

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



Bunce Island

**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:**

Tuesday, 22 January 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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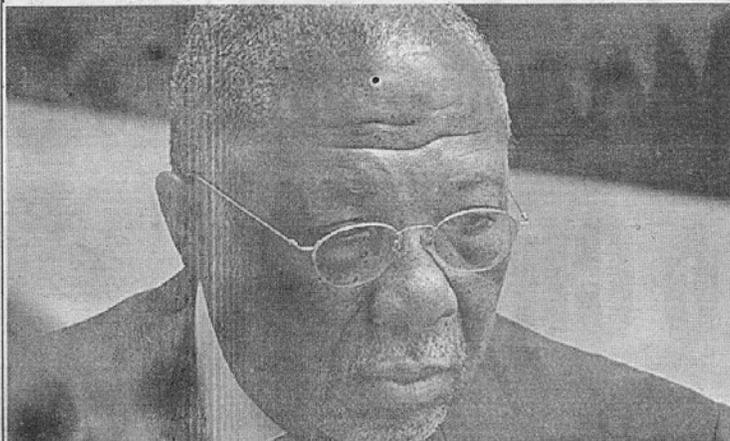
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# Taylor makes final appeal



Charles Ghankay Taylor

Final appeal arguments in the case of The Prosecutor versus Charles Ghankay Taylor, the former Liberian President indicted on 7 March 2003, are scheduled for Wednesday, 23 January 2013 at the war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Between April and May 2012 Charles Taylor was found guilty on all 11 counts and sentenced to a prison term of 50 years.

A press statement from the Special Court in Freetown Monday says this is the last time that lawyers for the prosecution and the defence will argue a case before the Court.

"After the arguments conclude on Wednesday, the Judges of the Appeals Chamber will retire to consider their

judgement. That judgement is expected in September 2013," the release states.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday Justice Teresa Doherty will convene a brief hearing at 1:00 p.m., also in Courtroom 1, to close the contempt trial of Independent Counsel v. Prince Taylor.

Taylor, a local investigator formerly attached but not related to the Charles Taylor defence team, was arrested in early October 2012 on nine counts of contempt of the Special Court.

The indictment alleged that he interfered with four prosecution witnesses who testified in the Charles Taylor trial, and that he also interfered with a fifth person who was about to give evidence in contempt proceedings.

## Mail and Guardian

Sunday, 20 January 2013

### Court to hear Charles Taylor's appeal

Charles Taylor's defence has filed 42 grounds of appeal, calling the trial chamber's decision a "miscarriage of justice".

Judges are to listen to arguments from prosecutors demanding a heavier sentence and from the former strongman's lawyers calling for his sentence to be quashed or reduced.

Our Coverage Justice in Africa: Charles Taylor was just the beginning More Coverage Charles Taylor: 'What I did was in honour' Prosecutors and lawyers defending former Liberian warlord Charles Taylor will on Tuesday begin their appeals at Sierra Leone's UN-backed special court against his 50-year prison sentence for fuelling the West African nation's savage civil war.

Appeals judges are to question and listen to arguments both from prosecutors demanding a heavier sentence and from the former strongman's lawyers calling for his sentence to be quashed or reduced.

The hearing, set for 9am GMT at the SCSL's headquarters in the leafy suburb of Leidschendam outside The Hague, is to be dominated by complex legal arguments—with both sides saying judges made mistakes in law in convicting Taylor in April last year and sentencing him in May.

The UN-backed court's 50-year sentence against Taylor (64) for "some of the most heinous crimes in human history" was widely welcomed around the world at the time.

Judges said he aided and abetted rebel forces fighting against Freetown during Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war, known for its mutilations, drugged child soldiers and sex slaves.

In return, trial judges found, Taylor was paid in blood diamonds mined by slave labour in areas kept under the control of ruthless Sierra Leonean rebels.

The historic sentence was the first handed down against a former head of state in an international court since the Nazi trials at Nuremberg in 1946.

Prosecutors, who declined to comment ahead of the hearing, are to argue that trial judges made a mistake by only convicting Taylor of aiding and abetting the notorious Revolutionary United Front and other rebel groups.

In one of four grounds of appeal, they said the court should have convicted Taylor for actively issuing orders to the RUF and its ally, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC).

"The Trial Chamber erred in law and in fact by failing to convict Mr Taylor for ordering crimes committed by RUF/AFRC forces who were implementing his instructions," prosecutors said in court papers.

Based on the facts and evidence accepted by the judges, no reasonable court "would have failed to find that Mr Taylor ordered these crimes", they said.

"The appropriate sentence should have been 80 years in order to reflect the totality of his overall conduct and culpability," prosecutors insisted.

## 'Miscarriage of justice'

Taylor's defence has filed 42 grounds of appeal, calling the trial chamber's decision a "miscarriage of justice", and asked appeals judges to reverse the conviction and quash the sentence.

"The colossal judgment, over 2 500 pages in length, is plagued throughout by internal inconsistencies, misstatements of evidence and conflicting findings," Taylor's lawyer Morris Anyah said in court papers.

A main issue was the trial chamber's finding based on "uncorroborated hearsay evidence" by the many of the 94 prosecution witnesses who testified during Taylor's nearly four-year trial.

"The witnesses that gave evidence, we are arguing, are witnesses that were not truthful. They were witnesses that greatly benefitted from things given to them by the prosecution," Anyah said.

"We feel these witnesses had incentives to lie," he said.

Taylor, said Anyah, "was never in Sierra Leone when these crimes were committed" and furthermore he was so "engulfed at the time in many other domestic issues that it was not possible for him to be leading rebels in other countries to fight wars".

Appeals judges are expected to have a decision by September, SCSL spokesperson Solomon Moriba said, with the ex-Liberian president remaining behind bars at the UN's detention unit in The Hague until appeals proceedings are finalised.

If his appeal fails, Taylor will serve his sentence in a British jail. – AFP

**BBC**

Tuesday, 22 January 2013

## **Liberia's Charles Taylor to begin appeal at The Hague**

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor attends his trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone based in Leidschendam, outside The Hague, 16 May 2012 Charles Taylor has always maintained his innocence



*Charles Taylor*

Liberia's jailed ex-President Charles Taylor is due to begin his appeal at a UN-backed special court in The Hague.

Last May, the court sentenced him to 50 years in prison for aiding and abetting rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone during the 1991-2002 civil war.

Defence lawyers have called the verdict a "miscarriage of justice" and ask for the conviction to be squashed.

Meanwhile Taylor, 64, has reportedly written to MPs demanding a presidential pension of \$25,000 (£15,600).

Describing the withholding of his state presidential pension as a "mammoth injustice", Taylor is quoted in the letter as saying that he is entitled to consular access and diplomatic services at The Hague, but he has been "denied that right".

Taylor became the first former head of state to be convicted of war crimes by an international court since the Nuremberg trials of Nazis after World War II.

Throughout his trial, the former Liberian leader, who was arrested in 2006, maintained his innocence. 'Heinous crimes'

The court was set up in 2002 to try those who bore the greatest responsibility for the war in Sierra Leone in which some 50,000 people were killed.

[Continue reading the main story](#)

[Taylor timeline](#)

[Sierra Leone-Liberia map](#)

- 1989: Launches rebellion in Liberia
- 1991: RUF rebellion starts in Sierra Leone
- 1997: Elected president after a 1995 peace deal

- 1999: Liberia's Lurd rebels start an insurrection to oust Taylor
- June 2003: Arrest warrant issued; two months later he steps down and goes into exile to Nigeria
- March 2006: Arrested after a failed escape bid and sent to Sierra Leone
- June 2007: His trial opens - hosted in The Hague for security reasons
- April 2012: Convicted of aiding and abetting the commission of war crimes
- May 2012: Sentenced to 50 years in jail
- June 2012: His lawyers say he will appeal against his conviction

It found Taylor guilty on 11 counts of war crimes, relating to atrocities that included rape and murder, and described by one of the judges as "some of the most heinous crimes in human history".

In return for so-called blood diamonds, Taylor provided arms and both logistical and moral support to Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels - prolonging the conflict and the suffering of the people of Sierra Leone.

His lawyers have filed 42 grounds of appeal, arguing that the trial chamber's findings were based on "uncorroborated hearsay evidence".

"The colossal judgment, over 2,500 pages in length, is plagued throughout by internal inconsistencies, misstatements of evidence and conflicting findings," his lawyer Morris Anyah said in court papers quoted by the AFP news agency.

Prosecutors, meanwhile, are expected to argue that the court made a mistake by only convicting Taylor of aiding and abetting the RUF and its allies, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council.

"The Trial Chamber erred in law and in fact by failing to convict Mr Taylor for ordering crimes committed by RUF/AFRC forces who were implementing his instructions," the prosecution said in court papers.

Taylor started Liberia's civil war as a warlord in 1989, and was elected president in 1997. He governed for six years before being forced into exile in southern Nigeria. He was arrested in 2006 while trying to flee Nigeria.

The trial was moved to the Netherlands due to concerns that the case might spark fresh instability in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

## The New Dawn

Tuesday, 22 January 2013

### Taylor Suffers Set Back

Othello B. Garblah

Judges at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone have dismissed a motion filed by ex-President Charles Taylor which seeks the admission of nine additional evidence during his appeal hearing that starts with an oral argument today.



Mr. Taylor had also sought to have dissenting alternative Judge, Justice Sow testify on his behalf. Lawyers representing Mr. Taylor filed the motion seeking to present the additional evidence pursuant to Rule 115 and paragraph 23 of the Court's practice and Direction for Grounds of Appeals.

Rule 115 (A) provides among others that a party may apply by motion to the Pre-hearing Judge to present before the Appeal Chamber additional evidence which was not available to it at the trial.

Article 23 of the Practice and Direction on the structure of Grounds of Appeal before the Special Court provides that a party applying to present additional evidence must do so by way of motion, in accordance with the Rules-starting with among others, the specific rule by which the application is made.

The Special Court judges in their ruling dated Friday January 18, 2013, said Mr. Taylor's motion fails to identify the specific finding of fact made by the Trial Chamber to which the additional evidence is directed. The judges further stated that Mr. Taylor's motion and evidence proposed do not relate to a fact litigated at trial or a factual finding made by the Trial Chamber.

"The motion fails to establish that the evidence and fair trial issues could not have been raised before the Trial Chamber," the judges said.

The judges also stated that the request by Mr. Taylor to have Justice Sow testify on his behalf fails to either indicate witness (Justice Sow) willingness to testify or to support the request with a statement of the proposed evidence to be elicited from the witness.

Lawyers representing Mr. Taylor on November 30, 2012 filed the motion to present additional evidence pursuant to Rule 115 of the Special Court. They argued in their motion that the evidence to be presented meets the requirement of Rule 115 and Paragraph 23 of the court's Appeal Practice and Direction for Grounds of Appeal.

The Defense had argued that the specific findings of fact to which the proffered evidence is directed are among others: All findings of fact underpinning paragraph 6994(a) and (b) of the judgment, 2 to the extent it might be concluded from the judgment that Mr. Taylor received a fair trial with due process of law.

But the Prosecution countered argued that the motion fails to meet requirement of Rule 115 and Paragraph 23 of the Practice and Direction for the Ground of Appeal. The prosecution therefore concluded that all the nine pieces of evidence should be rejected.

However, the defense had earlier argued that all the proposed additional evidence was unavailable at the trial. But the prosecution maintained that for certain of the proposed evidence, the defense should have raised that at the time it became aware of it, rather it fails to demonstrate due diligence by making appropriate use of all evidence mechanisms available to it.

Associated Press  
Friday, 19 January 2013

## Liberia's ex-President Taylor appeals 50-year sentence for war crimes, seeks pension

By Jonathan Paye-Layleh



In this April 3, 2006 file photo, former Liberian President Charles Taylor makes his first appearance at the Special Court in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Charles Taylor may be locked up while appealing his 50-year prison sentence for war crimes, but the former Liberian president still wants his impoverished country to pay his pension. The 64-year-old who was once one of West Africa's most powerful figures has written Liberia's Senate seeking at least \$25,000 per year in retirement pay he insists he's owed under the constitution. (AP Photo/George Osodi, Pool, File) MONROVIA, Liberia — Charles Taylor may be locked up while appealing his 50-year prison sentence for war crimes, but the former Liberian president still wants his impoverished country to pay his

pension.

The 64-year-old who was once one of West Africa's most powerful figures has written Liberia's Senate seeking at least \$25,000 per year in retirement pay he insists he's owed under the constitution.

"Sadly, I am without notice as to why finance ministers of the republic have failed and/or refused to comply with the laws of the land as regards my annuities," Taylor wrote.

The former strongman, whom even prosecutors have called smart and charismatic, ran Liberia from 1997 to 2003. As his government fought a two-front rebellion that year, he stepped down and fled to Nigeria under international pressure. Three years later, Taylor was finally arrested and sent to the Netherlands.

Last year, Taylor was convicted at The Hague for war crimes and crimes against humanity and sentenced to 50 years behind bars for arming and supporting murderous rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone's civil war, which ended in 2002. He has appealed the conviction; oral arguments in the appeal are to take place Tuesday and Wednesday.

In his three-page letter to the Senate, which at the time smacked of legalese, Taylor chastised Liberia's government for "mammoth injustice" for allegedly failing to uphold its responsibilities and "a blatant disregard for the laws of our land" by not paying his pension.

He also wrote that he had been denied access to Liberian diplomatic and consular services, and sought diplomatic housing and passports for his wife, Victoria, and two daughters. The letter was read in the Senate this week and is to be discussed again on Tuesday.

Liberia's constitution states "a former president who has honourably retired to private life" and is no longer employed in government is to receive an annual pension equal to half of the incumbent president's salary.

Taylor's private villa in the outskirts of Monrovia is decrepit; his once prestigious mansion in his hometown of Arthington, some 40 kilometres to the west, is in ruins and swallowed up under grass.

At Villa Yassah Zoe, his palace in the Congo Town suburbs of Monrovia, Taylor's wife greeted an Associated Press reporter but deferred all comment to Henry Brown, who introduced himself as "acting chief-of-staff" at the palace — which is still adorned with wood-carved seals of Liberia.

Aside from his role in Sierra Leone's bloodshed, Taylor is also seen by many as the chief architect of Liberia's back-to-back civil wars from 1989 to 2003 that killed an estimated 250,000 people, displaced millions, and devastated the economy. Various estimates put gross domestic product per capita at less than \$400 per year in 2011.

Some believe Taylor is a millionaire. Asked why he was seeking the benefits from one of the world's poorest countries, Brown cited principle — and noted but denied the claims that Taylor had squirreled away millions.

"Mr. Taylor has always been a law-abiding citizen of this country, and this is the law. What is going on now is not a matter of like and dislike; it is a matter of the law being enforced," he said.

# Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Tuesday, 22 January 2013

## **STL condemns media reports on alleged witness identities**

STL Press Release

Leidschendam, 22 January 2013 – The STL condemns the recent media reports claiming to reveal the identities of individuals who may be called to testify before the STL as witnesses.

The Tribunal denounces in the strongest possible terms any attempts at witness intimidation. Publicly identifying individuals as potential STL witnesses may endanger these individuals whether or not they are linked to the Tribunal. Given these security concerns, the STL will not confirm whether the content of the news reports is accurate or not.

Any efforts by individuals or the media to disclose confidential material or to undermine the administration of justice are taken very seriously by the STL's four organs. Persons who disclose confidential information from the STL may be in direct contravention of judicial orders and be subject to judicial proceedings for contempt.

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