

# SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



## 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:

Thursday, 1 March 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 1 March, 2012**

### **Trial Chamber to Deliver Taylor Judgment on 26 April 2012**

Judgment in the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor will take place on 26 April 2012, in accordance with a Scheduling Order issued today by Trial Chamber II.

The Judgment will be delivered at 11:00 a.m. in a courtroom belonging to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in The Hague, where the Taylor trial has been taking place.

Charles Taylor was charged in an 11-count indictment alleging responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed by rebel forces in Sierra Leone during the country's decade-long civil war. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The Taylor trial opened on 4 June 2007 in The Hague. It was adjourned immediately after the Prosecution's opening statement when Mr. Taylor dismissed his Defence team and requested new representation. Witness testimony commenced on 7 January 2008, and ended on 12 November 2010. Closing arguments took place in February and March 2011.

The Court heard live testimony from 94 Prosecution witnesses, and received written statements from four additional witnesses. The Defence presented 21 witnesses, with Mr. Taylor testifying in his defence.

At a meeting this week with members of Sierra Leonean civil society, Special Court Registrar Binta Mansaray said that although delivery of the judgment had taken nearly a year, this was due largely to the complexity of the case. She noted that, amongst other matters, the Judges had to read through more than 50,000 pages of witness testimony, and to examine the 1,520 exhibits which had been tendered in evidence. She said the time-frame was consistent with similar high-profile cases at other international tribunals.

Ms. Mansaray said that with this judgment the Special Court is set to reach another critical milestone, given that this is the last trial stemming from Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war, and that it will be the last major trial to be held at the Court.

At the Special Court, as in other international tribunals, both the Prosecution and the Defence have the right to appeal. If Mr. Taylor is acquitted on all charges, the appeals process will begin immediately. If he is found guilty on any of the 11 counts, the Trial Chamber will schedule sentencing proceedings.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

StarAfrica.Com

Thursday, 1 March 2012

## Special Court for Sierra Leone Trial Chamber to Deliver Taylor Judgment on 26 April 2012

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone, March 1, 2012/African Press Organization (APO)/ -- Judgment in the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor will take place on 26 April 2012, in accordance with a Scheduling Order issued today by Trial Chamber II.

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Provided by PR Newswire

Daily Nation (Kenya)

Tuesday, 27 February 2012

### Waki to sit on UN Sierra Leone court



Photo/FILE Appellate judge Philip Waki.

Appellate judge Philip Waki has been appointed to the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Mr Justice Waki will serve as an alternate judge of the court's Appeals Chamber.

The court was set up to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law in Sierra Leone.

It is currently handling a case against former Liberian leader Charles Taylor.

Daily Nation (Kenya)  
Wednesday, 29 February 2012

### Judge's absence halts appeal against piracy trials ruling



PHOTO | FILE Mr Justice Philip Waki.

By NATION CORRESPONDENT

An appeal against a judgment that stopped Kenyan courts from trying piracy cases failed to proceed due to the absence of one judge sitting in the five-judge bench.

The court was informed that Mr Justice Philip Waki was out of the country on official duties and would be back next week.

“The matter is partly heard and can only be heard by the full bench of five judges. We have to wait for Justice Waki to come back,” said Mr Justice Samuel Bosire on behalf of three other judges.

The other judges are Justices Emmanuel O’Kubasu, Erastus Githinji and Joseph Nyamu.

Director of Public Prosecutions Keriako Tobiko has appealed against a High Court ruling that Kenyan courts have no jurisdiction to try piracy cases.

Mr Tobiko maintains that Kenyan courts derive jurisdiction from International Law, which declares piracy an international crime and says suspected pirates can be charged in any country in which they are captured.

In November 2010, Supreme Court judge Mohammed Ibrahim, who was then High Court judge in Mombasa, dealt a blow to the country’s fight against piracy by terminating the prosecution of nine suspected Somali pirates.

He ruled that Kenyan courts were not conferred with powers to deal with matters which have taken place outside its territorial waters.

Justice Waki was early this month appointed to the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone to serve as an alternate judge of the court’s Appeals Chamber.

Xinhua

Thursday, 1 March 2012

### **UN chief names two appointments for Special Tribunal for Lebanon**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday announced his two appointments for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL), which is tasked with probing the 2005 assassination of Lebanese former Sunni Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The secretary-general appointed Canadian Norman Farrell as the prosecutor of the STL, said a UN statement released by Ban's spokesperson.

Farrell currently holds the position of the deputy prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and will be replacing Daniel Bellemare, who has completed his term of office, said the statement.

Similarly, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1757, its annex and the statute of the special tribunal, the secretary-general appointed Judge Daniel David Ntanda Nsereko of Uganda as an international judge of the appeals chamber of the special tribunal, said the statement.

Judge Nsereko currently is a judge in the appeals division of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and will be replacing the late Judge Antonio Cassese, who was also the former president of the special tribunal.

"In announcing these appointments, the secretary-general once again reiterates the commitment of the United Nations to the efforts of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon to uncover the truth regarding the terrorist attack that took the lives of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others, as well as other connected attacks, so as to bring those responsible to justice and send a message that impunity will not be tolerated," said the statement.