

Reports on the Distribution of food (rice) to the displaced camps in Bo, March 1995 and April 1995

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One World Link, Leamington Spa England donated £1000 (one thousand pounds sterling) to the Bo Committee of Owl. The amount was to be used to give relief food assistance to internal displaced persons within the township....

[The distribution took place on Saturday March 6, 1995. 1,020 heads of families with 7238 dependants were serviced during the exercise. 144 grams of rice per person per day. was distributed in three camps. Relief Committee members were assigned to each of the camps. The exercise was monitored by chairpersons of the camps, the OWL Chairman - Bo Committee and the Relief Committee Chairman. As the price of rice had increased since the original committee discussion, only 70 bags of rice were purchased, instead of the original 100. There follow several paragraphs outlining lessons learnt, recommendations, and a financial statement. The report is signed by Henry Sheku, Chairman and Raymond James, Secretary]

Report on the Distribution of food (rice) to the displaced people camped in Bo, Southern Province, Sierra Leone 6th April 1995, signed by David Ngombu, Chairman of the Relief Committee Facts and Figures- The rebel war which started at Mbomaru and Senga, Kailahun District in the Eastern province of Sierra Leone on Saturday March 23rd 1991 has gone across the length and breadth of the country. Rather unfortunately, the areas hard hit are in the Kailahun, Kenema, Kone, Bo, Pujehun, Moyamba and Bonthe Districts. The carnage and mayhem on civilians in these areas are beyond imaginations. The rebel war started with attacks by Liberian and Burkinabe rebels under Corporal Foday Sankoh, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader....Civilians were told by rebels who called themselves "Freedom Fighters" that they had come to the country to liberate the people from the misrule of All Peoples Congress (APC), the party that was ruling the country headed by Brigadier Joseph Saidu Momoh. Towns and villages in the areas were burnt down and property either looted by the attackers or destroyed. As a result of this unprovoked war, many people fled to the nearby districts Kenema, Kono and Pujehun) and others into the Republic of Guinea. Major towns were crowded by displaced people as a result of the mayhem (Segbwema, Kenema, Bo, Makeni, Moyamba, etc.

The national government reacted to the situation by sending troops to put down the rebellion in the affected areas. Unfortunately, the ill-equipped soldiers in the Royal Sierra Leone Military could not march [sic] up with the rebels who had sophisticated weapons (AK47, Rocket Propelled Grenades, (RPG), mines and other explosives....

In a bid to arrest the situations, young and junior soldiers in the military came into the scene by overthrowing the APC government on 29th April 1992 and took over power... At the initial stage the Military government

tried to improve the situation in the country. The war in the South-Eastern portion of the country was abated and most of the Burkinabe and Liberian rebels were either killed or repelled.

Subsequent attacks by the rebels were fierce and by far destructives[sic] than the former ones and resulted to more displacement of people.

Reaction of One World Link, Bo Committee-[The committee became concerned about the situation of the displaced people in the Gondama Camp about 7 miles from Bo. The situation deteriorated when the RUF rebels attacked the camp and, as a consequence, most of the people in the camp were further displaced to Bo. Letters of appeal for help were written by the executive and members of the Bo OWL Committee. One World Link, Leamington Spa responded by sending a Bank Draft for £200 (Two Hundred Pounds Sterling). The township had about 5 camps for the displaced people and the committee unanimously agreed that the money be used to provide relief food for the people in the camps.

The Relief Committee visited the camps to assess their needs. 70 bags of rice were bought for Le700,000 (seven hundred thousand leones) and the food was distributed on March 6, 1995.

Thanks were relayed to friends in Leamington Spa . The Chairpersons of the various camps requested further help be provided in the form of second-hand clothing, medicines and other items that might be useful for displaced people.]