

**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:**

Wednesday, 16 January 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Awoko

Wednesday, 16 January 2013

## **At the Special Court... Defence says "inconsistencies are lies"**

By Betty Milton

**T**he Defence Counsel in the contempt trial of Prince Taylor at the Special Court of Sierra Leone, Rodney Dickson, yesterday told the court "all thin consistencies in your statement [witness] are all lies that is why you are changing them."

During cross examination, Lead Counsel questioned the witness Eric Koi Senessie about his evidence that he had earlier made to the court about the accused Prince Taylor that the witness should ask five Prosecution witnesses to recant their evidences in the court.

Among the inconsistencies that the Counsel questioned the witness was about money given to him [witness] by the accused, which the Counsel said is the reason for him to go to court and he is making the story "worst for my client and better for you."

The witness said indeed he was promised the sum of \$500 that he should get after making the five prosecution witnesses recant their evidence that they have made before the court in the trial of Charles Taylor. But

that he was never given the said amount and even as a poor man who had never received such amount he will never have traded his integrity for the amount.

Koi Senessie stated that when he was contacted by Prince Taylor in 2011 to get prosecution witnesses recant their testimony he never knew the act was wrong and if he were aware of it he would not have done it. "I never did it for the money I did it based on the integrity of the accused."

Lawyer Dickson questioned the witness about the money he received from the accused, which he failed to mention to the court apart from the Le 200,000 that the witness disclosed to the court he received from the accused. He said earlier when he came to realized that this issue has been a contempt case he was refunded with the sum of Le 30,000 by Prince Taylor as a means of transportation. Another sum of Le 50, 000 was given to him by the accused to meet the Principal defender in Freetown and another Le 50,000 was also given to him as means of transportation to come to

Freetown.

Another area where there were inconsistencies was that of the statement made by the witness in his earlier evidence he said all the five prosecution witnesses had agreed to go to The Hague to recant their testimonies "this I noticed from their sign that they were ready to recant their evidence but when they reported the issue that was when I realize that they were not going to do it."

Prince Taylor is standing trial for contempt on nine counts, count 1, 3, 5, 6 alleged that Prince Taylor offered a bribe to a witness to recant testimony given before a chamber through instructions to Eric Senessie, and counts 2, 4, 7, 8 allege that he interfered with a witness who had given evidence before a chamber through instructions to Eric Senessie, and Count 9 alleges that he interfered with a witness who was about to give evidence before a chamber by instructing and persuading Eric Senessie to give false information to the Independent Counsel appointed by the Registrar.

## Trustlaw

Tuesday, 15 January 2013

### **Some key dates in sexual violence in conflict**

By Katy Migiro

Just over 50 years ago, no one was punished for the sexual enslavement of tens of thousands of women in World War Two. Today, conjugal slavery is recognised as a crime against humanity and being prosecuted in international courts.

“This is a huge change and one that should be applauded,” said Annie Bunting, an associate professor of law and society at York University in Canada who is leading a three-year research project on enslavement in war for forced marriage in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

#### **Below are some key dates:**

1945 – After World War Two, Japanese commanders and soldiers who sexually enslaved some 200,000 Korean ‘comfort women’ in military brothels were not prosecuted. Similarly, Nazi leaders were not prosecuted for sexual crimes at Nuremberg despite mentions of forced sterilisation, forced abortion and sexual mutilation.

1949 – Rape and enforced prostitution were included in the Fourth Geneva Convention as war crimes.

1998 – The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda recognised rape as an act of genocide and a crime against humanity for the first time in history. It sentenced former mayor Jean-Paul Akayesu to three life sentences for genocide and other crimes. Rape charges were added mid-trial after lobbying by women’s rights groups who were appalled by witness testimonies, including that of a mother who saw her six-year-old daughter being gang raped.

1998 – The Rome Statute of International Criminal Court (ICC) recognised sexual slavery, forced prostitution, sterilisation, pregnancy, and sexual violence as war crimes and crimes against humanity under its jurisdiction. It entered into force in 2002.

2003 – The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) issued indictments for three Revolutionary United Front Commanders (RUF), Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao, for crimes against humanity and war crimes including rape and sexual slavery.

2005 – The ICC issued its first indictment for Joseph Kony and four other members of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) for crimes against humanity and war crimes including sexual enslavement and rape.

2008 – The appeals chamber of the SCSL found that ‘forced marriage’ constituted a new crime against humanity distinct from sexual slavery.

2009 - RUF commanders Sesay, Kallon and Gboa were found guilty of forced marriage, as well as war crimes and crimes against humanity. This was the first time anyone had been convicted of forced marriage in an international criminal tribunal.

2009 – Victims of former Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga, who was on trial for conscription of child soldiers, applied for sexual slavery to be added to the charges against him. Their request was rejected.

2010 – Former Congolese warlord and vice-president Jean-Pierre Bemba went on trial at the ICC, charged with criminal responsibility for rape in the Central African Republic. The trial is ongoing.

2011 – In delivering its guilty verdict against former Liberian president Charles Taylor for sexual slavery, among other crimes, the Special Court for Sierra Leone rejected the term ‘forced marriage’ and argued in favour of ‘conjugal slavery’ as more appropriate.