

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



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**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, 10 December 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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The Exclusive  
Monday, 10 December 2012

# Taylor Appeals Hearing Postponed

Judges at the Special Court for Sierra Leone last Wednesday postponed the appeals hearing in the case of Liberia ex-President Charles Gangay Taylor.

The hearing was originally scheduled to take place last week Thursday and Friday. The Appeals Chamber has now set 22nd January, 2013 for the hearing to commence. The postponement comes weeks after alternative Judge El-Hadj Malick Sow, told the New African magazine that Taylor should have been a freed man.

On 26th April 2012 the trial chamber convicted Taylor of aiding and abetting the commission of serious crimes including rape, murder, and destruction of civilian property by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) forces in Sierra Leone from 30th November 1996 to 18th January 2002.

The judges also found that Taylor

helped to plan attacks on three towns, including the diamond-rich town of Koidu and the country's capital Freetown, in late 1998 to early 1999. On 30th May 2012, the judges sentenced Taylor to a jail term of 50 years for his role in the Sierra Leonean conflict.

Both prosecution and defense teams have appealed the judgment on several

grounds, which they will present in court during the January hearing. In those appeals, filed in July, prosecutors raised four issues, including the judge's failure to find Taylor liable for ordering and instigating the commission of crimes and the 50 year jail sentence.

Among the 45 grounds of appeal that

the defense raised are the findings of the judges that Taylor was involved in planning attacks on Koidu, Makeni, and Freetown in late 1998 to early 1999 and that there were irregularities in the trial proceedings based on the statement made by the Alternate Judge El-Hadj Malick Sow, who alleged that there had been no deliberations among the judges.

## The Satellite

Monday, 10 December 2012

# **SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE RUNS OUT OF FUNDS**

By Dennis Kabatto, New York

The Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL) will run out of money in December and that it will not be possible to secure the necessary voluntary contributions to enable it to complete its work, this according to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki moon.

The Secretary-General warns of far-reaching repercussions if the Court fails to secure funding in a letter dated November 8, 2012 to the President of the Security Council "the possibility of the Special Court running out of funds and, consequently, being unable to complete the appeal in the case of Mr. Taylor is a very serious concern." In addition, Mr. Ban also said "a collapse of this appeal due to lack of funding would raise very substantial issues for the international community. As I have said before, the legacy of the Special Court and the progress that has been made towards ensuring accountability and restoring peace and security in Sierra Leone and the region would be at risk."

During her address to the Security Council on October 9, 2012 Justice Shireen Avis Fisher, President of the SCSL called for increased funds and support from the international community to establish a Residual Special Court. "The Residual Special Court will face particular challenges in obtaining voluntary Contributions to fund its operations. The support of the Security Council will be essential to ensure that it can carry out its important responsibilities," she said.

"War harms women in multiple ways. From mass rapes to mass displacements, women are on the frontlines of conflict and they are demanding justice. This includes effective prosecutions of war crimes and adequate redress for women," said Michelle Bachelet, the Executive Director of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

Bachelet also pleaded for continued funding saying the "Special Court for Sierra Leone has served justice and contributed to peace consolidation and reconciliation within a country destroyed by a devastating civil war. It is now essential that the Court be given the means to complete its mandate and to document and share lessons learned in strengthening women's access to justice," she said.

The Court also faces other challenges including insufficient staff, establishing communication with hundreds of witnesses in a safe environment, and developing indictments when there have been a multiple of crimes across a wide geographical area, said SCSL Prosecutor, Brenda Hollis.

According to Mr. Ban, there is a shortfall of about \$14 million for the period until the closure of the SCSL. And, the estimated annual budget for the continuous activities of the Residual Special Court amounts to \$2 million.

"The President of the Security Council replied to the Secretary-General on 28 November 2012. The Secretary-General has submitted a request to the General Assembly for the grant of a subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. As the request is being considered by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is not in a position to state what would happen if the request were not granted and there were insufficient voluntary funds," said Jerome Bernard, UN Spokesperson for the Secretary-General responding to an email inquiry if whether the Security Council President has responded to Secretary-General Ban's letter and what other options available if the Security Council fails to fund the Special Court and if voluntary contributions are insufficient for the Court to continue its mandate?

The SCSL was established as an independent judicial tribunal set up jointly by an agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and the UN. It is mandated to prosecute those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the country since 30 November 1996 and during the Sierra Leone Civil War.

The SCSL is the first international criminal tribunal to be funded entirely from voluntary contributions from governments. The Court has offices in Freetown, Sierra Leone, The Hague and in New York.

Ariogbo

Monday, 10 December 2012

# Special Court for Sierra Leone runs out of funds?

By Dennis Kabatto

The Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL) would run out of funds soon might not be able to secure the necessary voluntary contributions to enable it complete its work, according to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon.

The Secretary-General warns of far-reaching repercussions if the Court fails to secure funding in a letter dated November 8, 2012 to the President of the Security Council. The letter states inter-alia: "the possibility of the Special Court running out of funds and, consequently, being unable to complete the appeal in the case of Mr. Taylor is a very serious concern."

In addition, Mr. Ban also said: "a collapse of this appeal due to lack of

funding would raise very substantial issues for the international community. As I have said before, the legacy of the Special Court and the progress that has been made towards ensuring accountability and restoring peace and security in Sierra Leone and the region would be at risk."

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Expatica.Com

Monday, 10 December 2012

<http://www.expatica.com/nl/news>

## **UN court to issue Srebrenica commander genocide verdict**

The UN Yugoslav war crimes court is to issue its verdict on Wednesday against Bosnian Serb general Zdravko Tolimir, charged with genocide for his role in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, the worst atrocity in Europe since World War II.

Prosecutors want a life sentence for Tolimir, considered the right-hand man of Bosnian Serb army chief Ratko Mladic who is also being tried at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague.

Conducting his own defence, Tolimir said that what happened at Srebrenica in July 1995 was "fighting against terrorist groups", rather than the slaughter of almost 8,000 Muslim men and boys after Dutch peacekeepers at the "safe" enclave were overrun by the Bosnian Serb army under Mladic.

Now 64, Tolimir is accused of committing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Balkan country's bloody 1992-95 war that claimed 100,000 lives and left 2.2 million others homeless.

He faces eight counts including murder and forcible deportation relating to the attack on Srebrenica.

Prosecutors said the former intelligence chief was part of a grand scheme to murder thousands of Muslim men and boys and expel thousands of women and children at the enclave in order to create a "mono-ethnic Serb state."

The prosecution alleged that about 25,000 women, children and elderly people were forcibly transferred from the enclaves to Muslim-controlled territories, while thousands of men and boys old enough to bear arms were executed and dumped in mass graves.

Tolimir was involved in a "joint criminal enterprise" to "summarily execute and bury thousands of Bosnian Muslim men and boys aged 16 to 60 captured from the Srebrenica enclave," according to the charge sheet.

During the trial, prosecutors said Mladic relied on Tolimir to "carry out the slow strangling of the Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves" to create conditions which would force the Muslim population "to give up hope of survival."

Tolimir allegedly oversaw and authorised the officers who organised the Srebrenica slaughter.

"It was his men ... who were at the detention and execution and burial sites, making sure that murder operation did its evil work until the last bullet was fired and the last body buried," the prosecution said.

He also stood accused of proposing to attack columns of Muslim civilians fleeing the war zone and proposing to use chemical weapons against Muslim fighters.

Tolimir is the most senior Serb to have a verdict handed down by the UN war crimes court since two Croatian generals and two former Kosovar guerrillas were acquitted last month, sparking Serbia's ire.

Arrested in May 2007 in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tolimir had seen his trial delayed several times due to ill health.

Mladic, also dubbed "the Butcher of Bosnia," was arrested in Serbia last year, and now faces 11 counts before the same Hague-based court, including for the Srebrenica massacre.

## Global Post

Friday, 7 December 2012

### **Cambodia: Khmer Rouge honcho not so senile after all**

Ieng Sary, brutal regime's foreign minister, sane enough for trial

Patrick Winn



*Former Khmer Rouge official Ieng Sary, who was foreign minister under the regime, appears in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia on November 22, 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. (Handout/AFP/Getty Images)*

There are plenty of reasons why plotters of horrific atrocities shouldn't get to wait more than three decades before facing their day in court.

But here's the most obvious one: once on trial, they're prone to dementia and have few years left to mete out in bleak cells.

Cambodia's Khmer Rouge trials have already seen one top-tier figure argue, via her legal team, contend that she's too senile to stand trial. That would be Ieng Thirith, the regime's so-called "first lady," who occupied senior positions while the Maoist forces went about bludgeoning, shooting, starving, overworking and generally robbing life from more than 1.5 million people.

The good news is that, despite his lawyers' best efforts, core Khmer Rouge leader Ieng Sary (Thirith's husband) has just been deemed sane enough for trial, according to the Phnom Penh Post.

This is a refreshing development for a trial that, as I reported in August, has recently teetered on the brink of bankruptcy.