



THE COMMUNITY CENTRE MOVES A STEP CLOSER

Ever since INASLA broached the subject of a Community and Resource Centre, constructive ideas and suggestions have been coming in thick and fast about the need for one among Sierra Leoneans in London.

Many residents recall that during the mid 90s and up to the present, the subject has never been far from the top of the agenda. Sierra Leoneans, especially those resident in London, could then, as now, often be heard lamenting the lack of a communal space, where they could socialise, exchange views, and share their interests and concerns. But once the idea was floated, it was then abandoned on each occasion.

INASLA's recent appearance on the scene, taking up the idea as its flagship project, has led to renewed interest and enthusiasm. There is now a settled and indisputable view that most residents in our London community want a centre of their own. The next step for us is to bring into being.

We are therefore pleased to report that steps have been taken and progress is being made, albeit slowly, to realise this long-cherished dream. INASLA's entire Management Committee is involved in the project. Its terms of reference are "to investigate, pursue, and facilitate the creation of a community and resource centre for the use and enjoyment of Sierra Leoneans resident in the UK".

The committee has the Executive's agreement to search not just for offices for the Association, but also to look for premises that are big enough to accommodate various types of functions, including meetings, recreational and social activities, and a resource centre.

The search will not be restricted to premises alone.

The Committee has also been briefed to look out for any derelict or development land, legal restrictions permitting, should the option of a purpose-built centre become open to the Association. The latter might be a less expensive project in the long term, if one takes into account the high and ever escalating cost of rented accommodation in London, especially in inner city areas. The fact is that with rented accommodation, our community will own nothing by way of assets in its name, despite having paid all that money over so many years. Additionally, we might be bound by restrictive conditions of use. Outright ownership or long

leasehold would benefit INASLA in the long run.

Any one of these options is feasible, but each will require a lot of time and effort. Members of the community will themselves have to make their own financial contributions to the venture (see *Editorial* on page 2), in addition to the Association seeking the bulk of the funding through grant applications to community and social development agencies.

In a nutshell....

WHY WE NEED A COMMUNITY CENTRE

- To serve a growing community into the next Millennium;
- To provide a necessary meeting place for community groups;
- To accommodate community resources such as an information office, Newsletter, the INASLA Secretariat, reprographic/printing facilities, Internet access, and communications centre;
- To provide a place of welcome and support;
- To become the centre of community activity, and for generating responses to county problems;
- A worthy legacy to bequeath to future generations.

Non-Financial benefit:

Improved access and communication between SaLone clubs, associations and societies, and between individuals. By facilitating interaction between the different groups, it helps to break down barriers and suspicions that sometimes exist.

Financial benefit:

By centralising communal facilities, the Centre will reduce costs for everybody, by cutting out duplication of effort and resources.

Editorial

WHAT ARE WE DOING FOR OURSELVES?

INASLA has got over many hurdles during the short time of its existence. There are still plenty more ahead. But at least we know now what we want to do, and why and how we want to do it. We also think that we know what we need in order to do what we want to do.

With that certainty in mind, some might think that from this stage onwards, things should be relatively easy for us. Wrong! We still have to think about who might be able to provide us with what we need. Put simply, we shall need resources to fund our projects because that is the only way of doing what we want. But here again, others think that fundraising for projects like ours is only through applying to Charitable Trusts and Foundations for money. True, we will be doing exactly that; but it is not always the easiest way of going about things.

If members of the Sierra Leonean community are going to attract public monies to projects that are intended for their benefit, then, they first have to put forward an attractive and convincing plan. INASLA already has such a plan. We regularly refine it, to meet with the ever-changing situation.

However, in addition to that, we must be prepared, to fundraise for our projects through activities based inside our community. Without doubt, attracting funds from local authorities, community-funding agencies, etc., will put us in a very strong position. But that is unlikely unless there is some evidence that we ourselves are making an effort to put our own monies where our mouths are.

For example, we might ask local businesses with links to Sierra Leone, indigenous Sierra Leoneans who are doing private businesses here, and professional, working and individual Sierra Leoneans, to contribute to a project or some aspect of it. We could also organise fundraising activities like bazaars, cultural shows, etc, and get as many Sierra Leoneans as possible to take part.

By doing these things and letting it be known, prospective donors would be more prepared to trust us with their money. They will at least have the assurance that we, the fund seekers, have a commitment and stake in the projects for which we are soliciting their money. The question really boils down to this: what are we doing for ourselves?

INASLA already has a proven track record. The financial contribution of our members has helped us achieve the successes that we have gained to date. Admittedly, more needs to be done.

We will continue to call on all able-bodied Sierra Leoneans to join in and contribute their fair share, to realise the projects that we have identified for the welfare of our community.

INASLA

(Continued from page 1)

For practical reasons, INASLA does not distinguish a resource centre from the community centre. For our purposes, both are really one and the same thing; only that the community centre will contain the resource centre, e.g. a library or reading room, stocked with ready information.

The resource centre will have an important part to play in improving access to information for Sierra Leoneans. Therefore, in addition to creating a pleasant and attractive environment where people can relax and enjoy themselves, talk to each other and take part in meetings, there will also be an accessible collection of information and resource materials. The choice of such materials will be based on the real needs of visitors to the centre. We might set up a permanent exhibition of Sierra Leonean artefacts, loaned from resident individuals or the Sierra Leone Historical Archives and Museum, the Universities, our Missions abroad, etc., for display. The sky is our limit!

We would like everybody in the community to be clear about what we hope to achieve:

- In the case of the **Community and Resource Centre**, we hope to identify a suitable site or building, which would incorporate a community centre, library and meeting rooms; and, if necessary, to produce a basic income to enable us to meet recurrent expenditures;
- As far as **functionality** goes, we will be an enabling body, providing low cost meeting places for Sierra Leonean clubs and societies, and ensuring that the best use is made of whatever capacity or facility we own or control;
- In our assumed role as **facilitator**, to support, promote and encourage others to attend events in the Sierra Leone Community, and to facilitate the introduction of a calendar of major events to which Sierra Leonean groups can contribute or be invited to take part.

Profile:

JUDGE ABDUL G KOROMA

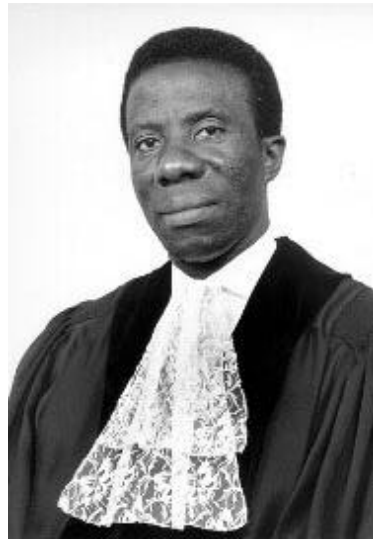
Judge Abdul Koroma was recently, overwhelmingly endorsed by the United Nations Security Council to serve a second term, as a member of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Court is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and has its seat in The Hague (Netherlands). In INASLA's established tradition of celebrating the successes of Sierra Leonean luminaries and high achievers, we feature our brother judge in this edition of the newsletter. Ambrose Ganda writes:

I was very pleased to read on Peter Andersen's Sierra Leone Web news, that Sierra Leonean Judge Abdul Koroma has been re-elected unanimously by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations, to serve a second term as judge on the bench of the International Court of Justice, at The Hague (Netherlands). It happened on 21 October 2002 as, under the rules, both the Assembly and the Council met to elect five members of the Court for a 9-year term of office. In Judge Koroma's case, he has been on the Court's bench of judges since February 1994 and was, therefore, one of the five to come up for re-election. There is no guarantee that a judge will secure a second or subsequent term in office; so, it was with relief and satisfaction that the news of his re-election came through. Congratulations to him!

I know the judge personally, and very well indeed. I have always admired him for his perseverance and humility. Nothing has come to him without sustained effort and application. He is genial and affable, and never one to nurture ill will towards another. For me he is one exemplary patriot, whom every Sierra Leonean should embrace. His elevation is in every sense a major Sierra Leonean success on the international stage.

It comes at a time when some of Sierra Leone's senior judges, both past and present, are held in disrepute, and the Sierra Leonean judiciary as whole is often accused as lacking probity and integrity. It is reassuring that a Sierra Leonean legal mind is considered fit and trustworthy by the cream of his

peers, and by the highest organs of the international community, to seat at the apex of the world judicial system. Koroma has diligently and faultlessly edged his way up to the front of the foremost forum for the dispensation of international law and justice. It is a fine achievement indeed!



In that, he is walking a distinguished track set by the likes of Judge Abiola of Nigeria, who was elected to fill the vacancy left by the death on 14 August 1991 of his compatriot Judge Taslim Olawale Elias. Judge Elias, without doubt the best known African judge in the court's history, rose to become a Vice-President of the Court in 1979, and acted on many occasions as its President in 1981. If anyone is well placed to emulate and even surpass these learned men, it is Judge Koroma.

In February 2003, the newly constituted Court will proceed to elect from among themselves a President and a Vice-President, who will hold office for three years. Koroma, with his 9 years experience as member of the court, stands a good chance of becoming one or the other!

I first met him at the St Edward's Secondary School in 1964 – he was in upper, and I in lower sixth form; in strict *SaLone* parlance, he was my senior. He was a school (I believe library) prefect, and always immaculately turned out in the school's uniform. AGK, as he was popularly known, was not a great mixer then. He was quiet and studious, and used to stay behind most afternoons after school to read in the school library, which was well stocked with encyclopaedic volumes on several subjects. He was chair of the St Edwards debating society, and its leading knight. Then, as now, his trembling high-pitched tone resonated whenever he spoke. I remember one very tough debating duel between the Sierra Leone Grammar School and the St Edward's teams. AGK led our team valiantly. We lost but, paradoxically, his loser's speech ranked best of all the contributions that were made on both sides during the debate proper.

After completing sixth form he proceeded to the Soviet Union for further studies. I did not see or hear of him until a chance meeting in London in 1973, where he was a postgraduate student. But we again lost contact until one Saturday afternoon in 1996, when I received a telephone call from him at The

Hague. It was soon after the Government of Sierra Leone and the RUF signed the Abidjan Peace Accord, which raised the hope of a signal development to bring the civil war to a close. "It's me, your brother AGK", he said in that familiar high-pitched tone. Then, after reminiscing past events since our last encounter, he said to me pointedly: "I have followed your writings and your crusade for our country. I think we should all join hands to help our brother President (Tejan Kabbah), to make a real success of this agreement. You must double your efforts and take no notice of the negative things they say. Don't let anyone distract you!"

Unknown to me, he had arranged to put me in direct touch with President Kabbah, who was in New York at that very moment – on his first trip to the US as President - to address the UN General Assembly. Barely five minutes elapsed after our conversation, when the phone rang. At the end of the line was the characteristically emollient voice of Mr President himself, with whom I had an engaging conversation. AGK, wearing his diplomatic hat, had done the groundwork.

Early this May, just before the general and presidential elections, we met at the Heliport in Aberdeen, West Freetown. He was travelling back to The Hague, and I to London. Judge Koroma's message to me had not changed: "We should press on in our respective ways to support the current fragile peace in our country." I agreed.

As indicated by his biography below, which is abridged from the Court's entries, Judge Koroma has built a wealth of experience in the fields of international law and Human Rights, diplomacy and academia. It is an enviable record of excellence, adventure and achievement, which would not have been possible without his total commitment, perseverance, and enduring temperament. He richly deserves the honour that the world has found fit to bestow on him. I doff my hat to him.

INASLA wishes him well for the future.



Member of the Court since 6 February 1994; Born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on 29 September 1943. LL.M. (Honours), Kiev State University; Master of Philosophy (International Law), King's College, University of London; Hon. LL.D., University of Sierra Leone; Barrister-at-Law; Honorary Bencher, Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, London. Civil Servant 1964; Ministry of

Foreign Affairs 1969; Barrister and Legal Practitioner; State Counsel and Special Adviser to the Attorney-General; Legal Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to UN; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to UN; concurrently High Commissioner to Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago; Ambassador to the Rep of S. Korea and Cuba (1981-1985). Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, and concurrently to the European Communities UNESCO (1985-1988). Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to OAU, with concurrent accreditation to Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia (1988-1992).

Served as head and delegate to various UN Legal/Human Rights committees and plenipotentiary conferences. One-time Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN.

Member of the American Society of International Law; Vice-President of the African Association of International Law and Comparative Law; Vice-President of the African Society of International and Comparative Law; President, Henri Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Geneva).

Author of: *Settlement of Territorial and Boundary Disputes in Africa* (University of London), and scores of published articles. Served as external examiner in international law for Ph.D. candidates of the University of Dalhousie, Canada.

In 1991, he was awarded the Order of Commander of Rokel by the Government of Sierra Leone for outstanding professional service.

NEWS FROM SALONE

*****Special Court** Chief Prosecutor David Crane has appealed to ex-combatants to come forward and testify about atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's civil war. He said he would not be prosecuting children because "the children of Sierra Leone have suffered enough both as victims and perpetrators".



***The **US Embassy** in Freetown released a blistering prognosis of Sierra Leone's economic situation. It said the country's image to the outside world is one of "a devastated infrastructure – including grossly deficient telecommunications and inadequate and damaged road networks – widespread corruption, and government ownership and mismanagement of enterprises better operated by the private sector."

INASLA's Development Secretary writes...

BE PART OF THE 'BIG IDEA'

INASLA offers Sierra Leoneans everywhere the 'Big Idea'. This is shorthand for creating new awareness among our community, about ways in which we can legitimately pursue our welfare and interests.

For example, our practice of depending on in-house skills within the Association has enabled us to deliver a large number of our objectives ahead of time, at minimal cost to the Association. We are effectively offering the Big Idea of creating opportunities for creative people. We are doing it by bringing **people** and **inspiration** together in one and the same place.



Francis Lemeh

Development Secretary

If you attend our INASLA meetings, you will hear original thinking that you would not hear elsewhere.

Innovative ideas regularly come from our members, and most have been incorporated into the main INASLA agenda. Thus if you are a creative, innovative or skilled person, or wish to become one or all of that, then INASLA is the space and forum that we are offering to all Sierra Leoneans worldwide, for self-expression and fulfillment.

I need hardly to remind you that whatever you are, whatever you do, and however well you do it, it is always better to do it with someone else. That is why, in addition to trying to build good relationships with the community, we also focus on building and improving relationships with organisations.

But for the Big Idea to work effectively, we need and welcome feedback. It is our yardstick for determining whether what we are doing meets with the expressed needs and expectations.

We talk about the Big Idea in relation to issues that are important to Sierra Leoneans, and to our country. We use our energy and creativity, not for idle gossip or character assassination, but in areas such as fund-raising, bringing other Sierra Leoneans on board INASLA, devising the best ways of involving the Community and linking up with other Salone communities outside the UK. We amicably discuss how, and in what ways, we might contribute

overall to the shape of coming events in our country, without getting bogged down in the 'politics'.

I say thanks to our members, for giving us a brilliant start. I know how much your commitment and participation has meant to INASLA - the biggest of the Big Ideas. To those of you still sitting on the fence, I appeal to you to come into INASLA. Remember that when you join INASLA, you, too, become part of the Big Idea.

SIERRA LEONE AT A GLANCE

Population:	5,614,743 (July 2002 est.)
Age structure:	0-14 years: 44.7% (Male 1,230,530; female 1,280,084) 15-64 years: 52.1% (male 1,397,070; female 1,528,986) 65 years and over: 3.2% (male 87,256; female 90,817) (2002 est.)
Population growth rate:	3.21% (2002 est.)
Birth rate:	44.58 births/1,000 population (2002 est.)
Death rate:	18.83 deaths/1,000 population (2002 est.)
Infant mortality rate:	144.38 deaths/1,000 live births (2002 est.)
Life expectancy at birth:	Total population: 45.96 years; female: 49.01 yrs (2002 est.); male: 43.01 yrs
HIV/AIDS - adult rate:	2.99% (1999 est.)
HIV/AIDS - people with:	68,000 (1999 est.)
HIV/AIDS - deaths:	8,200 (1999 est.)
Religions:	Muslim 60%, indigenous beliefs 30%, Christian 10%
Literacy:	<u>Definition:</u> age 15 and over can read and write English, Mende, Temne, or Arabic Total population: 31.4% of which: Male: 45.4%; female: 18.2% (1995 est.)
GDP:	Purchasing power parity - \$2.7 billion (2001 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:	3% (2001 est.)
GDP - per capita:	Purchasing power parity - \$500 (2001 est.)
Population below poverty line:	68% (1989 est.)
Inflation rate (consumer prices):	15% (2000 est.)
Labour force:	1.369 million (1981 est.) ; Note: only about 65,000 wage earners 1985
Unemployment rate:	NA%
Budget:	Revenues: \$96 million Expenditures: \$351 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (2000 est.)
Industries:	Mining (diamonds); small-scale manufacturing (beverages, textiles, cigarettes, footwear); petroleum refining
Electricity - production:	245 million kWh (2000)
Electricity - production by source:	Fossil fuel: 100% ; hydro: 0%; Other: 0% (2000); nuclear: 0%
Electricity - consumption:	227.85 million kWh (2000)
Agriculture - products:	Rice, coffee, cocoa, palm kernels, palm oil, peanuts; poultry, cattle, sheep, pigs; fish
Exports:	\$65 million (f.o.b., 2000 est.)
Imports:	\$145 million (f.o.b., 2000 est.)
Debt - external:	\$1.3 billion (2000)
Economic aid - recipient:	\$103 million (2001 est.)
Telephones - main lines:	25,000 (2001)
Telephones - mobile cell:	30,000 (2001)
Highways:	Total: 11,700 km; paved: 936 km; unpaved: 10,764 km (2002)



*INASLA Wishes Sierra Leoneans Everywhere
A Merry Christmas And Happy New Year!*

*With Special Greetings And A Big 'Thank You'
To INASLA Members And Their Families*

Our Next Edition Will Be At The End Of January 2003



GT. BRITAIN'S COMMITMENT TO SIERRA LEONE GETS FIRMER

The UK Government has committed itself to a 10-year programme of support to the social and economic development of Sierra Leone. The agreement commits Britain to £120 million of support for development programmes over the next 3 years. It is the sequel to earlier negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding between DFID and the Government of Sierra Leone, setting out mutual commitments. The British have always seen their role primarily as continuing to provide substantial development assistance to our country, whilst President Kabbah's Government in return is charged with "improving standards of governance and stamping out corruption".

Clare Short, the British Government's Secretary of State for International Development, and a prime advocate for Sierra Leone's cause, has said that it is "a partnership for reconstruction...[and] a demonstration of the Sierra Leone Government's commitment to reform, and ours to support it". Describing it as a new approach to cooperation on poverty reduction, she invited other development agencies to join in and support it.

In their latest briefing note, DFID restates that the UK government will "stand by Sierra Leone and provide bilateral support in a partnership, based on a commitment by Sierra Leone to the building of a

competent, transparent and open modern state, and to act in areas such as public administration reform, corruption, financial management and security reforms". The agreement, known as a Poverty Reduction Framework Arrangement (PRFA), includes benchmarks to be achieved by both governments, initially for 2003. It provides for direct support to the Sierra Leone government's budget to be linked to progress against key reform issues.

Our correspondent writes:

This latest handout to Sierra Leone reinforces Britain's position as by far our largest bilateral donor. The UK is supporting numerous programmes aimed at rehabilitating the country's economic, political and social infrastructure, including reconstruction of war-damaged areas, reintegration of former combatants, training and strengthening of the police and armed forces, judicial reform, and governance issues.

This demonstrable concern by Britain for the welfare of Sierra Leone has, in plain language, placed the ball firmly in our court. Sierra Leoneans will therefore have only themselves to blame if it fails to bear fruit.

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- ❖ As we reported in August, UK troop levels have been substantially reduced, with the end of '**Operation Silkman**'. However, a British-led International Military Team of just over 100 remains in the country.
- ❖ A British **Voluntary Services Overseas** (VSO) was due in Freetown to evaluate whether to resume sending volunteers back to Sierra Leone. It follows a similar visit by a US delegation, which has since recommended the resumption of the Peace Corps programme in the country.



Ms Clare Short
The British Secretary of State for
International Development (DFID) is
forever battling for Sierra Leone

Community Notice Board

‘MR. SESAY’ IS DEAD!

Shock and disbelief in the community

THE news of the sudden death of a beloved community activist hit South East Londoners with sheer disbelief. It sent shock waves among notable Sierra Leoneans, some of whom wished it were merely a false alarm.

The death brought to mind the Shakespearean lines - *“He (not she) should have died hereafter (not now); there would have been a time for such a word. Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow...”* *Out, out brief candle! Life is but a walking shadow; a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more”*.

Such was the brief but sweet life of the late **Sorie Ibrahim Sesay**, also commonly known as ‘Elsoh’.

Sesay, the ever smiling and popular community worker, died suddenly after suffering a massive heart attack in his office on 12 November 2002. He had just finished attending a community development meeting.

By dusk, news of his death had spread all over South East London and way beyond, like a wild forest fire, in the heart of the African, Asian and Afro-Caribbean community in which he was a fond and formidable personality. Scores rushed to Peckham to confirm the shocking news.

Sesay’s long-time colleague and friend, Abdul Kpakiwa of SATWA who was present when he collapsed, said that the deceased was smiling as usual when he passed away peacefully.

Funeral rites were conducted at St Thomas’ Apostolic Hall, where throngs of mourners gathered to pay him their last respects.

Mr S M O Conteh, another very close friend of the deceased, conducted the ceremony in the hall. Glowing tributes were paid to the life and times of Elsoh by members of the community, including Messrs Salaam Deen, Eric Hassan Deen, and Alhaji

Janneh of the Brixton Mosque, who led the grieving congregation in Muslim prayers.

The late ‘Mr Sesay’ - as he was respectfully referred to by his many young acquaintances - was laid to rest at Nunhead Cemetery on 27th November. He is survived by family relations, including relatives, partners and children, in the UK and abroad.

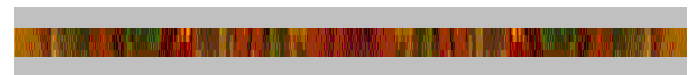
The 40 days ceremony is scheduled to take place on the 22nd of December. The venue is still to be arranged, as this needs to take into consideration the vast numbers who are expected to be in attendance on the day. **Further information will be posted on the Sierra Leone Community website - www.inasla.com**

INASLA would welcome tributes from readers. These will be posted on our web page. Sympathisers are also asked to send messages of condolence to the bereaved family and acquaintances.

Many in our community believe that a memorial plaque would be appropriate for cheerful and friendly patriots like Elsoh. Now that efforts at having a community centre have commenced to be made, we hope it will soon be possible for community activists like our dear Sesay to have memorials placed in it to honour, and show appreciation for their contributions.

INASLA joins the thousands of Sierra Leoneans to mourn the death of Sorie Ibrahim Sesay, and hopes to build upon his invaluable ideas for community development.

May his precious soul rest in perfect peace.



Congratulations

To INASLA General Secretary, Mr **Patrick Kandeh** and his wife **Martha**, on the birth of their baby daughter.

Birthdays

Nancy (23 Dec.) and **Samina Jusu** (30 Dec); and their mum Mrs **Amina Jusu** (25 December).



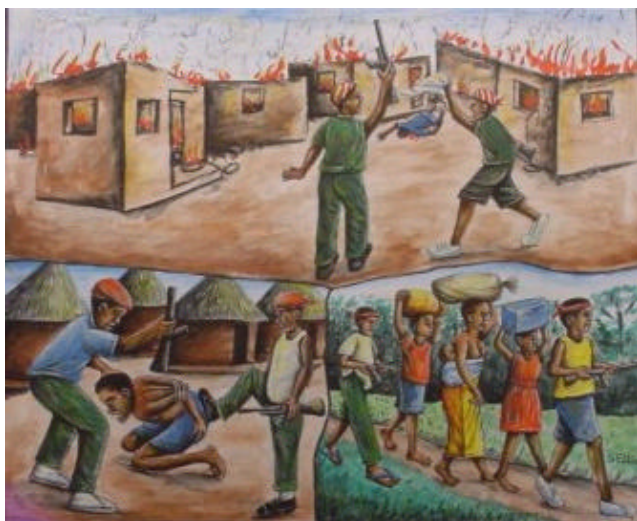
CELEBRATING PURE SALONE ARTISTIC TALENT

Our civil war produced the worst and the very best out of our citizens. The country was plunged into the depths of indiscriminate barbarity and inhumanity towards innocent citizens. In the end, despite the state of denial into which some people isolated themselves, the war became a reality for everybody and, today, its tragic consequences are there for all to see. All over the country, the harrowing images of war affront the sight, smell, sense, and feelings of those who have survived it.

In this, and future editions of the INASLA newsletter, we are featuring one of the very best things that has come out of this sad experience.

A group of nine talented indigenous men and women have put into graphic art form, some of those heartrending stories from both their own recollections and that of people who were close to the events. The paintings are remarkable for their purity and innocence, and the graphic realism they portray.

This edition features two paintings of 45 year-old **Sahr Ellie**, of Sowolla Village, Gbane Chiefdom, Kono District, Eastern Province. He attended the Roman Catholic and Methodist City Schools, and the Government Secondary Technical School, Freetown. He is currently a senior artist at the General Workshop for the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, and attached to the Health Education Division. His work entails designing visual aids for the Health Education Unit. He is married with three children.



The picture above is painted in watercolour on vanguard, and depicts one of the commonest things during the war – the surprise attacks on unarmed

villagers. Innocent civilians were killed without sympathy.

The one below is entitled ‘Operation Spare Nothing’ and depicts the orgiastic destruction of life and property during some of the rebel campaigns. Houses were set alight after being stripped of their contents.



Permission to use the pictures has been granted by the African Youth Movement, under whose auspices the paintings have been published on the web. Credit must go to the site www.africanartville.org, for putting up this highly educative exhibition.

...MORE NEWS FROM SALONE

- Sierra Leone's **Under-17 cricket** team won the West Africa Cricket Council trophy after beating Nigeria, Ghana and The Gambia in Lagos, where the tournament was held.
- The **Consultative Group for Sierra Leone**, comprising of International donor nations and institutions, met in Paris and pledged financial and technical support to help Sierra Leone's economic recovery. Vice President Solomon Berewa led the Sierra Leone Government delegation.

INASLA membership is free and subscription is by donation. Cheques can be made payable to INASLA, 18 Keswick House, Crawford Estate London SE5 9NL.
A/C Barclays Bank: Account No: 80566608 : Sort code: 208057;
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Typeset and layout by Ambali Productions.