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**MATRIC NUMBER: 16/SMS10/005**

**CONTEMPORARY WARS IN WEST AFRICA.**

**REVIEW OF TWO DOCUMENTARIES OF THE SIERRA LEONE CIVIL WAR.**

**TITLE OF THE DOCUMENTARY: AFRICAS CIVIL WARS SIERRA LEONE DOCUMENTARY 18+ NOT FOR CHILDREN**

**DATE UPLOADED: DECEMBER 12, 2013.**

**AUTHOR & CHANNEL: PHILIPPE DIAZ / IFREEYOURMIND**

**HELD: 2005 SCENERIES EUROPE- CINEMA LIBRE STUDIO**

The author started the documentary explaining how Sierra Leone is a small country on the coast of West Africa, its land is rich in natural resources which have exploited by foreign corporation since colonial times.it came to a certain period when the people of sierra Leone were not be able to survive, a revolutionary group called the united front of sierra Leone was formed they decided that they will share the country’s wealth equally to the minority and change the state. RUF late got into alliance with the Sierra Leone arm, its political branch and they fought the war for 10 years.

Into the documentary they showed how the peace argument went. The president of Sierra Leone, President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was giving a speech “today is a good, we shall never again result to violence to settle matters of political issues’. The leader of the revolutionary united front (RUF) Foday Sankoh gave a speech ‘we started 23rd march 1991 has been faithful for all of us, we can live in which a few corrupt people held the majority and corrupted the society, people have died and others have suffered injuries. The historic document that was signed will be dedicated to the children of Sierra Leone said the speaker. A little girl was showed and her right hand was gone because of the war. The peace agreement was also signed with the president of Togo.

In a refugee camp in Murray Town, a man explained how he ran on the 18th from those people, they were killing on the street and he ran away with his 8 children. He said his children were hungry and wanted to fetch water and unfortunately the killed all 8 of them in his front. People began to give their stories of how they were attacked, most of them lost their hands during this war.

The corrupt political system was directed by former president Joseph Sadu Momoh 1991 it was said that the RUF was in existence since the 1980s .APC (all people congress) that practiced dictatorship, it was established in 1978 by the late Siaka Stephens. The people wanted to get them out of power so they can have a real democratic state where they can get education, job opportunities and live like human beings, said the commander of RUF. They wanted to be equal with other nations. A mineral resource worker in the video complained how they get the work done and the government takes it away from them without giving them nothing and they own the land. They want key partnership with investors. A peace keeping force was sent from Nigeria to Sierra Leone, the Nigeria intervention was an economic strategy. Soldiers were called sobels because they turned in rebels. The government later hired machineries from South Africa that dealt with commands. January 1996 General Julius seized power in a coup detat. An election process was put by the United Nations, the sectary of United Nations political affairs James Jonah. they chose Ahmed Tejan Kabbah as their candidate.

President Tejan said his message to the people was he was going to work for peace, security and stability for the country, it was said that the sectary of united nations political affairs manipulated the results in favour of president Tejan. Children and youths were forced to join the military. The country faced humanitarian crisis (hunger and disease). February 1997 despite the peace agreement they were still killings. ECOWAS later decided to reinforce the Nigeria troops into ECOMOG. In United Nations voted the resolution 32 in October 8 1997, it prevented the trading of oils and arms with Sierra Leone it was left to ECOWAS, the ECOMOG forces brought a road blockade and all ships transporting food that killed many civilians. The price of food went up. According to the commander in chief of ECOMOG he said when ECOMOG came in it had AARC they took over from President Kabbah and invited RUF to join and alter became an enemy with ECOMOG. Resolution 71 dated June 5 1998 it said the weapons in Sierra Leone applies only to non-governmental forces. Tejan Kabbah has been allocating the use of military violence for his return to power without considering the people. Italian government donated 1,000 bags of rice to Sierra Leone. October 19 1998 by the order of president Kabbah 24 army officers were executed by ECOMOG soldiers and later 28 civilian were killed. Resolution 1132 on arm embargo in Sierra Leone it was reserved and they brought in light weapons to fuel crisis and later it was cancelled and Britain brought up arms. In January the rebel succeeded in coming to the capital of Sierra Leone, they used pregnant women and children as shields and opened fire on them. Their aim was to free prisoners and let president know that refusing to negotiate is not a good decision. They started a campaign is goal to get more international financing and blame the root soldiers for all the suffering sierra Leone people, the campaign praises the ECOMOG.

A witness said he saw the ECOMOG soldiers tie people and shot them then throw them into the river. ECOMOG was sent by the OAU and the mandate was enforced by the security council of the chapter of United Nations. President Kabbah government was forced to sign a peace treaty and enforce it. ECOMOG soldiers came from Nigeria, Ghana and Mali. The humanitarian aid brought did not help everyone, the civil war killed more than 70,000 and displaced more than 2 million people of these 400,000 took shelter in refugee’s camp outside the country. They said the Sierra Leone started this thing to them said a refugee, the kamajors started to establish check points everywhere and kill soldiers. The UN commissioner for refugee came to Sierra Leone and visited those that were injured.

May 2000, the leader of RUF Foday Sankoh’s bodyguard and UN peacekeepers fire on a crowd outside his home. Kofi Annan declares that Foday Sankoh is responsible for the incident. President kabah arrested foday and RUF hierarchy and the ministers of his government that violated the peace agreement, all commanders of RUF were held in prison. In 2001 the court of justice and UN made an official mandate and its greatest responsibility for serious violation of humanitarian law. In June 203 Foday Sankoh dies in the UN custody of unknown causes. The country is known as the poorest country in Africa and they struggle to survive.

**TITTLE OF THE DOCUMENTARY: SIERRA LEONE CIVIL WAR 1991-2002 WAR FOR PROFIT**

**DATE UPLOADED: MAY 12 2015**

**AUTHOR & CHANNEL NAME: YONATHAN EFREM / KIMHALIA LEWIS**

**HELD:**

Death toll from the war estimated at 50,000, one third of the population were displaced. 10-13,000 children were abducted and used as soliders. 100,000 civilians were deliberately mutilated. 11 years of civil war in one of Africa’s smallest country. In the video the leader of RUF Foday Sankoh said he had a vision for the people of Sierra Leone and which was to make a revolution which will be progress or nothing else. Sierra Leone is rich natural resources but taken away by bad governance. The war destroyed Sierra Leone and made it the one of the poorest.

The war started in March 1991, the revolutionary united front (RUF) crossed the eastern border of Sierra Leone. It was formed and supported by the Liberian president Charles Taylor, the RUF was popular because they topping to collect diamonds. RUF leader for the people of Sierra Leone. They wanted democracy that will bring education ad good job opportunities and live like normal beings.

They committed lots of crimes, a child witness said they cut six of us, four rebel soldiers lined them up and chopped off their hands. They wanted to control the diamonds in Sierra Leone and destroying lives. In the video the RUF trained boys to join them and taught them how to shoot and children were between ages 10-12 years, they put the children in front whenever they were fighting, most of the children were told to attack the villages and guide the diamonds. The adopted boys and girls were forced to act as soldiers of prostitutes and sometimes made to murder their own parents, hard drugs were given to the children to make them fearless.

Foday Sankoh deceived himself and called his soldiers “freedom fighters” whereas they were using violence and destroying lives of some many. The Sierra Leone was known nationally for the causalities especially because of the amputation of hands and legs. The rebel groups said the future is in your hands so they decided to take their hands by cutting it off, which means no more hands, no more voting.

During the video the leader was asked if the people that were amputed was because of the government, Foday shouted ‘what is your name?’ and sad I can do something and said you did it, This is Africa people are honest and sincere. Government were unable to defend local communities. UN brought peacekeeping to Sierra Leone in October 1999.

It ended in 2002 and the people moved on. What was the main behind the blood shed was now the important resource to build the country. Foday sankoh died in July 2003 of natural causes while waiting to be tried for war crimes. Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor was sentenced to 50 years in jail for aiding and abetting rebels in Sierra Leone in May 2012. Former senior rebel of RUF was sentenced to long jail terms in April 2009. The war finally ended in January 2002.