

# Kailahun People Welcomes Special Court Verdict



*FOC Executive Director John Caulker and PC Syrill Foray Gondor II*

**T**he people of Upper Bambara Chiefdom and Bomaru have welcomed the recent verdict on RUF members at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL).

*By Abu Bakarr Munu*

P.C. Syrill Foray Gondor II said while addressing journalists yesterday at the headquarters of the Forum of Conscience (FOC) in Freetown that they welcomed the Special Court verdict.

The chief also stated that there are still pockets of former RUF fighters who caused a lot of atrocities during the decade-long war in their community, adding that his people are calling on the Government to declare March 23<sup>rd</sup> a 'National Day for Reflection' saying that Sierra Leoneans shall never forget that day in their history.

"We need to reflect on what went wrong and why we stooped so low as to kill one another," PC Gondor II said.

"As a family, we need to sit together and discuss so that we shall never return to those dark and ugly days of war," he added.

The Paramount Chief said Sierra Leoneans should sit

together as "Fambul" to discuss and address the root causes of the conflict to prevent future reoccurrence of war.

He said that is why they have welcomed and embraced the "Fambul Tk" Community healing initiative propagated by FOC, which facilitates dialogue between offenders, victims and members of the community in the spirit of national healing and reconciliation.

The PC said on behalf of the "Fambul Tk" District Executive in Kailahun, Upper Bambara Chiefdom and Bomaru Town in collaboration with FOC and catalyst for peace, will want to observe the one year anniversary of the "Fambul Tk" reconciliation launch.

He said fortunately the anniversary coincides with the proposed National Day of Reflection.

"It is the date the war started in Sierra Leone, specifically in Bomaru Town," he stated, and extended an open invitation to President Ernest Bai Koroma, MPs, the Judiciary, Members of the Diplomatic Community, local and

international NGOs, religious and traditional leaders, and members of the Press, to join them in observing the occasion.

"As a nation, we need to collectively reflect on the past and say never again shall we use guns and machetes to settle our disputes," PC Syrill Foray Gondor maintained.

He said they will observe the national gathering, March 23, with a series of activities, feasting, traditional dances, cultural performances and football matches, as part of the celebration.

The Executive Director, FOC, John Caulker in his statement said since the war was declared over six years ago by the former President Alhaji Tejan Kabbah, people have been grappling with its consequences, and have been working on a number of processes geared towards healing and reconciliation at community level.

He said "Fambul Tk" is a nation-owned programme facilitated by FOC as a catalyst for peace.