

**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

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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CharlesTaylorTrial.org
Wednesday, 4 September 2013

Special Court Announces Date of Taylor Appeal Judgment

By Taegin Stevenson

The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) issued a press release stating that the appeal judgment in the Charles Taylor case will be announced on September 26, 2013. In April 2012, SCSL judges convicted Mr. Taylor on 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and serious violations of international humanitarian law that occurred from November 1996 to January 2002 during the course of Sierra Leone's civil war. The judges also convicted the former Liberian president of planning, with former RUF leader Sam Bockarie, attacks on Kono, Makeni, and Freetown, which took place in late 1998 and early 1999. He was sentenced to 50 years in prison in May 2012.

On July 19, 2012, both the prosecution and defense teams filed notices of appeal against the findings of the Trial Chamber on Mr. Taylor's conviction and his sentence. The prosecution appealed the Trial Chamber conviction on four grounds, including the Chamber's failure to find Mr. Taylor liable for ordering and instigating the commission of crimes, the failure to find him liable for crimes committed in certain location in five districts on the ground that they fell outside the scope of the indictment, as well as the decision to sentence him to a single term of 50 years. The prosecution originally asked that Mr. Taylor serve an 80 year jail term.

The defense has raised 42 grounds of appeal. The defense disagrees with the findings of the Trial Chamber that Taylor was involved in planning attacks on Kono, Makeni, and Freetown in 1998 and 1999 and that he assisted the commission of crimes by providing medical assistance to rebel forces in Sierra Leone. The defense also argues that the 50 year jail sentence is "manifestly unreasonable," and that the judges "erred" in their failure to consider Taylor's expression of sympathy as grounds of mitigation. Concerns were also raised over irregularities in the proceedings based on the statement made by the Alternate Judge El-Hadj Malick Sow that there had been no deliberations among the judges and that Justice Julia Sebutinde's participation in the proceedings after she had already become a judge of the International Court of Justice was improper.

The Appeals Chamber will announce its judgment at 11:00am on Thursday, September 26, from The Hague. The appeal judgment will mark the conclusion of the trial, which began in June 2007 and saw 94 witnesses testify for the prosecution and 21 for the defense, including Charles Taylor himself, over its duration.

More information on the case, including the Trial Chamber judgment and appeal submissions, is available [here](#).

Standard (Kenya)

Monday, 2 September 2013

Jubilee MPs want VIP treatment for Uhuru Kenyatta, William Ruto at The Hague



By Geoffrey Mosoku

Nairobi, Kenya: Over 40 MPs from the Jubilee coalition now want President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto accorded VIP treatment on the onset of their cases at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The MPs argue that the two were elected popularly by the Kenyan people, whose sovereignty should be respected even as the two struggle to clear their names at The Hague.

The leaders warned ICC not to embarrass the two by treating them as criminals but handle them in dignity having been elected by their country to lead.

“Uhuru and Ruto were democratically elected by the Kenyan people just like elections that took place in USA and other democratic countries; they therefore must be accorded the same respect and treatment including security when their trial begins,” Thika Town MP Alice Nganga said.

Othaya’s Mary Wambui added; “As the people’s elected president and deputy, the ICC should not attempt to humiliate our leaders but accord them VIP treatment and follow other protocol requirements for heads of state and governments.”

The legislators said that although the president and his deputy were honouring their dates within the ICC, the court was turning out to be political which now they must deal with politically.

“Acknowledging that President Uhuru Kenyatta and His Deputy William Ruto have agreed to follow the legal process to prepare their case at ICC, we the political leadership will deal with ICC through the political process,” Baringo East MP Asman Kamama said.

“We will face ICC both legally and politically, to unreservedly free Africa from exploitative non reliable partnerships. This is Kenya's Moment. This Africa's enduring renaissance,” he added.

Kamama’s comments were echoed by his Baringo North counterpart William Cheptumo who said recent events at The Hague were testimony of how the court is political.

“The ICC process is a direct challenge to the sovereignty of the country. The court appears not to be independent institution,” Cheptumo said citing the recent ruling that Ruto will not have breaks in between the case to attend to his constitutional mandate in spite of the prosecutor not raising any objection.

The MPs were addressing a press conference at the Serena Hotel Monday when they announced plans to recall the two houses of parliament from recess to discuss the impending trials.

“We have instructed the two leaders of majority to consult and petition the speakers to convene parliament as soon as possible to discuss this matter,” Kamama said adding that the MPs were declaring their unflinching support for the Jubilee government.

Jubilee said they will be moving for the implementation of the resolution by 10th to remove Kenya from ICC by introducing a bill in parliament to repeal the Rome Statute.

Although the ICC has in the past made it clear that even if Kenya were to withdraw from the Rome Statute, it will not affect the case against Uhuru and Ruto, the legislators defended their intended motion saying its meant to cushion not only Kenyans but Africans from future ‘onslaughts by imperialists’ hiding under the cover of ICC.

Over one hundred MPs from the ruling coalition intend to accompany Ruto to The Hague next week, for his case which is slated for Tuesday September 10.

Aljazeera

Thursday, 5 September 2013

ICC prosecutor: Kenya trials must go ahead

Court says Justice must run its course against Kenya's president and deputy, as Kenyan MPs debate court membership.

Justice must run its course in the cases against Kenya's president and deputy president, the International Criminal Court's prosecutor said, ahead of a vote in Kenya's parliament on whether to withdraw from the Hague-based court.



Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto are accused of orchestrating violence after elections in 2007 in which 1,200 people lost their lives.

President Uhuru Kenyatta (L) and deputy president William Ruto (R) face charges of crimes against humanity [EPA]

"The judicial process is now in motion at the International Criminal Court. Justice must run its course," said Fatou Bensouda, the court's chief prosecutor, in a video statement on the court's website, on Thursday.

Ruto's trial comes about two months ahead of that of Kenyatta, who faces five charges of crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, persecution and deportation.

Both Kenyatta and Ruto have said they will cooperate fully with the court and deny the charges against them.

Also due to appear in The Hague is radio boss Joshua Arap Sang, accused of inciting violence.

Al Jazeera's Catherine Soi, reporting from Nairobi, said: "More will happen after the motion is passed," adding that another bill will be presented to parliament which then needs to be signed off by the president.

Regarding popular support for the motion, she went on to say, "It really depends on which side you look at. The ruling coalition says this debate is being supported, but surveys show that Kenyans don't want their own country to pull out of the court."

Many Kenyan politicians have branded the ICC a "neo-colonialist" institution that only targets Africans, prompting the debate on a possible departure from the Rome Statute of the ICC.

"Any law in this country or internationally like the Rome Statute can be repealed and can be amended," said Asman Kamama, one of the lawmakers supporting a pull-out.

"It is not cast in stone and we want to be the trail blazers in the continent."

The Jubilee Coalition of Kenyatta and Ruto dominate both Kenya's National Assembly and Senate.

Voluntary sign-up

The Hague-based court was set up in 2002 to try the world's worst crimes, and countries voluntarily sign up to join.

Any actual withdrawal requires the submission of a formal request to the United Nations, a process that would take at least a year.

A withdrawal could however preclude the ICC from investigating and prosecuting any future crimes.

Cases could then only be brought before the court if the government decides to accept ICC jurisdiction or the UN Security Council makes a referral.

Amnesty International condemned the move.

"This move is just the latest in a series of disturbing initiatives to undermine the work of the ICC in Kenya and across the continent," said Netsanet Belay, Amnesty's Africa director.

The rights group called on "each and every parliamentarian to stand against impunity and reject this proposal," warning that "a withdrawal would strip the Kenyan people of one of the most important human rights protections and potentially allow crimes to be committed with impunity in the future."

Kenya's 2007 elections were marred by allegations of vote rigging, but what began as political riots quickly turned into ethnic killings and reprisal attacks, plunging Kenya into its worst wave of violence since independence in 1963.

Kenyatta and Ruto were fierce rivals in the 2007 vote, but teamed up together and were elected in March in peaceful polls.