

After a decade of vicious conflict on the African continent, the war in Sierra Leone is still shocking in its sheer atrocity: rebel troops of drug-crazed teenagers have hacked the limbs off thousands of civilians, including women and babies. U.N. peacekeeping forces have been powerless to intervene. In Freetown, at the abandoned home of rebel leader Foday Sankoh, SEBASTIAN JUNGER gives us new evidence of the cold-blooded calculation that fuels the rebels' insanity—the struggle for control of the country's diamond mines—including a secret agreement between international investors and the man who has terrorized a people

CIVIL DEFENSE
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 Kamajors on the front line in Mao. These tribal fighters, used by the government as a defense force, "scorched everything, including the people they were defending."



HORROR OF SIERRA LEONE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TEUN VOSTER



They did their work with rusty machetes and axes.... There were stories of hands being taken away in blood-soaked grain bags, of hands being hung in trees, of hands being eaten.

which he says would have continued to be for a divided state.
 "It all goes to hell, though, then we see a bad day. What had just gotten out of U.N. peacekeepers had surrounded Foday Sankoh's house in violation of what he had promised in the country. Sankoh is head of the R.U.F., the Revolutionary United Front, an the rebels call themselves, and under the UN agreement I over there he said in July 1999 he was given a government position and a compensated militia position. The day before, he loses to the other people's militia consisting from the United Nations' intervention came to the town of Makeni and Sankoh says the Kamajors' presence was over 10 miles. The commander ordered, including his own, and several UN personnel were taken prisoner. The war was still ongoing. The last time Sankoh was arrested, the government announced that it would in 2006 and the R.U.F. around Freetown.

I told Jonathan I'd look him up in a few days, and then I read the list and walked out of the boat. The soldiers think back of the soldier had just finished, and I went on garbage bin walking on the hills above town. I walked the road of Freetown in front of the hotel and got into a hotel and told the driver to take me to Foday's house. The driver, however, just drove and left me to find my own way. We drove and across Makeni, Bridge and through the military market and headquarters of Lanteh, on the road. Sankoh's compound was on a hill overlooking town, surrounded by an eight-foot wall with a well around it and a guard house. I saw a well around it and a guard house. We pulled up to a three-story building on the driveway, and a single U.N. peacekeeper opened the door and asked us what we wanted. There were no other peacekeeping troops, no other U.N. vehicles—the place was deserted. And there's a door going through to some other area, some housing and in the house.
 "Who are you? What do you want?" she asked, looking at the peacekeeper. I explained that I was a journalist and had come to talk to Sankoh, but she said that he was the right person. They announced that he would be, and we went on to the compound on the roof of the car.
 "This is Sankoh," I told the driver. "Take us out of here."
 The driver drove to the front, and we went back the way we came. Sankoh never left the gate, and we never saw him for a minute of peacekeeper. (That was

CASUALTY OF WAR
 Three-year-old Miamah Miamah in May at a orphan camp in Freetown. Her arm was cut off by rebels in one of the only widespread acts of amputation in the history of war.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TEUN VOSTER



Terrorized and recruited by the army, by rebel groups, and by private militias, a generation of Liberian kids know little but inhuman cruelty and slaughter. Will the arrival of peacekeeping forces and the departure of President Charles Taylor end the violence that has raged since 1989, when Taylor began his war on the corrupt, U.S.-backed Doe regime? In a country where diamond traffickers, arms dealers, and al-Qaeda all have profited from the mayhem, SEBASTIAN JUNGER witnesses a deadly attack on thousands of civilians seeking refuge in a compound next to the American Embassy

LIBERIA'S SAVAGE HARVEST

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TEUN VOSTER

YOUNG GUNS
 Members of the government militia in the L. Liberia town of Gamba, near the border with Guinea, in June 2003. They had recently taken the town from the rebel U.R.F. forces.