



## War, intervention and development

*The prospects for sustainable peace.*

Gibril Foday Musa, former student rebel

The prospects for sustainable peace is to go back and address the root causes, in order to avoid a *déjà vue*, a repetition of what we went through for the last decade or more years. We should go back and address things like corruption, deprivation, the plight of the youths, and women, those are the issues and I think those are exactly the issues that every journalist should be addressing now.”

*Screen caption:*

Kroo Bay, Freetown 2004

Abu Brima, Network Movement for Justice and Development

The issue of economic hardship is even more serious than it was during the war days. Sierra Leone is not only the last, but is re-entrenching itself in the factors that actually led to the war, and that’s the situation. It’s unfortunate, I mean there’s a lot of rhetoric, there are a lot of policies put in place for this and that, for governance reform for anti corruption, for poverty reduction but these are just documents, they are just words.”

Gaskin Amara, former RUF

People need to be sensitised, people need to be conscioutised, people need, even the politicians, they have to see a reason why the war came. And a human being who has been in the system for 75 years cannot be expected to change in two minutes. It has to take time it is a process.

Zainab Bangura, former presidential candidate

The whole peace process has not addressed the governance issue, they have left it out completely and they have left it in the hands of the government, who in the first place were part of the causes of the war, and you are asking them to address that, it’s not possible.

Rashid Sandi, former RUF

The main disease I can assure you is corruption, we have forgotten about the gun, but there is still another weapon that is corruption, and until and unless we get rid of that, I’m afraid, because I will not stand by seeing you eating what is my own due. I will not allow you. I will surely tell you: No Sam, that is wrong – do the right thing!

So it’s like when authorities really try to put corruption under control this country will be in a good position.”

Zainab Bangura

And obviously this is the computer age, this is the human rights age, this is the age of good governance of democratic participation, where the majority people should decide what to do, and yet this country is being held hostage by a small number of people who believe in one party rule, in authoritarian government, who do not believe in accountability, or transparency, and who do not believe that the individual has the ability.

Zainab Bangura

Women do not even constitute even ten percent of every decision making process. Women are not on the table where the decisions are made. If you look at the parastatals, we have

over forty parastatals. We don't have one woman who is a chairman, we have the electoral commission there is no woman yet women constitute over fifty percent of voting population.

Peter Penfold, British High Commission, 1997 - 2000

One of the things that will continue to concern me is that until the problems are addressed here of the unemployed and undereducated youth, there is always the potential for another Sanko to come along, or whatever, and galvanise them and persuade them that if they follow him into the bush with their AK47s they will get what they want. The governments in the international community find it very difficult to address that problem.

Zainab Bangura

One of my biggest problems with the international community and I think it's the way that they operate, decisions are made as to what to do, when to do it before they arrive here. People have a preconceived idea of what are the needs of the people before they come and they bring resources based on that.

Abu Brima

We are trying to ask the government to make sure that what ever investment comes into the country take the agenda of the country into account. For instance the investment in the mineral sector has been the major factor in fuelling the war, to be re-organised and coordinated in such a way that there is accountability and transparency in such a way that the people benefit.

Zainab Bangura

We feel we have the potential, we have the manpower, what we don't have is the know how and that's what we expect people from overseas to help us, because this issue of inter-government relationship, not wanting to discourage the government, not wanting to affect the government, I think is not helping us, because if they put their conditions, and say for us to be able to give you this money we are collecting from our people in any case, we don't pick it of the trees, people pay taxes, we want to make sure this money is spent in the right way.

The African people should stop being seen as beneficiaries and recipients, people should start seeing them as partners in development and so these people can take control of their own destiny, so we do blame the international community because they can set up conditions they only do set up conditions when it suits them.

Ambrose James, Search for Common Ground

For the last ten years, eleven years, it was too bitter too much destruction. We've not even been able to repair all the houses back yet, you might see that, so who is going to talk about fighting again.

Hannah Foullah, Radio Democracy

People have realised that no we don't need to pick up the guns but we can say our mind, and we've made the statement that however bad the government may be its still no excuse for the military of any other armed group to get up and take arms and shoot their way to power.

Ambrose James

If government keep resisting and say you just talk we are not going to do anything, that means were are going back to war. But I see that they are accommodating people, they are allowing people to talk, that's a sign, that's a sign definitely. But the other part is if even you allow people to talk, you also have to push up to say we want action, we want changes and this is what we are fighting for. You can talk and talk and talk, and sing and sing and sing, but we need action, we need proactive-ness from government.