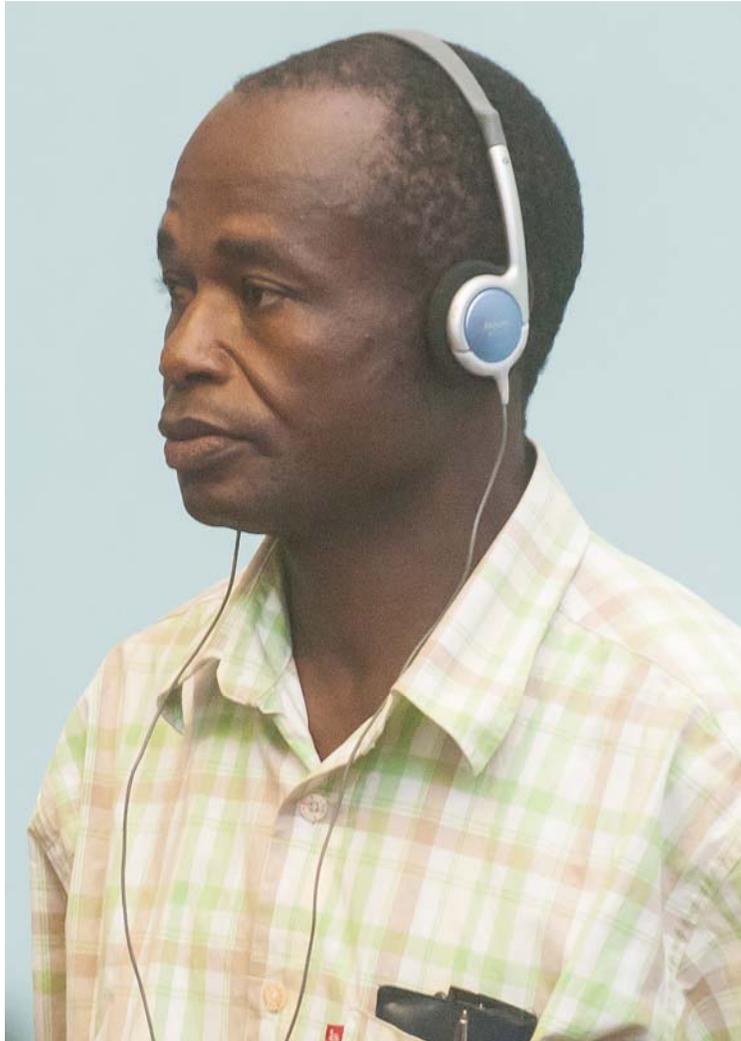


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Eric Koi Senessie, guilty of contempt. Read the press release below.

**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:**

Friday, 22 June 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, 22 June 2012**

### **Eric Koi Senessie Convicted of Contempt of Court for Witness Tampering**

Former RUF member Eric Koi Senessie was convicted late Thursday on eight of nine contempt of court charges alleging that he had attempted to induce five prosecution witnesses who testified in the Taylor trial to recant their testimony. Four of the counts alleged he had offered a bribe to a witness, and five of the counts alleged that he had attempted to influence a witness.

Mr. Senessie was charged on 24 May 2011 by an order in lieu of an indictment. At his initial appearance on 15 July 2011, he pleaded not guilty on all counts.

On Thursday, Justice Theresa Doherty rejected Defence claims that the witnesses had colluded in a plan to make the Prosecutor relocate them and that the five were involved in a conspiracy against the Accused. She found that Mr. Senessie had knowingly and wilfully interfered with the administration of justice, and convicted him on all four counts of offering a bribe to a witness, and on four of the five counts of attempting to influence a witness.

The trial opened in Freetown on 11 June 2012. Independent Prosecutor William Gardner called the five former Taylor witnesses to testify for the prosecution. Mr. Senessie testified on his own behalf, and then called an additional five defence witnesses. He was represented in court by Defence counsel Ansu Lansana.

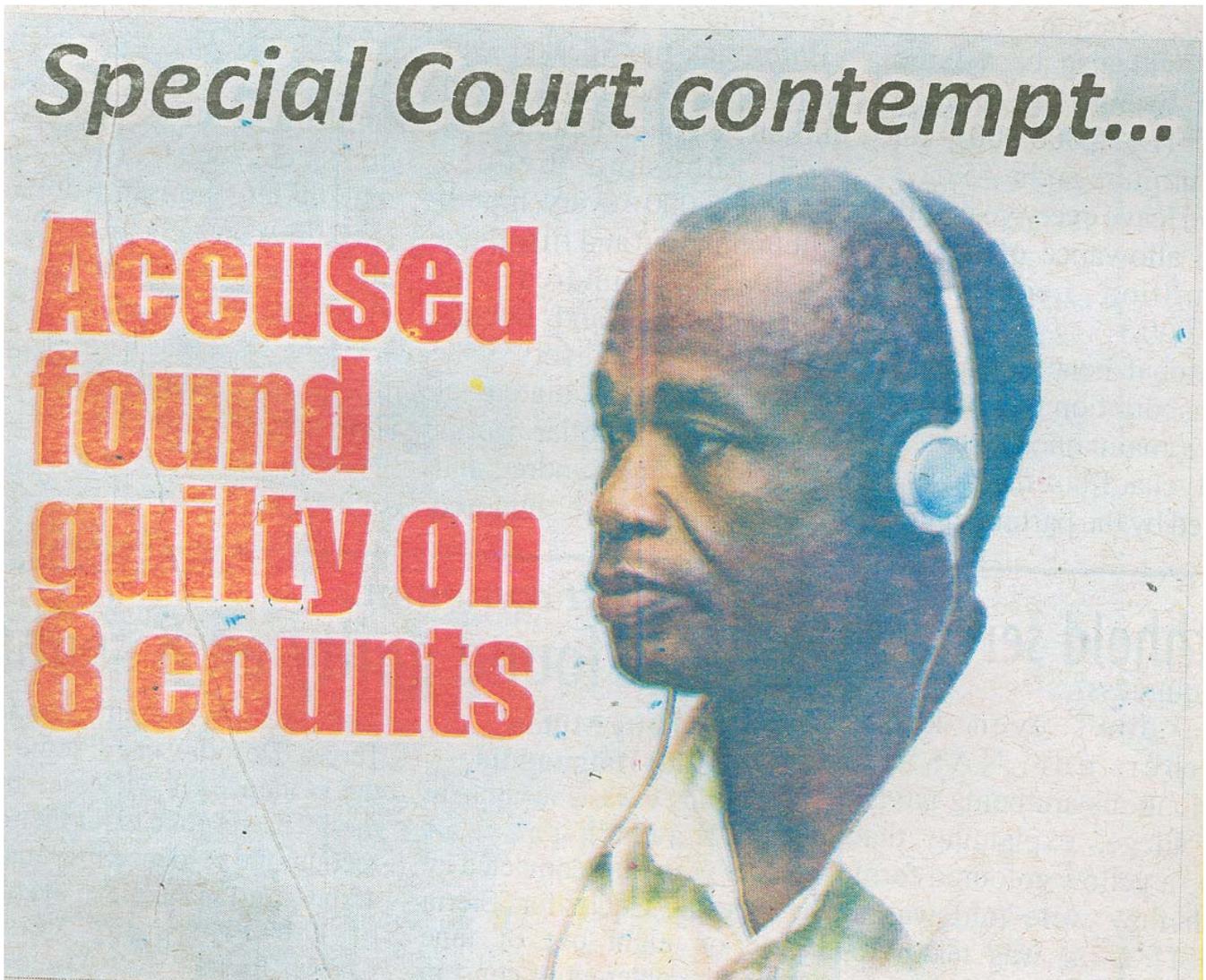
Prosecution and Defence will now make submissions on sentencing. Under Rule 77(G) as amended by the Plenary of Judges on 31 May 2012, the maximum penalty for a conviction for contempt is seven years in prison, a fine of twenty million leones (approximately \$4,600), or both.

#END



Eric Koi Senessie at his initial appearance

Awoko  
Friday, 22 June 2012



*Special court contempt...*

## Accused found guilty on 8 counts

By Betty Milton  
& Sandi Halimuddin

**E**ric Senessie residing in Kailahun was yesterday convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on eight out of nine counts for contempt of court in the case of the Prosecutor versus Charles Taylor.

The accused was charged on four counts of the indictment for, "knowingly and willfully interfering with the special court administration of justice by offering a bribe to a witness who has given evidence in proceedings before a chamber, in violations of rule 77 of the court."

The accused was also indicted on the other five counts of the indictment for again "knowingly and willfully interfering with the Special Court's administration of justice otherwise interfering with a witness who has given evidence in proceedings before a Chamber."

In her judgment, Justice Teresa Dorothy cited some of the evidence of witnesses that the accused spoke to for them to recount the evidence they made at the Court in Hague in the trial of the Prosecutor Versus Charles Taylor.

Some of the witnesses the judge disclosed were under protective measures like TF1-585, 516, Mohamed Kabba, Dauda Aruna Fornie, and Aruna Gbonda as they are witnesses that have testified for the prosecutor in the case against Charles Taylor.

However the court did not find Eric Senessie guilty on count 5 which is knowingly and willfully interfering with a witness Eric Gbonda as the witness was not able to convince the court of the level of interference that took place between them.

The accused who is represented by lawyer Ansu Lansana, has been held in custody pending sentencing.

## FrontPage Africa (Liberia)

Tuesday, 12 June 2012

### Chief Prosecutor Jeered in Taylor Stronghold; Residents Demand Settlement



Chief Prosecutor Brenda Hollis addressing scores of Bong Residents Tuesday.

Chief Prosecutor Brenda Hollis addressing scores of Bong Residents Tuesday.

Gbarnga, Bong County Scores of residents in Gbarnga, Bong County broke into tears following their rejection of an appeal to Chief Prosecutor Brenda Hollis for an ‘out of court settlement’ in their quest to maintain the ongoing peace between Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Hollis has been in the country for the past three days soliciting opinions from Liberians about their impressions following news of the conviction and sentencing of their former leader for 50 years.

‘Sign of mockery’

Prior to her arrival in Gbarnga, some residents who participated on a phone-in talk-show on a local radio station in the county, described Hollis’s presence in the country as a ‘sign of mockery and a replica of disrespect’ to Liberians.

One caller said: “The International community should stop playing mockery out of Liberians; we are not fools. You cannot detain a former President and come to this country asking us for opinions; what do you expect from me, a negative response?”

Hollis’s arrival at the scene of the program was greeted with Pro-Taylor chants, “We want Ghankay-We want Ghankay”, a slogan that reminisced the legacy of Taylor, says Paul Sarlie, an entrepreneur in Gbarnga.

The-UN backed Chief prosecutor’s three hour discussion with citizens of Bong County soon took a dramatic turn when a proposal was recommended to Hollis requesting her to seek for an out-of-court settlement so as to thwart any future potential conflict between the two nations.

Fofee Kesselly predicts: “If this Taylor thing is not settled and Taylor dies in prison, it would become a perpetual problem between the two nations that even the United Nations would find it difficult to resolve.”

“In case we as Liberians apologize to the people of Sierra Leone on behalf our President, would our appeal be granted,” asked a participant.

Miata Thomas, another participant said: “We are the same people; we can send a delegation to Sierra Leone to apologize to victims of Taylor’s atrocities just for a united Mano River Union.”

Hollis, in her response to the citizens’ quest said: “Very impossible!!!!!!”

Residents in Gbarnga listen to special prosecutor Brenda Hollis Tuesday.



Residents in Gbarnga listen to special prosecutor Brenda Hollis Tuesday.

“The condition of the trial now is above my jurisdiction. If the case had been plea bargained following admittance to the commission of the crimes by Taylor, it would be possible, but at this time of the trial following his conviction and subsequent sentence, it’s impossible for anything of such.”

Some supporters of the former Liberian leader who attended the session in hopes of reaching a resolution with the Chief prosecutor for a reduction in Taylor’s sentence became furious and immediately shunned the gathering.

The entire hall became virtually emptied with majority of attendees describing the trip of the chief prosecutor as ‘fruitless’.

Hollis in her address to scores of angry citizens said: “My presence in Gbarnga is all about hearing from you what you make of the conviction and sentencing of your former President; your views would be a help perhaps in reducing the sentence to a lesser year.”

She said the prosecution found Taylor guilty for two significant reasons which linked him to playing a vital part in Sierra Leone’s civil war.

Hollis said Taylor and Sam Bokare alias “Gen. Mosquito” collaboratively planned an operation code name “Non Living thing” which was carried out in December 1998 and January and February 1999 respectively.

In addition to effecting the operation, Hollis told the gathering Taylor instructed Bokare to make the operation ‘fearful’ as a means of securing an unhindered entry in Freetown.

Crimes committed during the operation launched by Bokare and Taylor in Freetown according to Hollis, caused the loss of many innocent lives and forced the incorporation of kids as child soldiers.

Taylor, according to Hollis, was also caught in the web of aiding and abetting according to the chief prosecutor, because throughout November 30, 1996 until the war was declared over, Taylor provided critical to the RUF and the AFRC, an action that was in the form of Arms and ammunition.

Taylor's assistance to the two rebel groups, Hollis said, enabled the RUF and AFRC to depart Burkina Faso in late 1998 for Monrovia where they were later transported to Sierra Leone to complement the operation "No living thing".

Continued Hollis: "In addition to that operation, the judges found out that Taylor was the main supplier of arms and ammunition to the RUF and AFRC throughout this entire period and they were used to commit the crimes against the people of Sierra Leone."

The chief prosecutor said that judges eventually found out that the arms and ammunition given to the two rebel groups by Taylor contributed very importantly to their ability to carry out crimes against the Sierra Leoneans.

She said Taylor was aware of atrocities campaign carried out by the RUF and AFRC against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

Said Hollis: "There are ways one gets connected; if my friend comes and asks me to join him in attacking the residence of the Superintendent of Monsterrado; I agreed with him, he goes and commits his attack, he would be guilty-I will be guilty because I planned with him, so it was Taylor".

Judges were fair and independent

Hollis dismissed as premature perceptions that judges of the special court were influenced by the west.

"Judges are people who take oath; at no time were influenced by anyone or was there any exchange of money to temper with our professional duty. Taylor's trial is a period that would soon end but my character is an everlasting component of my integrity which I must fight to preserve," Hollis clarified.

## The Herald (Zimbabwe)

Thursday, 21 June 2012

Opinion

### No Celebration On Taylor Sentence

By Brima Patrick Kapuwa

I HAVE been following closely the entire UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone purportedly established to prosecute those figures who bear "the greatest responsibility" for crimes committed during the Revolutionary United Front war in Sierra Leone.

While I remain a huge fan of justice, especially for heinous crimes against defenceless citizens, I, however, do contend that suspiciously hand-picking alleged perpetrators in the name of both an organised conspiracy and hypocrisy agenda from the West will only end up reversing any post-conflict gain.

Against this backdrop, let me admonish my dear country men and women in Liberia and Sierra Leone to beware and celebrate cautiously.

"The daggers that killed the king" are still hanging and might hit again. With the predictions of even more African leaders to be prosecuted and continuous decadence in governance, we Africans need to note the hidden hand in the so-called quest for justice in crimes against humanity.

Why does it have to be exclusively sub-Saharan African leaders, or is human rights violations now only exclusive to African leaders? If this trend continues, isn't it time we Africans totally withdrew from obligations under the Rome Statute?

The West, who sort of personify global justice, see the Taylor prosecution as the best in upholding human rights and bringing justice. YES, I agree, but even though their claims make some sense, it is still too premature to think that global justice has been pursued purely for its own sake. There is more to it than meets the ordinary eye.

The court had sentenced Mr Taylor even before listening to his argument. In a 2009 US diplomatic cable, former US Ambassador to Liberia Linda Thomas-Greenfield is quoted to have remarked that if the Special Court for Sierra Leone were to acquit Charles Taylor or hand him a light sentence, the Mano River sub-region would be in jeopardy and unstable.

How can it be international justice when only few Western countries -- US, UK, Netherlands and Canada -- are financing it? Could it be that the Taylor sentencing has helped especially USA to achieve its long dream of getting Taylor out of their way at a moment when they want to plant their puppet and geopolitically control the sub-region?

My argument is that if the real intention is to address impunity and build the peace, what explanations can the UN offer for both their costly and lengthy trials? After 10 years of trial, the UN Special Court is said to have spent over US\$900 million (close to a billion dollars) and hosted 766 staff on an annual budget of US\$140 million.

Is this fair or would it be directing such huge sums to post-conflict stability or providing for war victims like amputees, women and children? I listened to reactions from both Sierra Leoneans and Liberians immediately when the former president was sentenced.

Taylor's former wife, now a senior senator Jewel Taylor, noted that UN-backed war crimes tribunals will never unite the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone, but, if anything, will end up having negative ripple effects.

President Taylor has been sentenced not for ordering these crimes but for aiding and abetting, which is a form of liability and not a direct form of participation. What about the other actors who actually also aided this project? Like Jewel Taylor noted, wars do not come from the sky down to mankind, and there are no arms-manufacturing factories in the two countries. A lot of powers, people from the West and at home provided resources for these war projects and are today walking freely. Could they not have aided and abetted these conflicts through their resources?

Finally, while the West obsessively celebrates their purported victory in international justice, there are thousands of war victims who are still suffering today.

What about the war widows, amputees, rape victims, abducted children, etc? Is it justice without reparation?

Liberians and Sierra Leoneans must carefully reflect on the decades of suffering during the war and ask themselves if those vices that led to conflict are still around today. Post conflict development and stability will be difficult to enhance with selective justice, and without national reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commissions set up in the two countries emphasized on forgiveness and reconciliation, a virtue difficult to come by if more people are aggrieved by selective justice.

Let us celebrate that national reconciliation and forgiveness has been achieved through our local efforts and not because of a purported trans-national justice. - African Executive

*Dr Brima Patrick Kapuwa, Institute of International Studies, Jilin University, China.*