

SCSL-2003-08-I

7 MARCH 2003

THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

07 MAR 2003

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*[Signature]*

17:00 hrs.

CASE NO. SCSL - 03 - - I

**THE PROSECUTOR**

**Against**

**SAM HINGA NORMAN**

**INDICTMENT**

The Prosecutor, Special Court for Sierra Leone, under Article 15 of the Statute of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (the Statute), charges:

**SAM HINGA NORMAN**

with **CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, VIOLATIONS OF ARTICLE 3 COMMON TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II, and OTHER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW** in violation of Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the Statute, as set forth below:

**THE ACCUSED**

1. **SAM HINGA NORMAN**, (the **ACCUSED**) was born on 1 January 1940, in Ngolala Village, Mongeri (or Monghere), Valunia Chiefdom, Bo District, in the Southern Province of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
2. The **ACCUSED** served in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone from about 1959 to 1972 rising to the rank of Captain. In 1966 he graduated from the Mons Officer Cadet School in Aldershot, United Kingdom. The **ACCUSED** has served as Liaison Representative and Chiefdom Spokesman in Mongeri, Valunia Chiefdom, as Regent Chief of Jaiama Bongor Chiefdom, and as Deputy Minister of Defence for Sierra Leone. He is currently serving as the Minister of the Internal Affairs for Sierra Leone.

## GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

3. At all times relevant to this Indictment, a state of armed conflict existed in Sierra Leone. For the purposes of this Indictment the organized armed factions involved in this conflict included the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) fighting against the combined forces of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC).
4. A nexus existed between the armed conflict and all acts or omissions charged herein as Violations of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II and as Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law.
5. The CDF was an organized armed force comprising various tribally-based traditional hunters. The Kamajors were comprised mainly of persons from the Mende tribe resident in the South and East of Sierra Leone, and was the predominant group within the CDF. Other groups playing a less dominant role were the Gbethis and the Kapras, both comprising mainly of Temnes from the north; the Tamaboros, comprising mainly of Korankos also from the north; and the Donsos, comprising mainly of Konos from the east.
6. The RUF was founded about 1988 or 1989 in Libya and began organized armed operations in Sierra Leone in or about March 1991. The AFRC was founded by members of the Armed Forces of Sierra Leone who seized power from the elected government of Sierra Leone via a coup d'état on 25 May 1997. Soldiers of the Sierra Leone Army comprised the majority of the AFRC membership. Shortly after the AFRC seized power, the RUF joined with the AFRC.
7. **SAM HINGA NORMAN** and subordinate members of the CDF were required to abide by International Humanitarian Law and the laws and customs governing the conduct of armed conflicts, including the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions, to which the Republic of Sierra Leone acceded on 21 October 1986.
8. All offences charged herein were committed within the territory of Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

9. All acts or omissions charged herein as Crimes Against Humanity were committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.
10. The words civilian or civilian population used in this indictment refer to persons who took no active part in the hostilities, or were no longer taking an active part in the hostilities.

#### **INDIVIDUAL CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

11. Paragraphs 3 through 10 are incorporated by reference.
12. At all times relevant to this Indictment **SAM HINGA NORMAN** was the National Coordinator of the CDF. As such he was the principal force in establishing, organizing, supporting, providing logistical support, and promoting the CDF. The **ACCUSED** was also the leader and Commander of the Kamajors and as such had *de jure* and *de facto* command and control over the activities and operations of the Kamajors.
13. **SAM HINGA NORMAN**, by his acts or omissions is individually criminally responsible pursuant to Article 6.1. of the Statute for the crimes referred to in Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the Statute as alleged in this indictment, which crimes the **ACCUSED** planned, instigated, ordered, committed, or in whose planning, preparation or execution the **ACCUSED** otherwise aided and abetted, or which crimes were within a common purpose, plan or design in which the **ACCUSED** participated or were a reasonably foreseeable consequence of the common purpose, plan or design in which the **ACCUSED** participated.
14. In addition, or alternatively, pursuant to Article 6.3. of the Statute, **SAM HINGA NORMAN**, while holding positions of superior responsibility and exercising command and control over his subordinates, is individually criminally responsible for the crimes referred to in Articles 2, 3, and 4 of the Statute. The **ACCUSED** is responsible for the criminal acts of his subordinates in that he knew or had reason to know that the subordinates were about to commit such acts or had done so and he

failed to take the necessary and reasonable measures to prevent such acts or to punish the perpetrators thereof.

- 15. The plan, purpose or design of **SAM HINGA NORMAN** and subordinate members of the CDF was to use any means necessary to defeat the RUF/AFRC forces and to gain and exercise control over the territory of Sierra Leone. This included gaining complete control over the population of Sierra Leone and the complete elimination of the RUF/AFRC, its supporters, sympathizers, and anyone who did not actively resist the RUF/AFRC occupation of Sierra Leone. The **ACCUSED** acted individually, and in concert with subordinates, to carry out the said plan, purpose or design.
- 16. **SAM HINGA NORMAN** as National Coordinator of the CDF and Commander of the Kamajors knew and approved the recruiting, enlisting, conscription, initiation, and training of Kamajors, including children below the age of 15 years. The **ACCUSED** knew and approved the use of such children to participate actively in hostilities.

**CHARGES**

- 17. Paragraphs 3 through 16 are incorporated by reference.
- 18. The Kamajors engaged the combined RUF/AFRC forces in armed conflict in various parts of Sierra Leone – to include, but not limited to Tongo Field, Kenema, Bo, and Koribondo and the surrounding areas. Civilians, including women and children, who were suspected to have supported, sympathized with, or simply failed to actively resist the combined RUF/AFRC forces were termed “**Collaborators**” and specifically targeted by the Kamajors. Once so identified, these “**Collaborators**” and any captured enemy combatants were unlawfully killed. Victims were often shot, hacked to death, or burnt to death. Other practices included human sacrifices and cannibalism.
- 19. These actions by the Kamajors, which also included looting and destruction of private property, were intended to threaten and terrorize the civilian population. Many civilians saw these crimes committed; others returned to find the results of these crimes – dead bodies, mutilated victims and looted and burnt property. Typical Kamajor actions and the resulting crimes included, but were not limited to:

- a. Between about 1 November 1997 and about 1 April 1998, multiple attacks on Tongo Field and the surrounding area and towns during which the Kamajors unlawfully killed or inflicted serious bodily harm and serious physical suffering on an unknown number of civilians and captured enemy combatants. Kamajors screened the civilians and those identified as “**Collaborators**,” along with any captured enemy combatants, were unlawfully killed.
- b. On or about 15 February 1998 Kamajors attacked and took control of Kenema. In conjunction with the attack, both at and near Kenema and at a nearby location known as SS Camp, Kamajors continued to identify suspected “**Collaborators**,” unlawfully killing or inflicting serious bodily harm and serious physical suffering on an unknown number of civilians and captured enemy combatants. Kamajors also entered the police barracks in Kenema and unlawfully killed an unknown number of Sierra Leone Police Officers.
- c. In or about January and February 1998, the Kamajors attacked Bo, Koribondo, and the surrounding areas. The practice of killing captured enemy combatants and suspected “**Collaborators**” continued and as a result, the Kamajors unlawfully killed or inflicted serious bodily harm and serious physical suffering on an unknown number of civilians and enemy combatants. Also, as part of these attacks in and around Bo and Koribondo, the Kamajors destroyed and looted an unknown number of civilian owned and occupied houses, buildings and businesses.
- d. In an operation called Black December, Kamajors blocked all major highways and roads leading to major towns mainly in the southern and eastern Provinces. As a result of these actions, the Kamajors unlawfully killed an unknown number of civilians and captured enemy combatants.

#### COUNTS 1 – 2: UNLAWFUL KILLINGS

20. Unlawful killings included, but were not limited to, the following:
  - a. between about 1 November 1997 and about 1 February 1998, at or near Tongo Field, an unknown number of civilians and captured enemy combatants;

- b. on or about 15 February 1998, at or near Kenema and SS Camp, an unknown number of civilians and captured enemy combatants;
- c. on or about 15 February 1998, at or near Kenema, an unknown number of Sierra Leone Police Officers;
- d. in or about January and February 1998, at or near Bo and Koribondo, an unknown number of civilians and captured enemy combatants;
- e. between about 1 November 1997 and about 1 February 1998, as part of Operation Black December in the southern and eastern Provinces of Sierra Leone, an unknown number of civilians and captured enemy combatants.

By his acts or omissions in relation, but not limited to, these events, **SAM HINGA NORMAN** pursuant to Article 6.1. and, or alternatively, Article 6.3. of the Statute, is individually criminally responsible for the crimes alleged below:

**Count 1:** Murder, a **CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY**, punishable under Article 2.a. of the Statute of the Court;

In addition, or in the alternative:

**Count 2:** Violence to life, health and physical or mental well-being of persons, in particular murder, a **VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 3 COMMON TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II**, punishable under Article 3.a. of the Statute.

**COUNTS 3 – 4: PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND MENTAL SUFFERING**

- 21. Acts of physical violence and infliction of mental harm or suffering included, but were not limited to, the following:
  - a. between about 1 November 1997 and about 1 April 1998, at various locations to include Tongo Field, Kenema and the surrounding areas, the intentional infliction of serious bodily harm and serious physical suffering on an unknown number of civilians;

- b. between about 1 November 1997 and about 1 April 1998, at Tongo Field, Kenema, Bo, Koribondo and surrounding areas, the intentional infliction of serious mental harm and serious mental suffering on an unknown number of civilians by the actions of the Kamajors, including, but not limited to, screening for “Collaborators,” unlawfully killing of suspected “Collaborators,” often in plain view of friends and relatives, the destruction of homes and other buildings, looting and threats to unlawfully kill, destroy and loot.

By his acts or omissions in relation, but not limited to, these events, **SAM HINGA NORMAN** pursuant to Article 6.1. and, or alternatively, Article 6.3. of the Statute, is individually criminally responsible for the crimes alleged below:

**Count 3:** Inhumane Acts, a **CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY**, punishable under Article 2.i. of the Statute;

In addition, or in the alternative:

**Count 4:** Violence to life, health and physical or mental well-being of persons, in particular cruel treatment, a **VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 3 COMMON TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II**, punishable under Article 3.a. of Statute.

**COUNT 5: LOOTING AND BURNING**

- 22. Looting and burning included, but were not limited to, between about 1 November 1997 and about 1 April 1998, at various locations to include Bo, Koribondo and the surrounding areas, the unlawful taking and destruction by burning of private property.

By his acts or omissions in relation, but not limited to, these events, **SAM HINGA NORMAN** pursuant to Article 6.1. and, or alternatively, Article 6.3. of the Statute, is individually criminally responsible for the crime alleged below:

**Count 5:** Pillage, a **VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 3 COMMON TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II**, punishable under Article 3.f. of the Statute.

**COUNTS 6 – 7: TERRORIZING THE CIVILIAN POPULATION and COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENTS**

23. At all times relevant to this Indictment, Kamajors committed the crimes set forth in paragraphs 17 through 22 and charged in counts 1 through 5, including threats to kill, destroy and loot, as part of a campaign to terrorize the civilian populations of those areas and did terrorize those populations. The Kamajors also committed the crimes to punish the civilian population for their support to, or failure to actively resist, the combined RUF/AFRC forces.

By his acts or omissions in relation, but not limited to, these events, **SAM HINGA NORMAN** pursuant to Article 6.1. and, or alternatively, Article 6.3. of the Statute, is individually criminally responsible for the crimes alleged below:

**Count 6:** Acts of Terrorism, a **VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 3 COMMON TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II**, punishable under Article 3.d. of the Statute;

And:

**Count 7:** Collective Punishments, a **VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 3 COMMON TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL II**, punishable under Article 3.b. of the Statute.

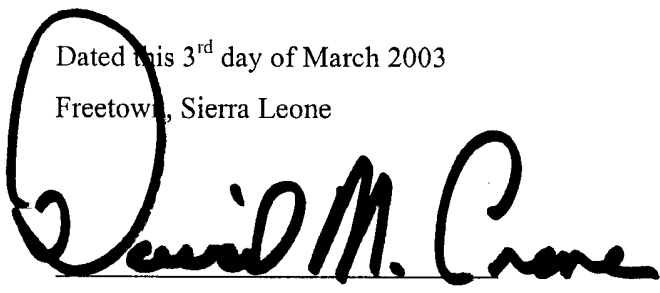
**COUNT 8: USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS**

24. At all times relevant to this Indictment, The Civil Defense Forces did, in the Republic of Sierra Leone, conscript or enlist children under the age of 15 years into armed forces or groups, and in addition, or in the alternative, use them to participate actively in hostilities.

By his acts or omissions in relation, but not limited to, these events, **SAM HINGA NORMAN** pursuant to Article 6.1. and, or alternatively, Article 6.3. of the Statute, is individually criminally responsible for the crime alleged below:

**Count 8:** Conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into armed forces or groups or using them to participate actively in hostilities, an **OTHER SERIOUS VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**, punishable under Article 4.c. of the Statute.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2003  
Freetown, Sierra Leone

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David M. Crane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

David M. Crane  
The Prosecutor