

**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:

Monday, 1 October 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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AFRC Leaders Found Guilty of Contempt



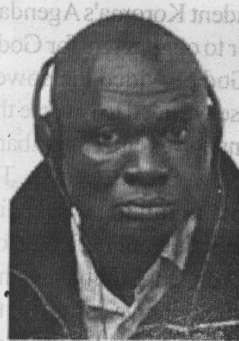
Ibrahim Bazzy Kamara
File Photo



Santigie Borbor Kanu
File Photo



Hassan Papa Bangura



Samuel Kargbo

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

AFRC Leaders Found Guilty of Contempt

Three senior members of Sierra Leone's former Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), two of them already serving sentences on convictions by the Special Court for Sierra Leone were found guilty of contempt for tampering with a former prosecution witness on Tuesday September 25.

The judgement was delivered by Special Court Judge Justice Teresa Doherty from The Hague and streamed to courtrooms in Freetown and Kigali, Rwanda on a three-way VTC video link.

Santigie Borbor Kanu (aka: "Five-Five") and Hassan Papa Bangura (aka: "Bomblast") were each found guilty on two counts of interfering with the administration of justice by offering a bribe to a witness, and for otherwise attempting to induce a witness to recant (or to state that he testified falsely) testimony he gave before the Special Court.

Ibrahim Bazzy Kamara was convicted for attempting to induce a witness to recant his testimony. He was found not guilty on a second count, of offering a bribe to a witness. Kamara was also convicted on a third count of knowingly violating a court order protecting the identity of a witness who had testified against him in the AFRC trial.

A fourth Accused, Samuel Kargbo (aka: "Sammy Ragga") pleaded guilty at his initial appearance in July 2011 and was con-



Ibrahim Bazzy Kamara
File Photo



Santigie Borbor Kanu
File Photo



Hassan Papa Bangura



Samuel Kargbo

victed on both counts. He subsequently testified for the prosecution. Kargbo remains free on bail on his own recognizance pending sentencing. He appeared in Court for Tuesday's judgement.

During the trial which opened on 16 June, Justice Doherty heard testimony in both Freetown and Kigali. Kamara and Kanu are currently serving sentences of 45 and 50 years, respectively, at the Mpanga Prison in Rwanda on convictions for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Kamara and Kanu attended the hearings at the ICTR's courtroom

in Kigali, while Bangura and Kargbo participated from the Special Court's courthouse in Freetown. The two courtrooms were connected by VTC video link. Kamara and Bangura each testified in their own defence. Kanu also testified in his own behalf and called one additional defence witness.

Under the sentencing proceedings, Justice Doherty read that: "Under Rule 77(G) of the Special Court's Rules of Procedure and Evidence, a person convicted of contempt faces a maximum sentence of seven years in prison, a maximum fine of two mil-

lion Leones (approximately \$500), or both. In May 2012 the maximum fine was increased to twenty million Leones, to apply to any future cases.

She also said that the convicted persons have the right to appeal both judgement and sentence. In June, former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) member Eric Koi Senesie was sentenced to a two year prison term after being found guilty of interfering with five prosecution witnesses who testified in the Taylor trial. Credit: Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL)

The Voice
Monday, 1 October 2012

Top Sierra Leonean Journalist Opens Up On Taylor's Verdict



The Liberian Times

A top Sierra Leone journalist has said the sentencing of former Liberian President Charles G. Taylor has nothing to do with healing the wounds in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Umaru Fofana, who is the President of the Sierra Leone Journalist Association, said the conviction and subsequent sentence of Mr. Taylor centered on the fact that the international community wanted to send out a powerful message that no sitting African leader will defy

them and go sky-free, especially on crimes against humanity.

Mr. Fofana made these comments on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 when he served as a special guest speaker at the ongoing international training for journalists of the ECOWAS countries in Accra, Ghana.

The training, organized by the Institute for Journalism (IJ) under the theme: "Freedom and Responsibility in the Media", is aimed at building the capacity of junior level reporters on wide range of issues, including understanding of Taylor's trial and other tribunals.

Mr. Fofana had covered the trial of Charles Taylor in The Hague for the BBC World Trust Fund. He is also a survivor of torture by the then infamous Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels of the late Foday Sankoh.

Speaking further, the top Sierra Leone journalist pointed out that it is difficult to understand how the sentence of the former Liberian leader will lift from abject poverty the survivors that were amputated, raped and incapacitated during the civil conflict to provide for their families.

According to him, if the people (Sierra Leoneans) put aside their emotions, they will better understand as to why the sentencing of the former Liberian leader has no clear link with the healing of wounds in Sierra Leone. Among other things, Mr. Taylor has been sentenced to 50-year jail for aiding and abating war in Sierra Leone.

"We do not see the clear link between Taylor's conviction and healing the wounds in Sierra Leone. I do not support Taylor neither the crimes the rebels committed in Sierra Leone," Fofana said.

FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK

(Courtesy Angela Stavrianou,
The Hague in the MONITOR)

(PART 3)

BY ISSA B.M. KAMARA

In previous editions I presented to you "ADMISSIBILITY OF HEARSAY EVIDENCE IN THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE" courtesy Angela Stavrianou in the MONITOR.

Today, I have decided to remind you of something close to the minds of many Sierra Leoneans who went through the brutal rebel war and its resultant disastrous consequences as concerns the about concluded trial of Charles Taylor. There have been mixed feelings on the outcome of the ruling and the sentence imposed on Charles Taylor. Well whatever the various views expressed both nationally, sub-regionally and even internationally, one will like to bring to you that during the trial of Charles Taylor, a Sierra Leonean born Joseph Kamara, acting Prosecutor for the Special Court of Sierra Leone in an interview with Angela Stavrianou elucidated as concerns hearsay evidence. Read part one of the interview below.

"Interview with Joseph Kamara Former Acting Prosecutor For the Special Court for Sierra Leone:

CARL: In such a high profile case, what is the effect of prejudice on the trial?

Kamara: The Defence likes to say that the public mind has been so "prejudiced" against Mr. Taylor by the Western media that he cannot get a fair trial. This is another ploy to distract from the case against their client. Once again, it is a distortion of the truth. It is also insulting to the professional and independent judges who are hearing the case.

This is a trial before professional judges, chosen for their high moral character, impartiality and integrity. For that reason, prejudice should not be a factor.

But remember, when you are speaking of prejudice, you must look at the potential impact of prejudice against the Accused, the Prosecution and the Court itself. Public statements such as Mr. Griffiths has been prone to make, evoking emotive language to deflect from the evidence and the legitimacy of the trial, is prejudicial not just to the Prosecution but is also brings the administration of justice by the Court into disrepute.

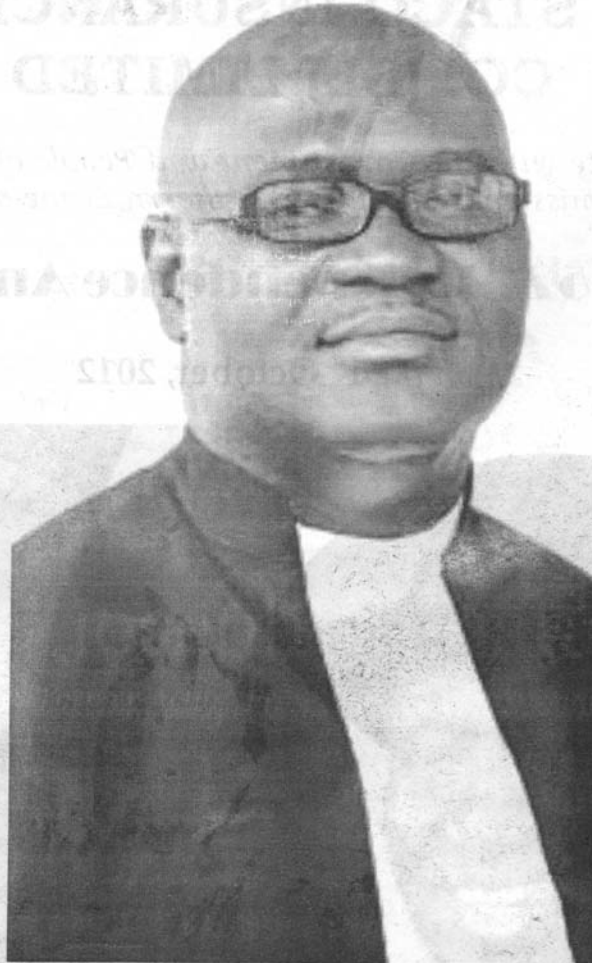
Demanding accountability and for an indicted person to stand trial is not prejudice. The fact that in 2006 a coalition



Author

Joseph Kamara speaks

...Former Acting Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone



ACC boss

of dozens of African NGOs called for Taylor to be handed over to stand trial is not indicative of prejudice, but of the belief that impunity is wrong and accused persons should be brought to trial.

The Prosecution's position is very simple. Charles Ghankay Taylor is before this Court because of his choices and his conduct.

Let me conclude by emphasizing this point: the trial of Charles Taylor could not be more fair, open and transparent. And no amount of misinformation from the Defence outside the courtroom can detract from the evidence presented in Court against Mr. Taylor.

We will continue to challenge Mr. Taylor and the other Defence witnesses with the full weight of our evidence. And we call upon his lawyers to focus on the case as well, and refrain from spouting further poisonous dialogue in the public realm. The real victims deserve better.

The Defence opened its case in 13 July 2009 in the Charles Taylor Trial. On December 9 2009, CARL's Angela Stavrianou sat down to speak with Mr. Joseph Kamara, the then Acting Prosecutor in which she asked him questions relating to the trial and its progress thus far.

CARL: What do you think the Special Court has achieved to date, both in Sierra Leone and in terms of International Criminal Law?

Kamara: The Special Court has achieved so much for Sierra Leone, and for the sub-region. Let's start with what it has done to ensure peace.

Without the Special Court, none of the leaders of the rebel groups that tore this country apart would have ever faced justice. They would be free to walk the streets of the country's cities and towns with impunity. In the Lome Peace Accord, the former rebel leader Foday Sankoh was made Vice President and the RUF gained control over the country's diamond mining areas. And we all know the violence that occurred after this accord.

Who can say with confidence there would have been no return to the violence and suffering brought by these leaders?

Further, Charles Taylor would today be a free man in the sub-region, and free to plan as he wished in Liberia and for Sierra Leone, instead of facing justice in a court of law for the crimes he is accused of.

You cannot put a price on peace, and you cannot put a price on justice. The work of

the Court has been one of the reasons Sierra Leone and even Liberia has been able to move forward since the dark days of the war.

The BBC and the Special Court have both conducted public opinion surveys, and the results show that the majority of Sierra Leoneans strongly support the work of the Court. They believe it has made a difference to their lives and to the country.

The Court has also greatly encouraged the respect for the rule of law domestically, and has spread knowledge of the importance of this principle throughout the country. The Outreach department has been key in this regard, spreading the message of the Court's work and its principles to every city and town in the country.

The Court has also undertaken activities designed to leave behind a positive legacy. The hope of the SCSL and the OTP is that it has and will achieve something far beyond its mandate and impart skills, legal and non-legal principles and even infrastructure to the country.

One area where this legacy is being ensured is in the trainings the SCSL provides. Hundreds of police officers, lawyer, students and even Parliamentarians and judges have attended seminars or received trainings on a wide variety of topics, from International Humanitarian Law to criminal investigation practices.

As far as International Law, the list of key precedents established by the Court is truly impressive: the world's first recognitions of the use of child soldiers and of forced marriage as crimes under international humanitarian law, and the first ever convictions on these charges; the first-ever convictions on the charge of Attacks on UN Peacekeeper. These rulings have the potential to help protect civilians and soldiers alike in the conflict zones of the world.

Finally, the example of the Charles Taylor on trial, like Slobodan Milosevic at the Yugoslavia tribunal before him, shows that no man is above the law.

It shows that when it comes to indicted accused war criminals, it's not a question of if they will face justice, but when.

CARL: What is the Prosecution's timeline for the Cross-Examination of Taylor?

Kamara: We are going to try and be as efficient as we can, while still doing justice to our need to effectively challenge Mr. Taylor on the truthfulness of his testimony. We do not intend to take as long as the 13 weeks the Defence took for the direct-examination.

How directly or evasively Mr. Taylor chooses to answer our questions will be a significant factor in how quickly we can proceed.

The judges' 30 November ruling affirmed the Prosecution's right under the established principles of international law to use new materials to impeach the credibility of the Accused. We've already tested the credibility of Mr. Taylor's claims on a number of fronts, and our cross has only just begun, he challenged us to bring forth evidence of the wealth he accumulated while in power. We were pleased to do this. And throughout our

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Joseph Kamara speaks

...Former Acting Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone



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cross we will confront his claim that he was a peacemaker in Sierra Leone. Our evidence shows just the opposite.

CARL: What is the proposed use of the Special Court facilities in Freetown following the trial?

Kamara: Discussions are ongoing between the Court, the Government, and also the international community, but no final decisions have yet been reached. One aspect of the Court that has already been determined is the former prison facility for the indigees who have now all been transferred to Rwanda. That facility has been transferred over to the Government for their own use as a prison facility for women and possibly for younger offenders. As for the rest of the Court, one of the possibilities is to use it as a judicial training facility, possibly for the ECOWAS countries. There is also a planned museum and/or memorial of some kind on the Court premises that will be open to the public. This will focus on the civil war and to a smaller extent on the history of the work of the Court and the cases.

CARL: Who are you expecting the Defence to call in support of their case?

Kamara: Although they have filed summaries for some 260 witnesses and loudly proclaimed their preference for a public trial during the Prosecution case in chief, the Defence successfully applied to keep the names of those witnesses hidden from the Prosecution until 21 days before each witness testifies. So, to date, the Prosecution is only aware of the names of few Defence witnesses in addition to the Accused. We hope that however many witnesses they are allowed to call, the Defence proceed with their case in an efficient and responsible manner, as the Prosecution, sought to do during its case.

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Demanding accountability and for an indicted person to stand trial is not prejudice. The fact that in 2006 a coalition of dozens of African NGOs called for Taylor to be handed over to stand trial is not indicative of prejudice, but of the belief that impunity is wrong and accused persons should be brought to trial.

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The real victims deserve better.

One is for stability and unity within the Country. The second is that according to international law or inhuman crimes against humanity are punishable. In South Africa it was only the TRC, now in the Ivory Coast we are hearing about the ICC. Atimes in both, we depend highly on hearsay evidence or what victims or perpetrators say.

Voice of America

Friday, 28 September 2012

Germany Hosts ICC's 10th Anniversary Conference

Peter Clotey

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is marking its 10th anniversary in Nuremberg, Germany, with a two-day international conference on the Hague-based court.

Organized by the German foreign ministry, the theme of the conference is, "Through the Lens of Nuremberg: The International Criminal Court at its 10th Anniversary."

Bettina Ambach, co-organizer of the conference says it will include discussions addressing accusations that the Hague-based court has sometimes unfairly targeted African nations.

"We will ask the question to what extent the legacy of Nuremberg has been implemented in the international court, which exists today?" Ambach said, referring to the war crimes trials for captured Nazi officials that took place in Nuremberg after World War II.

"We will discuss achievements of the International Criminal Court and also look at the challenges, internally and externally the court still faces, and we will ask the question, what should be the road for the next 10 years?"

Ambach said speakers at the summit include experts on the Nuremberg trials, representatives from the ICC and other international courts and tribunals, the African Union and Arab League, renowned international criminal law experts, government and civil society.

She said the conference will mark the progress made in the development of international criminal law in the more than six decades since the Nuremberg trials. Special attention will be focused on the period since 1993, when the idea of an international criminal justice system gained new momentum through the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Ambach said that in recent years, "Africa has been at the forefront of developments in international criminal justice ..." In particular, she cited the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone and the African Union's Constitutive Act as measures Africa has taken to deal with human right abuses.

"These are important institutions expressing support to ending impunity for those responsible for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, the big international crimes," said Ambach.

So far 33 African countries have ratified the Rome Statutes that established the ICC.

But, some have said the ICC has often targeted mostly Africans. One example sometimes cited was the court's arrest warrant against Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur -- charges the Sudan government sharply rejected.

"We will address this issue of does [Bashir] have immunity and what happens if he travels to states, which don't belong to the International Criminal Court? Do they have to arrest him? What happens when he travels to member states, which he has done recently and nothing has happened," Ambach asked.