

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



Bunce island.

**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, 20 June 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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## *Special Court contempt case* **Accused bail withheld**

By Betty Milton

Despite the serious and persuasive plea made by Defence Counsel, Melron Nicole-Wilson on behalf of his client Hassan Papa Bangura in the contempt case at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Defendant's bail was withheld by the presiding Judge, Teresa Doherty.

In his plea for bail, Lawyer Nicole-Wilson submitted that the accused has adhered to all the calls by the trial as he has always made himself available to the court whenever he was needed, noting that the accused does not have any document to facilitate his movement out of the country since he submitted his only document to the court.

The Defence Counsel further submitted that the accused, Hassan Papa Bangura has moved away from his military past to now become a successful businessman, the sole proprietor of his business and a family man. He pleaded that if he continues to be detained it will cause an adverse effect on his business and family.

On the issue for his detention that he interfered with a Witness 334, Lawyer

Nicole-Wilson submitted that being that the Special Court is a court of law, such an allegation should be proved by evidence and should not be determined by hear say.

The Prosecutor, Robert Herbst objected to the bail submission on the ground that the accused will continue interfering with the witness which will derail the trial procedures.

In her ruling, Justice Doherty stated notwithstanding the very strong and effective plea made by the Defence Counsel, she was still not prepared to reinstate the bail. She therefore ruled, "I am therefore not admitting that bail today."

The accused in the contempt case are AFRC convicts, Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu, aka "Five-Five along with Hassan Papa Bangura, aka "Bomblast" and Samuel Kargbo, aka "Sammy Ragga.

The four were indicted last year on two counts of trying to bribe a witness to recant testimony given during the AFRC trial. Kamara faces an additional count of knowingly disclosing the name of a protected witness.

## Taylor Appealing Sentence

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Lawyers for Liberia's former president Charles Taylor plan to appeal a 50-year prison sentence handed down to him by a special UN-backed court last month, a document before the court said Tuesday. "The defence provides notice of its intention to file notice of appeal," said the document, submitted to Special Court for Sierra Leone on Monday and of which a copy was provided to AFP on Tuesday. Taylor, 64, was sentenced on May 30 for arming Sierra Leone's rebels in return for "blood diamonds" during the country's brutal civil war which claimed 120,000 lives.

The court found that Taylor was paid in diamonds mined in areas under control of Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front rebels, who murdered, raped and mutilated their victims while forcing children to fight and keeping sex slaves. If his appeal fails, Taylor will serve his sentence in a British jail under a 2007 deal which resulted in his trial before the tribunal, based in Leidschendam just outside The Hague. The former president was transferred to The Hague in mid-2006 amid fears that trying him in Freetown would pose a security threat.

## Special Court Refused bail to Bomblast

The Special Court Trial Chamber 2 has on Tuesday 19th June refused the application for bail by Hassan Papa Bangura in the ongoing contempt proceedings. Laywer Melron Nicol-Wilson argued vigorously and convincingly as to why his client Bomblast must be granted bail. He mentioned that Bomblast

has moved beyond his military past to becoming a respected businessman, Loving Father, Husband and respectful Citizen. He said Bomblast is an example of what Sierra Leone can be in the absence of War. He further argued that Bomblast is not a flight risk and would not run away from

Justice.

He further said that the charges that his client is facing can be dispensed with a fine of 20 million Leones if he is found guilty and does not attract long sentences like the case against the former RUF, CDF and AFRC Personnel.

The Special Court Prosecutor

Robert Herst objected to bail arguing that Bomblast made a 42 seconds phone call to his witness on Friday asking him for help in the trial.

Justice Doherty remanded Bomblast stating that she is convinced he will run away if granted bail.

Hearing continues tomorrow.

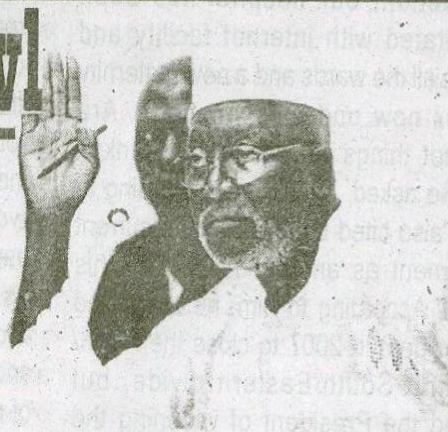
# The Owl

Wednesday, 20 June 2012

## Professor Owl

### Who Killed Sam Hinga Norman?

Friends, Family and Sierra Leoneans would like to know why their friend, father, uncle, grandfather, CDF Commander, had to be carried in a casket so soon. The question remains, who killed Chief Sam Hinga Norman? RIP Chief Sam Hinga Norman!



**Left: Sam Hinga Norman, accused of war crimes during the 1991 to 2002 conflict in Sierra Leone, at the start of the opening trial of the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, June 2004.**

**Taylor plans to appeal***Charles Taylor*

The Hague - Lawyers for Liberia's former president Charles Taylor have informed a UN-backed court that they plan to appeal his 50-year prison sentence for war crimes, according to a court document seen on Tuesday.

The defence signalled their intent to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, based outside The Hague, on Monday, according to a copy obtained by AFP.

The prosecution, which sought an 80-year sentence against the former warlord during the landmark trial, has also signalled its intention to appeal the sentence, SCSL public affairs chief Peter Andersen told reporters.

Both sides had a Tuesday deadline to file the actual appeals, but they have asked for extensions - three weeks for the prosecution and five weeks for the defence, Andersen said.

Taylor, 64, was sentenced on May 30 for arming Sierra Leone's rebels in return for "blood diamonds" during the country's brutal 1991-2001 civil war, which claimed 120 000 lives.

The court found that Taylor was paid in diamonds mined in areas under the control of Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front rebels, who murdered, raped and mutilated their victims while forcing children to fight and be sex slaves.

Taylor maintained his innocence during the trial, which saw a number of high-profile witnesses testify, including supermodel Naomi Campbell.

In April, Taylor was convicted on all 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for aiding and abetting "some of the most heinous crimes in human history".

It was the first judgment against a former head of state by an international court since the Nuremberg Nazi trials in 1946.

Pending the appeal on his sentence, Taylor would be transferred to a British jail under the 2007 deal that resulted in his trial before the SCSL, which is located in Leidschendam, outside The Hague.

Liberia's president from 1997 to 2003, Taylor was transferred to The Hague in mid-2006 amid fears that trying him in Freetown would pose a security threat.

He was arrested in March 2006 as he tried to flee from exile in Nigeria, after being forced to quit Liberia three years earlier under international pressure to end a civil war in his own country. - AFP

## CBS News

Tuesday, 19 June 2012

### **Liberia's Taylor to appeal war crimes conviction**

AMSTERDAM — The Special Court for Sierra Leone says former Liberian President Charles Taylor will appeal his war crimes conviction.

Taylor was convicted for arming and supporting murderous rebels in Sierra Leone in return for "blood diamonds," and last month sentenced to 50 years in prison.

His lawyers said then they were considering an appeal and Tuesday the court said in a brief statement they have now filed a formal notice of their intention to do so.

While the Sierra Leone court is based in that country's capital, Freetown, Taylor's trial is being staged in Leidschendam, a suburb of The Hague, Netherlands, for fear holding it in West Africa could destabilize the region.

Taylor's lawyer Morris Anyah could not immediately be reached Tuesday for comment.



**Liberia's ex-President Charles Taylor to appeal war crimes conviction**

Luke Browne



*Former Liberian president and ex-warlord Charles Taylor at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, where he was found guilty of 11 counts of aiding and abetting war crimes. (Peter DeJong/AFP/Getty Images)*

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is to appeal against his conviction for war crimes by a UN-backed court at The Hague, his lawyers have said.

Taylor, 64, who has repeatedly insisted he is innocent of the charges against him, initially told the BBC he would launch an appeal after he was handed a 50-year jail sentence on May 30 for aiding and abetting rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone during the 1991-2001 civil war.

On Tuesday, the Special Court for Sierra Leone said Taylor's legal team had filed a formal notice of their intention to appeal the court's decision, the Associated Press reported. His lawyer, Morris Anyah, told the news agency that the defense has requested additional time – until July 19 – to formally lodge the appeal, given the size of the 2000-page sentencing judgement.

**More from GlobalPost: Charles Taylor - I am innocent**

In April the court found Taylor guilty on 11 counts in connection with atrocities including rape and murder during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war, in which some 50,000 people were killed and thousands more badly mutilated, with limbs hacked off.

Taylor became the first former head of state to be convicted by an international war crimes court since the Nuremberg trials that followed World War II, the Associated Press reported.

According to the Agence France Presse, should Taylor's appeal fail he will serve his sentence in a UK prison as part of a 2007 deal. Taylor was transferred to The Hague, in the Netherlands, in 2006 due to concerns that putting him on trial in Sierra Leone would destabilize the region.

Theage.Com

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

## Libya eager to release Australian lawyer, says Carr



### Bob Carr says apology to Libya is close

Foreign Minister Bob Carr says Australian Lawyer could be released within ten days as her employer prepares to apologise to Libya. Senator Carr says Amnesty International is wrong to oppose the apology.

The International Criminal Court is close to making an apology in the Melinda Taylor case and Libya is eager to release the Australian lawyer and her three colleagues, Foreign Affairs Minister Bob Carr says.

Senator Carr says he now believes the four could be freed within a week and a half or sooner if he is able to "telescope" negotiations between Libyan authorities and the International Court.

Melinda Taylor, an Australian defence counsel with the court, has been held in the north-western city of Zintan for the past fortnight after being accused of passing coded messages to her client, Muammar Gaddafi's son, Saif al-Islam.



*Melinda Taylor with her family.*

The Senator plans to insist in talks today that Libyan authorities allow the 36-year-old to phone loved ones in Australia.

"I'm saying to the Libyan government today, enough's enough; it's time to allow telephone contact between Melinda Taylor and her family," Senator Carr said in an interview with Fairfax Media by phone from the Moroccan capital Rabat.

The Senator has just completed the first trip by an Australian foreign affairs minister to Algeria and is holding talks today in Morocco, though the focus of much of his trip has been on the case of the Australian lawyer under detention in Libya.

He made a six-hour visit to Libya during which he pressed Prime Minister Abdurrahim el-Keib to release Ms Taylor.

As well, the minister spoke with the President of the International Criminal Court, Sang-Hyun Song.

"He was moving towards a form of words that in my view would satisfy the Libyans," Senator Carr said.

"I spoke to the Libyan authorities yesterday and they confirmed their willingness, indeed their eagerness to release the detainees subject to that form of words."

Senator Carr said the words amounted to an apology.

Yesterday, Amnesty International's head of law and policy, Widney Brown, criticised Senator Carr's suggestion of apologising to Libya.

Ms Brown urged the Australian government "to have a much longer-term view of whether you want to undermine the independence of the international criminal court and create a precedent where governments think well, if we just lock somebody up then we'll get them to back off."

But Senator Carr said he rejected the assertion.

"It is a deeply ingrained and sincere view ... of the serious democrats, the Prime Minister and deputy Foreign Minister and the Foreign Minister of Libya, that there was some breach of trust," he said.

"The core of the problem is inadequate laying down of protocols and procedures before the ICC went into this space; no reflection on Melinda Taylor. Indeed, she was a victim of the failure of her organisation to settle procedures and protocols that were acceptable to the Libyans."

The Minister said he was confident Melinda Taylor and her colleagues would be released and has even put a timeframe on when it might happen.

"I want to telescope a process that has probably got another week or week and a half left in it, providing both sides move on track. I want to telescope that process and have it happen faster but, both sides have got to be persuaded to do that."