across a branch and struck it four times with a machete, leaving the arm loosely attached by skin. His right hand was cut one time with a machete but he drew it away before they could strike again. His friend [Case # 22] also had his left hand severed. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* lost consciousness for some time, but after he regained consciousness the two victims were given a note and told

to take it to ECOMOC. The assailants then whipped them and chased them away. One young boy remained with the rebels.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and [Case # 22] put as much distance between themselves and their assailants as possible, but they were bleeding heavily and had nothing with which to bandage their wounds. That night Mr. \*\*\*\*\* cut the remaining skin which still attached his severed hand to his arm as he could not hold it while running. They headed for Serekolia where the two men separated, and Mr. \*\*\*\*\* went to the farm where his wife and children were in hiding.

The following day, Saturday, at about 1:00 p.m., the whole family walked to Guinea. Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s wife was frightened and unable to take care of his wounds. When they reached the border they were advised by other refugees to go on to Faranah. He was handed over to a soldier who took him by car to Faranah Hospital.

CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigné Dr. Philippe L. L. L. 10/01/2022

Certifie avoir examiné le rapport de :

Age de 16 ans le jour où = 1994 1994

Elat General:

Constantes Hemodinámicas:  $FR = 12/7$ ,  $\bar{A} = 80$ ,  $\bar{V} = 34^\circ C$ ,  $FR = 20 \text{ ml/r/min}$

Le patient présente des lésions papillaires de type

Allopatric - Geographical Isolation

Sieger: H. Z. Gaudichon, Gross-München, 1/2 K. auf Was dH

Stade de cicatrisation: Elle est en phase de cicatrisation

Etat de la lésion: la face dorsale de la 1<sup>re</sup> vertèbre cervicale

Date probable du traumatisme: 12/14/2014 1999

Conclusion / Remarques.....

Fait pour le HCR : J. P. G. M. L. 2 + 14 ca. 1998

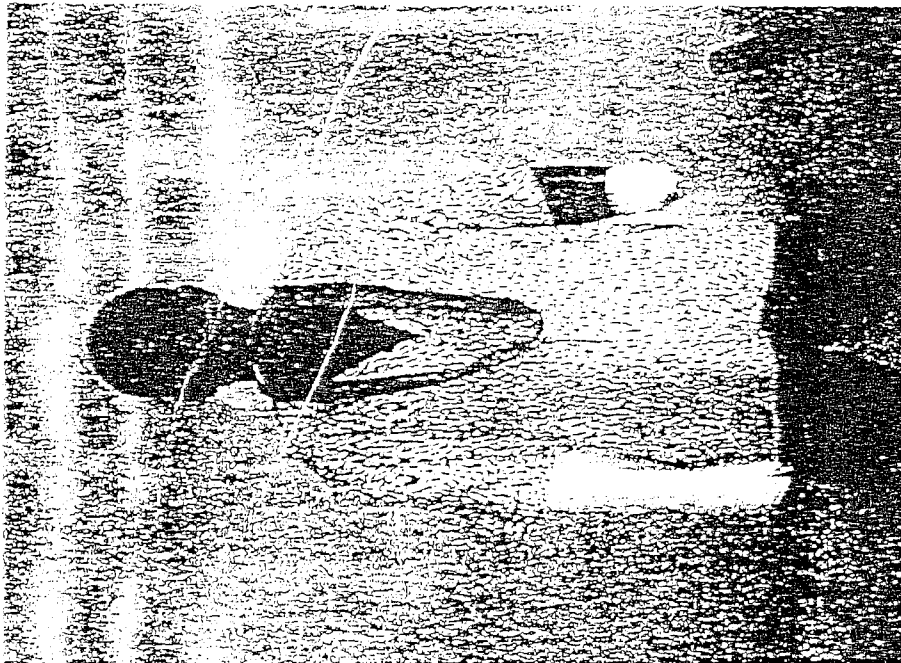
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

CONSULTATION  
CHIRURGIE

Wm. H. Danvers, Esq.

00004608 5866

UNHCR's Protection Unit, B. O. Cendry, Guinea





## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kuranko tribe.
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of birth: 40 years
5. Place of origin: Serekolia, Koinadugu District
6. Occupation: Farmer
7. Date/Place of Attack: 22/5/98 near Serekolia
8. Date of arrival: 25/5/98
9. Route followed: Serekolia, Karifaria, Songoya
10. Accompanied by: Wife and 4 children.
11. Physical Condition: both hands severed at wrists
12. Date and Place of Interview: 27/5/98 at Faranah
13. Interviewing Officer: Anne Paludan, Field Officer

## Narrative:

On Friday 22 May Mr. \*\*\*\*\* had gone to Gbenekoro, a neighbouring village, to collect food for his family who were in Serekolia. When he had collected the food and was on his way back he encountered a large group of armed men. He did not hear any names of the rebels and did not see who commanded the group. There were many of them, of all ages, and they spoke Krio. They carried long knives, machetes, and single barrel rifles. Some wore ordinary clothes, some military uniforms. He also notes that some members of the group were children of 13 to 15 years.

The rebels seized him, lay him on the ground, and one put a gun in his mouth. He struggled with them for about 10 minutes while they held his hands and kicked him. Then four of them put his hands on a branch and cut his hands with a machete, two blows to the right hand, two to the left hand, then they whipped him and asked him to go. He asked them to kill him, but they refused, saying they wanted to punish him, not to kill him. He lay there for some time, then ran back to Serekolia. The town was burning, so he made his way to the farm where his family was in hiding. His belongings were left where he had been attacked.

His family helped him out of his bloody clothing, and he lay down until early morning on Saturday before starting to walk toward Guinea. They travelled for two days. A friend they met on the road tried to attend to the wounds, otherwise they were not treated until he reached Faranah.

CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr. *Guillaume Carrière*

Certifie avoir examiné le(s) patient(s)

Age de 40 ans De jour du 25 mai 1998

Etat Général *Satisfaisant*

Constantes Hemodynamiques *TA 110/60 mmHg T 38.7°C FR 22/min*

Le patient présente des lésions mutilantes de type

Siege *Amputation*  
*1/2 antérieur des 2 avant bras*

Stade de cicatrisation *Non fraîche*

Etat de la lésion *absence de nécrose*

Date probable du traumatisme *Mercredi 22 mai 1998*

Conclusion / Remarques *Fracture ouverte*

*et de besoin d'une prothèse*

Fait pour le HCR à *Farafra* Le 27 mai 1998



Signature

*[Signature]*

*Guillaume Carrière*

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UNHCR's Protection Unit, B.O. Conakry, Guinea

14



## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kuranko tribe
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of birth: 40 years
5. Place of origin: Sinnikoro, Koinadugu District
6. Occupation: Farmer
7. Date/Place of Attack: 22/5/98 near Serekollia
8. Date of arrival: 26/5/98
9. Route followed: Sinnikoro, Tumania, Kanbia, Hermakono
10. Accompanied by: Mother, brother, wife, 2 children  
(2 & 5 years)
11. Physical Condition: both hands severed mid-forearm
12. Date and Place of Interview: 27/5/98 at Faranah Hospital
13. Interviewing Officer: Anne Paludan, Field Officer

## Narrative:

On Friday 22 May Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was walking from his farm to the village of Sinnikoro (near Serekollia) when he was ordered to stop by five men who approached him from behind. Fearing they were rebels, he began to run, but was stopped by another group of 10 men who appeared on the path in front of him. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* did not hear any of his assailants' names. He noticed they were wearing guns, machetes, long knives, and axes. Some were in military uniforms while others wore civilian clothing. Several were naked to the waist and had tied bandannas around their heads.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s assailants held him at gunpoint, and forced him to lay his arms along a tree branch. They struck both arms with a machete, severing each in one blow midway between the wrist and elbow. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* asked them to kill him, saying that he could no longer work and support his family and that he would rather die. His attackers refused, instructing him instead to go to ECOMOG and tell them that "We are here." They also wrote a letter to ECOMOG and put it in the pocket of his trousers; Mr. \*\*\*\*\* does not know the contents of the letter as it was lost on the way to Guinea. They also explained that they had severed his hands because they supported Foday Sankoh and not Tejan Kabbah. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* then lost consciousness.

He awoke around 5:00 p.m. to find his assailants had left. He attempted to drag himself along on his stomach but eventually gave up and tried to sleep. The following morning his family came to look for him and found him on the path around 8:00 a.m. They took him first to the village of Tumania, and then to Kanbia and on to Heremakono just across the Guinean border. They had been unable to treat his injuries, but had removed his blood-soaked clothing and managed to carry him in a hammock. At Heremakono Mr. \*\*\*\*\* received first aid and was then taken to Faranah for more thorough medical care.

CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne D. Chetani le 27/09/2021

Certifie avoir examiné le(s) point(s) :

Age de 25 ans, entre 18 et 29 ans 1998

Elat General: *Isotria medeolae* (Mill.) B.S.P. (Jahangir)

Constantes Hemodynamiques:  $\bar{P}_{AO} = 93 \text{ mmHg}$ ,  $\bar{P}_{PA} = 79 \text{ mmHg}$ ,  $\bar{P}_{V} = 70 \text{ mmHg}$ ,  $\bar{P}_{V} = 70 \text{ mmHg}$

Le patient présente des lésions maculaires de type:

Signature of the Contractor

Sieger: 1/3 Aufstellung: 104 4. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837.

Stade de cicatrisation: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

Etat de la lésion: Blanc de l'apex du maxillaire

Date probable du traumatisme: 27/10/2018

Conclusion / Remarques: ... Fluoridation Hydroxyapatite Glass ...

Necessita de uma proficiência funcional.

Fait pour le HCR à Geneva le 27 Mai 1998

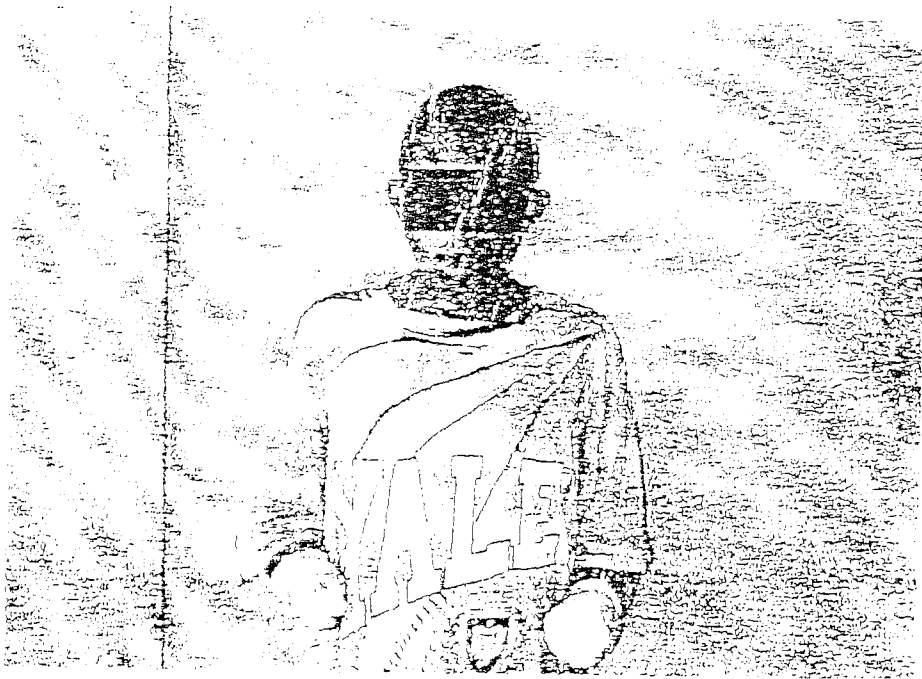


Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Administrative Page

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UNHCR's Protection Unit, B.O. Conakry, Guinea



## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kuranko tribe  
3. Sex: Male  
4. Place of Birth: 36 years old  
5. Place of Origin: Serekolia  
6. Occupation: farmer and small trade  
7. Date/Place of Attack: 22 May at Serekolia  
8. Date of Arrival: end May (departed Serekolia 22 May)  
9. Route Followed: taken to Mongo then to Faranah by ECOMOG  
10. Accompanied by: one brother  
11. Physical Condition: multiple cuts with machete  
12. Date and Place of Interview: 3/6/98 at Faranah Hospital  
13. Interviewing Officer: Anne Paludan, Field Officer  
Gregory Mose, Associate Protection Officer

## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and his family fled when Serekolia was attacked on 22 May. He was carrying food with his son, \*\*\*\*\*, and therefore fell behind the rest of his family. They were ambushed by rebels who ordered them to stop, whereupon they both fled and were separated. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was captured but does not know the fate of his son.

After being tied around the waist he was led back to Serekolia and taken onto the veranda of a house. He mentions that he saw that [CASE 22] and [CASE 15] were also captured, but he was soon separated from them. His attackers asked him for money and took 300,000 leones from him. They then demanded that he lay his hands down on a bench. He then begged them not to cut his hands off, saying that he would rather be killed than mutilated. They insisted, so at last he put his hands on the bench. One of his assailants raised his machete to strike, but as he swung it, Mr. \*\*\*\*\* pulled away his hands at the last minute so the blade did not strike him. A second soldier approached him from behind and struck him on the back and head repeatedly with the butt of his rifle. His back was also cut with a machete.

The rebels then left the house and set fire to it. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* then crawled out of the house and with difficulty left the town. He was eventually found by ECOMOG and taken to Mongo and then to Faranah.

He notes that while he did not learn the names of any of his attackers, there were four of them who took an active role in beating him, and all wore red bandannas tied around their heads. He also notes that the man who held the machete and was to cut his hands was wearing an army uniform while the others were not. He describes them as wearing a mix of clothing; for example, one wore military fatigue pants but a civilian shirt.

5874

000004616

# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

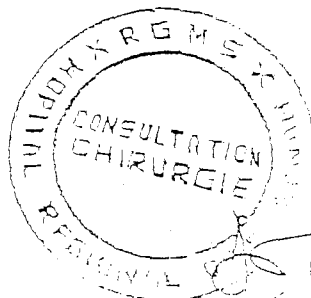
Je soussigne Dr Doumaire C. A. M. A. R. A.  
 Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e).....  
 Age de 26 ans. Ce jour du 19 juin 1998.

Etat General: satisfaisant  
 Constantes Hemodynamiques: TA=10/5 FR=90 T=37.8°C FR=20

Le patient presente des lesions mutilantes de type:  
Plaies traumatiques - Pneumothorax  
 Siege: te, de, epaule, cu, doigt  
 Stade de cicatrisation: de cicatrisation en cours apres  
 Etat de la lesion: de cicatrisation en cours apres  
 Date probable du traumatisme: 22 mai 1998

Conclusion / Remarques: La Guérison rapide  
de la lésion est obtenue avec des pansements réguliers

Fait pour le HCR a Forquah Le 02 juin 1998



Signature:

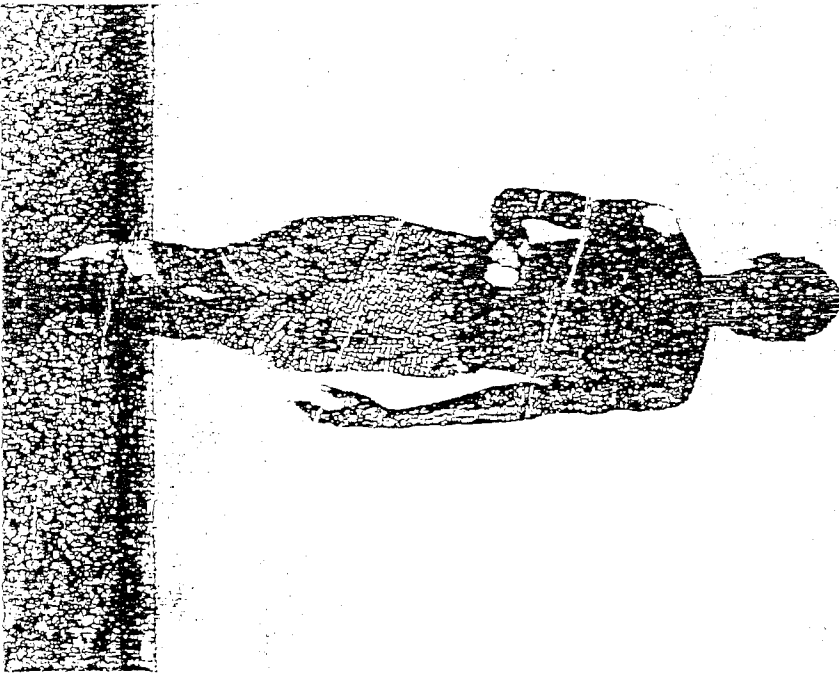
*[Signature]*

D. A. M. A. R. A.  
C. A. M. A. R. A.



5875

00004617



UNICEF's Protection Unit, B.O. Conakry, Guinea

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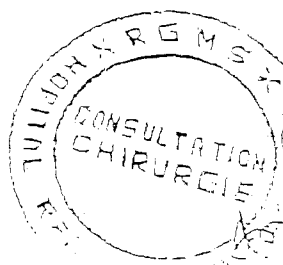
# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr Ousmane Sowars  
 Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e).....  
 Age de 60 ans Ce jour du 27/05 1998.

Etat General: mauvais  
 Constantes Hemodynamiques: TA/TE/CA = 90/70/35°5 - FR = 20/min  
 Le patient presente des lésions mutilantes de type Plaie profonde  
de la région ouest  
 Siège: Faça latérale et antérieure du cou  
 Stade de cicatrisation: nouvelle plaie  
 Etat de la lésion: suppurée  
 Date probable du traumatisme: 23/05/98

Conclusion / Remarques: Plaie traumatique impor-  
teuse nécessitant une bonne surveillance chir-  
urgicale  
 Fait pour le HCR à Fatick Le 02/7 juin 1998

Signature:



Ousmane Sowars

00004619

✓ CASE # 21

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name:	*****
2. Nationality:	Sierra Leone, Kuranko tribe
3. Sex:	Female
4. Date of birth:	75 years
5. Place of origin:	Gbenekoro, Koinadugu District
6. Occupation:	Subsistence farming
7. Date/Place of Attack:	Serekolia, 22 May
8. Date of arrival:	27 May, 1998
9. Route followed:	Gbenekoro, Serekolia, Walla, Songoya, Faranah
10. Accompanied by:	her nephew
11. Physical Condition:	throat cut
12. Date and Place of Interview:	2/6/98 at Faranah Hospital
13. Interviewing Officer:	Anne Paludan, Field Officer

## Narrative:

On Friday 22 May Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* was on her way to the village of Serekolia from her farm near Gbenekoro. She had heard that there were Junta soldiers in the area and had therefore been hiding at her farm. She had seen rebel soldiers once before and they had forced the villagers to feed them and had threatened them not to leave the village, but she considered it safer to stay at her farm than in the village.

On the road between Serekolia and Gbenekoro she found herself surrounded by a group of around 10 armed men of various ages carrying knives, guns, axes, and machetes. She notes that there were no women or children among them. They seized her, stepped on her back to pin her to the ground and cut her throat and the back of her neck with a machete. They also cut her right forearm. Her assailants did not speak to her and she does not know why she was attacked. She lay unconscious for some time, then woke up, bleeding heavily, and started to walk towards Serekolia.

On the road she was met by her nephew who helped her to reach Serekolia. On the road she saw several dead bodies, among them the bloated body of her brother's son. He had been stabbed in the head and had a machete pushed through him.

She cleaned her wounds as best she could and tied a cloth around them to keep the flies away. Accompanied by her nephew she walked to the border along with a large group of people fleeing from Serekolia. Two other wounded women were in the group, one of which was a young woman with a hand cut off. Once in Songoya her nephew immediately found them transport to Faranah.

00004620

UNHCR's Protection Unit, B.O. Conakry, Guinea



## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of Birth: 12/9/61
5. Place of Origin: Serekollia
6. Occupation: Farmer
7. Date/Place of Attack: 22/5/98 at Serekollia
8. Date of Arrival: 23/5/98
9. Route Followed: Serekollia - Kurifaya - Walia - Dusubalia -  
Kangomalia - Songoya - Faranah
10. Accompanied by: Brother-in-law (before capture)  
and friend [Case #17] (together when captured)
11. Physical Condition: left hand severed, right hand and ears mutilated  
(deceased 30/5/98 of tetanus resulting from  
injuries)
12. Date and Place of Interview: 27/5/98 at Faranah Hospital
13. Interviewing Officer: Charlotte Rostorf Rüdung, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* returned to Serekollia on Friday 22 May, 1998 to collect rice. He had escorted his mother and one of his wives to Walia, where he had asked them to wait for him. His other wife was staying in Seramaya, in Guinea.

In Serekollia, Mr. \*\*\*\*\* received news that the rebels were only four villages away from Serekollia. After he had received the message, he and his friend, Case # 17, went to the rice field to work. While working in the field, two men passed by. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* asked the men for information on the rebels, but they replied that they had no news of them.

According to Mr. \*\*\*\*\* the rebels came out of the bush about 40 minutes later and captured Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and Case # 17. He estimated that there were about a hundred rebels, composed of both Mende, Temne and Liberians and that they were in military uniforms.

The soldiers tied a rope around his waist and tied his arms behind him. They asked him to lead them to Serekollia. He agreed, was untied and accompanied them to Serekollia. Near the village, they tied him to a tree branch and left him alone for two hours while they attacked Serekollia.

When the rebels returned, they asked him to join them. He says that he accepted, because he feared that they would kill him if he refused. Finally, the rebels said that he could not join them, because they did not trust him.

00004622

They continued on for about two miles and then divided into four groups - at this point Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and Case # 17 were separated. They cut the throats of four people known to Mr. \*\*\*\*\* including Case # 21. They then started to argue over whether or not to kill him. One rebel referred to by his associates as "the killer" - his real name is unknown to Mr. \*\*\*\*\* - objected to the fact that some of the others wished to kill Mr. \*\*\*\*\*. "The killer" said that they should not kill young people.

Subsequently, the rebels cut off his left hand with a machete. His right hand was struck twice with a machete and cut to the bone, but not severed. His ears were also mutilated, but were not cut off. His assailants threatened to kill him if he cried. He does not know why he was attacked or who actually performed the acts except that it was not "the killer."

After the attack, the assailants wrote two letters, one for ECOMOG and one for any doctor Mr. \*\*\*\*\* might meet as he fled. They placed the two letters in his pocket and told him to go to Serekollia. When he reached the village he found it abandoned and still smoking. He passed the night in a hut in the bush, bleeding heavily. The next day, he left for Songoya and eventually reached Faranah where he was reunited with his two wives and two of his three children. His third child is staying in Songoya with his grandmother. The doctors at Faranah hospital administered an injection for tetanus, but it was given too late, and Mr. \*\*\*\*\* died on 30 May.

5881

00004623

/-/-OPITAL REGIONAL DE PARANAH

REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE

N°: 31 /H.R.P./98

Travail - Justice- Solidar

--- (CERTIFICAT DE DECES) ---

\*\*\*\*\*

Nous soussigné Dr. ABDOULAYE BAH Directeur de l'hôpital Régional de Faranah, certifions que: ME

PROFESSION: Cultivateur Décédé le: 20/05/98

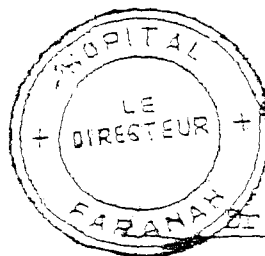
Diagnostic d'admission = Amputation traumatisée des membres supérieurs.

- Cause de Accés = Tétanos.

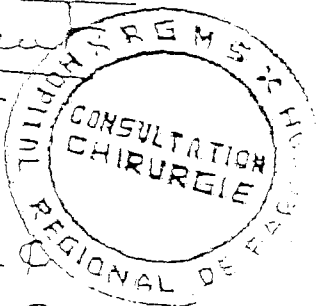
En foi de quoi, nous lui délivrons ce présent certificat p servir et valoir ce que de droit./.

FARANAH, LE 03 Juin / 199

LE DIRECTEUR DE L'HOPITAL



ABDOULAYE BAH



Le médecin  
traitant

Quellou  
-Cecile

00004624

CASE # 23

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
 2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kuranko tribe  
 3. Sex: Female  
 4. Date of Birth: 28 years old  
 5. Place of Origin: Gbenekoro, Koinadugu District  
 6. Occupation: trader  
 7. Date/Place of Attack: 22/5/98 near Gbenekoro  
 8. Date of Arrival: end May 1998  
 9. Route Followed: Serekollia - Kurfaya - Qualia - Damania - Songoya  
 10. Accompanied by: Husband  
 11. Physical Condition: both forearms severely cut with machete, one arm broken  
 12. Date and Place of Interview: 14/7/98 at Donka Hospital, Conakry  
 13. Interviewing Officer: Gregory Mose, Associate Protection Officer

## Narrative:

On Friday 22 May a group of about 40 armed men entered the village of Gbenekoro. Most were wearing civilian clothing and were armed with machetes and knives, but 10 of the men were in military uniforms and carrying rifles. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* noticed that some had their hair in dreadlocks, some wore leaves around their heads as a form of traditional medicine, and still others had painted their faces black. When the men entered the village, there was screaming the villagers scattered into the bush. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* fled into the bush toward the village of Mongobendu because she had heard that there were ECOMOG troops there.

She hid in the bush for several days, eating bush yams and other food she could gather. She had joined up with some others who had fled nearby villages such as Serekollia, and it was while they were walking along a path looking for food that they ran across what she believes to have been the same group of rebels who had attacked Gbenekoro. They were surrounded and were unable to escape. The men killed two of the group immediately with knives and machetes, and then told the rest of the group to lie down along the path. They proceeded to strike both arms of CASE 24 with a machete, deeply cutting but not severing the arms. Next they cut off one hand of another woman, and then attacked Ms. \*\*\*\*\* They struck both arms mid-forearm in the same manner as they had done to CASE 24, deeply cutting both and breaking one bone. After the attack, the assailants told the group that they would have to separate or they would be killed. A number of the victims asked their assailants to kill them rather than leave them disabled, but they refused. They told their victims to tell President Kabbah that people were dying because he was holding on to power, and that the rebels will kill everyone in Sierra Leone unless he leaves office.

Handwritten



# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr S.K. DIARRÉ

Certifie avoir examiné le(a) patient(e).....

Age de 30 ans. Ce jour du 21 JUILLET 1998.

Etat General: Contenté;

Constantes Hemodynamiques: Bonnes

Le patient présente des lésions mutilantes de type: Fracture ouverte infectée II<sup>e</sup> degré des 2 avant bras sur amputation de 8 semaines

Siege: Les deux avant bras à leur 1/3 inférieur

Stade de cicatrisation: Cicatrisation en cours à droite et cicatrisée à gauche

Etat de la lésion: lésions non consolidées

Date probable du traumatisme: Le 21/05/98

Conclusion / Remarques: Patient en danger d'infection

severe. Le traitement doit être poursuivi

Fait pour le HCR à Conakry Le 21 JUILLET 1998

Signature:

Dr. S.K. DIARRÉ

Chirurgien

Orthopédie Traumatologie

00004626

CASE # 24

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kuranko tribe  
3. Sex: Female  
4. Date of Birth: 34 years old  
5. Place of Origin: Mongobendu, Koinadugu District  
6. Occupation: Farmer  
7. Date/Place of Attack: 22/5/98 near Mongobendu  
8. Date of Arrival: end May 1998  
9. Route Followed: Mongobendu, Kandia, Gbangofeh, Songoya  
10. Accompanied by: Husband, son and grandson  
11. Physical Condition: both forearms severely cut with machete, one bone broken  
12. Date and Place of Interview: 11/7/98 at Donka Hospital, Conakry  
13. Interviewing Officer: Gregory Mose, Associate Protection Officer

## Narrative:

Because there were few supplies in the village of Mongobendu, Ms. \*\*\*\*\* and other villagers would periodically go into the bush to search for food. On the morning of 24/4/98 she was walking along a bush path with a group of 10 villagers, CASE 26, Kumba Sesay, CASE 18, CASE 15, and CASE 22. While searching for food they were accosted by 24 armed men who emerged onto the path on either side of them. Ten of the men were in full military uniform and carried military rifles, while the others wore civilian dress and were armed with knives and machetes. Those in civilian dress also wore red bandannas around their heads - Ms. \*\*\*\*\* is illiterate, but she noticed writing on the bandannas and her attackers indicated that the words "Bad Blood" were written there. The assailants spoke Krio to their captives but spoke a variety of languages amongst themselves, including English with what Ms. \*\*\*\*\* identifies as a Liberian accent. She also noticed the smell of marijuana and what appeared to have been joints strewn along the path.

The man who appeared to be the leader of the group wore traditional African clothing known as a "ranko," which consists of a coarse cloth sleeveless shirt and pants. She described him as tall and thin, around 20 years old, having a fair complexion, a long face with a goatee, and a pointed nose. She also noticed among the group three young men whom she knew from her village: XXX (age 18), YYY (age 13 or 14), and ZZZ (age 9). The older two of the three boys carried machetes, but the youngest was unarmed. Their participation in the attack was limited to holding people, and Ms. \*\*\*\*\* believes that they had been forcibly recruited.

00004627

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# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr ..... S.K. DIAKITE .....  
 Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e) .....  
 Age de 33 ans. Ce jour du 24 juillet 1998.

Etat General: ..... Bon .....  
 Constantes Hemodynamiques: ..... Bonnes .....  
 La patiente presente des lesions mutilantes de type: Fracture ouverte infectee de l'avant  
 bras droit III degre et de l'avant bras gauche II degre avec lésion musculaire.

Siege: Les deux avant bras à l'ant. 1/2 inférieure  
 Stade de cicatrisation: en voie de cicatrisation  
 Etat de la lésion: lésion non contrôlée  
 Date probable du traumatisme: le 24/05/98

Conclusion / Remarques: Patient se trouve dans un état d'infection  
 grave. le traitement doit être poursuivi

Fait pour le HCR à Conakry Le 24 juillet 1998

Signature:

Dr. S.K. DIAKITE  
 Chirurgie  
 Orthopedie Traumatologie

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Mandingo tribe
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of birth: 1962
5. Place of origin: Jujuma, Kailahun District
6. Occupation: mechanic
7. Date/Place of Attack: Jujuma, around December 1998 7
8. Date of arrival: February/March 1998
9. Route followed: Jujuma - Sefadu - Guinea
10. Accompanied by: alone
11. Physical Condition: arms tied for extended period, one finger severed, hands deliberately placed in fire causing severe burns
12. Date and Place of Interview: 17/6/98 at Conakry
13. Interviewing Officer: Gregory Mose, Associate Protection Officer

## Narrative:

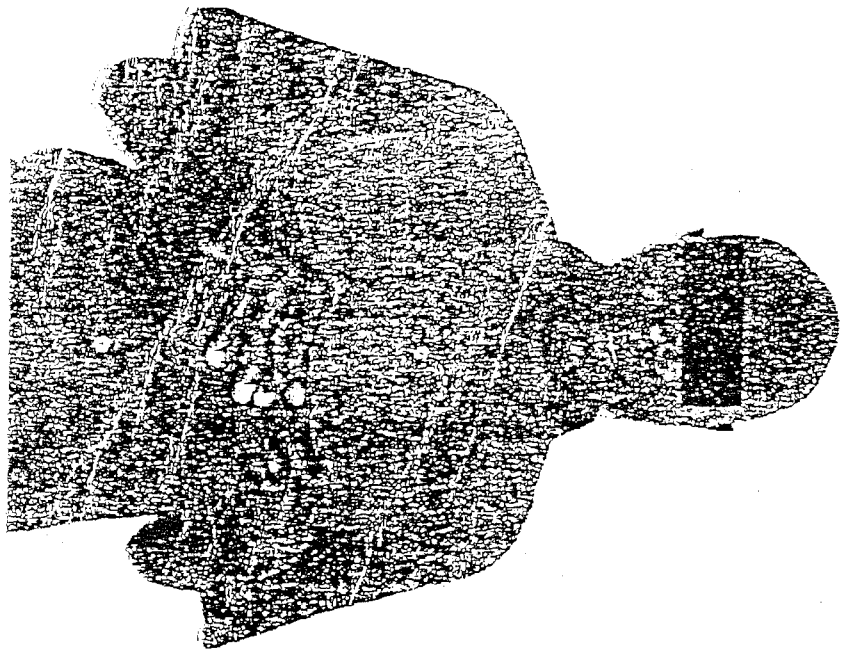
At some time probably in December 1997 (he is unsure of the exact date) Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was going to work on the family farm with his father, his father's two wives, three sisters, and approximately 15 workers. On the path they ran across a group of over 30 men in civilian clothing carrying military rifles. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and his family were held at gunpoint, and their assailants demanded his father to give them his money. His father complied, but was then bound and mutilated in front of the others: his beard was set on fire, his eyes were gouged out, one foot was severed, and finally he was killed by a blow to the back of the neck with a machete. A total of five people participated in this attack, and they gave no reason for killing Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s father.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s mother attempted to escape, but she was shot while running. The assailants, whom Mr. \*\*\*\*\* identifies as RUF rebels, proceeded to shoot the second wife as well as two of his three sisters. The third sister was abducted. Meanwhile, Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and two other men were tied up, whereas the other workers agreed to join the rebels and were led away. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and his fellow prisoners were guarded by five rebels, and remained at the same spot for three days.

By the third day his hands had begun to swell. His assailants placed hot coals in a bowl and then forcibly placed his bound hands into the bowl, severely burning him. They then severed one of his fingers and performed the same operation on the other two prisoners. They offered no explanation for this, but afterwards they untied the prisoners and left them in the bush. The three separated and Mr. \*\*\*\*\* found his way to Sefadou, where he stayed for around three months. Sefadou was then attacked by junta forces, however, so he fled along with others from the town and came to Guinea.

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UNHCR's Protection Unit, B. O. Conakry, Guinea

# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr ..... S.K. DIARRA .....  
 Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e) .....  
 Age de 30 ..... ans. Ce jour du 24 juillet 1998.

Etat General: ..... bonne .....  
 Constantes Hemodynamiques: ..... bonne .....  
 Le patient presente des lésions mutilantes de type: fracture ouverte  
du fémur droit ..... à son 1/3 inférieur  
 Siège: ..... 1/2 inférieure de l'os ..... gauche .....  
 Stade de cicatrisation: ..... cicatrisation 24 jours .....  
 Etat de la lésion: ..... bon ..... bon .....  
 Date probable du traumatisme: ..... le 1er juillet 1998

Conclusion / Remarques: ..... Patient reçu dans un état d'infection  
et de douleur ..... le traitement doit être poursuivi .....

Fait pour le HCR à ..... Couakro ..... Le 24 juillet 1998

Signature:

Dr. S.K. DIARRA  
 Chirurgie  
 Orthopédie Traumatologie

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Kuranko tribe
3. Sex: Male
4. Date of Birth: 63 years old
5. Place of Origin: \*\*\*\*\* village, Nyeya Chiefdom, Koinadugu District
6. Occupation: Section Chief
7. Date/Place of Attack: 30/4/98 at Yarawadugu
8. Date of Arrival: 3/5/98
9. Route Followed: \*\*\*\*\* - Manso - Bendu - Faranfeh - Foroconia
10. Accompanied by: Around 50 people, section elders and family
11. Physical Condition: four fingers severed from right hand
12. Date and Place of Interview: 9/5/98 at Foroconia
13. Interviewing Officer: Anne Paludan, Field Officer

## Narrative:

On Wednesday, April 29, Mr. \*\*\*\*\* as Chief received a message from the people of the neighboring village of Bendu that the rebels were eating there and were heading towards his village. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* sent a man to verify that the rebels were coming, and sent women and children into the bush while he and 80 men stayed in the village, among them Kono men who had come to help. They shared 17 single barrel rifles but had few cartridges.

On arrival in the village the rebels opened fire. The villagers were overrun, and three were killed. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* then ordered everyone to escape. He himself hid alone on top of a large rock at a distance from which he could watch what took place in the village. At 6:45 pm the rebels, armed with AK-47 rifles, entered the evacuated village. There were many of them, and they were accompanied by captives carrying goods for them. They spoke Krio, and wore a mixture of military and civilian clothing with either boots or old sports shoes. The commander wore military fatigues. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* notes that those he saw from close up had red eyes, possibly from drugs. He saw them burn all the houses in the village except the mosque. He does not know why they spared the mosque.

The next morning at daybreak he went back to the ruins of the village but found nobody there. He then left, following the trail of the men who had attacked the village, and found two of his villagers dead on the path. They had been shot, and the rebels had taken their rifles. As he walked around the area to find more victims, believing that the rebels were in the neighboring town, he was ambushed at Konkonia (Kissi Chiefdom) by eight armed men. He was captured and two of the men took him to the group's commander in Konkonia while the other six left. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* knew the two men who took him: XXX

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WE ARE ASKING THE PEOPLE OF S/LEONE TO TELL US WHERE WE SHOULD GO. IF WE ARE NOW READY TO FIGHT MORE THAN BEFORE AND ONCE MORE IF OUR LEADER IS NOT RELEASE WE WILL DESTROY THE S/LEONE.

WE DON'T WANT SLPP. THEY ARE CORRUPTING S/LEONE AND THIS TIME WE WILL HAVE NO MERCY FOR ANY SLPP SUPPORTERS  
NO SANKOH?  
NO CIVILIAN NO BETTER S/LEONE.  
WE TH. Y. ALL.



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she was told that if she did not put her foot down, she would be killed. She heard voices in the distance, but assumes that those people heard her scream and ran away when they realized that the rebels were there.

She placed her left foot on the piece of wood. The youngest rebel severed two toes of her left foot. He handed her the two toes and told her to give them to President Kabbah and explain to him that this is what the rebels can do to his people.

The rebels took all her belongings and abandoned her. The foot was bleeding heavily, so Ms. \*\*\*\*\* did not leave until the following morning. She was crying. A group of people hiding in a farm hut close by heard her. One of them came to help her. He washed her foot and provided her with first-aid. He put salt on the foot to stop the bleeding. His wife called her younger brothers and they carried Ms. \*\*\*\*\* in a hammock to Gbankadon. She was taken care of by a group of hunters in this village. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* was unable to walk and thus stayed there for one month. When she had recovered, she was able to walk to Forokonia. From Forokonia, she was carried by taxi to Faranah.

CASE # 29

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE -SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
2. Nationality: Sierra Leonean, Kuranko tribe  
3. Sex: Male  
4. Date of Birth: 1928  
5. Place of Origin: Seria, Koinadugu District, Northern Province  
6. Occupation: Farmer  
7. Date/ Place of Attack: beginning of April on the way to Siranikoro  
8. Date of Arrival : 4 June 1998  
9. Route Followed: Siranikoro - Mongobendu - Songoya - Faranah  
10. Accompanied by: Son \*\*\*\*\* and brother-in-law \*\*\*\*\*  
11. Physical Condition : Right hand severed between wrist and elbow. Head injured by the back of a gun, causing an open wound that is now healing  
12. Date and Place of Interview : 10/6/98 at Faranah Hospital  
13. Interviewing Officer : Charlotte Rostorf Ridung, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was living in Seria where the rebels were present. They were looting property, but otherwise not doing any harm to the civilian population. An ECOMOG detachment was based at Mongobendu, six miles away.

ECOMOG sent a message to Seria that people not supporting the rebels should leave town. If not, they would risk being killed. ECOMOG wished to warn the local population. Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was afraid of an attack against the rebels by ECOMOG. Most people from Seria left town.

In April 1998 while on his way to Siranikoro, Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was attacked by the rebels. They were hiding on both sides of the road by a stream called Forngbo.

He was accompanied by his five year old son, and a man unknown to him. His son and the other man managed to escape the rebels as the two of them were walking behind Mr. \*\*\*\*\*.

About fifteen rebels attacked him. They were all unknown to him. It was a mixture of Sierra Leoneans and Liberians. They spoke Krio and Liberian languages. He did not know which faction they belonged to. Some of them wore uniforms, some wore civilian clothes. He cannot explain why the rebels attacked him.

The rebels tied him up with his elbows at the back. They hit him with the butt of a gun, thus causing an open wound on his head. Afterwards, they leaned him against a big tree and severed his right hand with a cutlass. He has asked them not to cut his right hand as he used this hand for work. They replied that he was lucky, pointing at a dead man lying on the

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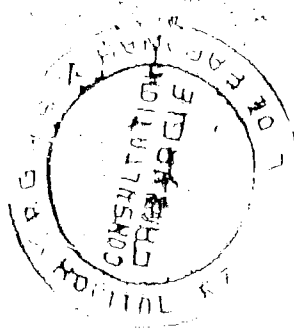
# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigné Dr. Quellera - Camargo  
 Certifie avoir examiné le(a) patient(e)  
 Age de 60 ans. Ce jour du 6/6/81 1980

Etat General satisfaisant  
 Constantes Hemodynamiques TA 110/70, T<sub>2</sub> 62.5°C, FR 19/min.  
 Le patient présente des lésions mutilantes de type Augmentation  
typhoïdique  
 Siege 1/3 antérieur droit bras droit  
 Stade de cicatrisation infection  
 Etat de la lésion pas de nécrose  
 Date probable du traumatisme 22/5/80

Conclusion / Remarques.....

Fait pour le HCR à Fernand Le 13 Juil. 1988



Signature:

*[Signature]*

CASE # 30

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone, Madingo tribe  
3. Sex: Female  
4. Date of Birth: 1968  
5. Place of Origin: Gberiah Fatombo, Koinadugu District, Northern Province  
6. Occupation: Farmer  
7. Date/Place of Attack : Gberiah Fatombo on a Friday at the end of March, 1998  
8. Date of Arrival: 10/6/98 at Faranah Hospital  
9. Route Followed: Gberiah Fatombo - Hermankono - Faranah  
10. Accompanied By: Husband and daughter  
11. Physical Condition: Calf of left foot cut with cutlass. Leg later amputated in hospital just below the knee  
12. Date and Place of Interview : 16/6/98 at Faranah Hospital  
13. Interviewing Officer : Charlotte Rostoft Ridung, Field Officer

## Narrative:

Ms. \*\*\*\*\* and her daughter were working on their peanut farm in Gberiah Fatombo, when the rebels attacked them. Her husband was working on another farm. While working, four rebels approached Ms. \*\*\*\*\*. She did not know any of her assailants and did not hear any names. Two of the rebels were dressed in black uniforms and the other two in civilian clothes. They spoke Krio. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* does not know why she was attacked by the rebels.

One of the rebels grabbed her from behind and in a commanding voice told her to sit down on the ground. One of the rebels wanted to have sexual relations with Ms. \*\*\*\*\*, but she and her daughter started crying and Ms. \*\*\*\*\* pleaded the rebels to leave her alone. She asked them to not abuse her and told them that she had just given birth to a child. The rebels asked her where the baby was, and she replied that she had left the baby at the house. Her daughter managed to run away and the rebels did not pursue her.

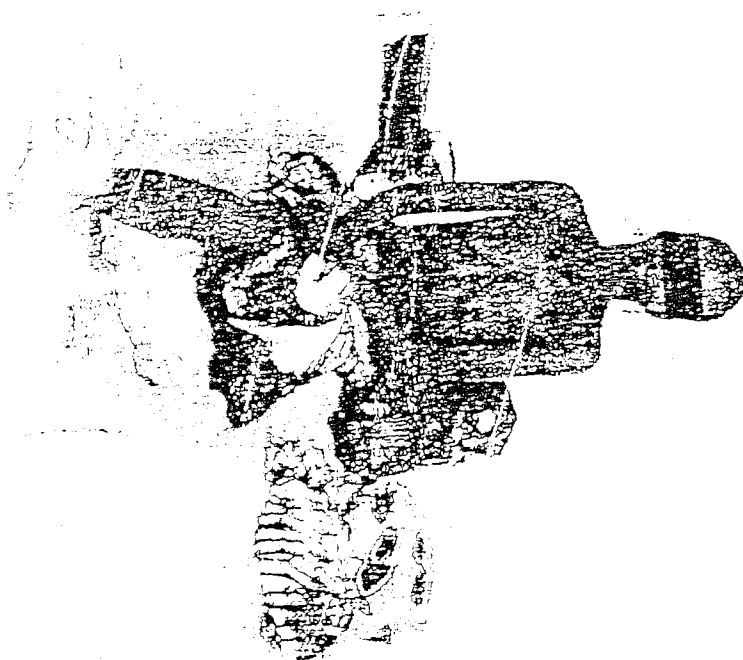
The rebels abstained from abusing her sexually. Instead, they said to her that they were not going to let her go. They decided to cut her leg as a punishment for not offering sexual favours. One rebel bent down over her and cut the calf of her left leg twice. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* believes that it was the intention of the rebels to sever her foot completely. The rebels hit her on the spinal cord and on the back, but as she was crying loudly, they eventually let her go. Subsequently, the rebels left.

When the rebels had left, Ms. \*\*\*\*\* tried to return home, which was about two miles from the field. On the way home, Ms. \*\*\*\*\* fell down into a hole. In the evening, people coming back from their farms found her and they went to get her husband in Gberiah Fatombo. Ms. \*\*\*\*\* was carried in a hammock from Gberiah Fatombo to Hermankono and from there by vehicle to Faranah.

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UNHCR's Protection Unit, B.O. Conlay, Guinea

ordered to place her right hand on a piece of wood, and her right hand was severed with a cutlass. The rebels also severed the hand of the mother.

The rebels announced that ECOMOG was approaching Boique and thus took off, leaving everyone in the village. Some of the persons that had been maimed fled into the bush, including Ms. \*\*\*\*\*.. She and her mother were found by the Kamajors in the bush and carried to Koidu town. ECOMOG soldiers carried them from Koidu to Freetown by car. In Freetown, her and her mother were hospitalized. The mother died in the hospital.

00004639

CASE # 32

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name:	*****
2. Nationality:	Sierra Leone, Kono tribe
3. Sex:	Male
4. Date of Birth:	15 years
5. Place of Origin:	Yenggema town, Kono Distr., Eastern Province
6. Occupation:	Student, class 2
7. Date/Place of Attack:	A Sunday, around 11.03.1992, Yenggema town
8. Date of Arrival:	11.04.1998 at Kobikoro
9. Route Followed:	Yenggema, Kafaidu, Suma, Kofuneh, Bangokando
10. Accompanied By:	Mother, father, 2 brothers, 2 sisters
11. Physical Condition:	All left hand fingers severed
12. Date and Place of Interview:	26/7/98 at Nyaedou Refugee Camp.
13. Interviewing Officer:	A. Paludan and C. R. Ridung, Field Officers

## Narrative:

\*\*\*\*\* was at his house when the rebels attacked him. He heard gunshots and wanted to run, but instead he was caught by one rebel, who took him there: other rebels. They were dressed in combat clothing, carried arms and spoke Krio.

The rebels said that they were looking for Sierra Leonean soldiers. They mutilated him by severing all five fingers of his left hand so "that they (the soldiers) may get the message". His left hand was placed on a large stick and the fingers were cut and thrown to the ground. He witnessed other people being beaten and killed by the rebels at the time of the attack.

After he was mutilated, the rebels ordered him to sit down while they were destroying and burning down houses. After a while they seemed to have forgotten about him and he managed to escape into the bush. His hand was bleeding.

The same day he met his family of seven in the bush. The family proceeded directly to Kafaidu, because they were scared of staying in the area. Between Kafaidu and Suma, in a village called Koako, a doctor called \*\*\*\*\* treated his hand. The doctor placed medicine on his hand and bandaged it. After he had received treatment, the family continued their journey to Guinea.

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. Name: \*\*\*\*\*  
2. Nationality: Sierra Leone  
3. Sex: Male  
4. Date of Birth: 15/2/72  
5. Place of Origin: Kabala,, SLE  
6. Occupation: Driver  
7. Date of Arrival: 2/5/98  
8. Date/Place of Attack: January 1996 at Jaima Suafe  
9. Route Followed: Koidu - Yomandou - Massadou - Soumoundou -  
Faranah - CKY (11/5)  
10. Accompanied by: Wife  
11. Physical Condition: Right arm severed several inches below shoulder  
12. Date and Place of Interview: Conakry, 26/5/98  
13. Interviewing Officer: Gregory Mose, Associate Protection Officer

## Narrative:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* had his arm severed by RUF forces around January 1996 during the run up to presidential elections in Sierra Leone. He had been involved in election campaigning on behalf of Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in the village of Jaima Suafe (Kono District) when a group of RUF rebels entered the town and captured him and 15 other people with pro-democracy sympathies. He explains that all 16 people were tied up and the rebels proceeded to amputate arms one by one. \*

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* was the third victim. He recounts being forced to lie down on the ground and to spread his arms wide. His attackers then made several preliminary cuts on his upper arm to determine where best to strike in order to break through the bone. This being done, they cut off his arm with two blows of the cutlass. They then tied a note around his neck which expressed RUF's resistance to elections and set him free. It was the villagers of Jaima Suafe who took him to the hospital at Koidu for treatment. He does not know the fate of the other prisoners but assumes that they too had limbs severed.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* claims that the person responsible is an RUF commander nicknamed "Superman." According to Mr. \*\*\*\*\*, Superman is the third ranking officer in the RUF after Foday Sankoh and the military commander known as "Mosquito." He is reported to lead a squad of around 20 rebels in a red Toyota Hilox four wheel drive vehicle, and Mr. \*\*\*\*\* reports that he "specializes" in amputating enemies of the RUF.



# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigne Dr ..... Alain L... ..... D.E.A.S.

Certifie avoir examine le(a) patient(e)...

Age de 25 ans. Ce jour du 15 juin 1998.

Etat General: Satisfaisant

Constantes Hemodynamiques: Normales

Le patient presente des lesions mutilantes de type: Fracture ouverte

Siege: Bras droit

Stade de cicatrisation: Complete

Etat de la lesion: Lesion ouverte avec fracture ouverte

Date probable du traumatisme: 15 juin

Conclusion / Remarques: Patient a bras droit, membre

droit, membre droit, membre droit, membre droit

Fait pour le HCR a Genève Le 15 juin 1998

Signature:

[Signature]

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. NAME:	*****
2. NATIONALITY:	Sierra Leone
3. SEX:	Male
4. DATE OF BIRTH:	1958 (40 years)
5. PLACE OF ORIGIN:	Sansangey (?), close to the border
6. OCCUPATION:	Farmer
7. DATE/PLACE OF ATTACK:	Kulumbaya, 14.11.1998
8. DATE OF ARRIVAL:	First time: mid-August, 1998
9. ROUTE FOLLOWED:	crossing at Toumandou
10. ACCOMPANIED BY:	18 Family members, including wife and 1 child
11. PHYSICAL CONDITION:	Right hand cut, left hand severed
12. DATE AND PLACE OF INTERVIEW:	17/11/98 at Gueckedou Hospital
13. INTERVIEWING OFFICER:	Ann Paludan, Protection Officer, Gueckedou

## 12. NARRATIVE:

On Friday, November 13th, Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and a group of about 20 refugees crossed the border and went in search for food near their old homes in SLE. When they had found the food and were heading back they were met by a group of 18 rebels at Kulumbaya. He knew they were rebels because they carried bows and arrows, knives, and guns. They were dressed as "charlatans" ("Kori-players") or hunters, wearing a mixture of clothes. They spoke Susu, Kpala and Temne, so being Kissi he himself did not understand their language, neither did he hear their names.

The refugees were taken to a house which was locked for the night and guarded by rebels. Saturday they were taken out, three people were selected to go with the rebels, the others were asked who would climb palm tree for the rebels, and 4 people presented themselves. Then the rebels asked them to select one person among them to be killed. This they refused. Then the rebels mutilated them and let them go, asking them in parting to tell their Guinean chief (the President of Guinea) that "the rebels are here. It is not over yet, much more is coming." Some of his fellows died there, he does not know how many. He himself found his way to the village of Birimba somehow or other; from there some people helped him back to Toumandou. Sunday he was treated at the poste de sante. Monday he was taken to Gueckedou Hospital.

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# CERTIFICAT MEDICAL DE CONSTATATION

Je soussigné Dr Raymond Faya Kondane  
 Certifie avoir examiné le(a) patient(e).....  
 Age de 58 ans. Ce jour du 13 11 1998.

Etat General: Doux patent des muqueuses athéru physique  
 Constantes Hemodynamiques: TA = 10/6.6 Pouls = 100 / min  
 Le patient présente des lésions mutilantes de type: Plaies par manchette du  
des avant-bras, des mains, des flancs Arms atteints musculo-os  
 Siege: Seu avant-bras mains (doigts) flanc droit  
 Stade de cicatrisation:.....  
 Etat de la lésion: Etat de infection avec écritures fétides  
 Date probable du traumatisme: 13 11 98

Conclusion / Remarques: Plaies par manchettes multiples dans les  
avant-bras et mains et flancs avec infection et écritures fétides  
Cementent et bonne évolution  
 Fait pour le HCR à Guéckedou Le 25 11 1998

Signature:

R. Faya  
R. Faya

00004645

CASE # 3

## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

1. NAME:	*****
2. NATIONALITY:	Sierra Leone
3. SEX:	Male
4. DATE OF BIRTH:	27 years
5. PLACE OF ORIGIN:	Kondou Bonga, near the border
6. OCCUPATION:	Businessman
7. DATE/PLACE OF ATTACK:	Kulmaya (?) about 3 miles from the border, 14.11.1998
8. DATE OF ARRIVAL:	April 27, 1998
9. ROUTE FOLLOWED:	Crossing the river
10. ACCOMPANIED BY:	Wife and child and mother in law
11. PHYSICAL CONDITION:	Two hands amputated, beaten
12. DATE AND PLACE OF INTERVIEW:	17/11/98 at Gueskedou Hospital
13. INTERVIEWING OFFICER:	Ann Paludan, Protection Officer, Gueskedou

## NARRATIVE:

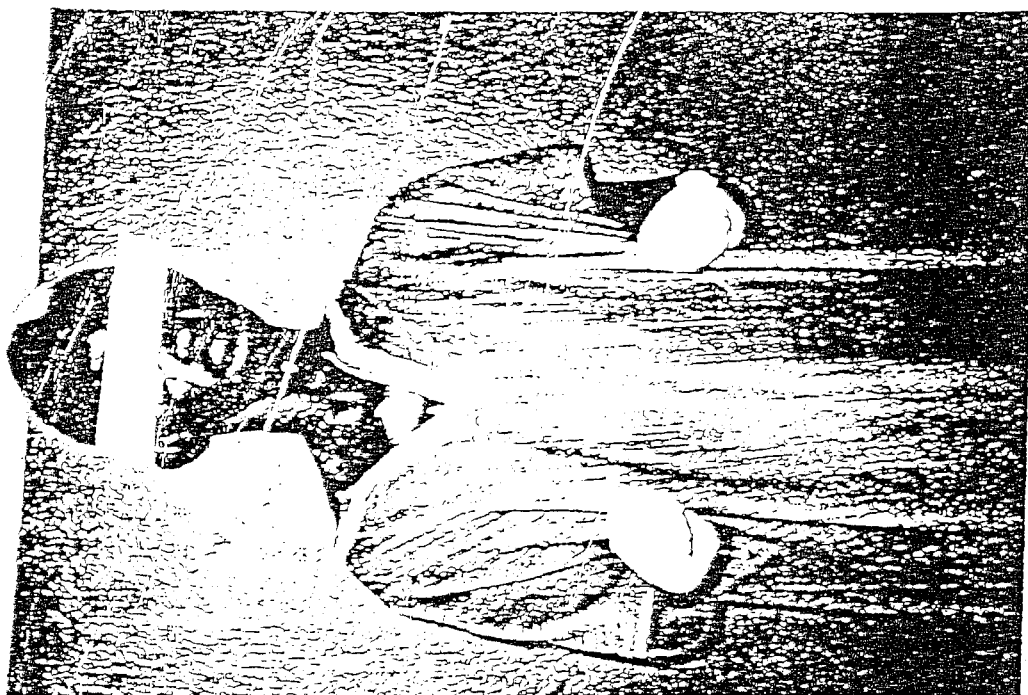
On Thursday, November 12th Mr. \*\*\*\*\* crossed the river and went into Sierra Leone together with about 10 other refugees and spent the night there. On Friday, 13.12.1998 they collected food and started going back, but the loads were heavy so they rested at Kulmaya for 20-30 minutes. Without warning they were attacked by about 25 rebels. Six of the refugees escaped, nine were caught. He was the only Temne, the others were Kissi. They were tied and spent the night in a house.

The next day they were taken outside and three of them were selected to carry loads, after which the rebels asked them what tribe they were, and hearing he was Temne they said, This is the kind of people we were referring to the reputation Temnes have of being "full of tricks". Mr. \*\*\*\*\* recognized one of them by sight not by name, as having been friendly to him when they both were in Port Loko before the war. Now he begged him to show grace but to no avail. He was beaten all over his body and his two hands were amputated. His head spinning from blood loss and having to rest every 5 minutes he reached Kawia (?) on Monday 16.11.1998, and was brought to Toumandou.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADE OFFICE



\*\*\*\*\* was tied, beaten and burnt on his back and shoulders with the blade of a cutlass they had put in the fire, and was still told that he would be the first to be executed because he had lied to them. In the end he was not killed, but both his hands were severed in front of the others. He was forbidden to cry in order not to draw the Guinean soldiers' attention to what was happening. He held his breath and lay as if he were dead. He stayed there after everybody had left, Saturday, Sunday and most of Monday.

His fellows thought he was dead and reported this to his family when they came home. His family were afraid but would not let his body rot in the field so they crossed over, carried him back and arrived with him just as the ambulance was waiting to take the other maimed to Gueckedou.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Mr. \*\*\*\*\* just married Ms \*\*\*\*\* (22). His father, Mr. \*\*\*\*\*, lives in Tourmandou but is ill and must go to Yende for treatment. He has a sister in Tourmandou who will be coming to Gueckedou, and another sister is in Abidjan. The family has no autocollant.

This interview was conducted one day after the IC's infected arm had been amputated at the shoulder, and he was in great pain both from the wound and from the burns on his back.

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11-11-11





## SIERRA LEONE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. NAME:

## 2. NATIONALITY:

## 3. SEX:

## 4. DATE OF BIRTH:

## 5. PLACE OF ORIGIN:

## 6. OCCUPATION:

## 7. DATE/PLACE OF ATTACK:

## 8. DATE OF ARRIVAL:

## 9. ROUTE FOLLOWED:

## 10. ACCOMPANIED BY:

## 11. PHYSICAL CONDITION:

## 12. DATE AND PLACE OF INTERVIEW:

## 13. INTERVIEWING OFFICER:

\*\*\*\*\*

Sierra Leone

Male

August 1986

Kono

Student

12/98, Bunbuna

11 January 1999

Bunbuna, Bikkoko, Mahassa, Kamakwei,

Kobakerry, Kindia and Conakry

Abu Turay, Friend

Entire left leg amputated

21/01/99, UNHCR Medical Centre

Senai Terraie, Associate Protection Officer, Conakry

## NARRATIVE:

\*\*\*\*\* is an unaccompanied minor who was forced to flee his home village near Massabendu in Sierra Leone. In the aftermath of the first rebel attack, he found himself separated from his mother and sister and was forced to flee to Bunbuna. Upon arrival, \*\*\*\*\* and a group of other villagers were assaulted by 20 rebels dressed in civilian and military clothing armed with AK 47 rifles who conducted indiscriminate maiming. The victims were put flat on the floor and asked what type of amputation they preferred; notably they were asked to choose between short and long sleeves implying that they would be amputated on their knees or ankles.

\*\*\*\*\* was amputated of one leg up to the knee. He also witnessed approximately 15 other civilians who were inflicted similar wounds. The rebels then took him and the other victims who were tied up and were thrown on the way side of a main road. \*\*\*\*\* was then recognized by an acquaintance of his home village, Mr. \*\*\*\*\* who rescued him and helped him to flee.

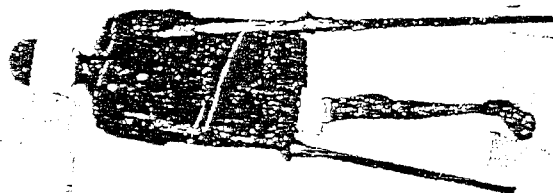
During the flight, his wound began to deteriorate and to smell. He received his first treatment at Kamakwei where he and his caretaker spent 22 days. They arrived in Kindia, Guinea, on the 28.12.98. On the 11.01.99, they arrived in Conakry and were brought to the health center by UNHCR and GTZ staff from the Sierra Leone embassy.

To date, \*\*\*\*\* has not received any prothesis for his amputation and suffers chronic pains due to the use of inadequate crutches. It is also important to note that due to his young age he was able to recall the exact chronology of events that led him to flee. He is also not receiving the adequate psychological counseling that such a traumatizing experience requires. The separation from his guardians and siblings adds to his sense of deep loss and grief in Guinea.

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FEB 11 1964  
FBI - NEW YORK



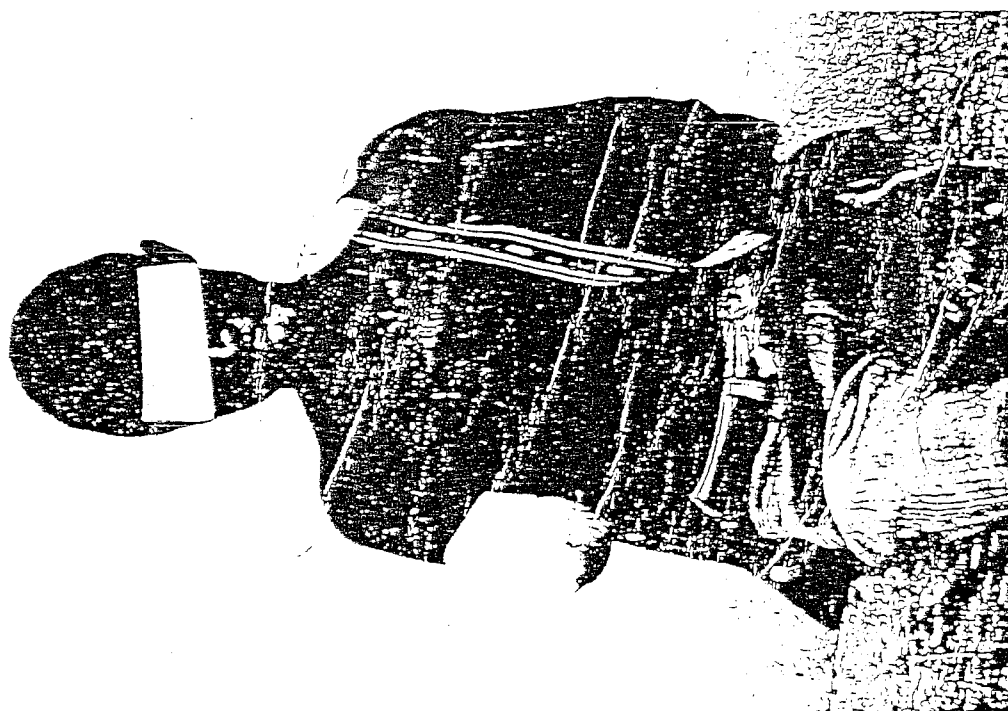
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The rebels spoke Kono, Mende, Kissi, Krio, Tainne, Limba, and all other Sierra Leone languages. They wore civilian clothes, and carried guns, cutlasses and knives. He heard very little of what they said, for he kept as away from the juntas as possible. The hostages were always guarded.

Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s Wife Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* age 24, and children \*\*\*\*\* 1, \*\*\*\*\* 4, and \*\*\*\*\* 6 have been staying with his brother Mr. \*\*\*\*\* . While Mr. \*\*\*\*\* is at the hospital the older brother Mr. \*\*\*\*\* looks after family.

00004652 -

UNHCR's Protection Unit (PO) Country Officer



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70. UNAMSIL Report, 6 December 1999 (S/1999/1223)

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## Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/1999/1223  
6 December 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

### FIRST REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE (UNAMSIL)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. By paragraph 8 of its resolution 1270 (1999) of 22 October 1999, the Security Council established the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), with a broad mandate to cooperate with the Government of Sierra Leone and other parties to the Lomé Peace Agreement of 7 July 1999 in the implementation of the Agreement, to assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, and perform other tasks as set out in my report to the Security Council, dated 23 September 1999 (S/1999/1003).

2. By paragraph 26 of the same resolution, the Security Council requested me to report every 45 days to provide updates on the status of the peace process, on security conditions on the ground, and on the continued level of deployment of personnel of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG). The present report is submitted in accordance with that request and covers developments until 2 December 1999.

#### II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

3. While substantial progress has been achieved in the implementation of the Lomé Agreement, the overall situation in the country remains precarious. After the return to Freetown on 3 October 1999 of Foday Sankoh, leader of the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone (RUF), and Johnny Paul Koroma, leader of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), both men undertook a series of visits to meet with combatants and sensitize them to the Lomé Agreement and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme. They visited Lungi on 8 October and Port Loko on 13 October together. Subsequent visits to other sites were undertaken separately due to the increasing tension between RUF and AFRC. Mr. Sankoh visited RUF positions at Buedu, Daru, Segbwema, Makeni and Magburaka, while Mr. Koroma met with ex-Sierra Leone Army (SLA) combatants in the Occra Hills area.

4. On 20 October, President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah announced the composition of the Government of National Unity, comprising 20 ministers (including four members of RUF/AFRC); five ministers of State; and 13 deputy ministers

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(including four members of RUF/AFRC). After Parliament confirmed the new appointees, the members of the Government were sworn in on 2 November. Since then, the new Cabinet has met regularly in discharging its functions under the Constitution. However, few policy announcements have been made by the new Government.

5. Also on 20 October, President Kabbah appointed Mr. Sankoh as the Chairman of the Commission for the Management of Strategic Resources, National Reconstruction and Development (CMRRD), and also appointed Mr. Koroma as the Chairman of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (CCP). While the two Commissions have yet to be established, Mr. Koroma has already presented his views concerning the organization of work of CCP, which is the central monitoring body charged with overseeing and facilitating the implementation of the Lomé Agreement. The Parliament decided to establish an Executive Secretariat to assist the work of CMRRD.

6. On 22 November, RUF was registered provisionally with the Interim National Electoral Commission as the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUF) in Freetown. As soon as RUF meets all the criteria of a political party, such as having a constitution and party premises, the registration will become official. Mr. Sankoh, at the time of the registration, announced that all of his main field commanders will now be in charge of the party's chapters in their respective areas of operation. RUF should now give full priority to its transformation into a purely political party, which efforts would be deserving of support and encouragement.

### III. MILITARY AND SECURITY SITUATION

7. After a period of relative calm, the military and security situation deteriorated in the months of October and November as a result of an increase in ceasefire violations and human rights abuses by rebel elements. In early October, RUF moved several hundred RUF fighters from Kailahun to Makeni, the provincial capital of the Northern Province and the central transit point in the north of the country. Makeni, which had been previously under joint RUF/AFRC control, was subsequently attacked and taken over by RUF troops on 15 October. AFRC elements, at the urging of Mr. Koroma, reportedly withdrew northwards. Later, fighting between RUF and AFRC also took place around Lunsar and Rogberi. RUF pursued the retreating AFRC groups from Makeni northwards and now controls a significant portion of the Makeni-Kabala axis south of the town of Kabala, one of the only two locations in the Northern Province under the Government's control.

8. These serious violations of the ceasefire have been condemned by the Joint Monitoring Commission (JMC) and were strongly protested through public statements by my Special Representative. Regional leaders, including President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, also appealed to the parties to stop their military confrontation. To date, RUF remains in control of Makeni and troop movements continue. Efforts to re-establish an Economic Community of West African States Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) presence in this town failed when a company of ECOMOG troops was withdrawn in response to hostile public

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statements by Foday Sankah and Sam Bockarie. However, the same company was deployed at Lunsar on 30 November.

9. On 28 and 29 November, an exchange of fire took place between ECOMOG troops and a group of ex-SLA elements, which had raided the village of Pepel, 20 kilometres East of Lungi. A Ghanian ECOMOG soldier was injured and a rebel was killed in the incident.

10. The Joint Monitoring Commission, which has met regularly since July 1999 under the chairmanship of UNAMSIL, has only recently become fully operational since RUF assigned a permanent member to the Commission. RUF also did not cooperate initially with ceasefire monitoring committees (CMCs) established with the assistance of the United Nations in the areas of Kenema, Bo, Port Loko and Hastings, and threatened UNAMSIL and ECOMOG personnel when requested to provide access to some RUF-controlled areas for CMC activities and other tasks. However, AFRC and RUF representatives to the CMCs have now been appointed and will be briefed on their tasks in early December. Two incidents of short-term detention of UNAMSIL patrols by RUF occurred at Segbwema and Buedu as a result of RUF insistence that no movement may take place without its explicit permission.

11. ECOMOG troops have continued to fulfil their vital tasks of providing security at Freetown and Lungi as well as to many new areas in the southern parts of the country. Some clashes occurred between ECOMOG troops and small groups of armed rebels during the reporting period. ECOMOG also continued to maintain contacts with RUF/AFRC field commanders, and provided some logistical assistance to the Government related to peace efforts, including visits of Mr. Sankoh and Mr. Koroma to the countryside. ECOMOG has also provided support to facilitate humanitarian assistance and to assist released abductees and displaced persons. UNAMSIL military observers continued to work closely with ECOMOG in monitoring the military and security situation in Sierra Leone and in the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

#### IV. DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION

12. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme was officially launched on 20 October by President Kabbah, marked by the disarmament in Freetown of a symbolic number of combatants from the former rebel forces and the Civil Defence Forces (CDF). The first phase of the programme started on 4 November, when four new demobilization centres were opened at Port Loko (with separate centres for RUF/AFRC and CDF), Daru (RUF/AFRC) and Kenema (CDF), in addition to the long-standing camp at Lungi. In each area, several reception sites are operational and are set up to disarm combatants before their transfer to the demobilization centres. UNAMSIL has deployed between 12 and 25 military observers at each location and works closely with the Government, ECOMOG and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID).

13. The initial response to the start of the DDR programme has been very poor. However, after an additional appeal by Mr. Sankoh on 25 and 26 November to RUF fighters at Port Loko and Lunsar, the number of their ex-combatants reporting to

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the DDR camp at Port Loko rose significantly, which caused some strain on the management of the camp. As at 30 November, out of an estimated total of 45,000 fighters, 658 AFRC/ex-SLA, 1,469 RUF and 518 CDF ex-combatants have been registered in demobilization centres, in addition to the 1,572 ex-combatants registered at Lungi. Of the registered ex-combatants, 454 AFRC/ex-SLA/RUF and 92 CDF combatants were children. As of 2 December, the total number of ex-combatants registered at the DDR sites stood at 4,217, and the ratio of surrendered weapons to ex-combatants was about 1:4. Mr. Sankoh indicated that RUF might suspend its participation in disarmament in view of the poor response of the other groups.

14. So far, no RUF combatants have reported for disarmament in the areas of their eastern strongholds around Daru. These troops are under direct command of Sam Bockarie, a key RUF commander, who has publicly stated that the troops under his command will not disarm unless Nigerian ECOMOG troops withdraw from the country. He has also stated that he will resist any attempts at forced disarmament by United Nations troops.

15. In spite of the progress described above, the DDR process continues to suffer because of several security and organizational problems. Continuing movement of RUF troops and the fighting at Makeni have deepened mistrust among the rebels, which has prevented the establishment of a climate of confidence which would encourage ex-combatants to enter the DDR programme. In spite of Mr. Sankoh's public appeals, doubts remain with regard to the RUF commitment to the DDR programme. There is also a lack of understanding among combatants about the provisions of the DDR programme, especially concerning financial support and provisions for reintegration, which requires urgent strengthening of relevant public information programmes. UNAMSIL, for its part, has stepped up its own public information efforts in support of the peace process.

16. Recently, there have been several worrying incidents of unrest among the ex-combatants of the Lungi and Port Loko demobilization centres, partly as a result of a lack of information about the reintegration programme, but also because the ex-combatants have already spent several weeks or months of encampment without any necessary financial assistance for modest expenses or to provide for families and dependents who tend to accompany combatants to the demobilization centres. These issues need to be addressed urgently not only to prevent unrest among ex-combatants but also to make the disarmament programme more attractive for those who have not yet surrendered their arms. In addition, it is important to accelerate the demobilization process in order to avoid a prolonged presence of former fighters in the camps. Serious delays could occur unless a comprehensive plan for reintegration is developed and the necessary arrangements are put in place.

17. The National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (NCDDR), the main policy body in which all key stakeholders are represented (Government, RUF, AFRC, United Nations, ECOMOG and donor representatives), has met weekly to review ways of accelerating the DDR process and provide guidance to the programme. As a result, sensitization efforts have been stepped up, and the RUF/AFRC leadership has received strong encouragement to ensure that their forces participate in the DDR programme. NCDDR also set 15 December as the date at which the phase of disarmament of all ex-combatants should be completed.

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18. Since the camps at Port Loko have now reached full capacity, efforts are under way to establish demobilization centres at Kambia, Makeni and Magburaka once cooperation from RUF is forthcoming. As the number of ex-combatants joining the DDR programme is rising, it has become apparent that strong coordination and leadership is needed to keep the process on course and maintain a level of stability throughout the country. I therefore appeal to the Government of Sierra Leone, to rebel groups and to all agencies involved to step up their efforts to expedite the implementation of the programme.

19. According to World Bank estimates, the financial support to the DDR programme as of 2 December stands at US\$ 5.6 million in committed resources from the United Kingdom to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) administered by the World Bank on behalf of the Government and an additional US\$ 4.3 million in confirmed pledges to MDTF from the Governments of Norway (US\$ 1 million), Germany (US\$ 1 million), Canada (US\$ 1.7 million) and Italy (US\$ 0.6 million). Approximately US\$ 15 million has been made available in parallel or co-financing support, including US\$ 7 million from the World Bank through a community reintegration and rehabilitation project, US\$ 3.5 million from DFID for camp management, a proposal for US\$ 2.7 million from WFP for the feeding of encamped ex-combatants and a US\$ 2 million appeal for activities aimed at child ex-combatants in the year 2000. The Government of Japan has made US\$ 1 million available for DDR activities through the United Nations trust fund. While the contributions made are encouraging signs of the international community's commitment to help the Sierra Leonean people, I should like to reiterate my strong appeal to donors to contribute to the World Bank MDTF in order to meet the total of US\$ 50 million needed for the DDR process.

#### V. HUMAN RIGHTS

20. The human rights situation in Sierra Leone has also deteriorated markedly in recent weeks. Since early October 1999, there has been an escalation of attacks on civilians by former rebel elements in the areas west of the Occra Hills, along the Lungi-Port Loko road, as well as around Kabala and in parts of Koinadugu. The attacks frequently involve rape, abduction and harassment, in addition to looting and destruction of property. The frequency of attacks on civilians continues to impede freedom of movement in many locations and to prompt the displacement of people.

21. In particular, fighting between RUF and ex-SLA elements at Makeni, Lunsar and in other northern areas has resulted in serious abuses of the rights of the affected civilian communities. During the clashes at Makeni and Lunsar a number of civilians were killed, women were raped and there was widespread looting, including of the property of humanitarian organizations. In October, a group of some 40 humanitarian workers were prevented by RUF elements from leaving Makeni for four days. Reports received in recent weeks from Makeni and Lunsar, as well as from other locations under RUF control, such as Magburaka and Fadugu, suggest that the remaining civilian populations are subject to a harsh system of civil control, with severe punishments, including execution or threat of execution for those accused of offences, and the imposition of arduous food levies. Both national and international staff of humanitarian organizations have been subjected to threats and intimidation. One organization was obliged to cease

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operating in Makeni following threats against its personnel delivered by Mr. Sankoh and senior RUF personnel on 15 November.

22. Commitments entered into under the Lomé Agreement and subsequent reaffirmation notwithstanding, both RUF and AFRC have shown great reluctance to release adult and child abductees. Only some 1,000 adults and children have been released so far. Considerable numbers are still in captivity. For instance, more than 2,000 children are registered as missing from the Western Area since the rebel incursion of January 1999. Child fighters, including abductees, were still being sent into combat as recently as October, when a number of 15-year-old boys were injured in combat with other AFRC elements.

23. Commendable efforts are being made to establish an effective and democratic police force in Sierra Leone. The newly appointed Inspector General of the national police has initiated a number of important human rights-related investigations and is promoting the development of enhanced human rights sensitivity within the force. The United Nations is redeploying a small team of civil police advisers, who will coordinate with other international efforts to advise the Government of Sierra Leone and local police officials on police practice, training, re-equipment and recruitment.

24. UNAMSIL is also working closely with consultants provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to facilitate the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Human Rights Commission, both of which are to be set up pursuant to the provisions of the Lomé Agreement. At the request of the Government, the Office of the High Commissioner is developing draft statutes for these Commissions which will be presented to the Government of Sierra Leone. The Office has also commissioned a consultant to study the nexus between the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a possible international commission of inquiry into human rights violations.

## VI. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

25. Deteriorating security conditions throughout the country have reversed gains in access and prevented further expansion of humanitarian activity despite commitments by all parties of the Lomé Agreement to allow unhindered access countrywide. In particular, during the October RUF/AFRC clashes at Makeni, humanitarian agencies were targeted for looting and harassment. Much of the stolen property has not yet been returned. A further result of the fighting has been the displacement of more than 1,500 civilians to Kabala and the suspension of assistance to vulnerable groups. Disturbingly high rates of malnutrition previously assessed in other areas of the northern and eastern provinces remain unaddressed.

26. Humanitarian organizations attempting to re-establish programme activities in the area of Makeni following the October clashes have been forced to withdraw due to threats and harassment by RUF commanders. In addition, on 17 November a vehicle belonging to an international NGO was ambushed along the Port Loko-Lungi highway. Its occupants were abducted and badly treated. Regular attacks on villages in this area have led to an increase of internally displaced persons

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along the Port Loko-Lungi axis. However, insecurity along the highway continues to impede the delivery of humanitarian supplies.

27. Attempts to gain access into these areas continue, including efforts to upgrade roads to allow for large-scale food distributions and other programmes in the Eastern Province. It is obvious that without sustained and convincing action by AFRC and RUF leaders to stem these incidents, the delivery of humanitarian assistance beyond the western area and southern provinces will remain extremely difficult. The deterioration of the security situation has also stalled plans to commence monitoring and assistance to internally displaced persons and returnees.

28. From 7 to 11 November, a multi-donor mission led by Caroline McAskie, Officer-in-Charge of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, visited Sierra Leone and Guinea to determine how best the international donor community could support the peace process. In addition to exploring support for the DDR programme, the mission's findings highlighted the need for a swift and vigorous humanitarian response if access increases dramatically, as well as immediate reintegration programmes for ex-combatants in tandem with support to Sierra Leonean communities. The Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the year 2000, launched on 23 November at Geneva, requests \$71 million in support of humanitarian activities.

#### VII. DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMSIL

29. In line with Security Council resolution 1260 (1999) of 20 August 1999, the civilian component of UNAMSIL is being strengthened with the deployment of additional political affairs and human rights officers, as well as the establishment of public information and civil affairs sections. The chief civil affairs officer has arrived in Freetown and has begun developing the programme of work, which should have its offices throughout the country. A senior Child Protection Adviser will be deployed shortly to ensure adequate and sustained attention to child rights and protection.

30. More than 200 military observers and a 15-member medical team are currently deployed at mission headquarters at Freetown, Hastings, Lungi, Port Loko, Bo, Kenema and Daru. Immediately after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1270 (1999), a United Nations technical team was dispatched to Sierra Leone in late October to assist the Observer Mission in preparing for the deployment of the mandated 6,000 United Nations troops. Despite the very tight timetable, preparation for the deployment of military contingents has progressed effectively, partly as a result of the excellent cooperation provided by the Government of Sierra Leone. By mid-November, reconnaissance parties from India and Kenya for the deployment of their troops had completed their tasks, and had drawn up plans for the deployment of the Indian and Kenyan battalions in Koidu/Kailahun and Makeni/Magburaka by December. The final decisions on deployment of various contingents will take into account security conditions on the ground. Meanwhile, the first contingent of 130 Kenyan troops arrived at Freetown on 29 November. Active preparations continue for the deployment of troops and military observers made available to UNAMSIL by the Governments of Nigeria, Ghana and Guinea. The Secretariat believes that it will be crucial to

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expedite the deployment of these military personnel. A status of forces agreement is being finalized at Headquarters and will shortly be submitted to the Government of Sierra Leone.

31. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations country team have continued to work on developing the modalities for the implementation of the strategic framework for Sierra Leone. An initial draft plan for the strategic framework approach is expected to be completed by the end of December.

32. On 19 November, I appointed Oluyemi Adeniji (Nigeria) as my Special Representative in Sierra Leone. Mr. Adeniji has most recently served as my Special Representative for the Central African Republic. I have also appointed Major-General Vijay Kumar Jetley (India) as Force Commander of UNAMSIL. Both men are expected to assume their duties at Freetown in the first half of December. I would like to pay special tribute to my outgoing Special Representative, Francis Okelo, who has discharged his duties under often very difficult conditions, and I am most grateful for his leadership during the peace process which included the signing of the Lomé Agreement.

#### VIII. OBSERVATIONS

33. Undeniably, some progress has been made in the implementation of the Lomé Agreement with the return of the RUF and AFRC leadership to Sierra Leone, the establishment of the Government of National Unity, the provisional registration of RUF as a political party, and a recent increase of the number of ex-combatants registering for the DDR programme.

34. However, serious human rights abuses, ceasefire violations, including fighting between RUF and AFRC, extensive movement of troops and weapons by the former and the targeting of humanitarian personnel give cause for very serious concern. The continued violence against the people of Sierra Leone and international personnel is unacceptable and perpetrators should expect to be held accountable for their actions. The RUF and AFRC leadership as well as all their local commanders should prove by their actions that they are indeed committed to the peace process, in particular to the complete cessation of hostilities and international human rights standards and humanitarian law, including the release of all abductees as specified in the Lomé Agreement.

35. Despite some improvements, the humanitarian crisis in Sierra Leone continues unabated. In addition, some national and international humanitarian personnel have suffered harassment, assault and even detention at the hands of the former rebel forces. The Lomé Peace Agreement clearly commits all former parties to the conflict to providing safe and unhindered access for humanitarian interventions. Yet the delivery of assistance continues to be obstructed by arbitrary clearance procedures and threats. This should stop.

36. While the United Nations expedites the deployment of its troops in Sierra Leone, ECOMOG is expected to continue to play a critical role in providing national security functions as well as assisting the DDR process, as envisaged in the Lomé Agreement. To this end, it will be required to maintain a credible

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force of several thousand troops. I would like to commend ECOMOG, once again, for its continued efforts in support of the Government and people of Sierra Leone. I therefore would like to renew my strong appeal to donors to provide ECOMOG with much-needed support in order to allow it the means to effectively perform its indispensable tasks.

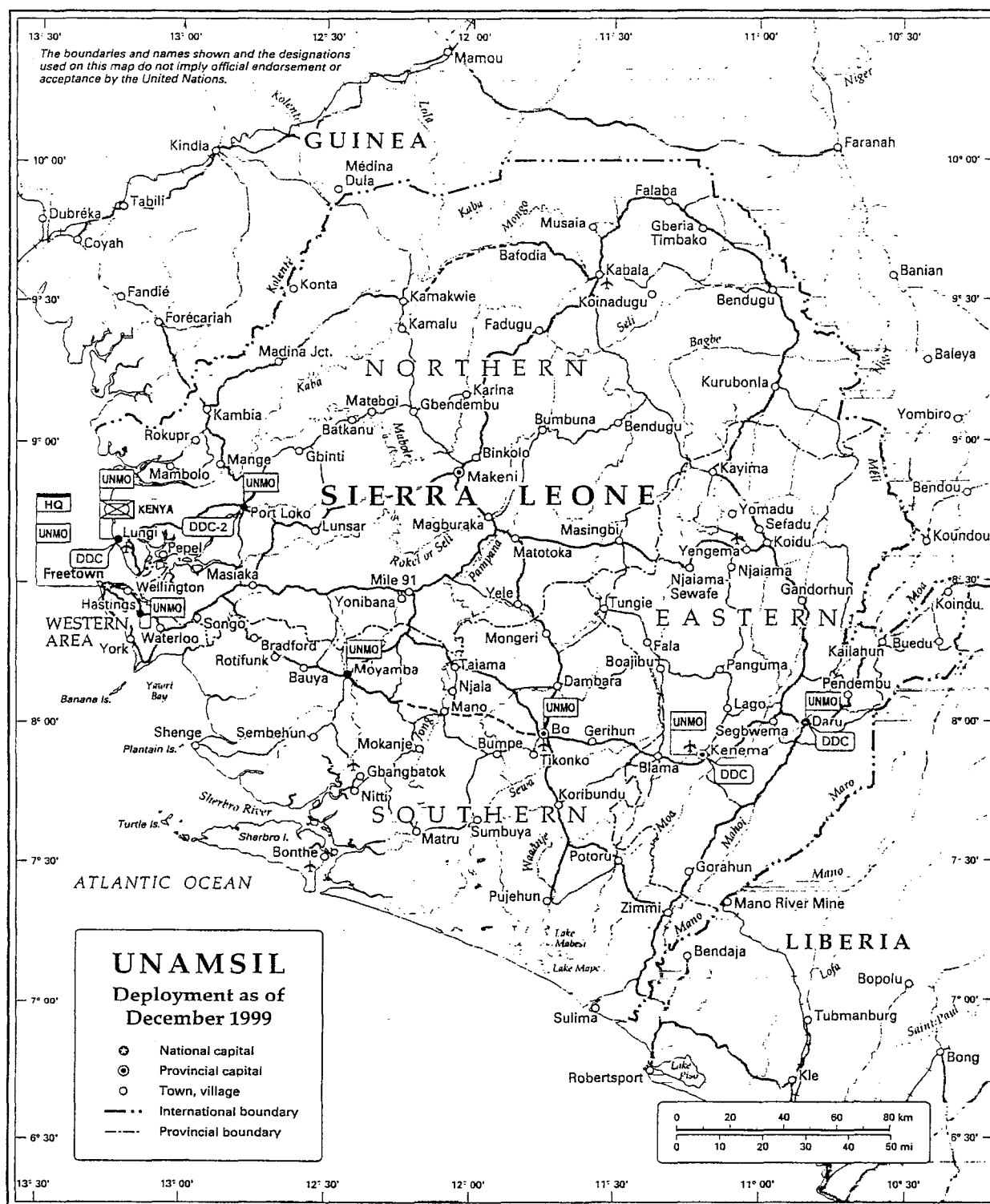
37. I also should like to express my appreciation for the important involvement of regional leaders in the Sierra Leonean peace process, and I should like to encourage them to continue to support the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone, the international community and other stakeholders to bring peace to this battered country.

38. There is also an urgent need to strengthen and accelerate the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants and to enhance the coordination of these crucial activities. I welcome the progress made by the Government of Sierra Leone and the invaluable contributions of the donor community, especially the Government of the United Kingdom and the World Bank, in establishing the necessary demobilization facilities. I encourage all concerned to continue their efforts to build confidence among the parties, increase awareness of the procedures and benefits of the DDR programme and improve the links between the various steps in the programme. I have already asked UNAMSIL to step up its efforts in support of these crucial aspects of the peace process.

39. The commitments of the parties to the Lomé Agreement will be put to the test in the coming crucial period. Now that the main mechanisms for ceasefire monitoring and disarmament are in place, the responsibility rests with the leaders of the rebel movements to advance the peace process in Sierra Leone. The rebel movements now take part in the Government and should work in it towards a durable peace. I believe that any efforts in this regard will meet with the support of the international community. The United Nations, in close cooperation with ECOMOG, stands ready to do its part.

40. I should like, once again, to express my appreciation to my Special Representative, Francis Okelo, to the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General Subhash C. Joshi, and to all the military and civilian personnel of UNAMSIL for their unwavering commitment and efforts under difficult circumstances.

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81. Record of Deaths 1 – 19 January 1999, Births and Deaths Registry, Freetown, Sierra Leone -

DATA FROM  
BARKS AND DEATHS

The attached data is a copy of a data-bag prepared by the Barks of death office received today, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2003, from the Deputy Registrar, Barks of death for Certification at about 1545 hrs.

original copy <sup>to OTR</sup> is retained by the Registrar for completion and submission, when squared off.

Navil banyar (Investigator)

FROM —

TO —

Navil banyar, Para legal  
David Gboyon,

M  
16/5/03

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NAME OF DECEASED	AGE	SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	NAME OF INFORMANT AND ADDRESS.
1 Ibrahim K. Banbara	40	M	Gun shot injury	09-01-99	Issa Adam Conkeh 22C Blackhall Road, Freetown
2 Danda Johnny Conkeh	53	M	Severe Gun shot wounds	09-01-99	Dr. J. D. Sandy Prisons Medical Service
3 Festina Davies	20	F	Gun shot wounds	08-01-99	Saidu Bangura, 5 Mountain Ave
4 Patrick T. Gaye-Kokoy	4	M	Gun shot injury	06-01-99	David T. J. Gaye-Kokoy 16, Savage St, Freetown
5 Abdul Wahid Sawaneh	56	M	Gun shot wounds	21-01-99	Sylvanus Sawaneh - 3 Bright St Freetown.
6 Johannes M. Jones	84	M	Cerebral Haemorrhage	15-01-99	Delewyn C. Barber, 7 F. Henneson St New England
7 Rev Isaac Macken	43	M	Gun shot wounds	12-01-99	Joseph Adem John - 2 Augusta Freetown
8 Eugenia Adem John	36	F	Gun shot wounds	12-01-99	Joseph Adem John - 2 Augusta Freetown
9 Euphemis Adem John	34	F	Gun shot wounds	12-01-99	Joseph Adem John - 2 Augusta Freetown
10 Joseph George	29	M	Bomb blast	15-01-99	Annette Louis - 6, Kipsella St - F17
11 Olu G. Spiller John	81	M	Gun shot wounds	11-01-99	Harold Taylor - 2 Gwinkar Rd
12 Warima Wadi Williams	47	M	Gun shot injury	17-01-99	Eusan Williams - S, Shanty St, Murray Freetown
13 Sitta Kamas	48	M	Gun shot wounds	08-01-99	Abibatu Kamas - 8 H. Asensu, Freetown
14 Fatmata Silla	28	F	Bomb blast	15-01-99	Annette Louis - 6 Kipsella St
15 Georgina Drielly Engh	74	F	Gun shot injury	22-01-99	Anthony Robbin - Goker - 19 Lumley St
16 Ishs Banbara	7	F	Gun shot wounds, Hemorrhage	06-01-99	Dr. Kabba Korita -
17 Samuel F. Williams	74	M	Gun shot injury	09-01-99	Alice Williams - 3, White St, B. Field
18 Cyrus Konde Wriha	32	M	Gun shot wounds	12-01-99	Marfaat Fatah
19 Ernest Arthur French	68	M	Gun shot injury	14-01-99	Cecil French - 25 Dundas St F17
20 Bernard Samuel Banbara	48	M	Gun shot wounds	31-01-99	Nathaniel Benjamin - Kote 14, Williams Lane

NAME OF DECEASED	AGE	SEX	DATE OF DEATH	NAME OF ADDRESS
Jamesina Bangura	7	F	22-01-99	Nana Simbu-33, Davies St, Kissy
Mustapha Kamars	52	M	29-01-99	Abdul A. Bangura - 14 William St
John P. F. Carway	53	M	22-01-99	Alhaji A. Carway - Kinsington Police BKS
Joseph Roy - Macanley	26	M	31-01-99	Eric Macanley - 6, Kiniselle St. F.H
Balogun A. Smith	55	M	07-01-99	Aaron Smith - 5, Happiness St, F.H
Bill Karfo	65	M	06-01-99	Candace Thomas - K4 Fomah Bay College
Musie Balogun Kacie	23	M	11-01-99	Mohamed L. F. Hall - 13 Upper Bombay St
PC 1910 Randolph Bangura	35	M	07-01-99	Georgie Pratt - 16 Allen St.
Amadu Kabba	90	M	07-01-99	Abdulai Farash - 16 Makamah Shippers St
Christian Gungboy Blundie Oble	67	M	27-01-99	Georgina A. Benedict - 29 Wainbosa St
Alhaji Abu Bakar Jumbura	39	M	18-01-99	Binta Jumbura - 92B Kissy Rd, F. H
Prof. Mohamed Danyash	55	M	19-01-99	Moses J. Carew - 24B Blackhall Rd, Kissy
Florence Danyash	56	F	19-01-99	Moses J. Carew - 24B Blackhall Rd, Kissy
Onike Collier	73	F	29-01-99	Francis O. R. Collier - 6, Cardew St, F. H
Saba George	9	M	20-01-99	Julius Dixon - 1, Pine St, F. H
Monoh Koroma	58	M	15-01-99	John Bangura - 3F, Steward St. F.H
Mustapha Amin Khalil	50	M	20-01-99	Amin Khalil - 35 Kissy Bye Pass Rd, Kissy
Frank Albert Kongo	61	M	21-01-99	John Deay - 21B Kiniselle Street, F.H
Alhaji Conteh	88	M	06-01-99	Alhaji Conteh - 70 Lower Bombay St, F.H
Mohamed Savage	17	M	12-01-99	Abdul R. Savage - 132 Fomah Bay Rd
Haji Kakieta Alphaley	78	F	13-01-99	Abdul R. Savage - 132 Fomah Bay Rd
Shériff Oble	68	M	19-01-99	Alhaji A. K. Oble - 8 New St, Cline Town
Samuel Sindis Ofebo	88	M	07-01-99	Jonathan L. Ofebo - 298 Bai Burch Road
Mamei Tucker	17	F	06-01-99	Nathan R. Ofebo - 298 Bai Burch Road

# NAME OF INFORMANT AND ADDRESS

## CAUSE OF DEATH

## DATE OF DEATH

## AGE

## NAME OF DECEASED

15	F	Gun Shot	12-01-99	Gideon B.K.N. Kuyembek (uncle) 7, Mettys Lane Pitt
25	M	Gun Shot Injury	06-01-99	John Davies (Father) 95, Lademb Rd
24	M	Gun Shot Injury	06-01-99	Abraham S. Tress (Nephew) 92, Kising Rd
24	M	Gun Shot Injury	08-01-99	Ngangay Karim (mother) Kington Hillie Sts
39	M	Gun Shot Injury	22-01-99	Mohamed Isalam (Nephew) 14, Taylor St, Wfka
52	M	Gun Shot Injury	06-01-99	Fuko Wyse (Informant) 38, Robert St
64	F	Gun Shot Wounds	20-01-99	Peter Squire (Informant) 36, Newcastle St
36	F	Gun Shot Wounds	20-01-99	Peter Squire (father) 36, Newcastle St
28	M	Gun Shot	07-01-99	Saidh Conteh (brother) 85, Lakeside Rd, Wfka
37	M	Gun Shot	15-01-99	G. Ola Bixon (brother) 20, Gintarment Rd
58	M	Gun Shot	14-01-99	Osman Kabbs (Nephew) 23, French Bay Rd
45	M	Gun Shot Injury	03-02-99	Brian Mansaray (Cousin) 107, Lademb Rd
41	M	Gun Shot Wounds	11-01-99	Matilda Pratt (wife) 4, William Street
8	F	Gun Shot Injury	07-01-99	Aradu G. Kamars (Cousin) 16, Skelton St
28	M	Gun Shot Injury	07-01-99	Aradu G. Kamars (Cousin) 16, Skelton St
6	F	Gun Shot Injury	22-01-99	Rose-marie M'bong (Sister) 28, Lademb Rd
35	F	Gun Shot Injury	22-01-99	Rose-marie M'bong (Niece) 28, Lademb Rd
72	M	Gun Shot Injury	06-01-99	Valentine Pratt (Nephew) 4, Kammaron St
47	M	Gun Shot	08-01-99	Edith Robinson (Cousin) 1, Fetter Lane
20	M	Gun Shot	06-01-99	Alie B. Karbo (uncle) 12, Kennedy St
38	M	Burns	21-01-99	Johns Ade (brother) 19, William Street
21	M	Burns	09-01-99	John Ade (Informant) 19, William Street
67	M	Gun Shot Wounds	09-01-99	John Ade (brother) 19, William Street
24	F	Gun Shot Injury	02-01-99	John Ade (brother) 19, William Street

DATE	NAME	AGE	SEX	DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH	RELATIVES
69	Sabithie Shelley Karbo	26	M	Gun shot wounds	24/01/99	Ibrahim N. Kamars (Cousin) 4 First St, F/T
70	Christian F. Roberts	53	M	Gun shot injury	20/01/99	Grace C. Roberts (Wife) 3, Lange St, F/T
71	Harold Albert Roberts	29	M	Gun shot wounds	20/01/99	Sarah C. Robert (Wife) 3, Lange St, F/T
72	S.I. Balla Muis Kamars	43	M	Gun shot injury	15/01/99	S. I. Kamars (Brother) Police HQ
73	Mhaji Idris Abbas Karbo	40	M	Gun shot injury	01/99	McKane S.H. Kamars (Cousin) 4, 61th Street
74	Victor S.J. Walker	27	M	Gun shot injuries	10/01/99	Josephine Walker (Mother) 2, 11th Street
75	Thode J. Langley	65	M	Gun shot injuries	23/01/99	Abdullah Langley (Mother) 8, Bower St, Wellington
76	Marjarette Sheriff	50	F	Gun shot wounds	25/04/99	Emily Sheriff (Daughter) 2, Sanders St.
77	Winifred A. Abiba-Davies	56	F	Gun shot wounds	09/01/99	Sarah Thomas (Sister) 31, Upper Brook St, F/T
78	Abdulla Saw	34	M	Gun shot injury	10/01/99	Amadu Kamars (Informant) 7, Block Lane F/T
79	Osman Sessay	45	M	Gun shot wounds	14/01/99	Abdul Ba-gurs (Cousin) 14 William St
80	McKane Charm	21	M	Gun shot injuries	15/01/99	Rebeca Charm (Wife) 33A, Grassfield, Lumley
	McMandu Samars	10 mths	M	Gun shot	07/01/99	Samuel Samars (Uncle) 37, Grassfield, Lumley
82	Sahr Nasiru Gbore	48	M	Gun shot injuries	14/01/99	Sambo Johnny Abdul (Cousin) 43 William St, F/T
83	Tambu Amadu Gingo	15	M	Gun shot injuries	14/01/99	Sambo Johnny Abdul (Brother) 43 William St, F/T
84	Solomon T. Johnny	32	M	Gun shot injury	20/01/99	Francis Gbando (Brother) 11 Larkin St, F/T
85	Francis Boyle	18	M	Gun shot injury	11/02/99	Ebenezer Boyle (Father) 8, Sarape Square F/T
86	Hawst Nabien	67	F	Butchered by rebels	27/01/99	Joseph Gbore (Brother) 17, Newcastle St, Kusa
87	Sheriff H. Sessay	43	M	Gun shot injuries	07/01/99	Sessie T.G. Sessay (Brother) 14 Johnson St, Aberdeen
88	Mary Kamars	41	F	Gun shot injuries	23/01/99	Hannah, 65 (Daughter) 15, Henneson St, F/T

AGE OF DECEASED	DATE OF DEATH	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	CAUSE OF DEATH	RELATIVES
7 Daniel Cornelius Palmer	63	M	21/01/99	Gun shot injuries	Modupeh Davies (sister) 15, Rose St, Kissy
8 Allen Badara Kamara	45	M	20/01/99	Gun shot injuries	Abdul Karmar (step-father) 9, Horton Lane Pitt
9 Maddy Y Kebe	34	M	09/01/99	Gun shot injuries	Alimamy Janda Kebe 1 St Joseph VCE Centre, Kussa
10 Regins Williams	18	F	06/01/99	Gun shot injuries	Ann-Flane Vincent (mother) 25, Kervival St, Pitt
11 Mose A. Adu	43	M	23/01/99	Gun shot injuries	Wuyats Adu (wife) 53, Pademba Rd. Pitt
12 Mose Fayis Stevens	31	M	21/01/99	Gun shot	Galleh A. Brains (co-worker) 61, J. Hill St, Terrace, Wotton
13 Graphs Kann Seay	60	M	21/01/99	Gun shot	Franklyn Kann Seay (son) 61, Thander Hill, Kissy
14 SLP Sgt 1837 John Tokawa	35	M	07/01/99	Gun shot injuries	James Tokawa (brother) 6, George Brook Pitt
15 Daphne J.A. Kai Kai	35	F	07/01/99	Gun shot wounds	Patrick Kai Kai, 20A Monmouth Aired Terrace
16 Manu Lappis Kamara	78	M	22/01/99	Gun shot	Rev. Darlington Morris (son) 38, Liverpool St, Pitt
17 Amelia Cole	77	F	01/02/99	Butchered by rebels	Rev. Darlington Morris (son) 38, Liverpool St, Pitt
18 Ramatu Gibrill	55	F	22/01/99	Gun shot	Hamara D. B. Gibrill (brother) 9, Kamanda Farm, Kissy
19 Phelix S. Manissey	35	M	23/01/99	Gun shot	John Kamara (brother) 9, Kamanda Farm, Kissy
20 Fatmata Jorinks	43	F	07/01/99	Gun shot	Foday Bibson Jorinks (son) 26, Confo valley, Jorinks
21 Theodore B. Max-Peter	70	M	06/01/99	Gun shot	Elizabeth Max-Peter (wife) 45, Main Rd, Allen Farm
22 Samuel A. Kargbo	55	M	06/01/99	Gun shot	Isatu Kargbo (wife) 9, Lawson Lane, Pitt
23 Alayhie Davids Kabba	21	M	12/01/99	Gun shot injuries	Abdul A. Kabba (son) 55, Adolphus St, Kissy
24 Mohamed Galien Kamara	38	M	21/01/99	Gun shot	Alpha Kamara (father) 35, Newsite, May 1983
25 Aruna Manu Jambungs	28	M	20/01/99	Gun shot	Amadu Jambungs (father) 3, Eousas St, Keeson
26 Mohamed Aliou	28	M	20/01/99	Gun shot	Amadu Jambungs (father) 3, Eousas St, Pitt

NAME OF DECEASED	AGE	SEX	CAUSE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	NAME OF RELATIVE	ADDRESS
101. Monah A. Mansaray	39	M	Bomb Blast	11-01-99	UNISS Mansaray (Brother)	15, Ambrose St, F/T
110. Mariama Jalloh	22	F	Gun Shot Injury	08-01-99	Abu Bakar Kamari (Informant)	21, Kamara's Market, Banjul
111. Mama Turay	31	F	Gun shot Wounds	09-01-99	Abu Seay (Cousin)	Jariya St, Kisser
112. Elizabeth Larkah	46	F	Gun Shot Wounds	07-01-99	Alhaji J. B. Larkah ( )	6, Keh Turay Lane
113. Abu Bakar Deen	20	M	Gun Shot	09-01-99	Abdul Karim Deen (Father)	6, Dgn St, G. M.
114. Peter Mansaray	33	M	Gun Shot	06-01-99	Mary Pratt (Mother)	24, Guard St, F/T
115. Talibi Kamara	13	M	Gun Shot	11/01/99	Abdulai Sillah	
116. Kari Charles	23	M	Gun Shot	06/01/99	Chief Tamborfeika Kamphie (Uncle)	19 Regent St
117. Tamborfeika Kamphie	13	M	Gun Shot	06/01/99	Chief Tamborfeika Kamphie	119 Regent St
118. Marie Mansaray	45	F	Gun Shot	08/01/99	Abu Bakar Kamara (son)	1 East Beale Lane
119. Mohamed Kamara	50	M	Bomb blast	12/01/99	Ali I. Turay (Uncle)	10, Gommuel St, F/T
120. David Kamara	28	M	Gun Shot	12/01/99	Ali I. Turay (Brother)	10, Gommuel St
121. Alhaji Kamara	19	M	Gun Shot	12/01/99	Ali I. Turay (Brother)	10, Gommuel St
122. Yeabur Kamara	28	F	Gun Shot	04/02/99	Ali I. Turay (Brother)	10, Gommuel St
123. Uman B. Karam	32	M	Gun Shot	17/01/99	Mohamed Amadu Karam (Brother)	40 Byrne Lane, W. Kisser
124. George D. Taylor	50	M	Gun Shot	01/02/99	Velma Laura Thomas (Sister)	K. French Bay College
125. Issa Kamara	65	M	Gun Shot	22/01/99	Mohamed (Nephew)	2, G. City Rd, Wellington
126. Nathaniel Pratt	30	M	Gun Shot	08/01/99	Augustus B. Pratt (father)	13, Water Street, Cape Town
127. Sidi Y. Conneh	22	M	Gun Shot	07/01/99	Mike Sallie (Nephew)	14, Kamara St, G. Kisser
128. Joseph Y. Conneh	27	M	Gun Shot	10/01/99	Barbosh Augustini Conneh (Father)	20, Fly St, F/T
129. George D. Brown	13	M	G. Shot	21/01/99	Geetha J. Thompson (Nephew)	67 Wellington St
130. Katrina Thrice	15	M	Gun Shot	21/01/99	Thrice J. Thrice (Mother)	26, Newmarket St, F/T



1	Allassa Bassie	48	M	Gun shot	21-01-99	Mamie Babin Forey (sister) 64, Foreybank
2	James N. D. Dsho-Williams	66	M	Gun shot	11-01-99	Vicko Dsho-Williams (son) 96, Dundas St. St.
3	Mohamed H. Karabo	19	M	Gun shot	9-01-99	Alphas Karabo (father) 1, Robert St. St.
4	Alusine Sankoh	47	M	Gun shot	21-01-99	Esther Sankoh (wife) 51, Dancos St.
5	Desmond Parsons	37	M	Gun shot	06-01-99	Isiah Parsons (wife) 9, Nicol Lane, Kissy
6	Kassim Pignifrape	47	M	Gun shot	12-01-99	Tepan Kassim fawape
7	David Carew	24	M	Gun shot	23-01-99	Inpham S. Carew (father) 10, Bruce Lane
8	Ernest M. Coker	25	M	Gun shot	07-01-99	Josephine Coker (mother) 1, Fadenbys Rd. St.
9	Aben Bakkar Komars	44	M	Gun shot	25/01/99	Desman Thray (Cousin) 65, Gumsail, Jun Pt.
10	Maxim Thray	43	M	Gun shot	19-01-99	Salomatu Thray (wife) 48, Blackhall Rd. St.
11	Belmon Lonsos Jarawally	50	M	Gun shot	23-01-99	Paul Muss Jarawally (brother) 4, John St. Kissy
12	Thorahim Thray	15	M	Gun shot	19-01-99	Salomatu Thray (mother) 48, Blackhall Rd.
13	Timaru Komars	23	M	Gun shot	22-01-99	Salomatu Thray (sister) 48, Blackhall Rd.
14	Vetia Roberts	21	F	Gun shot injuries	07-01-99	Mary Barnes (mother) 23, Benjamin Lane
15	Hannah Sessay	12	F	Gun shot injuries	07-01-99	Mary Barnes (mother) 23, Benjamin Lane
16	Richard Komars	15	M	Gun shot	09-01-99	Amadu Jarawally (Informant) 25, Regent St.
17	Alphas Osman Barrie	40	M	Gun shot	06-01-99	?
18	Euben Anarchie Abokey	14	M	Blast injuries	11-01-99	?
19	Emmanuel Lonsos	45	M	Gun shot	14-01-99	David M. Charles - 21, Pyke St. St.

87. Speech by the President of Sierra Leone His Excellency. Alhaj Dr. Ahmd Tejan kabbah at the ceremony marking the conclusion and disarmament and the destruction of weapons Lungi, 18 January 2002.

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**Speech by the President of Sierra Leone  
His Excellency, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah  
at the ceremony marking the conclusion of  
disarmament and the destruction of weapons  
Lungi, 18 January 2002**

Never before since March 1996 when I took the solemn oath of office to lead this nation have I been so moved by a public ceremony as the one we are witnessing here today. It is indeed an honour and a great privilege for me to stand here and serve as host for this awe-inspiring declaration of peace in Sierra Leone.

Not too long ago, the flames of war were mercilessly consuming thousands of innocent lives and countless property in several parts of our country. Today, we are happy that those flames of war have been extinguished, and that now we are about to watch the flames of peace, destroy some of the implements of war. What a relief! The ceremony marks the symbolic conclusion of the disarmament process, and an historic expression of our deep sense of national triumph.

The presence of some of my colleagues, President John Kufour and so many Foreign and Defence Ministers underscores the significance of the occasion. I should, therefore, on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone, and on my own personal behalf, start by extending a warm welcome to you all. We also welcome the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, Dr. Mohamed Chambers, and high level representatives of other leaders and heads of organizations who would have also liked to join us here today, but were unable to do so because of pressing commitments. I have no doubt that they also associate themselves with the spirit of this ceremony.

The conflict that has just formally ended was essentially an internal conflict. However, no one should underestimate its regional and international dimensions and implications. So let me touch briefly on the roles of ECOWAS, the United Nations and the rest of the international community.

Today, as we celebrate the dawn of lasting peace and security in Sierra Leone, we are also symbolically erecting a new milestone on the road to peace and stability in the West African sub-region. The events in the past ten to twelve years have shown that the proverbial 'we are our neighbour's keeper' has become more relevant to the situation in our sub-region.

To our sister states of ECOWAS, it is an understatement to say that you have given true meaning to the concept of collective regional security. The mandate that ECOWAS received from the UN Security Council in resolution 1132 (1997), under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, to enforce and monitor implementation of the arms and oil embargo against the rebel-military junta, was a landmark decision. It was an acknowledgement of the capacity of ECOWAS as an instrument of conflict resolution in the international system. It turned out to be one of the stepping stones towards the peace process in Sierra Leone.

I should like to pay special tribute to those States, members of ECOWAS, that have advanced the cause of peace in Sierra Leone, as troop contributors to ECOMOG; in particular, Nigeria, Guinea, Ghana and Mali; or as facilitators and hosts of peace talks, especially Cote d'Ivoire and Togo. To other states of the Community that demonstrated their solidarity with the people of Sierra Leone

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throughout the conflict, we salute you.

We remember those ECOMOG soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice of giving up their own lives so that our children can live in peace. We renew our assurances to their families and respective governments that their memories will for ever remain in our hearts. I would like to reassure you that every Sierra Leonean knows that without ECOWAS and its monitoring group, ECOMOG, the prospects for disarmament and peace would have been extremely bleak.

Let me however, point out, that notwithstanding the resounding success of ECOWAS in Sierra Leone, the organization is facing a serious challenge to its principal mission, namely "to promote regional integration in all fields of economic activity." There are still elements of threats to peace in our sub-region. These include the illicit transfer of arms and ammunition, the illicit trade in diamonds and other natural resources to fuel or prolong armed conflict and in the process reek havoc on innocent and defenceless civilians. These cruel and destabilizing activities are an anomaly. They continue to impede development. They must be eliminated so that we can devote all our energy, collectively, to the task of lifting our peoples out of the bondage of abject poverty.

As we watch a collection of arms and ammunition go up in flames, we must remind ourselves of the need to faithfully respect the ECOWAS Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa. We must see the Moratorium as both a security mechanism, and a catalyst of economic and social development in West Africa. Sierra Leone wholeheartedly endorsed the action taken last July to extend the Moratorium for another three years.

Excellencies, please allow me on this occasion to appeal to all members of ECOWAS and the inter-state groupings within the Community, for a new commitment not only to the principles of good neighbourliness, but more importantly to the ideals of brotherhood. We, the leaders of our respective nations in the sub-region often refer to each other as brothers. Let us use the success that we are celebrating today as a source of inspiration to work harder in strengthening the family and other ties that bind us as one great community of peoples.

Excellencies, distinguished guests:

The people of Sierra Leone are equally grateful to the United Nations and the rest of the international community, for their support in making this celebration possible. We acknowledge that long before the outbreak of the rebel war, many of your representatives were here in this country as partners in development, helping us to take care of the health and welfare of our children; working hand in hand with our own nationals to construct roads and bridges, equip schools and hospitals, develop high yielding seeds for greater food production; and building the capacity of Sierra Leoneans to be economically self-sufficient.

In the course of the war, international organizations provided essential humanitarian relief to thousands of Sierra Leonean refugees and the internally displaced. They have also lent their support in rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes. We must confess though that there were times in the course of the armed conflict when many of our people thought that we were being abandoned, or that our cry for help was perhaps not loud enough to prod the world to provide the quality and quantum of response that our precarious situation required. There were other occasions when the average Sierra Leonean felt that repeated requests for urgent international assistance to enable ECOMOG to do the job would never materialize. Secretary-General Kofi Annan once had to make a plea that the international community must not fail the people of Sierra

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Leone.

However, as I often observe, Sierra Leone has tested the capacity of the United Nations, and indeed the international community, to respond to the major challenges of our times in the areas of peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, the protection of human rights and the administration of justice. Your overall response to those challenges has been extraordinary. This is reflected in the operations of UNAMSIL, in the activities of such agencies as UNHCR and UNICEF, and more recently in the decision to establish the Special Court. For these and other forms of assistance, we are profoundly grateful. Without the contribution of the various organizations and agencies, governmental and non-governmental, most of us would not have lived to see this glorious day.

In thanking all countries that have contributed troops and to UNAMSIL, let me also on this occasion renew our expression of deepest sympathy to the families and governments of the UNAMSIL peacekeepers who lost their lives in the service of the United Nations on our soil.

To the United Nations and the international community, I must reiterate that the process of disarmament is formally over. However, the equally formidable tasks of reintegration and rehabilitation have only just begun. In this connection, I wish to draw your attention to the recent observation by Secretary-General Kofi Annan that "the limited availability of reintegration opportunities for ex-combatants, as a result of inadequate funds, remains a source of serious concern." We could not agree with him more.

The international community cannot afford to create another feeling of abandonment in the minds of Sierra Leoneans, especially the young ex-combatants and those who could be described as non-combatants. We therefore appeal to the international community to remain engaged in our efforts to consolidate the peace in Sierra Leone. We know from experience that the timeliness and level of international assistance often determine the course of events in conflict and post-conflict situations. We continue to count on your support.

Excellencies, distinguished guests:

Sierra Leone has many friends within the international community. But we also have some very very good and faithful friends; friends whom we are obliged to single out for special commendation by name on an occasion such as this. I refer to the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the United States of America and the Peoples Republic of China. The Governments and peoples of these friendly States deserve separate chapters in the history of our transition from war to peace. As the old adage goes, "a friend in need is a friend indeed."

Now, to you my compatriots, this is the day we have all been patiently waiting for. As I told you two Sundays ago, the rest of the world has been impressed by our resilience. Your courage has been exemplary. You fought hard, not merely to defend your right to live but also to uphold the principles of democratic governance and the rule of law. A few individuals declared war and used others to wage and prolong the senseless war. We continue to maintain that your response was an act of legitimate self-defence.

We have learned the hard way that the paths to disarmament and peace are not paved with gold. There was considerable loss of life and destruction of property. We encountered obstacles of various dimensions, such as intransigence, bad faith, greed, fear, apprehension, and in some instances financial constraints. There were inordinate delays and detours on the road. Today, we can take pride in the fact that we have at last arrived at a stage where for the first time in more

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than ten years, we can confidently speak about real peace and security.

This ceremony marking the symbolic conclusion of disarmament, and in celebration of peace, is so important for every one of us, that we intend to replicate it in other parts of the country over the next several days. Many of those who are not present here today will also have the opportunity to witness and be part of the celebration of this dramatic change in the history of Sierra Leone.

Fellow compatriots as the celebration continues, we are about to face our first major challenge in the area of peaceful political transition, namely Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The elections will test our ability to apply the new culture of peace that we recently embraced in our relations with each other. The forthcoming electoral process will test our patriotism, our determination to put armed conflict behind us, to renounce violence as a means of bringing about political or any other change in this country. If we really appreciate peace, we should live and practice peace.

Let me take this opportunity to reiterate that election is not a war. The war is over. What we are about to embark upon on is a friendly contest. Election is a process by which we should freely and peacefully choose those who we believe are qualified to assume the heavy responsibility of serving this nation.

I am confident that guided by the lessons of the past ten years, and inspired by this symbolic but momentous occasion we are witnessing today, the forthcoming elections will be free and fair, and will be the most peaceful in the history of our beloved country.

Fellow compatriots, another test that we must pass is in the area of reconciliation and justice. We must recognize that justice and reconciliation are major components of peace. Furthermore, the administration of justice is an integral part of the process of national reconciliation. If we really want to consolidate the peace, if we really want to facilitate the process of national reconciliation, we must be prepared to deal effectively with the trauma, the emotional pain resulting from that bitter conflict. One principal institution designed for this purpose is of course the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). We should all look forward to its proceedings, and the outcome of its work.

And speaking of reconciliation brings me to the issue of the Special Court which, I must emphasize, is part of the process of national reconciliation. One cannot speak about the need for national reconciliation, and at the same time ignore or dismiss the moral and constitutional imperative of upholding the rule of law. The Special Court is about accountability. It is about justice. I should add however, that justice is not merely an act of punishment, of revenge or of retribution. In our situation it is a means of dealing with impunity. It is also a means of ensuring that at all times, the human rights of every individual, including those who are caught up in armed conflict, are respected and protected.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, fellow Sierra Leoneans,

On this auspicious occasion, I have spoken about peace in Sierra Leone and the roles of our sub-regional organization, the United Nations and the rest of the international community, as well as our own effort in securing the peace that we are here to celebrate. I spoke about arms, about war, and about the need for peaceful political change through free and fair elections. I also dwelt on what I consider our collective responsibility to cooperate in consolidating the gains we have made through, among other things, such components of peace as justice, the rule of law, protection of

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human rights, national reconciliation and the maintenance of an open society.

I must pause here to explain the concept of an open society. An open society and civil society are often confused with each other. Actually, a healthy civil society is part of an open society, but only a part. We are told that an open society also needs a democratic government and a private sector that is independent of the government. To safeguard these elements it needs the rule of law.

We must note however, that peace and reconciliation cannot be imposed, it cannot be decreed, and it cannot be established by legislation or by commission. Peace and forgiveness must come from the hearts and minds of the people concerned, namely, us Sierra Leoneans.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

The main thrust of my remarks could be summarized in the following profound words of wisdom from His Holiness Pope John Paul II. They were addressed to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See four years ago this month. His Holiness said:

"If violent attainment of power becomes the norm, if insistence on ethnic consideration continues to override all concerns, if democratic representation is systematically put aside, if corruption and arms trade continue to rage, then Africa will never experience peace and development, and future generations will mercilessly judge these pages of African history."

The message was for Africa, from someone of high repute who sees himself as a friend of Africa. I believe that it is also appropriate for this particular gathering.

Thank you once again for your presence and support in our continued search for sustainable peace, security and the development of this country.