

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Thursday, June 30, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Ext 7217 / 7216

Awoko. Thursday June 30, 2005.

'Special court has primacy over national Court'- Justice Lussick

By Betty Milton

Special Court Judge Justice Richard Lussick has emphasized that the Special Court for Sierra Leone has judicial primacy over the national Courts and as such counsels should adjust their timetables with this in mind. The Trial Chamber No.11 Judge was reacting to the absence of some members of the AFRC defence team from the Court proceedings, which caused the trial to be delayed. He admonished the Defence team to make sure they arrange their schedules for national Court

appearances in such a way that they do not clash with that of the Special Court. Earlier, counsel for Santigie B. Kanu alias '55' Ajibola Manley-Spaine had taken an hour's leave and when the judge asked, his colleagues in the defence team told the judge before the start of proceedings that he had gone to attend to a matter at the national Law Courts. As the Prosecution came with another witness to continue the trial, the judge also discovered

that another member of the defence team Pa Momoh Fofana was also absent as he had gone to keep an appointment with his doctor. The judge then said, "the Special Court has primacy over the national courts, so counsels should adjust their schedules to reflect this. As Wednesdays are normally half-days in the Special Court, people should use the half-day to see their doctors and other such activities. In the future I shall not entertain this," he warned. The testimony of the witness was then adjourned to this morning when the trial continues.

Accountability
Now Club

**NJALA
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE**

**MOTTO: No
Room For
Impunity**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**Accountability Now Club
(ANC) Njala University
College commends the**

Njala Pats David Crane On The Back

relentless efforts Mr. David Crane outgoing Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Accountability Now Club, Njala University College branch with profound respect and gratitude wish to thank Mr. David Crane for his relentless effort in fighting against impunity for war crimes committed in the territory of Sierra Leone

during the ten year war. Njala University College and the entire ANC family are of the opinion that the key elements of our country's constitution should be human right, transparency, accountability and respect for the rule of law, among others. Mr. Crane's stout efforts in bringing to book those who bear greatest responsibility for crimes in the ten year war in this

country, especially the indictment of the hydra-headed monster Charles Taylor is laudable. Notwithstanding his commendable efforts, two of the indicted war suspects are still at large. Members of ANC Njala University College, in bidding Mr. David Crane goodbye as he exits the Special Court would like to appeal to the sub-regional

West African states, especially Nigeria to immediately facilitate the extradition to Charles Taylor to Sierra Leone for a free, fair and speedy trial. David Crane walked the length and breath of Sierra Leone to explain to victims of war that no one can be above the law no matter what their status. Through this, Mr. Crane has demonstrated his exemplary personality on

which developing countries can rely in building the rule of law, and has demonstrated his unflinching commitment to protection of human rights through adherence to the rule of law. ANC of Njala University College wishes Mr. David Crane bon voyage and success in any future assignment he may undertake.

Nigeria's debt tied with Taylor's surrender

Senator from Illinois has pledged to become a forceful advocate for Nigeria's debt relief, but says the West African nation must first turn over the former Liberian dictator an indicted war criminal who has the blood of thousands on his hands and threatened, once again, to destabilize the region to the Special Court.

United States Senator Barack Obama, D-Illinois has suggested that any debt relief for Nigeria must be conditional provided the West African giant succumbs to international

pressure and turns over former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

Obama, who was born in Hawaii, but is the son of a Kenyan, made the assertions on Wednesday (a copy of the transcript of the Senate session obtained by the Observer) on the floor of the U.S. Senate in a frank exchange with fellow Senator Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont, the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations.

When the world's wealthiest countries clinched a deal on

See back page

Saturday to wipe out more than \$40 billion of impoverished nations' debts in a drive to free Africa from hunger and disease, Nigeria was one of the few countries that was noticeably absent from the list to win an automatic debt relief.

Eighteen Highly Indebted Poor Countries — Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia — will benefit from the debt write-off.

During his recent visit to Washington to meet President Bush, it was widely reported that the Nigerian president Olesegun Obasanjo and U.S. President George Bush discussed Nigeria's debt problems. However it appears that Obasanjo was unwilling to part with Taylor in exchange for debt relief for his country.

World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, on his first foreign trip as head of the World Bank in Nigeria this week, provided a partial explanation as to why Nigeria was left off the debt-relief list.

According to the Associated Press, Wolfowitz said Nigeria was not excluded from the G8 deal.

"Nigeria was not excluded from the consideration of the G8 finance

ministers. What you may not know is that in their private discussion, they spoke very positively about what you have started here and spoke very strongly about how important Nigeria is for the rest of Africa," Wolfowitz said.

But many see Wolfowitz's gesture as an attempt to calm a muddy water Nigeria has already made for itself. Nigeria's foreign debt officially put at 35 billion dollars and Obasanjo has in the past years led an African campaign for debt relief for countries in the continent in general, and Nigeria in particular.

In the case of Nigeria, Obama said, "this means turning over Charles Taylor—an indicted war criminal who has the blood of thousands on his hands and threatens, once again, to destabilize the region—to the Special Court.

"I strongly believe that Nigeria is a worthy candidate for debt relief and a key U.S. partner in West Africa. When Charles Taylor is turned over, there is no doubt in my mind that I will be a forceful advocate for debt relief for Nigeria," said the U.S. Senator.

While heaping praises on Nigeria for its leadership on other issues, especially their efforts to lead the African Union force in Darfur, Obama said he wants nothing more than to see the Taylor issue

"successfully resolved so we can focus our attention on other important issues with the Nigerians." "I would also reiterate what the Senator said about the waiver authority contained in section 585. The President can waive these restrictions, including those pertaining to Nigerian debt relief, by formulating a plan to get Mr. Taylor to the Court."

War Crimes Prosecutors meet in Freetown

The Second Prosecutor's Colloquium, hosted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, provided a venue for all the Prosecutor's to meet and discuss the challenges facing the international criminal tribunals, as well as share success stories and best practices. The Special Court's Prosecutor, David Crane, was joined by Luis Moreno Ocampo, Prosecu-

tor of the International Criminal Court; Hassan Bubacar Jallow, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; and David Tolbert, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The Prosecutors represented the world's four major criminal tribunals working to end impunity for the

most serious crimes that plague humankind, and to contribute to peace and the prevention of future crimes. The tribunals have been entrusted with the responsibility of bringing to justice individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The colloquium discussions determined that international justice is at a crossroads. To succeed in fulfilling the mandates and deliver justice effectively and efficiently, the tribunals are greatly reliant upon the cooperation of national states.

The commitment of national states and the international community will be measured by their willingness to deliver indictees for trial, even if politically difficult. International criminal justice must apply to indicted fugitives such as Charles Taylor, Radovan Karadzic, and Ratko Mladic. To permit individuals accused of the gravest of crimes to evade justice would reinforce the culture of impunity that fuels conflict and atrocities.

Furthermore, investigations of the tribunals cannot be completed without open access to all areas and documents under investigation. Investigating teams cannot complete their missions unless granted permission to move freely and securely within the state area of investigation and with the cooperation and

nals cannot succeed without the firm commitment of sovereign states to discharge their legal and treaty obligations. Treaties such as the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and other international agreements and conventions need to be compiled with. State cooperation with the international criminal tribunals is one of the pillars upon which the future development of international law depends.

The Prosecutors stated: "These tribunals have made great progress and set new precedent in international law. Violators of international criminal law including heads of state or government have been indicted and brought to justice. Others are awaiting trial. All this underlining the fundamental principle that in the rule of law no one is above the law. Nevertheless, many continue to suffer from these crimes throughout the world, we affirm that only a sustained commitment to accountability will deter these atrocities. We call upon all national and international authorities to strengthen their dedication to justice.

"We believe that the people of the world are entitled to a system that will deter grave international crimes and hold to account those who bear the greatest responsibility. Only when a culture of accountability has replaced the culture of impunity can the diverse people of the world

Government tasks NRA Le400 billion

FROM PAGE 1

quest could be surely achieved by the NRA with the collective effort of all Sierra Leoneans.

She said last year government tasked them to collect 314.986 billion leones, and with their determination and commitment they were able to collect more than the government demanded.

She noted that NRA is faced with problems in revenue collection, but added that with their partnership with NASSIT they have achieved a lot in revenue collection, noting that more effort is needed by all concerned.

She expressed concern over the delay in the review of customer laws enacted in 1949, which she says are old and needs to be review or amended to enhance their efficiency.

Ms. Pratt said NRA is the mother of Sierra Leone with the government as the father.

went on, can be done with support from all concerned.

She further called for partnership with NRA in order to build up Sierra Leone with better conditions of good roads, water, light health and above all to empowered it citizens all this she said will be achieved with collective effort of Sierra Leoneans.

She further disclosed that NRA is in a process of introducing the Value Added Taxes and preparing policy framework and other document that underpin the infrastructure of value added taxes.

Ms. Pratt appealed to Sierra Leonean to pay their taxes on time and called on the government to utilized NRA money on development for the benefit of Sierra Leonean.

She further pledged NRA commitment in stopping tax invasion, make taxes simple and above all to continue educating citizens on the impor-

Awoko. Thursday June 30, 2005.

\$100,000 for Halloran's appeal

By Samuel John

The Victoria Police Union in Melbourne Australia has agreed to contribute \$100,000 towards the legal cost of former Special Court war crimes investigator, Peter Halloran who is appealing against a child sex conviction by Justice Samuel Ademus last February. The amount will come from the Police Union's \$14 million fighting fund, and would be used to fund the appeal of Superintendent

Peter Halloran, after a formal request from him. Yesterday Peter Halloran made a brief appearance before Sir John Muria, of the Appeal Court for a 'direction hearing'. Justice Muria urged both parties to ensure that their legal arguments and authorities be filed against Monday July 4. The Appeal Court Judge further informed the court that there will be no more adjournment, and has

fixed July 6 for the legal argument to start. Defence Counsel Nicholas Browne-Marké informed the Judge that he intends filling additional grounds of appeal by today Thursday. Lawyer Aki Barber representing the State gave the assurance that he will be ready before next Wednesday. During next week's hearing the panel of Judges will consist of Sir John Muria, Justice

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100,000 dollars for Halloran's appeal

From Front Page

Abel Strong and Justice Umu Tejan Jalloh. A barrister from Melbourne. Lawyer Lex Lasry QC has already arrived in town to bolster Halloran's legal team for the appeal. The

convicted Halloran, who was former head of Victoria's homicide squad, took 12 months leave without pay from Victoria Police last year to work at the Special Court where he has since been sacked.

White paper on the Truth and Reconciliation Report

The Government recalling earlier initiatives undertaken by the countries of the sub-region and the international community aimed at bringing about negotiated settlement of the ten-year conflict in Sierra Leone, which culminated in the Abidjan Peace Agreement of 30th November 1996 and the ECOWAS Peace Plan of 23rd October 1997.

And further the Government moved by the imperative need to meet the desires of the people of Sierra Leone for a definitive settlement of the fratricidal war in Sierra Leone, and the frantic desire to achieve lasting peace, national unity and reconciliation, entered into the Lome Peace Agreement (Lome Agreement) with the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone (RUF/SL) on 7th July 1999. Government wishes to remain the general public that the Lome Agreement was subsequently ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone as "The Lome Peace Agreement (Ratification) Act 1999" (Act No. 3 of 1999).

By virtue of Article VI paragraph 2 (ix) of the Lome Agreement, the Government of Sierra Leone undertook to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (the Commission) as a major transitional justice pillar. In adherence to the aforementioned Article Government established the Commission by the enactment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2000 (Act No. 4 of 2000), hereinafter referred to as the TRC Act.

The Commission was inaugurated by His Excellency President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah (herein after referred to as the President) on the 5th day of July 2002, at the State House.

According to Section 3 of the TRC Act, the Commission was to consist of seven (7) members; four (4) nationals and three (3) non-citizens, all of whom were appointed by the President. Those appointed include:

1. Bishop Joseph Christian Humper (Sierra Leonean), Chairman;
2. Honourable Justice Laura Marcus-Jones (Sierra Leonean), Deputy Chairperson;
3. Professor John Kamara (Sierra Leonean), Member;
4. Mr. Sylvanus Torto (Sierra Leonean), Member;
5. Professor William Schabas (Canadian), Member;
6. Ms. Yasmin Louise Soka (South African), Member; and
7. Ms. Ajaratu Satong Jow (Gambian), Member

The Commission was mandated under Section 6 of the TRC Act, to, among other things, address impunity and trigger the consolidation of peace and reconciliation in the country.

Specifically the Commission was set up to create an impartial historical record of violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law related to the armed conflict in Sierra Leone from the beginning of the conflict in 1991 to the signing of the Lome Agreement. The Commission was also required to address impunity, respond to the needs of the victims, promote healing and reconciliation and work to prevent a repetition of the violations and abuses suffered.

In order to fulfil its mandate the Commissions was empowered under Section 8 (1) of the TRC Act as follows:-

a. to gather, by means it deems appropriate, any information it considers relevant, including the ability to request reports, records, documents or any information from any source, including governmental authorities, and to compel the production of such information as and when necessary.

b. To visit any establishment or place without giving prior notice, and to enter upon any land or premises for any purpose which is material to the fulfilment of the Commission's mandate and in particular, for the purpose of obtaining information or inspecting any property or taking copies of any documents which may be of assistance to the Commission, and for safeguarding any such property or document;

c. To interview any individual, group or members of organisations or institutions and, at the Commission's discretion, to conduct such interviews, in private;

d. Subject to adequate provision being made to meet his expenses for the purpose, to call upon any person to meet with the Commission, and to compel the attendance of any person who fails to respond to a request of the Commission to appear and to answer questions relevant to the subject matter of the session or hearing;

e. To require that statements be given under oath or affirmation and to administer such oath or affirmation;

f. To request information from the relevant authorities of a foreign country and to gather information from victims, witnesses, government officials and others in foreign countries;

g. To issue summonses and subpoenas as it deems necessary in fulfilment of its mandate; and

h. To request and receive police assistance as needed in the enforcement of its power.

In spite of the difficulties faced by the Commission in its early stages, Government is encouraged by the full vent with which the Commissioners and



Bishop J.C. Humper

staff of the Commission exercised professionalism in the execution of the assigned duties, not least judicial prowess and analytical skills used to sail through the huge volume of evidence and testimonies, both oral and documentary, upon which the findings and recommendations of the Commission were based.

Government also recognizes the nationwide coverage of the Commission's work, as it conducted its sessions all over the country in order to enable witnesses with diverse facts and background to actively participate in the much cherished truth and reconciliation process.

Having completed its findings, the Commission on 5th October 2004 presented its final Report (and a children-friendly version of the Report) to the President at the State House. Present at the occasion were the Commissioners and staff of the Commission, members of Government, diplomatic corps, heads of UN agencies, civil society organizations, representatives of victim organizations (women, children, amputees, war-wounded, etc), as well as a cross-section of the population of the country. Government expresses its appreciation to the Commissioners and staff of the Commission for the enormous effort exerted in bringing this historical work to fruition.

Government further extends its gratitude to the following for their invaluable financial and logistical support to the Commission, without which the work of the Commission would not have been accomplished: the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNAMSIL, the European Union, UNDP, UNICEF, and Government of the United Kingdom, United States of America, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Iceland, Sweden, France, Luxemburg, and others. Government wishes to

pay special tribute to Mrs. Mary Robinson, the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Mr. Jan Cedergrén, former Chief of Activities and Programmes Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Government expresses its concern and regret that since the publication and presentation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report to His Excellency the President on the 5th October 2005, there has been undue delay in printing the final copies of the Report and making it available to the general public at large. This undue delay is beyond Government's control as the task of printing and binding of the hard cover copies of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report was contracted by the Commission to the Graphic Packing Limited, Accra, Ghana. Government has recently received assurances from the Commission that the printed hard cover copies of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report will be delivered to the Chairman of the Commission "not later than the first week of July, 2005". Government hopes that on the assurances given by the Chairman of the Commission the printed hard cover copies of the Report will be available to the Public shortly thereafter.

Regarding the rumour about the existence of two versions of the TRC Report, Government confirms that it has received communication from the Chairman of the TRC whose explanation is that "..... There is only ONE VERSION of the Report. It will be essentially the same Report which was presented to the President on 5th October, 2004. The only difference would be that the expected Report would reveal the professionalism required in producing a Report like ours. The substance of the Report will be the same in its entirety."

Re: Protection for Human Rights

Government notes the findings and recommendations on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights as contained in the Commission's Report. However, Government points out that the issue of fundamental Rights to Human Dignity is already enshrined and entrenched in Chapter III of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991).

The excesses or abuses of these rights, which took place during the period of the decade-long conflict, could have been caused as suggested by the Commission's findings. Government is conscious of the need to protect the human rights of our nationals as well as foreigners within Sierra Leone and is anxious to prevent the occurrence of the Human Rights violations referred to in the Commission's Report.

Government's determination to achieve this is evident from the measures which it has already put in place to create an atmosphere of proper respect for, and enjoyment of the core Human Rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in our national Constitution. To this end Government has already by legislation established the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone which is in line with the Paris Principles determined by the United Nations. It is worthy to note that Parliament has enacted the Human Rights Commission Act in July 2004, (Act No. 9 of 2004). Government confirms that the appointment of members to this Commission is in process.

Re: Promoting a Human Rights Culture

Government accepts the recommendation of the Commission contained in paragraphs 94 and 96 at pages 153-154, Volume II of the Commission's Report. Government is in fact working towards the promotion of a human rights culture in Sierra Leone, including incorporation of human rights principles into school curriculum, and in all government policies, in its ministries and departments.

Re: Death Penalty

Government accepts the views expressed in paragraph 53 at page 145 in Volume II of the Commission's Report that, "the respect for human dignity and human rights must begin with the respect for human life. Everyone has the right to life." However, Government wishes to state that Sierra Leone has just emerged from a decade-long armed conflict with attendant wanton killings of individuals and the commission of various atrocities, and as such does not accept the Commission's call for immediate

To be continued

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 June 2005**

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

International Clips on Liberia**Liberia: New national army to have 2,000 troops, half as many as expected**

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

MONROVIA, 29 June (IRIN) - Liberia's new national army will have just 2,000 soldiers, half as many as originally planned because of budgetary issues, US and Liberian defense officials have said.

"We had planned for 4,000 men but for now the target is 2,000," Deputy Defense Minister Joe Wylie told IRIN on Wednesday.

International Clips on West Africa

06/29/2005 14:40:29

Ivory Coast leaders agree new timeline for implementing stalled peace plan

By ALEXANDRA ZAVIS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) Ivory Coast's warring sides agreed Wednesday on a new timeline for implementing a stalled peace plan after two days of talks brokered by South African President Thabo Mbeki.

VOA 29 June 2005

Parties to Ivory Coast Crisis Say Elections Cannot Take Place

By Gabi Menezes, Abidjan

A legal advisor to the Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo says if the country is still divided, elections cannot take place and Mr. Gbagbo must remain the president. The Monday deadline for disarmament in Ivory Coast has passed without results, but talks in South Africa to resolve the situation have yielded a new deadline of August 20 to disarm rebels.



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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

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30 June 2005

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Liberia: African and international civil society groups in fourteen capitals call on African Union leadership to ensure Charles Taylor faces justice

African and international civil society groups are today launching a campaign urging the African Union (AU) Assembly to demonstrate its human rights commitment when it meets in Libya next week by ensuring that Charles Taylor faces justice for the crimes that he committed against African men, women and children.

"It is now time for the African Union to join ranks with other key nations and international bodies in calling for Charles Taylor to face trial for these serious crimes," said Kolawole Olaniyan, Africa Program Director at Amnesty International. "Taking a stand will not only bring justice to the countless victims of Charles Taylor and their families but also show that the AU is serious about combating the disastrous cycle of impunity in West Africa."

Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia, has been accused of 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity against the people of Sierra Leone. These crimes include killings, mutilations, rape and other forms of sexual violence, sexual slavery, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, abduction, and the use of forced labour by Sierra Leonean armed opposition groups, which Taylor actively supported. In 2003, Charles Taylor sought refuge in Nigeria, where he currently resides.

A coalition of up to 300 African and international civil society groups, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), have sent a declaration to the AU demanding that Nigeria surrenders Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Press conferences are being held in fourteen countries throughout Africa today to ensure that this message is heard loud and clear.

The AU has publicly expressed commitment to protect and promote human rights in Africa and one of the fundamental objectives of the AU under its Constitutive Act of 2000 is "condemnation and rejection of impunity."

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"The failure of the AU Assembly to publicly support the hand-over and trial of Charles Taylor before the Special Court would be inconsistent and incompatible with the organization's principles and objectives," said Kolawole Olaniyan. "The AU must discourage its members, including Nigeria, from shielding Taylor from prosecution before the Special Court."

"As long as Nigeria continues to shield Charles Taylor from trial, his victims will not receive justice and West Africa will continue to be insecure and unstable. As long as the AU Assembly fails to act, African leaders must accept responsibility for this instability," said Chidi Odinkalu, Africa Director of the Open Society Justice Initiative.

"Ensuring that Taylor faces justice is key to maintaining peace and stability in the sub-region," said Richard Dicker, Director of the International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch. "President Obasanjo, as the chair of the African Union, must provide the necessary leadership to achieve this."

"Supporting the international and regional efforts to bring Charles Taylor to justice will show that the AU cares about the well being of Africans. It will also demonstrate that the AU is totally different from its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), whose interest was to protect African presidents rather than the human rights of individuals," added Kolawole Olaniyan.

To arrange an interview, please contact:

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Human Rights Watch

For Immediate Release:

Sierra Leone: AU Should Ensure Taylor Faces Justice

Human Rights Watch and Other Groups Call for Accountability

(New York, June 30, 2005) - African and international civil society groups are today launching a campaign urging the African Union Assembly to demonstrate its human rights commitment when it meets in Libya next week by ensuring that Charles Taylor faces justice for the crimes that he committed against African men, women and children.

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The AU has publicly expressed commitment to protect and promote human rights in Africa, and one of the fundamental objectives of the AU under its Constitutive Act of 2000 is "condemnation and rejection of impunity."

"The failure of the AU Assembly to publicly support the handover and trial of Charles Taylor before the Special Court would be inconsistent and incompatible with the organization's principles and objectives," said Olaniyan. "The AU must discourage its members, including Nigeria, from shielding Taylor from prosecution before the Special Court."

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