

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



Fishing boat moored at Kent, with Ricketts Island on the horizon.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Friday, 16 March 2007

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

Friday, 16 March 2007

Taylor's defence suspends legal visit

By Betty Milton

Scarcely three months to the commencement of the trial of former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor in The Hague, his defence lawyers have suspended all legal visit to him.

Speaking to journalists yesterday at the Country Lodge in Freetown, Mr Taylor's lead counsel Karim Khan complained about a video camera being put in the room whilst he was holding meetings with his client.

Lawyer Khan said "that is unheard off in most civilized systems and unheard off definitely in the ICTY and ICTR. It was a provision that was forbidden by the judge of the ICC."

And their argument, he stated, "is that in the whole

international legal firmament on what has erstwhile been considered, the sanctity of legal visit has been violated in relation to the person of Charles Ghankay Taylor."

Mr Khan explained that they have gone "to the (Court) President, the Registrar (of the Special Court Sierra Leone) and we have done whatever we are supposed to do."

After much wrangling he said "finally we had the decision of the learned President who had instructed the registrar to inform and direct the Registrar of the ICC to stop and desist the video surveillance that was taking place." adding "It is a cause of lament that it seems that the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) is not sovereign in relation to its own accused."

Karim Khan went on to say

that the "directive from the Registrar of the SCSL fortified by the order of the President of the SCSL has been completely and utterly disregarded by the ICC at the Hague and this is a matter for the free press, this is a matter for all those in civil society groups, associations and all those who cherish the rule of law to decide that in relation to an accused who is sovereign, is it the court that is trying him or is it a foreign legal institution."

The lead counsel stated that their position was that they bow their heads to the judges of the Special Court. "This is happening not only because they are the judges but because they are the officials of the court... they do believe in the rule of law and in any judicial environment, the judges have

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Taylor's defence suspends legal visit

From Page 4

to be supreme".

Mr Khan stressed that it seemed as if "the SCSL is going out with a begging bowl to foreign international legal institutions not as an equal but separate judicial institution but the factor it seems is that the ICC is viewed as supreme and it is unsatisfactory and untenable."

He maintained that "Because we have exhausted all possible remedies, because there has been a flagrant defiance of the writ of the SCSL, in the cell blocks in The Hague we have no further option but to suspend our legal conferences."

He urged the SCSL to take a look at the situation

"if the system of justice was to be meaningful then it had to be fair and some basic questions by all those who believe in the supremacy of law and transpiring of justice."

He argued that they were not fighting this case in the press, stating that it would be fought in the crucible of a judicial environment namely the SCSL.

Concord Times
Friday, 16 March 2007

Taylor's lawyer wants him tried in Salone

By Mariama Kande

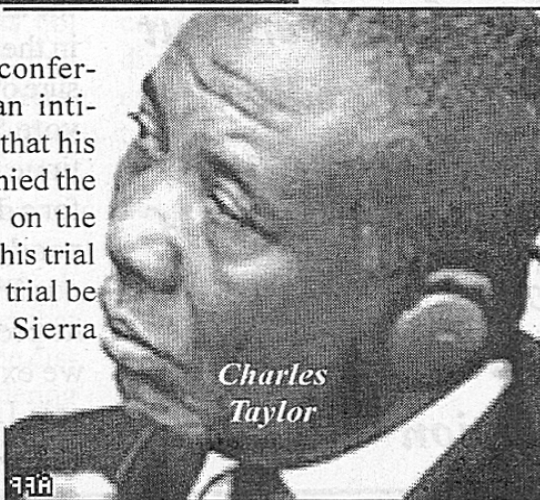
Karim Khan, lead counsel for war crime indictee and erstwhile President of Liberia, Charles Taylor Thursday disclosed to journalists at the Country Lodge, Hill Station, Freetown that he wanted the trial of his client to be transferred back to the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

The former Liberian leader is presently awaiting trial in

The Hague.

At the press conference lawyer Khan intimated journalists that his client has been denied the right to be heard on the issue of venue for his trial and asked that the trial be brought back to Sierra Leone.

Khan said the court has been giving a deafening
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Taylor's lawyer wants him tried in Salone

From page 1

silence as to where the court should seat adding that prior to Taylor's transfer to The Hague his counsel made an application for a review of the transfer, which the Special Court failed to adhere to.

"The Special Court-Sierra Leone has no power to give administrative decision under the court ruling in The Hague. We asked the then President of the Special Court to reconsider Taylor's transfer, but our voice was not heard," Khan mentioned.

He claimed that they were forced to suspend legal visit to Taylor be-

cause there was a surveillance video in his detention cell.

"We have informed the Registrar of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to stop video surveillance on privileged meetings, which will have an effect on the work of counsel," he pointed out and noted that the ICC over ruled their request.

He stated that on February 21 2007 the President of the Special Court requested the ICC Registrar to stop the video surveillance but up till now, it has not been implemented.

"If the system of justice is to be meaningful, it has to be fair. Taylor's

rights are being trampled upon even though he has abided to all the rules and regulations of the court," he said adding that the Special Court has failed to ensure that its orders are implemented in The Hague.

"The Registrar of the ICC has not instructed his deputy to implement the orders of the Special Court. We are suspending our legal visits to Charles Taylor until the legal decision of the Special Court is implemented," he maintained.

"This is a matter beyond our purview. It is for the Special Court to solve this problem, and ensure fair trial," he concluded.

Independent Observer
Friday, 16 March 2007

Video Camera installed in Charles Taylor's detention cell

Mr. Karim A.A. Khan, Lead Counsel for Mr. Charles Ghankay Taylor, the former President of the Republic of Liberia, currently awaiting trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone, announces his team's first press conference in Sierra Leone. Mr. Khan is a member of the English bar.

He is accompanied by Ms. Caroline Buisman, his legal assistant who is coordinating, under Lead Counsel's supervisions, the investigations in Sierra Leone. The team is also pleased to have on board Mr. Prince Taylor, the Sierra Leonean investigator in the Taylor Defence Team. Mr. Taylor's Defence team, continuing its preparation for Mr. Taylor's trial, is now focusing on its investigations in Sierra Leone. In this regard, anyone with information related to Mr. Taylor's case should contact the Defence Investigator, Mr. Prince Taylor, at +23276644891, in complete confidence. Mr. Taylor's Defence urges

the citizens of Sierra Leone to engage in the process and scrutinise proceedings, so as to ensure that Mr. Taylor's rights to a fair trial are observed. The Defence emphasize that this right to a fair trial is his right as a detainee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), being tried in a foreign jurisdiction, on a different continent, for crimes allegedly committed here in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Taylor's Defence has actively sought adequate time, facilities, and resources to ensure an effective defense is provided to Mr. Taylor. The Defence also has applications currently pending on Mr. Taylor's conditions of de-

tention. The Special Court has scheduled Mr. Taylor's trial to commence on 4 June 2007. The Defence have sought leave to appeal this commencement date, but to no avail.

Mr. Taylor is held in a cell block operated by the International Criminal Court ("ICC") in a wing of a maximum-security Dutch prison in Scheveningen. On 10 November 2006 the ICC Detention Unit has installed a video surveillance camera in the conference room used for Mr. Taylor's legal consultations. This violates Mr. Taylor's right to confidentially communicate with his counsel and his right to

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Video Camera installed in Charles Taylor's

From Front Page

equal treatment vis-a-vis other detainees in SCSL jurisdiction. The Defence litigated the matter up to the President of the SCSL. On 21 February 2007, the SCSL President ordered that the video surveillance camera be removed. The SCSL Registrar subsequently conveyed the President's Order to the ICC Registrar who has, to date, refused to implement the order. Accordingly, last week, the Taylor Defence Team suspended all legal visits until the camera is removed consistent with the President's Order.

The Defence recently requested to have Mr. Taylor's trial relocated back to Sierra Leone. Although the application was supported by many Civil Society Groups, the Motion was rejected.

Team Composition

Mr. Khan has practiced before the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY), International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), and the East Timor international tribunal. A former Senior Crown Prosecutor in the United Kingdom, Mr. Khan has for several years been a barrister in private practice at the specialist criminal law set, 2 Hare Court, Chambers of David Waters, Q.C., Temple London. Mr. Khan has co-authored numerous articles and publications on international law, including the leading treatise on international criminal law - Archbold International Criminal Courts.

Mr. Prince Taylor is a Sierra Leoneans national and is the local investigator working for the Taylor Defence Team. He is very familiar with Sierra Leone. Between 2004 and 2006 he was the lead investigator in the CDF case of Fofana *et al.*

Ms. Buisman is a specialist in international criminal law, with extensive experience in investigations, evidence gathering, and criminal trials in various jurisdictions. For the past several years, she has been centrally involved in the military case at the ICTR and the Kosovo Liberation Army case at the ICTY.

PEEP!

Friday, 16 March 2007

more trouble at Special Court!

as Taylor's defence boycotts sessions

Karim Khan, leading counsel in the defence of Charles Ghankay Taylor before the Special Court, has announced that all legal services to Mr Taylor will be halted until surveillance equipment is removed from the former Liberia president's detention facilities at Scheveningen in Holland.

Mr Khan, who spoke to journalists at a press conference at Country Lodge, Hill Station yesterday, said the use of surveillance cameras to record consultations between defence team and client is a violation of all constitutional rights.

Mr Khan, a former U.K Crown Prosecutor, said that the defence had no other option than to suspend legal visits in such circumstances.

The Special Court, in a press release issued yesterday, accepts that installation of the video camera "violates Mr Taylor's right to confidentially communicate with his counsel... and his right to equal treatment vis-a-vis other detainees under (Special Court) jurisdiction". However, it said that the International Criminal Court registrar had refused to remove the cameras.

Mr Khan and other defence members are currently seeking return of Mr Taylor to stand trial in Sierra Leone. 'The ICC has no *locus standi*, in this case' he told the press yesterday.

New Vision
Friday, 16 March 2007

Taylor's Trail Faces Setback

By Amara A Samura

The trial of the Special Court indictee and former President of Liberia, Charles Ghankay Taylor is facing serious setback following the suspension of all legal visit by his defence team to his cell in the Hague. The defence team has demanded that until video

surveillance camera is removed from his cell as ordered by the President of the Special Court it will be difficult for the trial to commence.

Addressing a news conference yesterday at the Country Lodge, the head of Taylor's defence team, Karim

A.A. Khan said Mr. Taylor is held in a cell operated by the International Criminal Court in the Hague by a wing of a maximum security Dutch prison in Scheveningen.

Mr. Khan disclosed that on the 10th November last year, the International Criminal

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Taylor's Trail Faces Setback

Court detention unit installed a video surveillance camera in the conference room used for Charles Taylor's legal consultation. This, he said, violates Taylor's right to confidential communication with his counsel and his right to equal treatment.

Mr. Khan said the defence took up the matter with the President of the Special Court and he in turn ordered that the video surveillance camera be removed on February 21. The Registrar of the Special Court was reported to have conveyed the

President's orders to the ICC Registrar who, according to Mr. Khan, has refused to implement the orders of the President.

He pointed out that they don't have locus standi in the ICC, but the Special Court, and that they needed to talk to Charles Taylor privately which is not possible with the camera hanging over their heads, "Our rights have been impeded. It is the responsibility of the Special Court to ensure a meaningful trial to ensure justice is done,"

Khan stressed, adding that if the system of justice is to be meaningful, it has to be fair.

He said the right of Charles Taylor has been trampled upon by the ICC for which they have decided to suspend legal visit until the orders of the President are adhered to by ICC.

Meanwhile the President of the Special Court has rejected an application filed by the Taylor's defence team for their client to be brought back to Sierra Leone for trial.

For di People

Friday, 16 March 2007

Taylor's Lawyer Suspends Visit Due To Video Surveillance

LEAD COUNSEL for Charles Gbankay Taylor, lawyer Karim AA Khan at a press conference held yesterday at the Country Lodge has cried foul that they are under video surveillance and that they have suspended legal visits to Taylor until the decision is revisited.

by
ALPHA B KAMARA

He said since November 10, 2006 legal consultations between Taylor and his defence team have been monitored when the International Criminal Court detention unit installed video surveillance cameras in the conference rooms available for Taylor's legal consultations.

"We were not given any prior notice that cameras were to be installed, nor were the views of the defence team invited or taken into account prior to taking this action," he said, adding, that since the installation, the detention centre has actively enforced video surveillance of Taylor's privileged attorney-client consultations, despite orders from the President and the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone that such surveillance should cease. "The defence strongly objects to video surveillance of privileged consultations on the basis that the mere presence of a live video camera has a chilling effect, in practice, on confidential communications between Mr Taylor and his legal team. The cam-

era creates an atmosphere whereby an accused does not feel free to communicate with his counsel," he stated.

Khan said the conditions of use, method of operations and technological limits of video surveillance facility are unclear, but further stated, that the ICCDU claimed that the surveillance camera only records video-footage and does not record or relay any audio conversations.

"Notwithstanding this claim, the defence is still concerned that confidential communications may be discovered visually, confidential material could be identified through the use of lip-reading analysis or, for instance, through the magnification of images of maps, documents and photographs necessarily referred to in legal consultations," he said.

Khan said such images would be easily discernable through the use of modern technology. He said on 8 December, 2006, the SCSL Registry promised a resolution through consultation with the ICC Registry by the end of the week. He said no further communication was received within the stipulated time frame and so, on the 15 December 2006, they wrote to the Registrar of the

Special Court for Sierra Leone, stating, that the ICC failed to comply with the Trial Chamber decision of 30 November 2006 where the Trial Chamber had urged the Chief of Detention and the Registrar to deal with the matter promptly in accordance with Rule 50 (c) of the Rules of Detention.

"Taylor has not made political speeches or hunger strike like Milosovic. But his rights have been trampled upon. We have attempted to put up a serious defence. But we are in The Hague with all these obstacles. If this sort of justice should be meaningful, it has to be fair," he said.

Khan also stated that complaints pertaining to Taylor's conditions of detention and other matters have led them to conclude that his fair trial rights will be violated or made significantly more difficult to guarantee if the trial proceeds in The Hague.

Sighting Article 10 of the agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on the establishment of a Special Court for Sierra Leone, Khan said: "the Special Court shall have its seat in Sierra Leone. The Court may meet away from its seat if it considers it necessary for the efficient exercise of its functions, and may be relocated outside Sierra Leone, if circumstances so required, and subject to the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the secretary-general of the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone, on the one hand and the Government of the alternative seat on the other."

He said the Trial Chamber has previously declined jurisdiction to review an administrative decision of the Registrar which they maintained affected the fair trial rights of Taylor, and that, by dint of reasoning, they consider that an application to any Judicial Chamber of the Special Court is premature until all administrative remedies have been exhausted.

Khan further said that the



TAYLOR AND KHAN: lawyers defending former Liberian warlord

logistical complexities and cost implications of staging Taylor's trial in The Hague found the Court unprepared.

"The cost of staging Mr Taylor's trial in The Hague has been estimated at USD 20m."

Khan said it has been re-

ported that as of 30 January 2007, the Court only has sufficient funds to continue operating until June 2007 and that the change of venue has resulted in the violations of Taylor's right to a fair trial.

"Article 17 of the Statute of the SCSL provides that all accused shall be equal be-

fore the Special Court."

The defence have recently filed a number of motions alleging that Taylor's rights to equal treatment with other SCSL detainees have been repeatedly compromised.

For di People

Friday, 16 March 2007

Dr. Banya, You Are Very Wrong, Very Wrong!

DR SAMA Banya is a person for whom I have considerable respect. In some of today's newspapers he has published "May Hinga Norman's Soul Rest In Peace" in which he seeks in vain to exculpate Government and the SLPP party from any blame whatsoever relating to Chief Norman's death. Dr Banya you are wrong, very wrong.

by
S ALGHALI



BANYA: never learn

It is not the inevitability of Chief Norman's prosecution that is the complaint-one is sure that Chief Norman would have gone through the lengthy Special Court procedure and trial valiantly if he was encouraged and certainly convinced that he had 100 percent support and loyalty from president Kabbah in particular and his government as well as the SLPP party. Because it is firm public opinion that he would definitely have come out of the trial victorious with an acquit-

tal and ending up as the true national hero.

What undoubtedly contributed to Chief Norman's loss of courage and bravery at the end was undoubtedly the defiant and resolute refusal of president Kabbah to give evidence when subpoenaed on Norman's behalf. Even the white-man foreigner, Mr Penfold (Chief Kombrabai) at no doubt great cost to his diplomatic reputation and legacy, voluntarily and passionately gave evidence for and on behalf of Chief Norman.

This "let down" by president Kabbah coupled with the indolence he displayed when to his knowledge he permitted the Special Court using Tamba Gbeki and others to seriously and without warning, humiliatingly arrest chief Norman whilst he was engaged on president Kabbah's ministerial business.

Surely, if president Kabbah truly cared for Chief Norman whom he described as "one of my best ministers," he

should have sanctioned a more dignified arrest such as Bush or Blair would have done for one of their own ministers in similar circumstances. Mr Puawui, you really should have kept your silence and not resort to blind defenses referring to "nonsense been thrown around by trouble makers" – you only dealt with purely superficial issues.

Please Puawui for once, at least, be conscientious and NOT be as hard-hearted as your Boss. Do you sincerely dispute that all the above matters and more did not severely destroy Chief Norman's resistance to everything?

Puawui, please witness what is reported to be Chief Norman's last words as he was being "herded" to Darkar – "I shall not be returning alive." Are those not the words of a broken man-of a man who had given up all hope? Indeed, did they not turn out to be true?

Dr permit me, a Muslim, to try to equate Norman's last

words here to those of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross when he said: "Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabacthani" which in Hebrew means: "my God, my God why hast thou forsaken me" and later went on to say: "It is finished"

If I have blasphemed may the Lord forgive me. But as I write this, there are tears in my eyes especially when I look at the photograph of Norman as he was being "led away" to Dakar – the stoical look on his face looking towards the east with lips parted and his mouth open – what a picture?

How does this picture strike you, president Kabbah, the SLPP and the government? What about being led like a sheep to the slaughter?

Dr Puawui, you unfortunately referred to the time when "thousands of citizens from all walks of life decided to march peacefully to Sankoh's residence."

In this regard let me remind you of two things: firstly, president Kabbah refused approval for the march but rather suggested that three-six persons only should go but

fortunately he was ignored.

Secondly, to this day what memory had this government set up of those who lost their lives on that magnificent occasion? You have done nothing.

However, a next different party government would appropriately honour those who were so killed.

Finally, it is lapses such as are detailed above that have left both your party and your government despised by the people.

Straight.com

Thursday, 15 March 2007

<http://www.straight.com/article-74871/dictator-shattered-diamond-rich-sierra-leone>

Dictator shattered diamond-rich Sierra Leone

Feature Articles By Charlie Smith

Former Liberian president Charles Taylor is in a detention centre in The Hague, facing 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Almost four years after Taylor was forced to flee Liberia, the neighbouring West African nation of Sierra Leone still bears the scars of his murderous regime.

Burnaby resident Gibril Gbana-bome Koroma, a refugee from Sierra Leone, told the Straight in a phone interview that many in his home country see Taylor as the "mastermind" behind a bloody civil war that wracked Sierra Leone for a decade until it ended in 2002. Koroma, a journalist who moved to Canada as a refugee in 2000, said that Taylor supported the Revolutionary United Front, which recruited child soldiers who committed atrocities, including cutting off people's hands.

"A lot of journalists were killed," Koroma said. "I decided just to leave."

The prosecution for the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has accused Taylor of selling diamonds to finance the RUF. Koroma, now editor of an on-line Sierra Leone newspaper called the Patriotic Vanguard, said that the civil war destroyed the country's infrastructure and ensured that a generation of youngsters never attended school.

"Most of them are not in school even now, as I'm speaking," Koroma said. "So you can imagine the kind of problems the country will face in the future."

Even though the country is rich in diamonds, Sierra Leone's gross national income per capita was only US\$220 in 2006, according to the World Bank. The UN's 2006 Human Development Index ranks it 176 out of 177 countries. In a phone interview with the Straight, UBC professor Michael Byers, author of *War Law: Understanding International Law and Armed Conflict* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2005), described Taylor as a "warlord" who seized power in Liberia and then began exporting violence to neighbouring countries, particularly Sierra Leone.

Byers said Taylor fled to Nigeria but was eventually returned to Liberia and then turned over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which will try him in The Hague. "If and when he is convicted, he will serve his time not in Sierra Leone or in the Netherlands, but in the United Kingdom," Byers said. "Britain stepped up to the plate in offering to imprison him if he was convicted."

Philippe Le Billon, a UBC assistant professor of geography, told the Straight in a phone interview that he visited Sierra Leone in 2001 and in 2006. "I really have a sense that people have grown tired of war," he said. "Several people told me, 'We learned a lesson.'"

Le Billon, who studies wars fought over natural resources, said that several parties in the civil war, including the RUF, the army, and a civil-defence group called the Kamajohs, all committed

atrocities. Le Billon also suggested that the vast majority of RUF soldiers, possibly as many as 90 percent, were forcibly conscripted.

He said the RUF didn't want child soldiers to escape, so they took extra efforts to separate them from their local communities. To accomplish this, child soldiers were often drugged, branded, moved to other parts of the country, or forced to commit atrocities, sometimes against their own family members, which would shame them in their villages.

Le Billon pointed out that youths don't have very much power in small villages in Sierra Leone, and they often carried grudges against abusive chiefs or abusive neighbours. "There was a lot of personally motivated violence," he said.

SFU graduate student Clement Abas Apaak, who hails from Ghana, told the Straight in a phone interview that the political situation has improved significantly in recent years in West Africa. He noted that both Ghana and Senegal are functioning democracies. Apaak also praised Liberia's new president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who in 2006 became the first woman in Africa elected as a head of state.

Apaak, host of an SFU campus-radio show called African Connection, noted there have also been improvements in Sierra Leone, and more stability in Ivory Coast. As for Charles Taylor, Apaak said he expects the former dictator to face justice for causing so much destruction in the region.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 15 March 2007

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

International Clips on Liberia

Country, Liberia on Experience Sharing

By Bhoyy Jalloh

Freetown, Mar 14, 2007 (Concord Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The two post-conflict recovery agencies in Sierra Leone and Liberia have shared experiences on their operational and transformation strategies and experiences. A four-man delegation from the Liberia Refugee Resettlement and Reintegration Commission (LRRC) was in Freetown recently to get insights into the activities of the National Commission for Social Action (NACSA).

International Clips on West Africa

BBC Last Updated: Thursday, 15 March 2007, 10:29 GMT

Ivorian women 'forgotten victims'

Sexual violence against women in Ivory Coast's conflict has been ignored, says Amnesty International in a new report. Hundreds and maybe thousands of women have been raped, assaulted or forced into sexual slavery, it says.

Ivory Coast must punish war-time rapists - Amnesty

By Loucoumane Coulibaly

ABIDJAN, March 15 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's government must punish those responsible for widespread sexual abuse during the country's civil war as it seeks a peaceful solution to the crisis, Amnesty International said on Thursday.

AP 03/14/2007 23:10:54

Security Council commends peace agreement in Ivory Coast and urges implementation

SARAH DiLORENZO

UNITED NATIONS_The U.N. Security Council welcomed the peace accord reached this month in Ivory Coast and urged both the government and the rebels to implement its components. On March 4, President Laurent Gbagbo and rebel leader Guillaume Soro agreed to form a unity government, to begin dismantling a buffer zone between the two sides, and to hold elections before the end of the year.

AP 03/14/2007 22:10:44

Actor Donates to Sierra Leone Project

LOS ANGELES_Isaiah Washington, who traced his ancestral roots to Sierra Leone through DNA testing, has donated \$25,000 to a computer animation project that aims to detail the Atlantic slave trade. The "Grey's Anatomy" star started a nonprofit foundation last year to improve the lives of people in the West African nation. "The stories of innumerable Sierra Leoneans that were forced into slavery have yet to be extensively told," Washington said in a statement. "I believe this project will begin to shed some much-needed light on the region, both past and present."

Local Media – Newspaper

As a result of a national holiday, all newspapers did not publish today.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

Journalists Alarm over Media Censorship

- The Press Union of Liberia says it is worried over move by the National Security Agency to preview all newspaper headlines before they are printed.
- In an interview, the Union's President George Barpeen condemned and vowed to resist the move as it threatened press freedom and free expression.
- Mr. Barpeen said that the security agency took the decision at a meeting it had with printing houses in the Country.
- However, the Ministry of Information said that it was unaware of such decision and re-echoed that the Government subscribes to the current democratic atmosphere in the Country and would do nothing to undermine the media.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Liberian Swindles Guinea Bissau Army

- The Government of Liberia said that it has arrested and detained a Liberian identified as Fredrick Walker for allegedly duping the Army of Guinea Bissau of US\$130,500, nearly 19 million CFA and 5,500 euros which the it entrusted to him to purchase military hardware and accessories.
- Montserrado County Attorney Samuel Jacobs said Walker was arrested last weekend and indicted by the Grand Jury for theft of property. The arrest followed a complaint from Captain Mario Siano Fambe of the Guinea Bissau Military who disclosed that Walker posed as a US Marine officer during the transaction.
- Nearly two years ago, Fredrick Walker was arrested in Monrovia for stealing two vehicles from a businessman in the Ivory Coast, using false US Marine identity but fled the country to evade Justice.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpah at karpah@un.org.

The Associated Press

Thursday, 15 March 2007

Despite delays, Cambodia foreign minister sees Khmer Rouge trial taking place

NUREMBERG, Germany: Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said Thursday he was not worried that delays in bringing members of the Khmer Rouge regime to justice for their murderous rule in the late 1970s will prevent their trial by special tribunal from taking place.

He said Cambodian and international judges "are discussing internal rules" and that difficulties in staging their trial were common.

"Some people in some countries are concerned about the slow process," Hor Namhong told reporters after an EU-Southeast Asia meeting. But he added that it took longer to try those charged with genocide in Sierra Leone and Rwanda than the preparations of the Khmer Rouge tribunal.

"International judges and prosecutors are discussing internal rules," Hor Namhong added.

"In April there will be a plenary session of all the judges and prosecutors in order to finalize the internal rules."

The meeting was held in Nuremberg, the German city where prominent members of the political, military and economic leadership of Nazi Germany were tried for their roles in the horrors of World War II.

Hor Namhong's upbeat comments about trying Khmer Rouge members for atrocities committed in a dark period of his country's history's clash with difficulties in actually doing that.

Cambodian and U.N.-appointed judges wrap up a 10-day meeting Friday aimed at thrashing out differences on how to integrate Cambodian and international law. But procedural disputes have all but paralyzed their efforts.

The first trials were expected this year, but the special tribunal, officially known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia, has been bogged down by infighting that many say could cripple the proceedings entirely.

The tribunal was set up to operate with the Cambodian judicial system, but with protections against corruption and political manipulation.

Squabbling over details about the rules governing the trials has eaten up nearly a third of the tribunal's three-year plan. Further delay could mean that former Khmer Rouge leaders will never be brought to trial for turning Cambodia into the bloody land of "the Killing Fields."

The radical policies of the now-defunct Khmer Rouge, who held power in 1975-79, led to the deaths of about 1.7 million people from execution, overwork, disease and malnutrition. But not one of the communist group's leaders has ever been brought to trial.

Pol Pot, the movement's leader, died in 1998. Ta Mok, its military chief, was imprisoned pending court charges, but died last July. Kaing Guek Iev, who headed the infamous Khmer Rouge S-21 torture center — also known as Tuol Sleng, and now a genocide museum — is the only leader now in custody awaiting trial.

BBC

Thursday, 15 March 2007

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6453123.stm>

Ivorian women 'forgotten victims'

Sexual violence against women in Ivory Coast's conflict has been ignored, says Amnesty International in a new report.

Hundreds and maybe thousands of women have been raped, assaulted or forced into sexual slavery, it says.

Fighters from all sides have used sexual violence as part of a deliberate strategy to instil terror in and to humiliate the population, Amnesty says.



Many women feel let down by the justice system

A peace deal signed this month aims to unite the country split in two since rebels seized the north in 2002.

Political weapon

The UK-based human rights group says the scale and brutality of the sexual and physical violence being perpetrated against women in the conflict in Ivory Coast is vastly underestimated.

"Hundreds, if not thousands of women and girls have been, and indeed are, still victims of widespread and, at times, systematic rape and sexual assault committed by a range of fighting forces," Amnesty's Veronique Aubert said.

“
Benedicte”

The report - Cote d'Ivoire: Targeting women, the forgotten victims of conflict - includes testimony from women who have been raped, often in front of family and friends.

"The attackers came to our home. They hit my husband and my son - I cried a lot and one of them rushed at me and tore my skirt. They raped me in front of my husband and children," said Benedicte, who was raped by rebels in Bouake in 2002.

The report alleges that those responsible include the New Forces rebels, the militias who support President Laurent Gbagbo, and members of the security forces who are loyal to President Gbagbo.

These organisations say they are not prepared to comment until they have seen the report.

The bulk of the cases took place, Amnesty says, in the early days of the civil war, which broke out in September 2002.

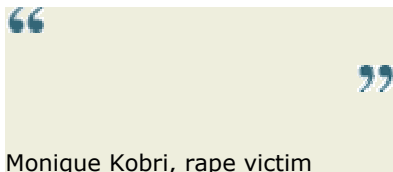
Justice

But the report also draws attention to the alleged rape of several women in December 2000.

The women were perceived to be supporters of the northern opposition leader

Alasanne Ouattara because they were from the northern Muslim Dioula ethnic group.

The failure to prosecute anyone for the crime, despite an official report into the incidents, created a climate of impunity which made it easier for subsequent rapes to take place, Amnesty says.



The report says that rape continues to be used as a political weapon.

Many victims have been let down by the justice system.

"Many of the women have HIV, and others have been affected mentally and psychologically," rape victim Monique Kobri told the BBC, who says she was infected with HIV by her rapists.

"They don't have the money and no-one supports them to give them the care they need. I say that we are not in a country of justice," she said.

The BBC's James Copnall in Abidjan says in the rebel-controlled north there is no longer a court system.

He says the report suggests the authorities in the south have let a climate of impunity flourish.



Amnesty concludes that justice is vital - but no less important than improved access to healthcare for women whose lives have been ruined by sexual violence.

Special Court Supplement

Transcript of the Press Conference held by Karim Khan, Lead Counsel for Charles Taylor
Thursday, 15 March 2007 at the Country Lodge

JOHN AMARA: We actually do not intend to keep you here to long because we understand your busy schedules. We are actually going to receive brief remarks from the lead counsel in the Charles Taylor Defence team, Mr. Karim Khan, and afterwards you will be allowed to ask a couple of questions which he will respond to [if] possible. And at the end of the questions we have some motions, public motions [indistinct] issues before the Court that we will distribute to members of the press.

But before I hand the mike over to Mr. Khan for his brief statement, I maybe will have to say one or two things about Mr. Khan. Mr. Khan has practiced before the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, the ICTY, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and the East Timor International Tribunal. He's been a former senior Crown Prosecutor in United Kingdom, and Mr. Khan has for several years been a barrister in private practice at the specialist criminal law at the Chambers of David Waters, Queen's Counsel. Mr. Khan has co-authored numerous articles and publications on international law, including the leading treatise on international criminal law, [indistinct] international criminal law. He is here with members of his team – Mr. Prince Taylor sitting by me, he's a Sierra Leonean national and he's the local investigator working for the Taylor Defence team. He's very familiar of course with Sierra Leone, and between 2004...

KARIM KHAN: (Interrupting) I can introduce the members of my team.

AMARA: Okay, okay. Well on that note thank you very much. I'll hand over now to Mr. Khan for his remarks and introduction for the rest of the team.

KHAN: Yes, well, thank you very much indeed for taking the trouble to attend this conference. I'm very grateful indeed to my friend John Amara who you should know is from the Court, he's from the Court Outreach programme, and it's part of that endeavour by the Court to make the proceedings regularly understandable that we accepted the invitation and the proposal that we have a press conference today. It is going to be quite short.

I should say at the outset that you should be braced for disappointment, because under the Code of Conduct of the Special Court, and also English Bar Counsel Rules, I am prohibited from speaking about matters that are *sub judice*, matters that are pending, and also I am prohibited from speaking about the evidence or the facts of the case, and even otherwise that would be inappropriate.

This is our first press conference in Sierra Leone. We have held one other conference which was in Liberia a few weeks ago with members of my Liberian team. But we are not fighting this case in the press. This case will be fought in the crucible of a judicial environment, namely the Special Court for Sierra Leone. That said, it is appropriate to explain what we're doing, and we do have the utmost respect for the free press wherever it is, and we thought it necessary to explain our presence here in Sierra Leone and take the opportunity of introducing the members of my team.

Now on my left is Miss Caroline Buisman, who is a Dutch national. I've had the privilege of working with her in the ICTY in a case there, and she's also immensely experienced from the Rwandan tribunal. She's the conduit between my Sierra Leonean team and myself and the trial team, and so she's going to become quite well known, I think, to many people here in Sierra Leone – as will my good friend on my right, Mr. Prince Taylor. Prince is a Sierra Leonean national. He has the huge advantage of being already experienced in the Special Court for Sierra Leone, having been the lead investigator for Mr. Fofana, who is one of the accused awaiting judgment in the CDF case. So I'm honoured and delighted to welcome both of them officially to the Taylor Defence team, and I thought it prudent and necessary to announce their presence, as they are operating in Sierra Leone.

There are two matters, I think, that are of relevance today. The first arises out of the proceedings against my client. That is well known. Charles Taylor is awaiting a trial in The Hague. He has been denied the right to be heard on the issue of venue. This goes way back to before June of last year, when he was transferred from Freetown to The Hague.

We had originally asked the Trial Chamber to review a request by the then-President, learned Justice Fernando, who was then President I should say, who had asked the case go to The Hague and we were denied relief saying that the motion was premature. We were told that when a decision was issued, it seemed from the language of the decision we would have a right to review. In fact at this hotel I was told at about eleven p.m. on the 20th of June, the day before the transfer, that my client was going to be taken to The Hague I think at six or seven o'clock on the 21st by the outgoing Registrar, Mr. Lovemore Munlo.

And so we were denied, in fact, any opportunity to review a substantive decision of transfer, because we were told that informally and on the basis that we keep it confidential. The client is taken to The Hague, and therefore the [act] we were complaining against was committed without our voice being heard at all. And so what we did, we waited of course a significant amount of time. And when the Prosecution very recently filed a motion which would have allowed them almost *carte blanche* to have videos (sic.) appear by video link, so witnesses would appear in Freetown, and the trial would be by remote control – we would be in The Hague – we opposed it.

I can't comment [indistinct] on that matter; there are public filings if you are interested. The Trial Chamber will make an appropriate order in due course. But we saw the way things were going and we asked the President to reconsider the decision to transfer the case to The Hague. If there were so many logistical difficulties of witnesses, if it is going to compel an unfair trial because of the need for video links so that the right of confrontation was effectively lost, we said 'well let's bring the case back here'. That was consistent with many in the Civil Society organisations here in Sierra Leone.

There appears to be a clamour for justice in Sierra Leone, a hunger for accountability – not for vengeance, not just for scapegoat justice, but a real, detailed and vigorous analysis of where criminal responsibility really lays (sic.) in relation to the awful acts that befell this country during the temporal scope of the Court's jurisdiction.

It was in that vein that we asked the President to reconsider. *Amicus* briefs were put forward by Civil Society groups asking to be heard. And it's with significant regret that the President has dismissed our motion for reconsideration on the basis that he has no power to review an administrative decision under the Court's rules. Strange as well, the Defence say, that for a Prosecution that has been very keen, a Prosecutor who has been very keen to assert his championing the rights of the voice of Sierra Leone, that the Prosecutor made no submissions on

the issue of venue. They...there was a deafening silence in fact from the Prosecution as to where the trial should take place, officially – I don't know if informal communications took place behind closed doors prior to Judge Fernando requesting the ICC to handle the case, but officially in relation to our substantive filing, the Prosecution have not stated what their view is. Of course, that is a matter entirely for them. But that matter has been decided; there's no further avenue the Defence have got to bring the case here to Freetown.

The other issue that I think may interest you is that we have been forced to suspend legal visits with Mr. Charles Taylor. In November of last year, video surveillance was imposed on all our legal visits. That is unheard of – unheard of in most civilised systems. Unheard of definitely in the ICTY, in the ICTR. It's a provision that was forbidden by the Judge of the ICC, and our argument has been repeatedly that in the whole international legal firmament the only intrusion on what has erstwhile been considered the sanctity of legal visits has been made in relation to the person of Charles Ghankay Taylor. So we have gone to the Trial Chamber, we have gone to the President, we have gone to the Registry, we have done whatever we can do. Finally we had a decision of the learned President, who had instructed the Registrar to inform and direct the Registrar of the ICC to stop and desist the video surveillance that was taking place.

It is a cause of lament that it seems that the Special Court for Sierra Leone is not sovereign in relation to its own accused. Because that direction from the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, fortified by the order of the President of the Special Court, has been completely and utterly disregarded by the International Criminal Court at The Hague. And this is a matter for the free press. This is a matter for all those in Civic (sic.) Society groups, associations, and all those that cherish the rule of law to decide that, in relation to the accused, who is sovereign. Is it the Court that is trying him, or is it a foreign legal institution? It is a very basic question, but it is a question to which we still do not have a satisfactory answer.

Our position is that we bow our heads to the Judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, not only because they are our Judges, but because being officers of the Court we do believe in the rule of law. And in any judicial environment, the Judges have to be supreme. And yet the sad fact is, however unpalatable it is to say so, it seems that the Special Court is going with a begging bowl to a foreign international legal institution – not as an equal, not as an equal but separate judicial institution, but *de facto* it seems that the International Criminal Court is viewed as supreme. And it is unsatisfactory and it is untenable. Because we have exhausted all possible remedies, because there has been a flagrant defiance of the writ of the Special Court of Sierra Leone in the cell blocks in far-away The Hague, we have had no further option but to suspend our legal conferences.

The reason I say it's a matter that should vex all those who believe in justice is that we have attempted to put forward a serious Defence. We are trying against great odds, a great lack of administrative support, a lack of office space, the whole plethora of disadvantages that we operate under, that are alien to the Prosecution but are specific to us. We are in The Hague, we've no office, we've no telephone. Of course the Prosecution are here with all the resources at their disposal.

But if this system of justice is to be meaningful, it has to be fair. And I think some very basic questions have to be asked by all those that believe in the supremacy of law and transparent justice. I think thus far too little has been done. One wonders what further avenues are available to the Defence, because Mr. Taylor has not, if one is fair about it, he has not grandstanded since he was incarcerated. We have not made political speeches. He has not gone on hunger strike like Seselj in the ICTY. He has not flagrantly disregarded the Court's, refused to call the Judges 'Your

Honours' like Mr. Milosevic. And despite a very constructive manner in which he's engaging the judicial process, his voice has been unheard and his rights are being trampled upon.

So I think it does behove all those in the free press to ask questions – to question the performance of the Defence, of course to ask questions of us, criticise our performance, ask questions of the Prosecution, critique the decisions of the Court and the direction in which it's going. And the questions have to be asked because at the end of the day this process is primarily about an accountability of an individual and whether or not a case is proved against him. But it is also supposed to leave a legacy to the people of Sierra Leone, and in that endeavour you the press have a critical and unending role. Those are the brief comments I wish to address to you today. I don't know if there are any questions. If there are I will do my best to answer them.

Now please, if you could as a rule of thumb, if you could please announce your name and your newspaper and then ask your question.

UMARU FOFANA: Yes, my name is Umaru Fofana, I work for the BBC World Service. Just a few clarifications. In the first place, do you hold brief against the ICC or against the SCSL because I see you [phrase indistinct]

KHAN: The only person that has legal responsibility, the only legal that has legal responsibility over Charles Ghankay Taylor is the Special Court for Sierra Leone. And it's the job of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to assert its primacy over its accused. It's as simple as that. And, you know, we can run round the houses between blaming the ICC and the ICC blaming the Special Court. It's of no legal consequence. The indictment is an indictment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. It is the Special Court's responsibility, and it is not for the Special Court to sit back and expect the Defence to sort out its own problems. And that's what in fact we have been left to do. We have been left with a problem, and there's been no real, meaningful attempt by the Registry of the Special Court to fulfil its own responsibilities in relation to the welfare of the accused, the organisational support, or the relationship between the ICC and the Special Court. The end of the day the client's rights are not being properly respected.

FOFANA: What is the video surveillance? Do you mean CCTV, which is [standard practice]?

KHAN: There is a video, it is not standard practice at all...

FOFANA: CCTV.

KHAN: In the room where legally-privileged meetings take place, a video camera that has a capacity of recording available, is inimicable (sic.) to justice. You know, this case is not [indistinct]. An accused cannot be blamed for being suspicious, is somebody reading his lips? Are people looking at the documents and the photographs we are showing him? These are legally-privileged meetings. The sanctity of legal professional meetings is one of the pillars upon which any system of justice operates. You do not have video surveillance with a capacity to record in any international court. It was stopped in the case of the ICC. How, on what basis can we justify to impose it only in relation to the one person of Charles Ghankay Taylor? It's without any legal basis and it's completely and utterly untenable. And one would have hoped for a more robust response from those that hold justice dear. Yes please.

CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY: Associated Press. It seems strange for you to suspend your legal visits [as heard].

KHAN: We gave notice to the Court – I think it was in November – that the video surveillance was having a chilling effect. It was having a stultifying effect on our conferences, and the client felt constrained in what he could meaningfully tell us in confidence. So they were given notice straightaway. We finally suspended legal visits about twelve days ago [voice, unheard] so on the twelfth? On the twelfth. We gave the Court notice. I mean we're not obstructionist. We don't want to delay proceedings unnecessarily. We're trying to put forward on the instructions of the client a proper defence. So we don't just have a knee-jerk reaction and throw a [indistinct] out of the pram and say we're going to stop legal conferences. We didn't do that. We tried to put forward a reasonable defence. We told the Court this is unacceptable, it's having a chilling effect, it's delaying us in taking proper instructions from our clients. The responsibility of the Court, it's not our responsibility. They have a duty to ensure our rights are respected, and are conducted in conformity with international standards. They have been remiss unfortunately in safeguarding that right, and only until we've been to Trial Chamber, the President, the Registry, have exhausted all remedies, the President's order has been completely disregarded by the ICC have we finally said well there's nothing more we can possibly do. What more can we do? Because we have shouted from the pulpits of the Court that our rights have been impeded and there has not been a reaction at all. And only at that stage have we said 'fine, we are suspending our legal visits'. Because it's the responsibility of the Court if they want a meaningful trial. If they want to, if the Court, the Registry, does not want to fight for the supremacy of its own judicial organ, it makes it extremely difficult for the Defence – we're not an organ of the Court – to fight for the rights for them.

ROY-MACAULAY: In other words, what you're trying to say [question indistinct].

KHAN: Every Court order has to be respected. We have had almost every decision, so far, has been against the Defence. We've respected it because it's an order of the Trial Chamber, it's an order of the President, it's an order of the Registry. So we have to stomach it. It starts from the premise that a judicial order means something. So when the President of the Special Court, for whom we have the greatest of respect, tells the Registrar to implement his decision, which is that the video surveillance should stop. And if the ICC refuses to implement a decision in relation to our client, we have no other avenue of redress – there's an impasse. An impasse is a matter that the President will decide in due course, is a function of what the Defence have said is a flawed Memorandum of Understanding between the International Criminal Court and the Special Court of Sierra Leone. And we have said in public filings that Mr. Taylor has fallen in a crevice of responsibility between these two international judicial organs. The difference in the two is, it is the Special Court for Sierra Leone that has the legal responsibility for Mr. Taylor, and it's the Special Court for Sierra Leone that must ensure its orders are implemented. That they have failed to do, and that is why the Defence had no option other than, after giving them more than three months to sort their house out, to suspend legal visits. I think, and I hope you'll agree, that's a very reasonable and a very proportional response on the side of the Defence.

FOFANA: Could you clarify that point? Is it that the President of the Special Court has instructed for these things to be carried out but the ICC has refused to carry out the President's orders?

KHAN: There was silence for months from the Special Court. In the end, after Christmas and the New Year, the Registrar filed a submission to the President accepting that the camera surveillance should be discontinued. Despite that, it was not discontinued. So we filed a motion to the President, asking the President to intervene. The President decided that he did not need to intervene, noting the Registrar had principal responsibility for administrative functions, and he simply directed the Registrar to deal with the matter without delay and to notify the ICC of his decision, of the Registrar's decision, that the camera be turned off. The ICC did not implement

that decision. Rather, we have it in writing – we have it in writing from the Deputy Head of the International Criminal Court Detention Unit – that he has been instructed by the Registrar of the International Criminal Court not to implement the Special Court Registrar’s decision. So it’s an impasse which has to be sorted out between those two international judicial bodies, namely the Special Court and the ICC. There’s nothing more we can do.

KELVIN LEWIS: I report for Awoko newspaper. And you’re saying that until this impasse is solved, you will continue to suspend your legal visits.

KHAN: Until the judicial order of the Court is implemented, I don’t see what other option we have got. We have had three months where we have tried to work within the constraints of ineffective and unsatisfactory legal visits. We have spoken and talked about areas we could talk about with this intrusive surveillance. The point has come now where we need to operate and speak to our client in very candid terms. And that is not possible whilst video surveillance is having such a chilling effect and impinging upon lawyer-client privileged meetings. I hope that’s clear.

FOFANA: Are you not throwing away the baby with the bath water stopping the legal visits? You cannot [indistinct] effectively [indistinct].

KHAN: Well that’s a decision that we have to take. It’s not satisfactory. We have continued for three months working under intolerable conditions since the video surveillance was imposed. We have gone to the Trial Chamber, to the President, to the Registry. There is simply no other legal option we have. And as I’ve said before, it’s for the Court to take note of the seriousness of this matter. It is for the Court to decide whether or not it is risking having a fair trial for one of its accused because of some diplomatic wranglings between Registries of two different bodies. These are matters beyond our pay grade. These are matters that are beyond our purview. We don’t have *locus standi* before the ICC. The only *locus standi* we have is before the Special Court, and we have put forward as ably and as efficiently as we are able, and as cogently as I can muster, the arguments that would allow reasonable a decision-makers, a reasonable Registrar, to conclude that the Defence have been forced to operate in an invidious environment. And now it’s for the Court, the Registry, to implement its own decisions and sort this mess out. There is nothing more we can do. And the price of this will be seen in due course, because, the price of this will be seen in due course because this is a serious endeavour, this is a judicial process, and the abilities of lawyers to communicate with their clients is a foundational right upon which a fair trial is built. And it’s been eroded, and it’s been allowed to erode for far too long.

LEWIS: Within the next few months, if Taylor should be [indistinct] Court, if this thing is not solved [indistinct].

KHAN: Well, we’ll cross that bridge when we come to it. I mean, I said, we have not taken knee-jerk reactions. We have tried to put forward as officers of the Court, with respect to the judicial authority of the Trial Chamber and President, proper and appropriate legal responses to the issues we face. But I hope – and it’s my hope – that we’ll continue to do that, to behave in a proportionate manner, but with the fundamental duty to robustly defend our client.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We’ll take maybe one or two more questions, either about change of venue or the camera.

UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER: [Question indistinct]

KHAN: Well it's not for the ICC to ensure Mr. Taylor's trial, because the ICC has no [pause] has no, or has very limited legal responsibility for Mr. Taylor. The entire legal responsibility falls on the Judges and the Registry of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. And it's the Special Court's responsibility first and last. And that's one of the reasons why we'd asked, if the Special Court's unable to sort out these turf wars between the Special Court and the ICC, bring justice back home. Bring it back to Freetown. And let's have a fair trial here in the Court built at great cost, allowing access to the people, and let you decide the merits of this case. But it should be done in an environment which is mature, tried and tested and works. The ICC regime for Mr. Taylor patently does not work.

ROY-MACAULAY: Yes, what's the condition...

KHAN: This is the last question, yes, thank you.

ROY-MACAULAY: What's the condition of Charles Taylor's detention [at The Hague]; [indistinct] last time he complained about his food.

KHAN: My complaints are a matter of public record, you can look at the public filings on the issue of conditions of detention. They remain the same. My complaints remain the same. These are matters that the President is considering at the moment, so I can't speak on the actual specifics. But I would refer you to the public filings on conditions of detention and on the Memorandum of Understanding which you can refer to. But they are matters that the President is currently considering, and it's inappropriate for me to speak further on those matters.

ROY-MACAULAY: How is his health?

KHAN: All of that, I have nothing further to report. That's fine. Okay, thank you very much.