

Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Court President Requests UN Security Council's Chapter Seven

In the wake of the Special Court's recent attempt to arrest Liberia's president Charles Ghankay Taylor on charges of crimes against humanity, the President of Court, Justice Geoffrey Robertson, has written a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan. The letter asks the Secretary General to recommend that the UN Security Council pass a resolution under Chapter Seven of the UN Charter calling on member states to abide by the orders of the Court.

Governments would then be obligated to make arrests were the Special Court to issue a warrant. There are currently outstanding warrants for three indictees, President Taylor, Johnny Paul Koroma and Sam Bockarie, although his alleged body is currently being examined by the Court to verify the identity.

Having Chapter Seven powers could also strength the Special Court in other areas. The Court may need to call on governments to help in tracking down witnesses or to allow detainees to enter their territories for medical examinations and treatment. The Court may also decide to ask governments to incarcerate persons who the judges of the Court have found guilty.

#END

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