

CHRONOLOGY OF SELECTED EVENTS IN SIERRA LEONE

- 1462** Portuguese explorer Pedro da Cintra maps the hills overlooking Freetown harbour, calling the formation Serra Lyoa (Lion Range).
- 1750** Bunce Island becomes a major West African slave port under British control.
- 1787** Four hundred freed slaves settle in Freetown.
- 1807** British parliament votes to prohibit the Atlantic slave trade.
- 1808** Freetown is made a British Crown Colony.
- 1833** British parliament makes slavery illegal.
- 1896** Governor Cardew declares a protectorate over the region, including areas occupied by the interior tribes.
- 1898** The Hut Tax War begins at Port Loko as the result of Governor Cardew's tax of 25 pence on each household.
- 1914** Railroad construction is completed, linking coastal and interior regions with railways to the diamond mines.
- 1947** The British introduce proposals linking the Crown Colony and the protectorate.
- 1953** The British establish a new bureaucratic system, leading to wider diffusion of political power to local chiefs.
- 1961** Independence is declared on April 27. Sir Milton Margai, a prominent physician, is elected prime minister, head of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP).
- 1964** Prime Minister Milton Margai dies and is succeeded by his brother, Sir Albert Margai.
- Sir Albert Margai attempts to amend the constitution to create a one party state, but the initiative fails.
- 1967** All People's Congress (APC) leader Siaka Stevens wins elections with support of northerners and Krios. A coup led by Brigadier David Lansana prevents him from taking office. Senior officers organized as the National Reformation Council (NRC), arrest Lansana and suspend the national constitution.
- 1968** Non-commissioned officers stage Sierra Leone's third coup in thirteen months. Siaka Stevens returns to power and restores the constitution.

- 1970** A state of emergency is declared due to provincial disturbances.
- 1971** A new republican constitution is adopted.
- 1978** Stevens adopts a single-party constitution.
- 1985** Major General Joseph Momoh, Steven's military force commander, is handpicked to succeed Stevens as president.
- 1990** Momoh supports return to multiparty democracy and oversees writing of new constitution. Elections are scheduled for 1992.
- 1991** Around 100 fighters, loyal to Charles Taylor, and a small number of mercenaries from Burkina Faso on March 23 invade eastern Sierra Leone. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF), led by corporal Foday Sankoh, takes responsibility.
- May The RUF, using vague populist rhetoric, launches a war against farmers, Villagers, and alluvial miners to demonstrate the inability of the Momoh government to protect its citizens. Britain turns down Momoh's request military advisers, communication, and intelligence capacity over the following months, the Sierra Leone Army scrambles to recruit new troops, many of whom are young and untrained, to send to the front without adequate training, supplies, or logistical and medical support. They are unable to effectively defend the territory.
- August Sierra Leoneans vote overwhelmingly in a referendum to introduce a multiparty system. The 1991 multiparty constitution is endorsed and passed into law.
- 1992**
- January Rebel operations in the diamond-rich areas in the southeast indicate a new strategy of attacking January strategic economic targets.
- April 29 Junior officers carry out a bloodless coup. Momoh flees to Guinea. The officers form the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) selecting Captain Valentine Strasser as chairman.
- November The NPRC lunches a major offensive against the RUF, dislodging the rebels from the diamond-rich southeast. For some months the rebels are pushed. into Liberia, where they allegedly receive extensive support from National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) faction leader Charles Taylor.
- The rebels regroup and intensify their attacks on rural villages, creating a growing number of civilian casualties. Two battalions of Nigeria troops are moved from Monrovia to Freetown to assist Strasser. Nigeria Alpha

jets are based in Freetown for bombing raids against Taylor's NPFL.

December Civil service salaries fall to an average of \$18 per month, schools operate sporadically, and certain ministries are unreachable, as their phones have been disconnected.

1993

January The NPRC launches an army recruitment drive, signing up poorly educated youth and orphans from the age of twelve upward. Army ranks increase to 12,000. New soldiers loot and pillage the towns and villages up-country until many refer to them sobels, soldier-rebels who are soldiers during the day and rebels at night.

September Nigeria and Sierra Leone enter into a mutual defense pact.

1994

January Strasser offers the RUF a six-point peace plan, threatening to increase military action should the plan be refused.

January 10 A delegation of civil society representatives arrive in Liberia for discussions with RUF representatives.

January 19 The RUF overruns the Sierra Rutile and Sieromco mines, severely damaging the government's revenue base in the midst of a tough structural adjustment programme.

January 26 The NPRC issues a mobilization order for police and soldiers to fight against the RUF forces, who are within forty kilometers of Freetown.

February 1 The NPRC asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to arrange a meeting with the RUF.

February RUF fighters advance towards the capital. The NPRC relies heavily on the 2,000 Nigerians based in Freetown. The Ghurkha security guards retreat after their leader U S Colonel Robert Mackenzie is killed. The UN appoints Berhanu Dinka as special envoy to negotiate a settlement of the conflict.

March Strasser enters into a contract with executive outcomes, (EO). A South African private security force, to provide security assistance. Run by Beben Barlow, formerly of the South African Defense forces, EO members had been active in covert operations in Mozambique and Angola. EO starts training programmes for the Sierra Leone Army.

March 19 The Army, with close air support provided by Executive Outcomes, retakes Moyamba. April 27 Strasser lifts the ban on political parties and offers amnesty to the RUF.

May	EO joins Nigeria and Ghanaian troops in defending Freetown, driving the RUF back.
August	The National Consultative Conference (Bintumani I) meets, scheduling elections for February 1996.
December	EO expands operations into rural areas, taking back the diamond mining areas. EO initiates cooperation with the (Mende-controlled) Kamajoh traditional militia, a local defense force, by providing training and logistical support.
1996	EO retakes the Sierra Rutile Mine. Kamajohs and EO fight the RUF in its rural strongholds in early January
January 16	Brigadier-General Julius Maada Bio replaces Strasser as NPRC chairman in a palace coup. Maada Bio promises elections will be held on schedule. Freetown's market women march through the city threatening to expose politicians receiving bribes from the military to halt the election process.
February 16	Bio reconvenes the Bintumani conference to consider postponing elections (Bintumani II): overwhelming majority favor going ahead as scheduled.
February 26-27	Presidential and legislative elections are held with the participation of thirteen political parties. None of the presidential candidates receive required 55 percent vote.
March 15	In a runoff round, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of the Sierra Leones people's Party (SLPP) defeats John Karefa Smart of the United National People's Party (UNPP).
March 17	Kabbah is declared the winner with 59.9 percent of the vote. Runner-up John Karefa Smart complains of widespread fraud under Kabbah. EO continues its work with the Kamajohs, who become an increasingly powerful military and political force. Hinga Norman, former Kamajoh leader is appointed deputy minister of defense.
March 25-26	Discussions between Bio and Sankoh in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, end with reaffirmation of the two-months-long cease-fire and an agreement to allow delivery of humanitarian aid to areas under RUF control. Sankoh agrees to meet with the future government to continue talks.
March 29	Bio transfers power to the civilian government in a ceremony at the parliament. Kabbah is sworn in as president.
April 22	Sankoh and Kabbah start peace talks in Yamoussoukro, Cote d' Ivoire.
April 23	President Kabbah and Sankoh agree on an indefinite

	Cease-fire. Three working groups meet May 6-28 in Abidjan where a draft peace agreement is formulated.
May 29	Negotiations on a peace agreement are suspended over the contentious issue of withdrawal of foreign forces and Executive Outcomes.
July	Discontent in the Army increases with the announcement of a plan to dramatically reduce the size of the Army and reduce its rice rations, also causing uncertainty about pension benefits.
July 25	The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports Sierra Leone's GDP shrank by 10 percent in 1995 while inflation is reported to have increased to 35 percent per annum.
August	Nigerian and EO attack increase pressure on RUF forces. London based International Alert seeks to renew negotiations between the RUF and Kabbah in Cote d' Ivoire.
September	EO is charging \$ 1.8million a month for the service of less than 100 personnel along with two Russian helicopters and logistics. As a result of IMF requirements, pressing for government cuts in spending, Kabbah renegotiates the EO fee. Independent sources report that the government still owes \$30 million in arrears from the NPRC.
September 9	A coup attempt against president Kabbah's government is detected and aborted. Major Johnny Paul Koroma is arrested.
September 13	The government orders retired soldiers to turn in their weapons.
September 16	The government approves Sankoh's request to return to Kailahun to consult his field commanders on the proposed peace agreement.
October 24	Kabbah and Sankoh meet in Abidjan with president Henri Conan Bedie of Cote d'Ivoire to again urge Sankoh's return to Sierra Leone.
November 15	The government agrees to grant a general amnesty to RUF fighters in the context of the peace agreement.
November 30	Kabbah and Sankoh sign the Abidjan Peace Agreement. The UN, Commonwealth, Organizations of African unity (OAU), and the government of Cote d' Ivoire serve as moral guarantors. EO is required, in the agreement, to leave following establishment of a neutral monitoring group. EO affiliate Lifeguard renews its security contracts with several mining companies.
December 18	Eleven people are arrested for plotting a second coup.
December 19	The Commission for the Consolidation of peace (CCP) is formally lunched in Freetown. with the attendance of RUF representatives Ibrahim Deen-Jalloh and Faya Musa.

1997

- January 31 EO officially departs Sierra Leone. The Cabinet is reshuffled and reduced from twenty- six to eighteen ministries. The commission for the consolidation of peace is unable to develop a disarmament and demobilization subcommittee, and the process falters.
- February 3 The UN High Commissioner for Refugees begins repatriation of refugees located in Liberia. The last members of Executive Outcomes depart Sierra Leone.
- March 6 Foday Sankoh flies secretly to Lagos, Nigeria, reportedly to purchase weapons. He is arrested in the Lagos Airport parking lot for illegal possession of weapons. At Kabbah's request, Abacha agrees to hold Sankoh in Nigeria.
- March 7 Sierra Leone and Nigeria renew the 1994 mutual Defense Agreement.
- March 15 RUF commander Philip Palmer, speaking on BBC radio from Dananc, Cote d' Ivoire, announces a decision of some RUF leaders to remove Sankoh from the leadership. The coup attempt fails when four coup leaders are arrested in Kailahun by field Commander Sam Bockarie.
- April 17 The United Kingdom and Sierra Leone sign an agreement for British Military training of two battalions of the Sierra Leone Army.
- May 8 The IMF allocates a \$ 14 million loan to Sierra Leone in recognition of the progress in reaching economic targets.
- May 25 A group of junior officers stages a coup. Major Johnny Paul Koroma and hundreds more are released from prison. Koroma assumes power as chairman of the Armed Forces revolutionary council (AFRC). President Kabbah flees to Guinea. There is extensive looting, killing, and mistreatment of civilians including members of the Kabbah's government and administration, the ministry of finance is torched.
- May 26 In a night operation, Nigerian and Guinean contingents of the economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire monitoring group (ECOMOG) land at Hastings and Lungi Airports where they establish control.
- May 27 The AFRC suspends Sierra Leone's constitution and bans political parties.
- May 28 The RUF high command orders its fighters to support the AFRC.
- May 29 AFRC soldiers assume control of the diamond mines in Koidu.

- May 30 U.S. Marines evacuate 900 hundred people from Freetown to the USS Kearsarge offshore, then to Conakry.
- May 31 Ghana and Guinea airlift troops to support Nigeria contingents in Freetown. Three hundred foreign nationals located in Sierra Leone are evacuated to a French Naval vessel.
- June 1 A Nigerian attempt to oust the Junta fails after Nigerian troops and 800 foreigners are trapped in the Mammy Yoko Hotel, on fire and under siege by junta forces. An ICRC representative negotiates their safe passage. Nigerians move Sankoh from the Sheraton Hotel in Abidjan to a local security installation.
- June 1 Major Koroma invites the RUF to join the Junta. The RUF enters Freetown as the merged “ People’s Army”. Koroma forms AFRC ruling council with RUF leader Sankoh as vice Chairman.
- June 2 U.S marines evacuate an additional 1,200 foreigners, including those from the Mammy Yoko Hotel to Conakry. The OAU summit in Harare condemns the coup, and calls for Kabbah’s immediate restoration.
- June 3 AFRC / RUF forces are in control of Freetown. Nigeria airlifts hundreds of troops from Monrovia to Lungi.
- June 27 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) foreign ministers meeting Conakry adopt a three-point plan to persuade the AFRC / RUF junta to step down: dialogue, an embargo, and if necessary the use of force. A Committee of four (c- 4) is appointed
- June 30 Two thousand RUF fighters arrive in Freetown to support the AFRC.
- July 18–19 ECOWAS committee of four (composed of the foreign ministers of Nigeria, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, and Ghana) meets in Abidjan with AFRC / RUF representative to try to negotiate a return to constitutional rule.
- July 19 Koroma announces on Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation Radio that he intends to remain in office until 2001. Negotiations collapse. ECOWAS imposes an embargo on military supplies to the Junta. The Nigerians mount a naval blockade of Freetown.
- August 29 The ECOWAS Heads of state summit in Abuja adopts sanctions on petroleum products, arms imports, and international travel of AFRC / RUF leaders. The C-4 is expanded to include Liberia making it C-5. ECOMOG’s official mandate is expanded to include Sierra Leone.
- September 2 The UN accredits President as leader of the Sierra Leone delegation to the U N General Assembly.
- October 8 UN Security Council Resolution 1132 is adopted, establishing an

embargo on weapons and other military equipment, petroleum products on Sierra Leone ECOWAS is empowered to enforce the embargo under chapter VII and VIII of the U N Charter.

- October 23 In negotiations in Conakry between the Junta and ECOWAS C-5, the AFRC / RUF agree to restore Kabbah to office within six months, that is by April 22, 1998.
- November 12 Nigerian foreign minister Ikimi, on behalf of ECOWAS, requests the security to provide military and technical assistance for ECOMOG.
- November 25 A Special Representative of the U N Secretary-General, Francis Okelo. ECOWAS Executive Secretary Lansana Kouyate, and ECOMOG force commander Victor Malu visit Freetown. Staged demonstrations and demands for Sankoh's release imperil the Conakry Accord.
- December Tim Spicer of Sandline International and Kabbah meet. Spicer proposes a military plan to help restore civilian rule. A Thai businessman resident in Canada, Rakesh Saxena offers to finance the plan. He pays Sandline \$1.5 million for the first installment but is subsequently arrested by the Canadian government for passport fraud. The scheme collapses for lack of funds, although some arms intended for the Nigerians and Kamajohs do reach Freetown.
- December 9 ECOMOG, AFRC, RUF and civil defense groups agree on a fourteen-point disarmament plan.

1998

- January 18 Kamajoh militiamen capture the diamond-mining town of Tongo, depriving the AFRC of a large source of income. The Kamajoh offensive in the southeast is backed by the Nigerians, with sand line reportedly providing intelligence and logistical support. President Taylor accuses the Nigerian troops of transiting South African mercenaries across his territory. At the C-5 briefing of the U N Security Council, Foreign Minister Ikimi disclaims knowledge of an ECOMOG offensive. ECOMOG at the same time launches an assault on Freetown.
- January 18-25 Fierce fighting erupted in Freetown.
- February 15 The AFRC / RUF junta flees and Nigerian troops takes control of the city. The UK, Sweden's and other Security Council Member express disappointment that ECOWAS did not attempt to inform the Security Council in advance.
- February 16 ECOMOG announces it has taken control of the Freetown peninsula.
- February 20 ECOMOG arrests former President Joseph Momoh in Freetown.
- March 2 At the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group meeting in London, British Minister of state for Africa Tony Lloyd insists that Nigerian action

in Freetown is illegal, but Ghanaian foreign minister Victor Gbeho says it is fully backed by ECOWAS and urges Commonwealth support.

- March 6 The British Foreign office is implicated for alleged involvement in Sandline's plan to ship weapons to Sierra Leone in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1132 prohibiting all arms imports. This is followed within days by an official investigation.
- March 10 Accompanied by General Abacha of Nigeria. President Conteh of Guinea, and other high-ranking officials, Kabbah returns to Freetown and is reinstated as President. British Customs and Excise launch an investigation into sand line's role in Sierra Leone, focusing on illegal arms shipments.
- March 16 The UN Security Council adopts resolution 1156, terminating the embargo of petroleum and petroleum products on Sierra Leone. Kabbah declares a national state of emergency.
- March 20 President Kabbah announces formation of his third cabinet.
- March 26 Sierra Leone's Parliament convenes for the first time since the coup and ratifies the state of Emergency.
- March 30 ECOMOG forces move into Kono District, the last AFRC / RUF stronghold.
- April 16 President Kabbah places ECOMOG task force Commander Maxwell Khobe, promoted to Brigadier General and Sierra Leone Chief of Defense Staff, in charge of Sierra Leone's internal security.
- April 17 The UN Security Council approves resolution 1162, authorizing deployment of ten military liaison and security advisory personnel to Sierra Leone to report on the military situation and develop a plan for further UN deployment if necessary.
- April 24 Sandline's Solicitors write a letter to foreign Secretary Robin Cook arguing that, from the beginning, both Whitehall and High Commissioner Penfold in Freetown were aware of Sandline's actions.
- April 28 President Kabbah announces that the civil defense forces (CDF), made up of traditional militias, have been placed under the control of ECOMOG.
- May 6 Trials against alleged junta plotters are instituted. The World Bank announces \$ 100 million in emergency aid for Sierra Leone.
- May 18 Foreign Secretary Robin Cook discloses that Britain financed Radio Democracy, FM 98.1 that the exiled government of President Kabbah used to mobilize support in Sierra Leone.
- May 20 ECOMOG announces that all provincial capitals in Sierra Leone are

under it's " effective control".

May 22-30	ECOMOG force commander Major – General Timothy Shelpidi offers amnesty to all AFRC/RUF members who come further and surrender. The government follows suit.
June 5	The UN Security Council approves Resolution 1171. The resolution lifts the arms embargo for the Sierra Leone government and ECOMOG but retains the embargo against "non governmental forces." It also places a travel sanction on the former junta and the RUF.
June 8	Abacha dies suddenly in Abuja under mysterious circumstances.
June 17	ECOMOG completes the screening of 5,000 volunteers for the new Sierra Leone Army. Fifteen hundred of the volunteers are reported to be soldiers who surrendered to ECOMOG during the period of amnesty.
July 2	In Abjan, Kabbah and Taylor (Liberia) sign an agreement on reciprocal confidence building measures in the presence of UN Secretary-General Annan and ECOWAS chairman Abubakr.
July 9	Vice President Demby announces amnesty for all child soldiers.
July 11	ECOMOG captures Kailahun, the location of the RUF headquarters, but RUF forces evade capture and move north and west.
July 13	UN Security Council Resolution 1181is adopted, establishing the UN observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) with seventy military observers for an initial period of six months.
July 14	ECOMOG decides to transfer most of the forces remaining in Monrovia to Freetown.
July 20	President Kabbah visits Monrovia at the request of President Taylor to attend the Liberian National Reconciliation Conference.
July 25	Sankoh is returned to Sierra Leone from Nigeria.
July 30	Secretary-General Annan convenes a special conference in New York on Sierra Leone to raise funds for ECOMOG operations; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR); emergency relief; and reconstruction.
August 17	The RUF announces the commencement of a terror campaign directed against civilians should Sankoh remain in government custody.
September	ECOMOG forces and Kamajoh militia capture four eastern towns (Joru, Mande-kalema, Tokunbu, and Nyama) in a joint surprise attack.
September 2	Kabbah outlines plans for a new army composed of 5,000 troops under

civilian control.

Late September	ECOMOG fighter-bombers destroyed six RUF bases in Kailahun District.
October 1	The CDF, with ECOMOG support, launches offensives against rebel strongholds in Kailahun
October 19	Twenty-four military officers are executed for their role in the AFRC / RUF junta. Ten others have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.
October 23	Sankoh is sentenced to death after a jury finds him guilty on seven accounts of treason. The Jury rejects Sankoh's argument that he was granted amnesty under the 1996 Abidjan Peace Agreement.
October 31	ECOWAS heads of state meeting in Abuja agree to strengthen the ECOMOG force in Sierra Leone. Benin, Cote d' Ivoire, Mali, and Niger offer to contribute troops or medical supplies depending on availability of international logistics.
October 31	Chief of defense Maxwell Khobe accuses Liberia's National Patriotic Front of continuing to provide support to AFRC / RUF elements.
December	Foreign Personnel are evacuated from Freetown as the security situation deteriorates.
1999	
January 6	The AFRC / RUF re-enters Freetown by force in a major setback for ECOMOG. Massive destruction, loss of life, and amputations takes place in the eastern sector.
February 27	In Nigeria, General Olusegun Obasanjo is elected as the first civilian President since 1983. Internal pressures quickly develop for the reduction and ultimate withdrawal of Nigerian forces from Sierra Leone.
April	Sankoh is allowed to go to Lome, Togo, for consultations with his commanders and associates on renewed negotiations.
May 2	Obasanjo is inaugurated as civilian President of Nigeria.
May 18	In the presence of US special Envoy Jesse Jackson and Togolese President Eyadema, Kabbah and Sankoh sign a cease-fire agreement in Lome.
May 25	Negotiations open on new peace agreement. The RUF demands a blanket amnesty and eight cabinet positions. The two sides agree to renew most of the provisions of the Abidjan Agreement including

- demobilization and disarmament, and the RUF's transformation into a political party.
- May 26 After delays, direct talks between the Sierra Leone government and the RUF finally get under way in Lome, Togo.
- June 5 The Guinean army sends a "punitive expedition" into Sierra Leone, killing about 100 rebels of the Sierra Leonean People's Army (SPA), a breakaway faction of the RUF, in response to a recent raid on the Guinean town of Tassin where there were indications of further plans to attack Guinean towns.
- June 10 Several ministers threaten a cabinet revolt if president Kabbah accedes to RUF demands for power sharing in a transitional government.
- June 24 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson signs a nine-point Human Rights Manifesto in Freetown, calling for the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission to investigate war atrocities.
- June 26 A three-member RUF delegation headed by People's War Council chairman Solomon Y. B. Rogers leaves Lome for Liberia late Saturday aboard a Nigerian plane. The delegation, which was accompanied by mediators from Nigeria, Togo, and Liberia, proceeds to Sierra Leone to submit a draft peace agreement to RUF commanders on the ground.
- July 1 Sankoh rejects an initial peace agreement that provided only four ministerial and three deputy ministerial cabinet posts to the RUF
- July 7 The Lome peace Agreement is signed by President Kabbah and Corporal Foday Sankoh. The UN Security Council welcomes the Agreement, calling it " a significant achievement for all concerned and a historic turning point for Sierra Leone and its people."
- July 10 Thousands of civilians and rebels emerge from the bush in search of food, overwhelming current humanitarian capabilities.
- July 11 Foday Sankoh flies to Algeria to attend the OAU summit.
- July 16 The Sierra Leone parliament votes unanimously to ratify the peace accord.
- July 23 Ninety-eight people convicted of collaborating with the AFRC junta are pardoned.
- July 27 Hundreds of displaced teachers demonstrate in front of the Ministry of Education after it defaulted on payment of salary arrears of up to eleven months.

July 28	At a donor conference for Sierra Leone, the UK pledges \$ 7.1 million for training and equipping a national Army.
October 2	Sankoh and Koroma return to Freetown.
October 17	U. S. Secretary of state Albright meets with Kabbah, Sankoh, and Koroma in Freetown.
October 22	UN Security Council Resolution 1270 establishes the UN mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) authorizing a peacekeeping force of up to 6,000 troops under chapter VII. “to ensure the security of movement of its personnel and, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, to afford protection to civilians under immediate threat of violence, taking into account the responsibilities of the Sierra Leone government and ECOMOG. Half of the 6,000 troops are expected to be contributed by ECOWAS countries. The balance of troops is expected from Kenya, India, and Zambia.
November 1	UN Special Envoy Francis Okelo notes that the UN was “extremely concerned” with the severity of recent cease-fire violations. These include active combat, movement of troops and weapons, human rights abuse against civilians, systematic assaults of humanitarian personnel, and continued detention of abductees.
November 1	President Kabbah forms his new cabinet, including three ministers and four deputy ministers representing the RUF and AFRC.
November 17	Nigerian diplomat Oluyemi Adeniji is appointed as UN Special Representative to Sierra Leone, to succeed Francis Okelo.
November 17	General Vijay Kumar Jetley of India is selected to lead the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.
November 22	The RUF registers with the Interim National Electoral Commission as a political party.
November 30	Sierra Leone and UN officials welcome the first contingent of Kenyan troops serving in UNAMSIL who will number 820.
December 10	Two Medecins Sans Frontieres workers are abducted by RUF commander Sam Bockarie, continuing a trend of kidnappings of humanitarian personnel. In this case, Bockarie reportedly took the two European workers to bring international attention to his fear that Foday Sankoh was planning his assassination.
December 15	National Commission for Disarmament reports that only 23 percent or 10, 557 of an estimated 45,000 soldiers were disarmed by the December 15 deadline.

- December 16 Sam Bockarie “ Maskita,” RUF field commander, flees to Liberia, revealing tensions within the RUF. It is rumored that he has been rallying his contingents against the Lome accords and executed several RUF officers in his flight. Charles Taylor later acknowledges that he has met with Bockarie in Liberia.
- December 29 Foday Sankoh presents a paper to President Kabbah and the International Community entitled “Violations of the Lome Peace Accord,” warning of an immediate crisis in the implementation of the Agreement if urgent action is not taken to make progress on key provisions.2001.
- 2000**
- January 12 Secretary-General Annan calls for the expansion of UNAMSIL from 6,000 to 11,100 troops.
- January 19 The Sierra Leone Parliament approves legislation for an Anti-Corruption Bureau with wide powers to investigate alleged or suspected corruption in all public departments.
- January 23 Sankoh, as chairman of the commission for the Management of Strategic Resources, National Reconstruction and Development, announces a moratorium on all Diamond mining in Sierra Leone. He warns that anyone caught mining illicitly will be arrested and prosecuted and anyone formerly carrying licenses must reapply with the CMRRD. Photos a month later shows that diamond mining activity in rebel held areas has not ceased.
- February 2 United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission reports that former rebel fighters are continuing to loot, rape, and mutilate civilians.
- February 7 The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1289 increasing the authorized strength of UNAMSIL to 11,100 troops.
- February 21 Sankoh is expelled from South Africa after the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on Sierra Leone informs the government of South Africa and Cote d’ Ivoire that Sankoh’s is in violation of an international travel ban imposed in 1997.
- February 23 The parliament approves draft legislation for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- February 24 UN peacekeepers stand off after one of many confrontations with the RUF, which continues to prevent the UN mission from taking up positions in eastern Sierra Leone.
- February 29 De Beers, controlling the sales of 70-80 percent of the world’s diamonds, announces that it will guarantee that any uncut gems it sells

- through the Central Selling Organization will not originate in rebel-held territories.
- March 3 The president of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone leave a mini-summit in Bamako, Mali, pledging that “no country will be used as a base to destabilize another country”.
- March 21 President Kabbah swears in members of the new Electoral Commission to organize the presidential and parliamentary elections to be held in 2001.
- March 27 Thousands march through Freetown protesting the slow pace of the disarmament process.
- March 30 Human Rights Watch calls on Burkina Faso’s president Blaise Compaore to order an independent investigation into charges that his country facilitated illegal arms transfers to the rebel forces.
- April 4 ECOMOG resumes its troop reduction plan. Remaining ECOMOG troops are expected to be subsumed under UN command. Twenty thousand teachers return to work after a weeklong strike over unpaid salaries. Problems continue in staffing and payment in several sectors of the civil service.
- April 18 Sierra Leone Chief of Defense Staff / Brigadier, General Maxwell Khobe dies in Nigeria due to a series of complications from earlier shrapnel wound.
- April 25 RUF fighters surround a disarmament reception center in Magburaka, forcing UN peacekeepers to dismantle the camp in a continuing trend of non-cooperation with the disarmament process.
- April 26 UNAMSIL gains a presence in nine of Sierra Leone’s twelve districts but has not yet managed to deploy in eastern Kono District where the RUF is strongest. Nigerian troops continue to head for home.
- May 2 The ECOMOG force completes its withdrawal from Sierra Leone.
- May 4 The bodies of four Kenyan peacekeepers are recovered and sent home for burial.
- May 6 UNAMSIL loses contact with another 200 peacekeepers, bringing the number held by the RUF to around 500.
- May 7 RUF rebels shoot down a UN helicopter. Two helicopters were shot at, both carrying food and supplies for UN peacekeepers surrounded by rebels in Makeni and Magburaka. One was able to pick up three wounded Kenyan peacekeepers. Evacuation of foreigners begins.
- May 8 An estimated 30,000 demonstrators, organized by civil society groups to condemn the RUF detention of UN

- peacekeepers, march towards Sankoh's residence. Nigerian UNAMSIL troops fire into the air to disperse the crowd. The RUF opens fire, killing seventeen and injuring many others. During the fighting, Sankoh escapes out the back of his house and goes into hiding.
- May 9 The ECOWAS summit in Abuja approves a proposal to send an additional 3,000 troops to Sierra Leone. The regional leaders also call for UNAMSIL's mandate to be changed from peacekeeping to peace enforcement and for the force to be headed by a West African.
- May 13 Six British warships take up position in Sierra Leone waters.
- May 15 The Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration reveals that the NCDDR program has come to a "temporary halt" due to RUF attacks against the UN peacekeeping forces and the group's unwillingness to disarm according to a shared timetable. British forces secure Lungi Airport.
- May 17 Foday Sankoh is captured near his residence in the early hours of the morning. He is arrested and then stripped and paraded through the streets by the crowd before ending up in government custody.
- May 22 The bodies of what are suspected to be UN peacekeepers, including four Zambians and one Nigerian, are found at Rogberi Junction, raising concerns over the continued holding of UN hostages. Secretary-General Annan recommends the increase of the peacekeeping force from 13,000 to 16,500 troops.
- May 24 Two journalists-Kurt Schork of Reuters and Gil Moreno of the Associated Press-are killed in an ambush by the RUF near Rogberi junction. Four Sierra Leone Army soldiers are also killed in the attack.
- May 25 UNAMSIL spokesperson David Wimhurst states that Foday Sankoh is no longer a "credible" negotiating partner for continued dialogue involved in the peace process.
- May President Kabbah announce that Foday Sankoh will be tried for crimes committed since the July 7 Lome Agreement.
- May 30 Of the UN peacekeepers abducted by the RUF, 467 are released; 258 UN personnel remain surrounded by RUF troops.
- June 3 Liberia offers to contribute troops to the proposed 3,000-man ECOWAS peacekeeping contingent to Sierra Leone.
- June 7 RUF Field Commander General Issa Sesay meets with UNAMSIL Field Commander Major Punia, indicating that his troops want to return to the peace process.
- June 10 A British team of military trainers and soldiers to provide security starts arriving in Freetown. The team begins training 1,000 soldiers of the new Sierra Leone Army.

- June 12 The Israel Diamond exchange states that it will revoke membership of any diamond dealer who knowingly sells “conflict diamonds” that have originated from rebels in Sierra Leone, Angola, or the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- June 13 The European Union decides to suspend EU 50 million (\$ 48 million) in development aid to Liberia until its support for the RUF ceases.
- June 15 The British operation, code named “Operation Palliser,” formally ends at midnight as the British soldiers are sent home. Military advisers remain to work with UNAMSIL and the Sierra Leone Army.
- June 18 The Washington post reports that the Liberian government has re-supplied and reinforced RUF rebels in eastern Sierra Leone, preparing them to fight rather than allow the UN to take over diamond mining areas under their control.
- June 20 U.S Ambassador to the UN Richard Holbrooke calls for an international tribunal to try rebel leaders accused of war crimes in Sierra Leone. Great Britain proposes an embargo on diamonds from Sierra Leone, most of which are smuggled through Liberia.
- June 21 ECOWAS leaders meet at the UN to discuss the current proposals on Sierra Leone. There are estimates of 500,000 Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees now in Guinea.
- July 5 The United Nations Security Council adopts Resolution 1306 to impose an embargo on the sale of rough Sierra Leone diamonds. The British sponsored resolution makes it illegal to buy Sierra Leonean diamonds unless they are accompanied by a certificate of origin from the government. Until such a certification system is in place, the resolution will ban all diamonds originating in Sierra Leone, except those passing through official government channels.
- July 10 The Sierra Leone government orders the “West Side Boys” – ex- SLA soldiers loyal to AFRC leaders Johnny Paul Koroma – to report to Masiaka on Monday and Tuesday to be disarmed by UNAMSIL.
- July 19 Diamond industry leaders meet at the world diamond congress in Antwerp, Belgium, and adopt measures to clamp down on the illegal trade in “conflict diamonds.” The industry will adopt a certification system to track diamonds from where they are mined to the international diamond trading centers. The measure also provides tough penalties against dealers who break UN embargoes on diamond dealing with rebels in Sierra Leone.
- August 8 Johnny Paul Koroma formally disassociates himself from renegade soldiers of the AFRC, including the West Side Boys militia.
- August 14 The United Nations Security Council adopts Resolution 1315 supporting the creation of a special tribunal to try “persons who bear the greatest

responsibility” for serious crimes under Sierra Leonean and international law. The resolution authorizes Secretary-General Annan to negotiate an agreement with the Sierra Leone government to create an independent special court to try crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other serious violations of both international humanitarian and Sierra Leonean law.

- August 15 Justice Minister and Attorney-General Solomon Berewa announce that RUF leader Foday Sankoh will be tried before the tribunal.
- August 21 The RUF names General Issa Sesay to replace Foday Sankoh as leader of the movement.
- August 26 Eleven soldiers from Britain’s Royal Irish Regiment and one Sierra Leone Army soldier are missing amid reports they were abducted by former West Side Boys.
- August 28 Secretary-General Annan recommends that UNAMSIL’s strength be increased to 20,500 to enhance the forces operational structure and over-all effectiveness, and to allow deployment in key areas.
- August 30 Five of the British soldiers are released. The West Side Boys issue a statement saying they distrust the government, and will not disarm until their demands are met.
- September 10 British forces in a surprise attack, free remaining British and Sierra Leonean hostages inflicting serious casualties among the captors.
- September RUF frees two Italian missionary priests abducted in early September during a rebel attack on the Guinean border town of Pamelap
- September India announces that it will withdraw its troops from UNAMSIL after friction developed between the then-UNAMSIL force commander, Major-General Vijay Kumar Jetley of India, and Nigerian U.N. officials
- September Guinean military start invading the border areas of Sierra Leone
- November 10 Signing of the Abuja ceasefire agreement between the RUF and the Sierra Leone government.
- November 17 Sierra Leone's Parliament passes a motion extending the State of Emergency for an additional six months.
- November 28 Kenyan Battalion hands over the responsibility of the Lungi Peninsula to the SLA.
- December Former NPRC leader Valentine Strasser, returns to Sierra Leone after four years of exile. He is not entitled to a pension as a former ruler of the country.

2001

- January 1 ECOWAS military chiefs from Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Niger agree to deploy West African troops along Guinea's borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone. The force, comprising 1,696 troops: 776 from Nigeria, 500 from Mali and 200 each from Senegal and Niger will operate under a strong mandate that would empower troops to protect civilians, refugees and humanitarian agencies in border areas.
- January 2 Britain announces that it would stay in Sierra Leone until the war is either won or resolved on favorable terms and until they have completed training of the entire SLA.
- January 26 Sierra Leone formally requests the extradition from Liberia of Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie, who has been staying in Liberia since December 1999.
- January 26 Curfew shortened by one hour; now ends at 5:30 am.
- January 30 Appointment of Mr. Alan Doss, a British national, as Deputy Special Representative of UNAMSIL.
- February 7 Liberia announces that Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie has left the country.
- February 12 RUF return weapons back to UNAMSIL in Makeni as well as communications equipment and nine vehicles it had seized from them in May 2000.
- February 13 ECOWAS delegation asks for a two-month delay in implementing proposed sanctions against Liberia as it seeks alternative strategies to exhaust sanction avenues.
- February 14 Sierra Leone's presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for February and March 2001 respectively postponed for another six months, on the grounds that two-thirds of the country was still under RUF control and the delay in the DDR process.
- February 14 The Indian peacekeeping contingent completes its withdrawal from UNAMSIL.
- February 15 Spokesman Omrie Golley accepts an offer from the RUF military command to chair an eight-member RUF Political Council charged with finding what he called "a viable way forward" in the peace.
- March 2 The GOSL opens the road from Kenema to Daru.
- March 7 Security Council votes unanimously to impose a variety of sanctions on Liberia. Sanctions are due to take effect on May 7.
- March 19 Liberia announces the closure of its country's borders with Sierra Leone and orders the expulsion of the ambassadors of Sierra Leone and Guinea from the country.

- March 20 UNAMSIL's US-trained 7th Nigerian Battalion comprising 776 peacekeepers complete their deployment in Lunsar.
- March 20 GoSL reacting to Liberia's expulsion of its ambassador in Monrovia orders the expulsion of the Liberian charge d'affaires in Freetown.
- March 21 Mange Bridge, linking Port Loko and Kambia, is officially reopened.
- March 25 Omrie Golley arrives in Freetown to take up his new post as chairman of the RUF's new political council.
- March 30 Security Council votes for an increase in UNAMSIL's troop strength and an extension of its mandate by another six months, which will last through September 30th 2001. At the time, UNAMSIL has approximately 13,000 troops in the country.
- April 7 Sierra Leonean women organise a peace march in Freetown, Bo, Moyamba, Kenema, Daru, Lunsar and Tongo.
- April 11 ECOWAS leaders meet at a one-day extraordinary summit in Abuja, Nigeria, to examine the current instability and humanitarian crisis along Guinea's borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- April 17 Resettlement programme begins for IDPs.
- April 17 UNAMSIL begins deploying in Makeni and Magburaka, the first such deployment since the peace process collapsed nearly a year ago.
- April 25 Sierra Leone adopts the international convention against torture and other cruel punishment.
- April 27 Some 88 persons from all walks of life will be honoured at a ceremony at State House marking the 40th anniversary of Sierra Leone's independence from Britain.
- May 7 Security Council imposes sanctions on Liberia after the country fails to prove that it was not involved in the Sierra Leone war. As a way of appealing to the Council the Liberian government launched a week-long media campaign entitled "Say No to Sanctions," aimed at producing a petition with one million signatures to be sent to the UN.
- May 15 GoSL and RUF hold discussions in Freetown to set a timetable for the implementation of the DDR programme, following the meeting of the ECOWAS committee of six in Abuja, Nigeria, to review the Abuja Ceasefire Agreement.
- May 15 President Koumba Yalla of Guinea-Bissau comes on a two-day official visit to Sierra Leone wanting to see for himself ways of enhancing peace in the country and in the sub-region as a whole.

May 16	The Prime Minister of Togo Agbeyome Kodjo visits the country.
June 3	The commercial highway linking Freetown and Conakry is finally re-opened at the border town of Pamelap. The road had been closed by the RUF for the last three years.
June 9	Colonel Gabriel Mani and 38 other soldiers and civilians are arrested, following the discovery of weapons caches at Colonel Mani residence.
June 12	Lunsar DDR centre opened.
July 24	A five-year Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (IPRS) programme, for Sierra Leone is launched.
August 9	GoSL releases 41 RUF members from detention, including former RUF minister, Alimamy Paolo Bangura.
August	Security Council grants a temporary waiver on the ban on Liberia, enabling senior Liberian officials to attend meetings and facilitate proper dialogue between each of the three MRU states.
August 22	A Joint Security Committee of the Mano River Union States meets in Freetown to map out strategies for resolving security problems in the region. Each government agrees to extradite dissident elements operating in their respective country.
September 3	Nigerian president, Mr. Olusengun Obasanjo and Malian president, Alpha Oumar Konare visit Sierra Leone and hold discussions with President Kabbah and RUF leader, General Issa Sesay in Kono District, to assess the disarmament process and build confidence in the peace process.
September 7	Sierra Leone's Parliament votes for an additional six months extension of the country's current state of emergency. Parliament also votes for a further six months delay of the country's presidential and parliamentary elections on the grounds that the country is still insecure.
September 7	Britain to reduce the number of its troops serving in Sierra Leone from 550 to 360. Of those remaining, about 110 will continue to provide security for the International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT) while the rest will essentially serve as advisors to the SLA and trainers in the MRP.
September 10	Foreign ministers of the MRU meet in the Guinean capital, Conakry, in furtherance to the series of ministerial-level Joint Security Commission meetings, aimed at resolving the armed conflicts in the subregion. The ministers agree to hold a sub-regional heads of state summit in January 2002.
September 18	Tripartite Meeting held in Makeni to review the progress made towards

- disarmament in the country. Mr. Paolo Bangura is nominated Secretary-General of the RUF. The Government also provided a structure in Freetown, to serve as the headquarters office for the RUF party.
- September 18 Security Council extends UNAMSIL's mandate by a further six months, starting September 30th to March 2002.
- September 5 The GoSL release 31 more RUF detainees from Pademba Road Prison. Among those released are former RUF minister, Mike Lamin and former RUF spokesman, Eldred Collins.
- September 21 The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approves a three-year loan for Sierra Leone worth US \$169 million.
- September 26 A delegation from the African Union (formerly the OAU) visits Sierra Leone to assess the country's infrastructural needs.
- September 28 Liberian President Charles Taylor announces that he would reopen his country's borders with Sierra Leone and Guinea.
- October 11 Another tripartite meeting is held in Freetown. It addresses concern expressed by the Security Council over the slow pace of disarmament by the RUF in Bombali District.
- October 15 SLP begins deploying in Koidu.
- October 19 A Mi-24 helicopter belonging to the (SLA) crashes in Kenema during a routine reconnaissance mission, killing one British national, Major Vanessa Lang.
- November 2 America's newspaper, the Washington Post reveals that the RUF have poured millions of dollars into the coffers of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network, blamed for the September 11th terrorist attacks in the United States.
- November 7 UNAMSIL's Mi-8 helicopters crashes into the sea shortly after taking off from the Mammy Yoko helipad at UNAMSIL headquarters in Freetown, for Lungi International Airport. All seven people on board are killed.
- The GoSL releases another set of 15 RUF detainees. The RUF continues to call on the government to release the rest of its members, including their leader Corporal Foday Sankoh, in light of the upcoming elections and their transformation into a political party.
- November 8 Tripartite meeting reaches agreement on the final steps of the DDR process, declaring Koinadugu and Moyamba Districts disarmed. The RUF calls on the GoSL to immediately deploy the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) in areas that have been disarmed.
- November 13 A three-day National Consultative Conference takes place in Freetown, to pave the way forward for the country's elections; ends up with 25

resolutions.

- November 15 Sierra Leone's ambassador to Liberia, Ambassador Kemoh Salia-Gbao, returns to Monrovia for the first time since March when he and his Guinean counterpart Ambassador Baba Soare were given seven days by the Liberian government to leave the country, for unspecified acts "incompatible with their status".
- November 15 Disarmament starts in Kenema and Kailahun Districts - the last of Sierra Leone's districts to down weapons since the disarmament process resumed in May 2001.
- November 19 RUF's Political and Peace Council Chairman Mr. Omrie Golley announces his resignation from the RUF on grounds that he would seek a wider involvement in the peace process, including working with excombatants and providing psychosocial care for them.
- November Police officers deployed in Makeni.
- November 22 Paramount chiefs return to Kono for the first time since war broke out in the district.
- December Sierra Leone's parliament approved the District Block voting system for use in next year's parliamentary elections.
- December 7 The United States placed Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front on a new "Terrorism Exclusion List" which would allow the authorities to deport members or to deny them visas to enter the U.S.
- December 12 The Sierra Leone government shortened curfew by two hours in advance of Muslim and Christian holidays. The curfew, which formerly began at midnight, now ran from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.
- December 19 The United Nations Security Council voted unanimously to extend by eleven months, from January 05, a global embargo on the sale of Sierra Leonean rough diamonds, excepting only those controlled by the government under the Certification of Origin regime.

2002

- January 16 Sierra Leone government and the United Nations signed an agreement formally establishing the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown. The court will be mandated to try those deemed to bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed after November 1996 - the date the Abidjan Peace Accord was signed.
- January 17 The eighth and final tripartite meeting took place in Freetown.
- January 18 An official end of Sierra Leone's disarmament programme. President

	Kabbah announced the lifting of the curfew, taking the country to the state where it was four years ago.
January 21	President Kabbah renamed the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) to the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF).
January 23	Former AFRC junta Leader and Chairman of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (CCP), Rtd. Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma resigned as CCP boss and declared his intention to run for the presidency in the elections.
Jan 24 - 10 Feb	National Electoral Commission (NEC) undertook nationwide registration for the national parliamentary and presidential elections, slated for May 14.
February 9	British Prime Minister Tony Blair made a brief stopover in Sierra Leone as part of a five-day West African tour.
March 2	President Kabbah lifted the State of Emergency allowing for the beginning of official campaign for the elections and the commencement of trials of RUF leader Foday Sankoh and 87 other defendants. The State of Emergency was imposed in 1998 following restoration of the country's civilian overnment after nine months of junta rule.
April 11-12	The ECOWAS Convergence Council, comprising cabinet ministers and Central Bank governors, from Sierra Leone, Gambia, Guinea, Ghana met in Freetown to seek ways in which to foster trade and integrate their economies in preparation for the planned launching of a regional currency in 2003.
April 19	UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced the appointment of David M. Crane, an American to the post of chief prosecutor of Sierra Leone's Special Court.
April 20-28	A UN assessment team visited the country to evaluate the effectiveness of the disarmament and demobilization programme.
May 10	Security and election officials, reporters and others responsible for conducting the elections cast their votes around the country.
May 13	The Sierra Leone government announced the appointment of four Sierra Leoneans and three non-Sierra Leoneans as commissioners for the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).
May 14	Presidential and parliamentary elections got underway, with President Kabbah taking the lead in votes.
May 19	President Kabbah took oath of office.
May 21	President Kabbah announced his cabinet.

- June 25 Parliament convened for the first time after elections.
- July 12 President Kabbah formally opened Sierra Leone's first Parliament elected since the end of the war in Freetown.
- July 5 President Kabbah swore in the seven commissioners at the inauguration of the TRC at State House.
- August 1 United States government dropped its travel warning on Sierra Leone.
- October 4 TRC started its one-year operational period beginning with statements taking and other investigative and research activities.
- October 11 The Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, ended a four-day visit to Sierra Leone for her London-based charity Children in Crisis.
- October 21 A new Internment Camp was opened at Mape, a short distance north of Freetown, for Liberian combatants who were surrendering to the Sierra Leonean authorities.
- October 28 The Sierra Leone government in an effort to minimise corruption declared this day as a national payday, which required government workers to wait in lines to receive their salaries.
- October 31 The Sierra Leonean government published a National Recovery Strategy that details the strategy for recovery across all sectors, establishing priority interventions and setting targets for 2003.
- November 13-14 Consultative Group meeting for Sierra Leone was held in Paris in an effort to promote dialogue between the Sierra Leone government and international agencies and donor governments.
- December 2 The eight judges chosen to preside over Sierra Leone's Special Court took their oaths of office
- December 3 Election of traditional leaders to fill vacant paramount chief posts in 63 of Sierra Leone's 149 chiefdoms got underway.

2003

- January 19 Opposition parliamentarian and former junta leader Johnny Paul Koroma fled his residence when security forces showed up to search his house in connection with an armed attack on a military supply depot in the east end of Freetown. This action was thought to be a conspiracy to destabilize the security situation of the country.
- January The fifth and final phase of the national IDP Resettlement Programme was completed with a total of 11,000 IDPs resettled (5,000 from the Western Area and 6,000 from Tonkolili District). A total number 220,000 IDPs were resettled since the beginning of the programme in April 2001; 161,000 people were resettled in 2002. Camp

- consolidation and closure process began immediately after the resettlement exercise.
- February 23 Under-Secretary-General Olara A. Otunnu, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, visited Sierra Leone, to assess the status of war-affected children in the post-conflict peace-building phase.
- February 25 The National Commission for War-Affected Children was launched 10 March - Special Court handed down its first indictments, accusing seven persons, for bearing the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity, war crimes and related offences. This included four former RUF rebels, two members of the former AFRC junta and Interior Minister Sam Hinga Norman.
- March 20 The Sierra Leone Development Partnership Committee (DEPAC), met for the first time, following the Consultative Group (CG) meeting in November in Paris.
- April 14 The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) began its public hearings phase after collecting 7,100 statements from victims, perpetrators and witnesses of atrocities committed during the war.
- April 15 Dr. John Edward Mitchiner was appointed as Britain's new High Commissioner to Sierra Leone. Dr. Mitchiner succeeds Mr. Alan Jones, who arrived in Freetown in May 2000.
- April 27 Sierra Leone celebrated its 42nd Independence Anniversary from Britain. The bulk of the President Tejan Kabbah's speech was addressed to the nation's youth.
- May 5 Liberia Government reported that ex-rebel leader Sam Bockarie commonly known as Maskita, was killed at the Liberia - Ivory Coast border town of Bin-Houye during an apparent attempt by Liberian authorities to arrest him.
- May 26 ECOWAS-appointed mediator, former Nigerian leader Abdulsalami Abubakar held peace talks in Sierra Leone aimed at ending conflict between Liberia's warring parties; one group failed to show up.
- May 28 Special Court indicted Brima "Bazzy" Kamara a former senior commander of both the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and the West Side Boys making him the ninth person to be indicted by the court.
- May 30 The Sierra Leone government's Oil Exploration Bid Evaluation Committee opened its first bid at the State House in Freetown. The main bidders considered – Repsol YPF of Spain, 8 Investment Inc. of the United States, and Oranto Petroleum Sierra Leone Ltd.
- June 1 The remains of former field commander Sam Bockarie arrived at the

Lungi International Airport in Freetown.

- June 4 The Chief Prosecutor for Sierra Leone's Special Court, David Crane called for the arrest of Liberian President Charles Taylor, who was in Accra attending an ECOWAS-sponsored peace talks.
- June 20 President Kabbah officially opened the Second Session of Sierra Leone's Second Parliament
- July 18 United Nations Security Council approved a plan for the complete withdrawal of United Nations peacekeepers from Sierra Leone by December 2004.
- July 29 The once dreaded RUF leader Foday Sankoh passed away at the Choitrams Hospital in Freetown. He died of pneumonia at the age of 65 years.
- July 31 The Government of Sierra Leone signed a 100-year land lease agreement with the U.S. Ambassador Peter Chaveas for the construction of a new American Embassy complex at Hill Station.
- August 2 Former president Joseph Saidu Momoh died in the Guinean capital Conakry where he lived in exile. President Momoh ruled the country from 1985 to 1992.
- August 5 President Kabbah faced the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and narrated his experience as national leader during the country's civil war,
- August 23 Former Police Inspector-General and Chief Electoral Commissioner Walter O. Nicol, died at a London hospital where he was being treated for throat cancer. He was 59.
- August 24 Former President Joseph Saidu Momoh was buried
- August 26 President Kabbah formally launched the "Kono Diamond Peace Alliance," a coalition aimed at cleaning up the diamond-mining sector in Sierra Leone and returning it to profitability.
- September 3 The United States announced the termination of its TPS programme, which gave a special protective status to Sierra Leone nationals living in America.
- October 25 Vice President Solomon Berewa declared his intention to stand as the Sierra Leone Peoples Party candidate for presidential elections in 2007.
- October The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) launched a National Vision Campaign, calling on sierra Leoneans to envision how they see peace in post-conflict Sierra Leone.

December 1 UN Secretary-General. Kofi Annan appointed Mr. Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago, a Tanzanian, as his new Special Representative for Sierra Leone. Mr. Mwakawago succeeds Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji, who was appointed as Nigeria's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

2004

February 9-16 Members from DR Congo, Congo-Brazzaville, Burundi, Uganda and the Central African Republic visited the country to review the experience of the recently concluded DDR programme.

February 9-18 A UN Inter-departmental Assessment Mission visited the country to review the draw down of UNAMSIL and prepare recommendations for a post UNAMSIL structure.

February 14-28 Voter registration took place for local government elections Scheduled for 22 May. This will be the first local government polls in Sierra Leone in three decades.

March 2-4 Finance ministers of Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia met in Freetown to discuss progress made by their respective economies under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) initiative. Nigeria and Kenya were also present.

March 10 Special Court performs a grand opening ceremony of its completed facility on 10 March of nine defendants in custody for alleged crimes against humanity. The rebel group defence lawyers asked for the court's chief justice, British lawyer Geoffrey Robertson to step down, saying he is biased due to they way he referred to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in his book describing them as a gang of thieves and have killed and amputated several people.

NOTE

This chronology, prepared by UN OCHA, is based on Appendix 1 of "Diamonds and the Struggle for Democracy" authored by John L Hirsch (2000) and published by Lynne Rienner Publishers. Information was taken from several sources including Africa Confidential, Sierra Leone News, and wire service reports.