

## **Letter from Raymond James to Myf Hodkin dated 26 July 1995**

Owl - Bo Committee wishes to express her profound gratitude and appreciation for the timely money order of another £1000 (one thousand pounds sterling) sent through Fr. Patrick Koroma.

I am pleased to give you the war situation in Sierra Leone from the following two levels;

1. From the OWL - Bo Committee perspective, we are modestly instrumental in carrying out Needs Assessment Surveys for displaced in Bo and its environs. Attempts are made to mobilise funds from international Community to assist disadvantaged , marginalised and underprivileged brothers and sisters.
2. From the national level, Bo has been sieged for the past three weeks due to frequent highway attacks. Major roads have been closed to all traffic since government troops have embarked on massive mopping up exercise together with friendly forces from Nigeria, South Africa (Executive Outcomes ), and Guinea. This has led to general hardship as the cost of food items particularly rice, which is the staple food, is sold at Le 34,000.00 (34 pounds sterling) per 50 - Kilogram bag. A high influx of people dislodged had fled to seemingly safer areas like Bo, Kenema and Kono. These two situations, namely, high cost of food and population have led to starvation and death (caused by Cholera) respectively. There is, however, internal flights for Bo, Kenema and Kono (Eastern Province) as a daily basis by Africa Air Charter and Souls Airline Companies.... Food cannot be airlifted to the provincial headquarters due to the deplorable condition of the runways of the local air-strips. Government have recently completed negotiations with a German Company for the conveyance of essential commodities to highly vulnerable areas.

Furthermore, six months from now (October) has been targeted to conclude this senseless war. On the political scenerie [sic], political parties for a democratically elected government will be registered on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th August and a consultative Conference comprising 150 delegates from all sectors sponsored by international agencies has been scheduled to take place on the 15th August. Already, there is a civic education of the masses by the Interim National Election Commission on how the elections would be conducted.

The group is eager to get fully involved in collaboration efforts with other NGO's in Relief and Humanitarian Assistance for displaced persons.