

**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:**

Tuesday, 19 November 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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**International News**

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## Heritage (Liberia)

Monday, 18 November 2013

### **Taylor's Dignity Must Be Respected - Cyril Allen Talks Tough**

The Chairman emeritus of the former ruling National Patriotic Party of Liberia (NPP), Chief Cyril Allen, has vowed to galvanize support to petition the Liberian Legislature and the parliament of Sierra Leone to secure Mr. Charles Taylor's transfer from a British prison.

In an interview with the Catholic owned Radio Veritas, Chief Allen stated that he would begin by engaging his party's(NPP) legislative caucus, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and the Sierra Leone authorities on the matter.

Chief Allen's comments came on the heels of assertions by the family of Taylor that he(Taylor) was being 'ill-treated' in the British jail where he is serving his 50-year war crimes sentence.

But Britain dismissed the allegations as "utter nonsense". Taylor family spokesman Sando Johnson told a press conference in Monrovia recently that prison officers were withholding food and water from the 65-year-old former president, who arrived at the British jail nearly a month ago. The name of the jail has not been revealed.

"Information we got revealed that he is not given food and even water," Johnson told reporters. "If this continues for the next two days, Taylor may die in jail." But a spokeswoman for Britain's Prison Service said: "These allegations are total nonsense."

Taylor's spokesman said friends and contacts had obtained the information and that the family had not been in contact with him since he was transferred to Britain from The Hague, where he had been held since the start of his trial in 2007.

Under the terms of Taylor's prison sentence, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture is able to visit him in prison at any time, officials have said.

Taylor is likely to spend the rest of his life behind bars in Britain after the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) in The Hague upheld his sentence last month for arming rebels during Sierra Leone's brutal civil war during the 1990s.

His landmark sentence on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity was the first handed down by an international court against a former head of state since the Nazi trials at Nuremberg in 1946. The British government had offered in 2007 to house Taylor in a British jail if he was convicted, and to cover the costs of his imprisonment.

But the tough talking chairman emeritus of the NPP asserted that the Hybrid Court, which convicted Mr. Taylor, was established by an act of the Sierra Leonean Parliament and not any charter of the United Nations or the British government.

He averred that the former Liberian president is a prisoner of Sierra Leone and not Great Britain.

Chief Allen again described the charges brought against Taylor during his trial as unjust and that the ruling was unfair.

Touching briefly on ties between Britain and Liberia, the Liberian opposition politician said he respects and appreciates the relations.

But he noted that the British government must equally respect the dignity of Mr. Taylor as a former Liberian President.

## Government of Botswana

Monday, 18 November 2013

Press Release

The Administration of Justice has the honour to inform the nation that on the 16th of October, 2013, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, appointed the Hon. Justice Dr. O.B.K. Dingake to the roster of judges of the **Residual Special Court of & Sierra Leone**.

The Residual Special Court of Sierra Leone continues the mandate of the Special Court of Sierra Leone, a judicial body that was set up by the UN and the government of Sierra Leone to preside over the prosecution of persons who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law, committed in Sierra Leone after the 30th November, 1996

AOJ PRESS RELEASE:

APPOINTMENT OF HON. JUSTICE O.B.K. DINGAKE TO POSITION OF JUDGE OF RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE.

The Administration of Justice has the honour to inform the nation that on the 16th of October, 2013, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, appointed the Hon. Justice Dr. O.B.K. Dingake to the roster of judges of the Residual Special Court of & Sierra ...Leone.

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This assignment is an affirmative of the highest confidence the international community have in Botswana's judicial system and the Government of Botswana.

Hon. Justice Dr. Dingake was a jurist and scholar of international repute. His career path straddles academia, corporate world and the judiciary.

We have all the confidence that Justice Dingake will execute his assignment with fairness and integrity and make us all proud.

This appointment was not a full-time assignment and judge Dingake will sit from time to time as may be required by the President of the Court.

The Chief Justice takes this opportunity on behalf of the entire judiciary and people of Botswana to wish Hon. Justice Dr. Dingake all the best in his new international assignment.

## Colombo Gazette (Sri Lanka)

Tuesday, 19 November 2013

### **UK not happy with local probe**

British Prime Minister David Cameron says investigations carried out by the Sri Lankan government on human rights related issues are not fully independent as most of them have been military-led inquiries.

-SNIP-

FULL DEBATE:

-SNIP-

### **Sir Tony Baldry (Banbury) (Con):**

The UN **Special Court for Sierra Leone** has been sitting in The Hague for some time now. It demonstrates that there is plenty of precedent showing that if the United Nations Security Council has the will, it is perfectly possible to devise mechanisms for independent judicial inquiries into crimes against humanity by UN member states.

## The Star (Kenya)

Monday, 18 November 2013

Opinion

### **UNSC Verdict Is a Victory for the Rule of Law**

The world is increasingly interdependent. There is key inter-dependence of development, security and human rights and in particular, how the rule of law is crucial for strengthening these three pillars.

The rule of law has figured prominently in approach to politics where all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to just, fair and equitable laws and are entitled to equal protection of the law.

Kenya is no exception. This is why the United Nations Security Council deferral rejection for Kenya cases at ICC was not only victory against impunity, it was also unequivocal reaffirmation of significance of rule of law.

On May 31 2004, the Appeals Chamber of Sierra Leone Special Court, a court set up by African Union with the backing of United Nations, held that heads of state immunity does not apply to the prosecution of international crimes. It means that no one -- including national leaders who perpetrate or order the commission of crimes -- will be legitimately shielded from facing justice based on their political power.

African leaders abet, aid, plan and finance commission of grave crimes against fellow African people. When called to account, they cleverly create a narrative of victimhood turning against the real victims and those demanding for accountability. The UNSC deferral rejection did not in any way 'humiliate' Africa or the African people.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, whose principles and values are well grounded in Kenya Constitution, prosecutes persons in their individual criminal responsibility capacity regardless to their official status.

This also means public funds and other resources CANNOT be spent on the ICC cases. The country cannot apply Constitution and other national laws selectively. The Judiciary and other institutions like the IEBC are deliberately stifling Chapter 6 and national values. They have make sure Articles 2(6), 10, 73, and 132(5) of the Constitution are respected and upheld. Further articles 143(4) and 145(1) (a) & (b) are instructive whenever an individual is accused of or is charged with national or international crimes while holding key state office.

The rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Advancement of the rule of law is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth. Today Kenya is facing testing time in demonstrating respect and enforcing the rule of law as a central pillar of achieving sustainable development, security and human rights.

The critical challenge before the country is fully enforcing national values, principles and international obligations enshrined in the progressive Constitution. Upholding rule of law is key step in realizing the fruits of the Constitution, achieving an effective democratic devolved system of development and governance benefiting all Kenyans and creating new opportunities for many young people. Now is the time for the people of Kenya to stand firm towards a establishing more democratic state.

The public functionaries, as custodians of public resources, must rely on rule-based practice to guard against corruption and ensure the proper utilization of public funds for the development of the country and welfare of its people.

*Ndung'u Wainaina is the executive director of the International Center for Policy and Conflict.*