

Letter from Isata French (in Bo) to Doris Frizel, 14 Ash Lane, Newport I.W. dated 8 Dec. 1995

The reason while I replied to you on ordinary paper last was because of the airmail shortage . Even this one while it delayed was the same thing airmail and stamp shortage.

News : - On the 17th Nov. the rebels attacked a village close to Bo. Seized 10 civilians and cut off all their hands some from the wrist and some from the elbow. The reason given by the rebels was that the civilians use their hands to vote so they will make sure that they will cut off the hands of any civilians they capture. Just because the election will be early next year in Feb. 26. The rebels don't want the election to be.

The other time, they attacked another village, and set fire to all the houses with people in it. A military rescue team went to the village and came with many people some badly burnt and some to death. The Gov. hospital has become so over crowded with people, some with their hands cut off, others burnt and some with bullet and byonet[sic] wounds. The sight was very sorrowful to see. If I had a camera I would have taken pictures so that you can see for yourself how the once peaceful country you visited has been completely destroyed and its people massacred.

On the 5th Dec. an incident happened in Bo town in the crowded market area which resulted to death of 4 civilians and 2 military personnel. A soldier who was drunk malhandled his rocket propelled grenade which immediately exploded killing him instantly. With the money you sent before this, I just gave it to the house owner for a yearly rentage. I did not chance to do any other thing with it. The population in Bo town by now, nobody will not joke with house business. The moment you delay for the rent quickly they will get rid of you and to get an empty house. It is not easy at all.

The government is still delaying salaries due to the presence of ghost teachers among the names on the paying vouchers. As a result of this exercise, teachers are really suffering, especially the displaced teachers.