

Delve Deeper into "Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars"

A film by Zach Niles & Banker White

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.

Ayissi, Anatole N. and Robin Poulton. (Eds.) *Bound to Cooperate: Conflict, Peace, and People in Sierra Leone.* Geneva: United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, 2000. This book recognizes that in order to achieve economic development in an environment of peace and security, ordinary men and women from West Africa must be closely included in the process.

Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier.* New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2007. Absorbing account

by a young man who, as a boy of 12, was swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war. A *New York Times* Bestseller.

Bergner, Daniel. *In the Land of Magic Soldiers: A Story of White and Black in West Africa.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. A chilling narrative of the civil war in Sierra Leone that follows a set of white would-be saviors and also a set of Sierra Leoneans.

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.

Forna, Aminatta. *The Devil That Danced on the Water: A Daughter's Quest.* New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2002. A broadcaster, journalist, and writer, Fornia tells of her childhood in Sierra Leone where she witnessed the upheavals of postcolonial Africa, danger, flight, and exile in Britain. Received with much critical acclaim in England as well as the United States.

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.

Hirsch, John L. *Sierra Leone: Diamonds and the Struggle for Democracy.* Boulder, CO: L. Rienner, 2001. A chronological narrative of the destruction of Sierra Leone and the numerous efforts, domestic and international, to stabilize the collapsed state or to exploit it. The author was the US ambassador in Freetown from 1995 to 1998.

Human Rights Watch. *Forgotten Children of War: Sierra Leonean Refugee Children in Guinea.* New York: Human Rights Watch, 1999. Human Rights Watch visited Guinea in early 1999. In addition to interviewing dozens of refugee teachers, social workers, and other community leaders, this report relates the testimony of forty-nine Sierra Leonean refugee children.

Jackson, Michael. *In Sierra Leone.* Durham: Duke University Press, 2004. Jackson, an anthropologist, poet and novelist, presents a poignant and realistic picture of an African nation struggling to recover from the horror and chaos of its recent past.

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.

Kwame Senu Neville Dawes. *Wheel and Come Again: An Anthology of Reggae Poetry.* New Brunswick, Canada: Goose Lane Editions, 1998. An anthology of reggae poetry featuring the works of 28 Caribbean poets; focuses on issues including culture, politics, religion, art, love and history.

Liebmann, Marian (Ed.) *Arts Approaches to Conflict.* London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 1996. This book explores the use of music in our understanding of conflict and as an approach to conflict resolution.

Pham, John-Peter. *Child Soldiers, Adult Interests: Global Dimensions of the Sierra Leonean Tragedy.* New York:

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Nova 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.

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.

Smillie, Ian et al. *The Heart of the Matter: Sierra Leone, Diamonds and Human Security.* Ottawa: **Partnership Africa Canada, 2000.** Through the 1990s, Sierra Leone's rebel war became a tragedy of major humanitarian, political and historic proportions, but the story goes back 60 years, to the discovery of the diamonds.

Stewart, Ian. *Ambushed: A War Reporter's Life on the Line.* Chapel Hill, N.C.: **Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2002.** An in-depth look at the extraordinary day-to-day life of a war correspondent. As the Associated Press' West African bureau chief, Stewart witnessed firsthand the horrors of war in Guinea-Bissau, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone.

Sutton, Julie P. (Ed.) *Music, Music Therapy and Trauma: International Perspectives.* London: **Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2002.** A study on the healing nature of music, examines music therapy within the contexts of conflict, war and violence.

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.

Zoellner, Tom. *The Heartless Stone: A Journey through the*

World of Diamonds, Deceit, and Desire. New York: **St. Martin's Press, 2006.** Zoellner sensitizes readers to the wider processes of monopoly, smuggling, and war, all of which lurk in the background when a suitor buys a ring for his beloved.

ADULT FICTION

Harkins, Eugene. *Where Witch Birds Fly.* Sag Harbor, NY: **Clarity Press, 2006.** An African-American international lawyer who is kidnapped and held for ransom by Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front.

Komp, Diane. *The Healer's Heart.* Colorado Springs, CO: **WaterBrook Press, 2006.** A disease specialist travels to Sierra Leone to come to terms with his father's death.

Land, Jon. *Blood Diamonds.* New York: **Forge Books, 2002.** A thriller about a Palestinian-American detective and an Israeli detective battling a female Sierra Leone rebel leader.

McCauley, William. *The Turning Over.* Atlanta, GA: **Permanent Press Publishing Company, 1998.** A story about foreign aid workers in Sierra Leone in the mid-1980's.

Walters, Minette. *Devil's Feather.* New York: **Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2007.** A crime thriller about a Reuters war correspondent in Sierra Leone and Iraq.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Blood Diamond." A film by Edward Zwick. Warner Home Video, 2007. (138 min.) Set against the backdrop of civil war and chaos in 1990's Sierra Leone, the story of an ex-mercenary from Zimbabwe and a Mende fisherman. Their fates become joined in a common quest to recover a rare pink diamond.
www.amazon.com

"Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone." A film co-produced by UN Works Programme, 2003. (28 min.) Hollywood actor Michael Douglas, a United Nations Messenger of Peace,

travels to Sierra Leone in an attempt to reunite the country's child soldiers with their families.
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.

"Sierra Leone's War: Diamonds, Cannibals, Children With Guns." A film by Trent Harris. Trent Harris Productions, 2004. (19 min.) Rebel forces fight their way into Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown, murdering, burning homes, and hacking off the limbs of innocent civilians.
www.echocave.net