

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Governor Charles Anthony King-Harman at State House (Freetown) surrounded by the European expatriate community in 1904.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Wednesday, 3 March 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright

Ext 7217

Local News

Taylor Witness Not Credible / <i>Sierra Express Media</i>	Page 3
Juvenile Justice at Threat in Sierra Leone / <i>Sierra Express Media</i>	Page 4
Prosecution Points to Inconsistency / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 5

International News

“My Statement Was Misrepresented,”.../ <i>Charlestaylortrial.org</i>	Pages 6-7
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 8-12
Karadzic Trial Postponed Pending Appeal / <i>Radio Netherlands Worldwide</i>	Pages 13-14

Sierra Express Media
 Wednesday, 3 March 2010

Taylor Witness Not Credible



The Prosecution said there's an inconsistency in the testimonies of Charles Taylor and Defence Witness, Yanks Smythe about a trip the Former Liberian Leader made to Gbarnga, Bong County, the former head-

quarters carried arms.

The Prosecution has told the court that Defence Witness Yanks Smythe contradicted the testimonies of his Former Boss, Charles Taylor. Prosecution Lawyer, Nicholas Kumjian said Mr. Taylor travelled to Gbarnga in October of 1996 and instructed Former RUF Leader, Foday Sankoh via radio to acquire arms.

Defence Witness, Yanks Smythe said Mr. Taylor travelled to Gbarnga, in October of 1996, after he survived an assassination attempt in

Monrovia. During Mr. Taylor's testimonies last year, he denied going to Gbarnga in October of 1996.

After Mr. Taylor's testimonies were read in court, Defence Witness, Smythe changed his testimonies and agreed with Mr. Taylor's testimonies. But Mr. Kumjian asked the witness why he changed his testimonies.

Mr. Charles Taylor told the court on September 30, 2009, that he had no arms to supply the Sierra Leonean rebels. He said the United Nations took away all of his

arms during disarmament in Liberia.

The Former Liberian Leader said his personal securities did not even have arms. But the witness testifying in Mr. Taylor's defence, Mr. Smythe said the Former Liberian President's securities did carry weapons.

The Prosecution Lawyer asked Mr. Smythe about the kind of weapons Mr. Taylor's securities carried. The cross-examination of Mr. Yanks Smythe, the Defence first Witness after Mr. Taylor continues Tuesday.

Sierra Express Media
Wednesday, 3 March 2010

Feature

Juvenile Justice at threat in Sierra Leone

Accessible justice system in any democratic state is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Therefore for a country to develop rapidly, that country must ensure that premium is been laid on the justice system, especially the juvenile justice system which caters for the interest of children.

A country cannot survive so easily when it has a very feeble juvenile justice system. From the lay person perspective on the word 'justice' is when some one's right is been observed and accorded to the fullest without any prejudice or biasness.

If a country like Sierra Leone is to meet the Millennium Development Goal on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by 2015, it must primarily focus on the kind of justice system dispensed to children below the age of fifteen.

The cache is that those that we see as juvenile today are the very ones that will grow to dispense such justice in the future and the fear is that it will result in a vicious circle.

Many countries have signed the United Nation Convention on the right of the Child in a bid to ensure an effective juvenile justice system. Being that children in the world over are considered to be tomorrow's assets, governments must do everything possible to protect their wellbeing for a standard economic and a workable political system. Juvenile justice offenders are children that are said to be in conflict with the law. The law and standards use to determine who a juvenile offender is varies from country to country. In Sierra Leone, the age limit of a juvenile offender ranges from 12 to 18 years, below 18 the offender in question is still a child because he/she is not capable of knowing the difference between a wrong act and a right.

In an endeavor to address the issue of juvenile justice, developed countries have put certain mechanisms in place such as reform centers and Approved schools for juvenile offenders. Sadly, in Sierra

Leone, the justice system apparatus like the police and the scantily established approved schools around the country are in shambles with no proper maintenance and care. Even these basic provisions for juvenile offenders lack the required technical know-how as to how to handle and contain juvenile offenders and their related matters.

Juvenile justice in Sierra Leone is a threat in that hard core criminals are blend together with juvenile offenders when in the actual fact they need reformation centre to address their state of mind. Here comes the irony in the juvenile justice system instead of changing the bad habits, they end up imbibing criminal behavior and when they are integrated into their family and society they end up doing worse than before. In fact improper juvenile justice system has been the main cause of increase in the population of street children in the country.

A country where the rights of chil-

dren are trampled upon is far from being a democratic country. Because, children and women form the back bone of development in every developed nation in the world. When their rights are not observed to the fullest, it most times affects their social, cultural, economic and educational improvement in their future.

Juvenile justice system is a serious problem that needs urgent redress in a post-conflict country like Sierra Leone. What makes juvenile justice a serious problem in Sierra Leone is the very fact that politicians always relegate children to take the back seat by telling them that they are the future leaders which is absolutely wrong, because that very notion in mind exempt children from taking active part in decision making in the country. If Sierra Leone is to burg from where it is now, political stakeholders should refrain from making that statement that children are the future leaders, not tomorrow but of today.

Concord Times
 Wednesday, 3 March 2010

Prosecution points to inconsistency

Prosecution said there's an inconsistency in the testimonies of Charles Taylor and defence witness Yanks Smythe about a trip the former Liberian leader made to Gbarnga, Bong County, the former headquarters of his rebel group.

Continuing his testimonies on cross-examination, Smythe also

told the court that Taylor's bodyguards carried arms, but the accused in his own testimonies last year denied that his securities carried arms.

The prosecution has told the court that defence witness Smythe contradicted the testimonies of his former boss, Charles Taylor. Prosecution lawyer,

Nicholas Kumjian said Mr. Taylor travelled to Gbarnga in October of 1996 and instructed former RUF leader, Foday Sankoh via radio to acquire arms.

Smythe said Taylor travelled to Gbarnga in October of 1996, after he survived an assassination attempt in Monrovia but the accused has the claim.

Charlestaylortrial.org

Tuesday, 2 March 2010

“My Statement Was Misrepresented,” Witness Says As Prosecutors Point out Inconsistencies in His Written Statement and Oral Testimony

By Alpha Sesay

Charles Taylor’s defense witness, Mr. Yanks Smythe has said that certain aspects of his written statement were misrepresented as prosecutors today pointed out inconsistencies in his written statement to defense lawyers and his oral testimony in court.

Prosecution counsel Nicholas Koumjian today tried to point to Mr. Smythe that certain things about which he has testified in court differ from what he had said to Mr. Taylor’s defense lawyers when they obtained a statement from him in June 2009. For example, Mr. Koumjian pointed out that the witness has testified in court that Mr. Taylor’s rebel group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) did not use child soldiers. However, his written statement made to defense lawyers in 2009 differed from this account. In his response, Mr. Smythe said that such inconsistencies were as a result of misrepresentations made of what he had said in his written statement. The witness in his testimony has said that contrary to what prosecution witnesses said in court, there was no group for child soldiers called Small Boys Unit (SBU). He said that the term SBU was created by NPFL commanders who had rescued and were taking care of children abandoned in the frontlines. Mr. Koumjian pointed out that the witness’s written statement revealed a different story.

“Mr. Witness, you told the defense last year, didn’t you that there was an SBU unit, that these were under-aged, and they were part of the NPFL,” Mr. Koumjian put to the witness.

“This is a complete misrepresentation of what i said, i never said that. This was not what i said,” the witness responded.

“The defense invented this, is that what you are saying?” Mr. Koumjian again put to the witness.

“I don’t know what you mean by they invented but this is not what i said. I said SBU as i stated in my testimony here, yes, this is what i know about SBU,” the witness again responded.

As Mr. Koumjian pressed further on what the words “SBUs were under-aged” meant when he said so in his written statement, the witness responded that “I’m saying this is a complete misrepresentation of what i said in my statement. This is not what i said.”

Mr. Koumjian also pointed out that while the witness in his testimony in court said that he never fought on the frontlines for the NPFL, his written statement revealed a different story. In the witness’s statement, he was quoted as having taken part in an attack during “Operation Octopus,” a 1992 attack on Monrovia by NPFL rebels. The witness insisted that he had again been misrepresented by those who obtained his statement.

Asked whether he had taken part “in an NPFL attack from Mount Barkeley during ‘Operation Octopus,’” the witness responded that “I didn’t take part, i was on that side but i was not at the frontline.” When Mr. Koumjian asked him whether he had said he “attacked from Mount Barkeley” as stated in his written statement, the witness again said that “I’m saying i don’t know whether the person that wrote this misquoted me but i didn’t say i attacked.”

The witness also in his testimony in court had said that the first time he met Mr. Taylor was in 1987 at the Mataba guesthouse in Libya where Mr. Taylor reportedly lived alongside dissident leaders from Gambia and Sierra Leone. Mr. Koumjian pointed out that the witness's written statement revealed that he had met Mr. Taylor at the Libyan revolutionary training camp Tajura, not Mataba.

Reading from the witness's written statement, Mr. Koumjian quoted that "the first time witness met CT [Charles Taylor] was in 1987 in Tajura, not at Mataba meetings."

"Did you tell the defense that last year?" Mr. Koumjian asked the witness.

Again, the witness said that "this was a misrepresentation of what i said."

"The person that wrote it is misrepresenting what you said?" Mr. Koumjian asked further.

"This is not what i said, that's what i am saying," the witness insisted.

"So you are saying that the person who wrote this has told something that isn't true," the prosecutor again put to the witness.

Mr. Smythe insisted that that was a complete misrepresentation of what he said. "I never saw Mr. Taylor in Tajura," he said.

While Mr. Smythe in his testimony has been rebutting prosecution evidence against Mr. Taylor, prosecutors have also under cross-examination been trying to discredit the witness's testimony. Like defense lawyers did with prosecution witnesses under cross-examination, prosecutors have also been trying to highlight inconsistencies in Mr. Smythe's oral testimony in court and his written statement made to defense lawyers. It will be left with the judges to determine the credibility of the witness and whether his testimony can be relied upon.

As prosecutors concluded the cross-examination of Mr. Smythe today, Mr. Taylor's defense lawyer, Morris Anyah commenced the re-examination of the witness. Under re-examination, Mr. Anyah will seek to clarify some of the issues that have been covered by prosecutors under cross-examination.



United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 2 March 2010

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

International Clips on Liberia

Calm restored in Northern Liberia

Tuesday 2 March 2010 - 10:45

AfricaNews

Calm has been restored in the north-western provincial capital of Voinjama in Liberia after violent clashes between rival Mandingo and Lorma tribes that left at least five people dead, dozens injured and thousands of dollars worth of property damaged. The unrest which began last Friday in a nearby town, was sparked by the murder of a 23 year old woman of the Lorma tribe whose mutilated body was later found in a Madingo Community. She had earlier gone missing for days. This led to reprisal attacks from both sides in a conflict that soon began taking religious dimension, with Lormas attacking Muslim facilities and Madingoes burning down churches and Christian related institutions. Dr. Aaron Kollie who oversees the leading government medical centre in the town told this reporter via mobile phone that two of the corpses had fatal bullet wounds. The violence was quelled after forces from the Emergency Response Unit of the Liberia National Police backed by United Nations peacekeepers moved in and imposed a dusk to dawn curfew.

Indian women peacekeepers hailed in Liberia

March 2, 2010 (CNN)-- They are trained in sophisticated combat tactics and weaponry, crowd and mob control, counter-insurgency. They patrol the streets of the Liberian capital, expected to keep the peace after years of war. Most of them are also mothers and form an all-women unit from India, policing in a country where a 15-year conflict was characterized by sexual violence. Rape, according to the United Nations, remains the No. 1 crime reported to police in Liberia. The Indian women were pioneers, the unit's experience in Liberia an experiment of sorts for the United Nations. Clare Hutchinson, a gender affairs officer at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York, said it was hoped that the Indian women would win the trust of Liberian women and perhaps serve as role models. "It's about empowerment," she said. "It's quite a success story for us." Indian policewomen first arrived in Liberia in 2007, and a fresh batch arrived a few days ago in Monrovia as part of the rotation. Annie Abraham, commander of the outgoing Indian unit, said she is proud of the Indian women's performance.

International Clips on West Africa **Guinea**

Guinea: Public servants get 50% salary rise

africanews.com

Tuesday 2 March 2010 - 09:56

Guinea's government on Monday announced a 50% increase in the salaries of public servants across the country. The move, according to a statement broadcast on state TV, is aimed at softening the impact of a 30 percent increase in fuel prices, and to relieve the suffering of public servants. A government employee in Guinea earns an average salary of \$67. The statement mentioned modalities of the salary increase which will be applied systematically in the months of March and July. During the month of March transport and rent allowances will be increased by 30 percent while pensions will also be revised upwards by 30 percent. Guinea, a top bauxite and aluminium producer, is recovering gradually from a political crisis sparked off by the killing of some 150 opposition protesters at a Conakry stadium in September 2009 by the ruling military junta then headed by Dadis Camara, who was later shot and wounded by one of his guards and now in exile in Burkina Faso after receiving treatments in Morocco.

Ivory Coast

Côte d'Ivoire/UNOCI chief meets two independent presidential candidates

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire, March 2, 2010/African Press Organization (APO)/ — The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, on Monday, met two independent presidential candidates who came to raise their concerns about the electoral process. Jacqueline Lohoues-Oble and Dolo Adama, alias Adama Dahico, expressed their disappointment to Mr. Choi, at not having been consulted or included in the newly- formed Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). Mr. Dolo raised the problems that the independent candidates have encountered with regard to security and coverage of their activities by state media. He said that the independent candidates had been sideline in the decision-making. "All the candidates are not treated in the same way," he pointed out.

"We met with the Chief of UNOCI to tell him we exist," said Mrs Oble.

Local Media – Newspaper

In Lofa Violence: Death Toll Increases to 11

(Heritage and New Democrat)

- Latest reports the provincial city of Voinjama, Lofa County revealed that the death toll has risen to 11.
- A local official said seven of those who sustained gunshot wounds have also died. Earlier reports had put the death toll at 4 with several others seriously wounded.
- The official warned of an imminent humanitarian crisis considering the displacement of hundreds of residents.
- Meanwhile, the media reports the arrests of more suspects and weapons.
- According to reports amongst those arrested was a former commander of the erstwhile rebel group, Liberia United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) commonly known as "Master General" who sources say commands a significant followings amongst ex-fighters in the county
- Friday's violence which was sparked by rumours that a mosque had been burned in Konia also left several churches and private properties destroyed.
- Still on the Voinjama violence, reports say relative calm has returned to Voinjama but security forces are still patrolling the city and other parts.

Opposition Liberty Party Wants President Sirleaf Cut Short Trip to South-east (The Inquirer and The News)

- The opposition Liberty Party has called on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to cut short her trip to south-eastern Liberia and return to Monrovia and attend to what it considers more important issues.

- Government says President Sirleaf and the cabinet are in the Southeast for a cabinet retreat but the Party claims the visit is a campaign trip.
- The Liberty Party believes the President should return and address issues like the violence in Lofa, which has resulted to the loss of lives and destruction of properties.
- According to the Party, the recurrence of violence seven years after the end of civil war shows not much has been done to reconcile Liberians.

Mandingo Caucus Wants Government Set Up Independent Inquiry Commission

(Daily Observer and The Inquirer)

- The National Mandingo Caucus of Liberia is calling on government to set up an independent inquiry commission to conduct a robust investigation in identifying the root causes of the violence in Lofa County.
- The Mandingo Caucus also called for the prosecution of anyone directly or indirectly linked to the violent situation that have left at least four persons dead and worship centres burnt.
- The Caucus in a press statement condemned the violent situation and said it is also troubled by the biased pronouncement emanating from the Lofa County political leadership.

CEMESP Launches Third Edition On Account Of Threats To Freedom Of Expressions

(The Parrot and The News)

- The Centre for Media Studies and Peace Building has launched its third edition of an account of threats to freedom of expressions.
- CEMESP Executive Director, Malcolm Joseph in a press statement called on government and its functionaries to recognize and support the inalienable rights of others to have different views.
- Mr. Joseph said the use of intimidation as a means of enforcing conformance is a treachery that has no space in Liberia's democracy that must be condemned.
- He noted that intimidation has taken many forms to renew censorship in the country.

Family Members of Man Killed By Police Officer Disparage Claims that he Was a Criminal

(The Informer, The Inquirer and New Democrat)

- Family members of Preston Davies who was allegedly shot and killed by a senior police officer last Saturday night on the Capitol Bye-Pass have vehemently rejected claims by the Ministry of Justice that the deceased was part of a criminal gang.
- In an interview, a brother of the victim dismissed the Ministry of Justice assertion that the late Davies was among a criminal gang when he got killed by the LNP officer.
- In a statement, the Justice Ministry said the police officer who was also burned to death by a mob in a reprisal killing said the officer killed the 51-year old man in self defense.
- Meanwhile, reports say the son and wife of Mr. Davies have been arrested and are helping the police with the investigation into the death of the two men.

Star Radio (News monitored today at 09:00 am)

Inter-Faith Delegation Begins Work In Lofa County

- An Inter-Faith delegation is in Voinjama, Lofa County, investigating the violence that left four persons dead and several others injured.
- The delegation comprises religious leaders from both the Christian and Muslim communities.
- According to reports, the delegation has visited churches and homes destroyed during the violence.
- The delegation is currently meeting with stakeholders to establish the cause of the violence and recommend a way forward.

- Meanwhile, Lorma Women and Youth groups in Voinjama, Lofa County have refused to meet with the Inter-Faith Ministerial Council seeking a resolution of the conflict.
- The groups are demanding the immediate release of 18 Lorma people allegedly being held in police custody in Voinjama.
- The two groups said state securities arrested the men while attempting to avenge the brutal murder of their kinsmen allegedly by Mandingoes last Friday.
- In a position statement, the two groups also accused Mandingoes in Voinjama of burning down two churches and vandalizing three others.

Traditional Council Calls For Arrest Of Voinjama Culprits

- The National Traditional Council of Liberia has constituted a committee to mediate into the violent situation that erupted in Voinjama, Lofa County.
- The Council's Chairman Zanzan Kanwor said the team which comprises chiefs and elders would depart Monrovia Tuesday for Lofa.
- Chief Karwor said the Council was saddened over Friday's chaotic situation as Liberians were no longer interested in violence.
- According to him, it was time for aggrieved people to take advantage of the rule of law rather than take the law into their own hands.
- The National Traditional Council's Chief called for the arrest and prosecution of all those behind the violence in Voinjama noting that such corrective measures by Government were necessary to serve as a deterrent to would-be trouble makers.

Opposition Liberty Party Wants President Sirleaf Cut Short Trip To Southeast

Phebe Hospital in Bong County Declares 'Medical Emergency'

- The Acting Medical Director of Phebe Hospital in Bong County Dr. Sampson Azu-Akoi has declared a medical emergency in the County.
- Dr. Azu- Akoi said the medical emergency is a result of the outbreak of measles, laser fever and whooping cough in the central regional County.
- He said several districts including Jorquelleh, Suakoko, Kokoyah and Zota have been affected.
- Dr. Azu-Akoi attributed the outbreak to the failure of parents in the area to carry their children for vaccination.
- The Health Ministry last week confirmed an increase in measles cases in several parts of Liberia and said a vaccination campaign was ongoing.

Radio Veritas (News monitored today at 09:45 am)

CEMESP Launches Third Edition On Account Of Threats To Freedom of Expressions

(Also reported on Truth F.M.)

Police Launches Manhunt For Pistol, Communications Set Used By late PSU Officer

- Police in Monrovia are said to be investigating the disappearance of a pistol used by Police officer who allegedly shot and killed Preston Davis.
- Top Police sources said the silver pistol and the Police communication set used by Police Support Unit officer Amos Tutu were taken away by unknown persons.
- The sources said a manhunt has been launched for the perpetrators mainly around the BMC community and camp Johnson Road vicinity.
- Police spokesman George Bardue who could not confirm or deny the report, said police authorities were travelling to bury the late Tutu.

Calm Returns Following Violence in Voinjama, Lofa County

- Calm has reportedly returned to Voinjama but security forces are still patrolling the city and other parts.
- Reports from the provincial city say business houses were looted and ransacked and several other buildings including homes were also looted.
- A local county administrator who preferred to remain anonymous said the looting took place in the wake of the curfew imposed in the area.
- Meanwhile, a hospital source said the death toll in last week's violence has increased from three to eleven.

Truth FM (*News monitored today at 10:00 am*)

Criminal Court 'A' Begins Jurors' Selection In The Keith Jubah Murder Case

- Criminal Court 'A' has begun the selection of jurors in the Keith Jubah murder case.
- The jurors' selection commenced Monday after the nine suspected murderers finally pleaded not guilty to the indictment at the start of the trial before the court a week ago.
- The defenders were indicted for charges of criminal conspiracy, murder and criminal mischief.
- The murder suspects are on trial for allegedly killing the former chairman of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission, Keith Jubah last November.

Mandingo Caucus Wants Government Set Up Independent Inquiry Commission

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Tuesday, 2 March 2010

Karadzic trial postponed pending appeal



The trial of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has again been postponed, pending a defence team appeal asking for more time to prepare their case.

Karadzic had threatened to boycott Wednesday's session, saying he wasn't

ready to cross-examine the first two prosecution witnesses expected to be called tomorrow.

But at the end of today's hearing, presiding judge O-Gon Kwon ruled that, in the interest of a fair trial, the court would wait for an appeals chamber ruling before continuing with the case.

Karadzic is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, where he's facing 11 charges - including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes - relating to the 1992-1995 Bosnian war.

Srebrenica

One of the two genocide charges relate to the massacre of close to 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the Bosnian city of Srebrenica. But Karadzic told the war crimes tribunal today that Serbian forces entered the enclave in an effort to restore peace. The alleged massacre was a fiction concocted by Muslims using bodies gathered into mass graves to cast blame on Serbian forces, Karadzic said.

He rejected claims that his forces took United Nations peacekeepers hostage near the town, arguing that, by definition, combatants are taken prisoner and cannot be held hostage.

Karadzic gave his version of the events of July 1995 during the second day of his opening statement before the ICTY.

He also addressed the 44-month long siege of Sarajevo on Tuesday. But he told the tribunal that Sarajevo was "not a city under siege, it was a city divided." On the night of April 5th, 1992, considered the eve of the outbreak of war, Karadzic said: "terror broke loose in Sarajevo."

The Serbs, he said, withdrew to their own districts where they tried to defend their families. "That is how the line dividing the town was established. It wasn't a line of siege, it was a line separating and dividing two parts of the town." Again, Karadzic blamed Muslims for creating the "myth" of a siege. The deaths in Sarajevo, he said, were the result of a "cunning strategy" by young Bosnian Muslims "aimed at bringing in foreign troops and foreign intervention".

Delay

Four months later than scheduled, former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic opened his case before the tribunal yesterday. But the trial has now been put on hold once more.

The 64-year-old former psychiatrist first boycotted the opening of the trial in October, saying he needed more time to study the 1.2 million pages of prosecution documents and hundreds of witness statements.

The court rejected his appeal for more time and responded by appointing British barrister Richard Harvey to “represent the interests of Radovan Karadzic” before the tribunal, “...should the Accused continue to absent himself.”

The trial was then postponed by 3 and a half months to allow Harvey time to get up to speed on the case. On Monday, Karadzic finally began his defence, responding to ICTY prosecutor Alan Tieger’s opening statement from October 26th of last year.

Karadzic "not prepared"

Karadzic’s opening statement continued today but the prosecution was scheduled to call their first witness on Wednesday and Karadzic warned the court that he would not appear. He filed an appeal on Friday asking for a delay, once again citing the need for more time. The court hasn’t allocated enough money to pay for a fully staffed defence team since the official trial period began in October, Karadzic said in his appeal.

“He’s not prepared to cross-examine the first witness at all because he spent the last four months without a defence, essentially,” said Karadzic’s legal advisor Peter Robinson.

On Friday, ICTY president, Judge Patrick Robinson, granted Karadzic’s request to increase the number of paid hours for defence team staff and to increase the hourly wage of his legal advisor. But in the meantime, Karadzic is arguing, the defence has lost valuable time. Since October, he says, his team has received an additional 400,000 pages of documents from the prosecution.

The court rejected Karadzic’s request for a further four-month delay but on Friday he filed an appeal and today Judge Kwon agreed to stay his earlier ruling until the appeals chamber reached a decision.

Today’s ruling is a small victory for the defence since the court could have continued proceedings in Karadzic’s absence and asked Richard Harvey to step in to cross-examine prosecution witnesses.

However, it would have led to a strange situation for all involved since, as Peter Robinson says, “[Karadzic] doesn’t have any relation whatsoever or any contact with Mr Harvey... If they force him to sit there while the witnesses testify, it’s going to be a difficult situation. As far as Dr. Karadzic is concerned, he doesn’t need or want any assistance from Richard Harvey.”

"Crime on a crime"

Bosnian women whose husbands and sons were killed by Serb forces in Srebrenica are attending the trial, eager to hear what Karadzic had to say. But by the end of the first day they have already heard enough.

“I can’t believe he’s saying this,” one of them said after the hearing. “I experienced Srebrenica and the war in Bosnia. [What he’s saying] is a crime on a crime. We hope he gets a life sentence because we all have a life sentence after what happened to us.”