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**Matric Number: 16/Sms10/009**

**Pcs 412 Contemporary Wars In West Africa.**

**Two Documentaries On The Sierra Leone Civil War.**

1. **Name: Africas Civil Wars Sierra Leone Documentary 18+ Not For Children**

**Uploaded: December 12, 2013.**

**Author: Philippe Diaz**

**Held: 2005 Sceneries Europe**

Located in Western Africa, Sierra Leone is a nation that was caught in a struggle between extreme poverty and extreme wealth; while diamond mining provided the bulk of the country's income, most of its people struggled to survive by raising their own crops. In 1991, a civil war broke out in Sierra Leone, with a rebel group called the Revolutionary United Front taking on government forces in a bid for a more just economy and an end to hunger.

However, the forces behind Sierra Leone's mining interests were more interested in protecting their investments than changing the economy, and both the nation's military and the RUF fell into indiscriminate violence against all parties involved. In all, 70,000 people lost their lives in the nearly 15 years of fighting, while millions lost their homes and many thousands were maimed. Filmmaker Philippe Diaz took a camera crew into Sierra Leone in the midst of the fighting to document the bloodshed and tell the story behind the brutality;

The documentary started with explaining Sierra Leone as a small country on the coast of West Africa, which is rich in natural resources that have been exploited by foreign corporation since their colonization. it came to a certain period when the people of sierra Leone could not survive survive, a revolutionary group called the united front of sierra Leone was formed with the intention of sharing 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.

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 them out of power so they can have a real democratic state where they can get good education, job opportunities and live like human beings, said the commander of RUF. They wanted to be like other nations. A mineral resource worker in the video complained how they work done and the government takes it away from them without giving them anything despite the fact that they own the land. . A peace keeping force was sent from Nigeria to Sierra Leone, though the Nigeria intervention was an economic strategy. Soldiers were called sobels because they turned into rebels.

At a point, it got so bad that children and youths were forced to join the military. The country faced humanitarian crisis. Despite the peace agreements, they were still killings by February 1997. 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. Food prices went up and things were very hard.

**2. Name: Cry Freetown**

**Uploaded: 1st October 2018**

**Author: Sorious Samura**

"Kill every living thing", demanded the rebel forces as they entered Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, on 6th January 1999. As the world's media fled, local freelance journalist Sorious Samura captured on film the awful truth of what much of the world was ignoring. Captured and threatened by the rebels, Samura, escaped and during the next few days, while battle raged between rebel and Nigerian 'peacekeeping' forces in his country's civil war, Samura took his handheld camera and captured on video some of the atrocities committed by both sides as almost every-day acts of war. While most of the atrocities were committed by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), whose calling card was to hack off the hands of its victims, the Ecomog peacekeeping force - composed mostly of Nigerians - also had a brutal reputation.

Sorious Samura revisits the site of the house set alight by rebels with local people still inside. He explains how Nigerian so-called peacekeepers, assisting government forces, trussed up, beat and almost killed a boy with learning disabilities because he was in a building they suspected of housing a sniper.