This multi-media resource list, compiled by Paul A. Bareño of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary “Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars” that premieres on June 26, 2007 at 10 PM (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

If the refugee is today’s tragic icon of a war-ravaged world, then “Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars,” a reggae-inflected band born in the camps of West Africa, represents a real-life story of survival and hope. The six-member Refugee All Stars came together in Guinea after civil war forced them from their native Sierra Leone. Traumatized by physical injuries and the brutal loss of family and community, they fight back with the only means they have — music. The result, as shown in “Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars,” is a tableau of tragedy transformed by the band’s inspiring determination to sing and be heard. A Diverse Voices Project co-production.

ADULT NONFICTION

Abdullah, Ibrahim. (Ed.) Between Democracy and Terror: The Sierra Leone Civil War. Dakar, Senegal: Codesria, 2004. An authoritative study of Sierra Leone’s civil war. It explores the genesis of the crisis, the contradictory roles of different internal and external actors, civil society and the media, the regional intervention force, and the demise of the second republic.


Campbell, Greg. Blood Diamonds: Tracing the Deadly Path of the World’s Most Precious Stones. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2002. First discovered in 1930, the diamonds of Sierra Leone have funded one of the most savage rebel campaigns in modern history. The repercussions of diamond smuggling are felt far beyond the borders of the poor and war-ridden country of Sierra Leone.


Gberie, Lansana. A Dirty War in West Africa: The RUF and the Destruction of Sierra Leone. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2005. A first-hand account of Sierra Leone’s civil war that describes the key individuals involved, the campaign waged by the RUF (Revolutionary United Front), and how the intervention of the British army stabilized a shaky peace in conjunction with the UN.


Kallon, Kelfala Morana. The Political Economy of Corruption in Sierra Leone. Lewiston, NY: E. Mellen Press, 2004. This book’s overriding theme is that Sierra Leone’s problem of endemic corruption is due to the fact that the net benefit from corruption has been consistently positive and high throughout much of the post-independence period, and that economic analysis can offer useful insights into the problem of corruption.

Keen, David. Conflict and Collusion in Sierra Leone. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. Provides a history of the last ten years of Sierra Leone, including a new and insightful discussion of the Sierra Leonean war.


Pham, John-Peter. Child Soldiers, Adult Interests: Global Dimensions of the Sierra Leonean Tragedy. New York:
Delve Deeper into “Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars”
A film by Zach Niles & Banker White

A film by Zach Niles & Banker White

Sierra Leone: Childhood, a Casualty of Conflict. New York: Amnesty International USA Publications, 2000. This report describes the violation of the most fundamental rights of the children of Sierra Leone. Much of the information included comes from the children themselves who were interviewed in March, June, and July 2000.


Voeten, Teun. How de Body?: One Man’s Terrifying Journey Through an African War. New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2002. Photojournalist Voeten was sent to cover the use of child soldiers by rebels in Sierra Leone’s civil war and in the process got caught in the middle of the warring factions and almost lost his life.


ADULT FICTION


FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES


www.amazon.com


www.unp.un.org

“Diamonds of War: Africa’s Blood Diamonds.” Produced by Partisan Pictures for National Geographic Television & Film, 2007. (50 min.) In diamond-rich Sierra Leone, rebels used the precious gems to bankroll a violent ten-year insurrection, leaving a terrorized population and a ravaged landscape in its wake.

www.amazon.com

“The Empire in Africa.” A film by Philippe Diaz. Cinema Libre, 2007. (87 min.) The story of the war the international community waged against a civil war-stricken Sierra Leone; a blunt and sometimes shakily argued attack on Western powers, the United Nations and Sierra Leone’s current government.

www.echocave.net

Novo Science Publishers, 2005. This book weaves a narrative of the history of Sierra Leone, from its foundation as a settlement for black slaves through the civil war, with a discussion of more general geopolitical lessons to be learned.