

**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:

Friday, 27 September 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Special Court for Sierra Leone
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 26 September 2013

Appeals Chamber Upholds Charles Taylor’s Conviction, 50 Year Sentence

The Special Court Appeals Chamber today unanimously upheld the conviction of former Liberian President Charles Taylor on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and affirmed the 50-year sentence imposed by the Trial Chamber.

On 26 April 2012, the Trial Chamber found Mr. Taylor guilty of aiding and abetting crimes committed by RUF and AFRC rebel forces against Sierra Leone’s civilian population over a five-year period, and of planning, with RUF Battlefield Commander Sam Bockarie, crimes committed by rebel forces during the January 1999 attack on Freetown. The Defence and the Prosecution had each appealed both judgement and sentence.

The Appeals Chamber, consisting of Justice George Gelaga King (presiding), Justice Emmanuel Ayoola, Justice Renate Winter, Justice Jon Kamanda, Justice Shireen Avis Fisher and Alternate Judge Justice Philip Waki, found that the Trial Chamber had properly applied the standard of proof of beyond a reasonable doubt. The Judges also dismissed Defence challenges to findings of fact, saying that the findings were reasonable in light of the Trial Chamber’s careful and cautious approach to the evaluation of the evidence. The Judges said the Trial Chamber had relied on a combination of direct, circumstantial and hearsay evidence in reaching its findings, and that none of its findings were based on uncorroborated hearsay evidence.

The Trial Chamber also found that Mr. Taylor had supplied the rebels with arms and ammunition, military personnel, sustained operational support, encouragement and moral support, knowing that their strategy was to commit crimes against the civilian population. The Appeals Chamber concurred, saying that Mr. Taylor had a substantial effect on the rebels’ capacity to implement its operational strategy and to carry out attacks on civilians.

The Defence had argued that the Trial Chamber erred in finding the *mens rea* (intent) of aiding and abetting by applying a “knowledge” standard rather than a “purpose” standard. The Appeals Chamber rejected this argument, holding that under customary international law, knowingly participating in the commission of crimes establishes individual criminal responsibility. The Defence had also argued that the conviction was legally erroneous because Mr. Taylor had not assisted the individual soldiers who committed the crimes. The Appeals Chamber did not agree, finding that the crimes were committed in furtherance of the RUF/AFRC operational strategy, and that the Trial Chamber had properly found that Mr. Taylor aided and abetted the planning, preparation and execution of that strategy and thus the crimes.

Justice King added that the Appeals Chamber was “not persuaded” by the recent ICTY Appeals Chamber’s Perišić judgement, which concluded that “specific direction” is an element of aiding and abetting liability under customary international law. Justice King noted that the ICTY’s jurisprudence did

not contain a clear, detailed analysis supporting the conclusion that “specific direction” is an element of aiding and abetting under customary international law.

The Appeals Chamber affirmed Mr. Taylor’s conviction for planning the crimes committed during the January 1999 attack on Freetown. The Appeals Chamber recalled that Mr. Taylor instructed Sam Bockarie to make Freetown “fearful” and to use terror tactics against the city’s civilian population. Mr. Taylor thus demonstrated his intention that crimes would be committed in Freetown.

The Prosecution had argued that, based on the evidence before the Court, the Trial Chamber should have found that Mr. Taylor had ordered or instigated crimes committed by RUF and AFRC rebel forces. The Appeals Chamber found, however, that ordering and instigating were “inadequate characterisations of culpable acts and conduct” found by the Trial Chamber, and held that aiding and abetting “fully captures Taylor’s numerous ‘interventions’ over a sustained period of five years.” The Appeals Chamber agreed with the Prosecution, however, that the Trial Chamber erred in concluding that aiding and abetting liability generally warrants a lesser sentence. The Appeals Chamber held that a sentence must be based on the convicted person’s actual conduct and the totality of the gravity of that conduct.

The Appeals Chamber agreed with the Trial Chamber’s finding that Mr. Taylor had breached the trust of Sierra Leoneans and the international community when he had pledged publicly to work in the interest of peace while, in reality, abusing that trust by aiding and abetting widespread crimes against the Sierra Leonean population. The Appeals Chamber concluded that the 50-year sentence imposed on Mr. Taylor was fair and reasonable in light of the totality of the circumstances.

Justices Shireen Avis Fisher read out a concurring opinion on behalf of herself and Justice Renate Winter. She stated that “the confirmed findings overwhelmingly establish that Mr. Taylor, over a five year period, individually, and knowingly, and secretly, and substantially assisted the perpetration of horrific crimes against countless civilians in return for diamonds and power, while publicly pretending that he was working for peace.” Justice Fisher noted that eight independent judges had established Mr. Taylor’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, and stressed the importance of judicial independence. She stated that to suggest that judges do not act “independently ‘without fear or favour, affection or ill-will’ ... wrongfully casts a cloud on the integrity of judges in international criminal courts generally and the rule of law which we are sworn to uphold.”

The Appeals Chamber agreed with the Trial Chamber’s finding that Mr. Taylor had breached the trust of Sierra Leoneans and the international community when he had pledged publicly to work in the interest of peace while, in reality, abusing that trust by aiding and abetting widespread crimes against the Sierra Leonean population. The Appeals Chamber concluded that the 50-year sentence imposed on Mr. Taylor was fair and reasonable in light of the totality of the circumstances.

The Court ordered that Mr. Taylor’s sentence be enforced immediately, and that he will remain in the custody of the Special Court pending finalisation of arrangements to serve his sentence. Under Rule 103(B) of the Court’s Rules, Mr. Taylor’s place of imprisonment will be designated by the Special Court President.

#END



SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

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PRESS RELEASE

The Hague, 26 September 2013

Prosecutor Hollis Welcomes the Historic Final Judgment in the Charles Taylor case

Special Court Prosecutor Brenda J. Hollis today welcomed the Appeals Chamber judgment upholding the Trial Chamber's convictions of Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia, for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war.

"This final decision affirms Mr. Taylor's criminal responsibility for grave crimes which caused untold suffering to many thousands, if not tens of thousands, of victims in Sierra Leone. Today's judgment brings some measure of justice to those victims who suffered so horribly because of Charles Taylor."

Charles Taylor is the first former Head of State to be convicted for war crimes by an international criminal tribunal since Nuremberg in 1946. The Appeals Chamber upheld Mr. Taylor's convictions on all 11 grounds of the Indictment with one minor modification, and agreed with the Trial Chamber's decision sentencing Mr. Taylor to 50 years in prison.

"The Appeals Chamber today confirmed what the Trial Chamber made clear, that Heads of State will be held to account for war crimes and other international crimes. No person, no matter how powerful, is above the law. Today's judgment affirms that with leadership comes not just power and authority, but also responsibility and accountability."

"We welcome the Appeals Chamber's decision to uphold Mr. Taylor's sentence to 50 years, which reflects the seriousness of his crimes. This sentence makes it clear that those responsible for criminal conduct on a massive scale will be severely punished. No sentence less than 50 years would be enough to achieve retribution and deterrence, the primary goals of sentencing for international crimes."

"The Appeals Chamber agreed with the Trial Chamber and the Prosecution that the evidence proved that Mr. Taylor aided and abetted, and planned, the crimes charged in the Indictment. Today's judgment affirms the critical role that Mr. Taylor played in inflicting great misery on the people of Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor spun a vast web of crimes which victimized the entire civilian population of Sierra Leone."

"I commend those brave witnesses who came forward to testify. I also commend the people of Sierra Leone. Without their commitment to justice this trial would not have taken place; indeed this Court would not have existed. Their resilience and courage gives us all great hope for a future of continued peace, justice and progress in Sierra Leone."



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The Special Court for Sierra Leone came into existence because the people of Sierra Leone demanded accountability for the crimes committed during the conflict. With this judicial pronouncement accountability has been adjudged at the very highest level for the crimes committed.

The Special Court will close its doors before the end of 2013, and will be immediately replaced by the Residual Special Court. A primary function of the Residual Special Court will be the continued protection and support of Special Court witnesses and individuals at risk on account of testimony. The Residual Special Court will respond robustly and effectively to any reports of interference with, or harassment of, witnesses.

“The Special Court will soon close,” said Hollis, “but the courage of the witnesses and the people of Sierra Leone will never be forgotten, nor should it be.”

END

'Victory for Rule of Law' Taylor to serve 50 years in British jail



BOTCHED APPEAL ... former Liberian president Charles Taylor
at his appeal ruling in The Hague yesterday

The Center for Accountability and the Rule of Law (CARL) has described the failed appeal of former Liberian president Charles Taylor to overturn his 50 years sentence as victory for the rule of law and accountability over impunity and rule of the gun.

"I hope that today's judgment helps to give the victims a great relief and comfort in light of the fact that at least one of the persons most responsible for the violence and atrocities suffered has been brought to justice," said CARL Executive Director, Ibrahim Tommy in response to the Special Court verdict yesterday.

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"This is judicial justice. However, going forward, the government of Sierra Leone must ensure it addresses the social and economic challenges of the victims. Judicial justice is more likely to have its required impact on victims, especially those most affected by the conflict when complemented by social and economic justice."

The CARL boss urged the government of Sierra Leone to fully support the ongoing reparation programme in the country.

Mr. Taylor is expected to be moved to a British jail after his 50-year sentence for aiding and abetting war crimes during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war was upheld by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague, Netherlands.

The ruling means the 65-year-old will serve the rest of his life in a high security prison cell. A final decision by the Special Court on where he will spend his sentence will be made next week; the UK is the only country that has publicly offered to accommodate him.

There had been speculation that the tribunal could overturn Taylor's convictions, following stricter precedents set in the international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia about what constitutes "aiding and abetting". A series of recent judgments in that court now mean proof is required that senior

military commanders have "specifically directed" atrocities.

But the Court's appeal judges dismissed the Balkans precedents as irrelevant and said Taylor had known at the time that atrocities were going to be committed by rebel forces attacking the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown. They found that the former warlord and political leader had not demonstrated "real and sincere remorse" for his actions.

The judgment was delivered by the appeal chamber of the Special Court in The Hague. Taylor had challenged the 50-year sentence, having been found guilty on 11 counts that included participating in the planning of murder, rape, sexual slavery and enforced amputations. Taylor's lawyers argued that the original trial chamber made systematic errors in the evaluation of evidence and in the application of the law governing what constitutes "aiding and abetting" sufficiently serious to "reverse all findings of guilt entered against him".

The prosecution also appealed against the original decision, saying that Taylor should have been found individually criminally responsible for ordering and instigating crimes committed by rebels in Sierra Leone. It maintained a 50-year sentence was not "reflective of the inherent gravity of the totality of his criminal conduct and overall culpability" and should be increased to 80 years.

Last year the three-judge panel unanimously found that Taylor had been criminally responsible for "aiding and abetting" the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and other factions carrying

out atrocities in Sierra Leone between 1996 and 2002. The Court heard that the Liberian leader knew from August 1997 about the campaign of terror being waged against the civilian population in Sierra Leone and about the sale of "blood diamonds" in return for weapons.

Among the atrocities detailed was the beheading of civilians. Victims' heads were often displayed at checkpoints. On one occasion a man was killed, publicly disembowelled and his intestines stretched across a road to form another checkpoint. "The purpose," Judge Richard Lussick said, "was to instill terror."

Taylor was the first former head of state to face judgment in an international court on war crimes charges since judges in Nuremberg convicted Karl Dönitz, the admiral who led Nazi Germany for a brief period following Adolf Hitler's suicide.

Taylor's conviction was widely welcomed in Sierra Leone but the response in Liberia, where he was once seen as a freedom fighter, was more critical.

Brenda Hollis, the Special Court's prosecutor in the case against Taylor, told the UK Guardian: "We are happy with the results. My sense was that Taylor felt that nothing he had done was wrong or at least he wasn't admitting to anything. Bad things may have happened but he did not know anything about them. He was charismatic, very bright and very manipulative. But sometimes the facts are so overwhelming you can't manipulate them."

Prison authorities in England and Wales have made preparations for Taylor's arrival. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We welcome this landmark verdict for international justice. It demonstrates that the reach of international justice is long and that even heads of state cannot hide behind immunity. The verdict cannot erase the suffering of the victims and relatives of those killed,

but we hope it helps them to draw a line under that terrible period in Sierra Leone's history."

"We have an agreement with the Special Court for Sierra Leone to enforce any sentence handed down to Charles Taylor. This is a reflection of our commitment to the Court, but it does not guarantee that the UK will enforce Taylor's sentence. The final decision on where Taylor's sentence will be enforced will be taken by the Court's president."

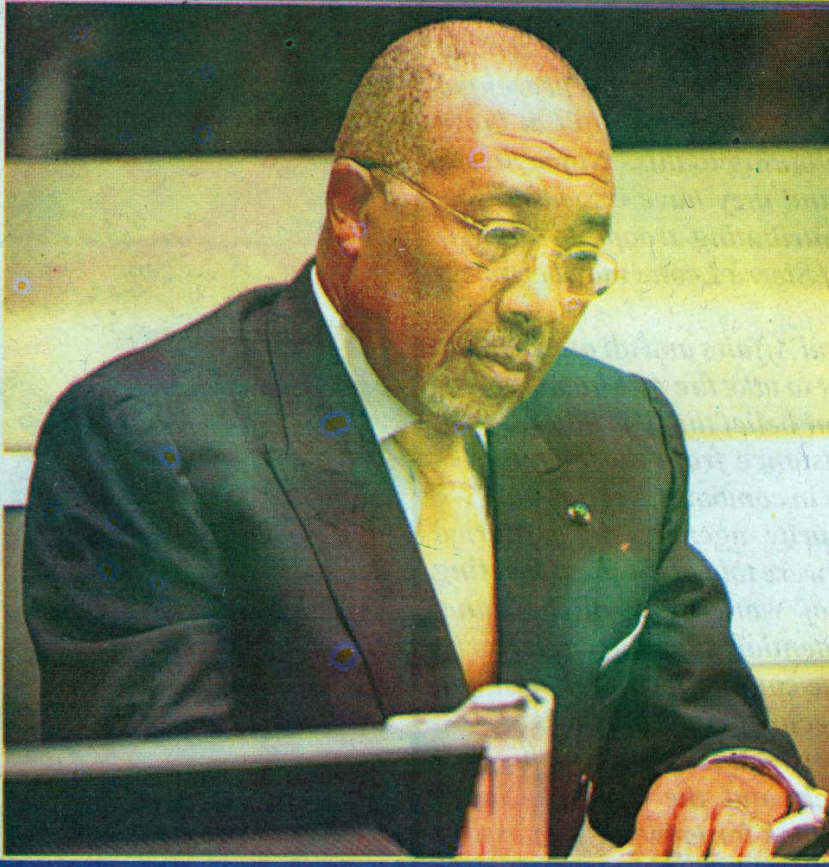
The average cost of keeping a prisoner in a British jail is around £40,000 a year. Conditions in a British prison are likely to be more restrictive for Taylor than his experiences in Scheveningen jail in the Netherlands, where he has been detained for the past six years: a recent biography, claimed he had fathered a child with his wife during conjugal visits.

The UK's record on holding war crimes inmates is not unblemished. In 2010, the Bosnian Serb general Radislav Krstic, who was serving a 35-year sentence in Wakefield prison, was stabbed in his cell by three Muslim inmates.

Welcoming the tribunal's decision, Elise Keppler of Human Rights Watch said: "Taylor's conviction sends a powerful message that those at the top can be held to account on the gravest crimes. With the conclusion of the Taylor case and eight others affiliated with the three main warring factions in Sierra Leone, the special court has been a major force in bringing justice for the horrific abuses committed during that country's brutal armed conflict that ended in 2002.

"The ruling also finds that aiding and abetting can be established where there is a substantial effect – as opposed to a specific direction – on the crimes. A recent controversial ruling at the ICTY required 'specific direction', making it harder to establish liability on aiding and abetting by high-level perpetrators."

Charles Taylor. P6 Conviction Upheld



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The Appeals Chamber, consisting of Justice George Gelaga King (presiding), Justice Emmanuel Ayoola, Justice Renate Winter, Justice Jon Kamanda, Justice Shireen Avis Fisher and Alternate Judge Justice Philip Waki, found that the Trial Chamber had properly applied the standard of proof of beyond a reasonable doubt.

Charles Taylor Conviction Upheld

The Judges also dismissed Defence challenges to findings of fact, saying that the findings were reasonable in light of the Trial Chamber's careful and cautious approach to the evaluation of the evidence. The Judges said the Trial Chamber had relied on a combination of direct, circumstantial and hearsay evidence in reaching its findings, and that none of its findings were based on uncorroborated hearsay evidence.

The Trial Chamber also found that Mr. Taylor had supplied the rebels with arms and ammunition, military personnel, sustained operational support, encouragement and moral support, knowing that their strategy was to commit crimes against the civilian population. The Appeals Chamber concurred, saying that Mr. Taylor had a substantial effect on the rebels' capacity to implement its operational strategy and to carry out attacks on civilians.

The Defence had argued that the Trial Chamber erred in finding the mens rea (intent) of aiding and abetting by applying a "knowledge" standard rather than a "purpose" standard. The Appeals Chamber rejected this argument, holding that under customary international law, knowingly participating in the commission of crimes establishes individual criminal responsibility. The Defence had also argued that the conviction was legally erroneous because Mr. Taylor had not assisted the individual soldiers who committed the crimes. The Appeals Chamber did not agree, finding that the crimes were committed in furtherance of the RUF/AFRC operational strategy, and that the Trial Chamber had properly found that Mr. Taylor aided and abetted the planning, preparation and execution of that strategy and thus the crimes.

Justice King added that the Appeals Chamber was "not persuaded" by the recent ICTY Appeals Chamber's Perišić judgement, which concluded that "specific direction" is an element of aiding and abetting liability under customary international law. Justice King noted that the ICTY's jurisprudence did not contain a clear, detailed analysis supporting the conclusion that "specific direction" is an element of aiding and abetting under customary international law.

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The Prosecution had argued that, based on the evidence before the Court, the Trial Chamber should have found that Mr. Taylor had ordered or instigated crimes committed by RUF and AFRC rebel forces. The Appeals Chamber found, however, that ordering and instigating were "inadequate characterisations of culpable acts and conduct" found by the Trial Chamber, and held that aiding and abetting "fully captures Taylor's numerous 'interventions' over a sustained period of five years." The Appeals Chamber agreed with the Prosecution, however, that the Trial Chamber erred in concluding that aiding and abetting liability generally warrants a lesser sentence. The Appeals Chamber held that a sentence must be based on the convicted person's actual conduct and the totality of the gravity of that conduct.

The Appeals Chamber agreed with the Trial Chamber's finding that Mr. Taylor had breached the trust of Sierra Leoneans and the international community when he had pledged publicly to work in the interest of peace while, in reality, abusing



that trust by aiding and abetting widespread crimes against the Sierra Leonean population. The Appeals Chamber concluded that the 50-year sentence imposed on Mr. Taylor was fair and reasonable in light of the totality of the circumstances.

Justices Shireen Avis Fisher read out a concurring opinion on behalf of herself and Justice Renate Winter. She stated that "the confirmed findings overwhelmingly establish that Mr. Taylor, over a five year period, individually, and knowingly, and secretly, and substantially assisted the perpetration of horrific crimes against countless civilians in return for diamonds and power, while publicly pretending that he was working for peace." Justice Fisher noted that eight independent judges had established Mr. Taylor's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, and stressed the importance of judicial independence. She stated that to suggest that judges do not act "independently 'without fear or favour, affection or ill-will'...wrongfully casts a cloud on the integrity of judges in international criminal courts generally and the rule of law which we are sworn to uphold."

The Court ordered that Mr. Taylor's sentence be enforced immediately, and that he will remain in the custody of the Special Court pending finalisation of arrangements to serve his sentence. Under Rule 103(B) of the Court's Rules, Mr. Taylor's place of imprisonment will be designated by the Special Court President.

Meanwhile, Special Court Prosecutor, Brenda J. Hollis has welcomed the Appeals Chamber judgment.

"This final decision affirms Mr. Taylor's criminal responsibility for grave crimes which caused untold suffering to many thousands, if not tens of thousands, of victims in Sierra Leone. Today's judgment brings some measure of justice to those victims who suffered so horribly because of Charles Taylor," she said.

She commended the bravery of the witnesses who testified in the trial and the people of Sierra Leone. "Without their commitment to justice this trial would not have taken place; indeed this Court would not have existed. Their resilience and courage gives us all great hope for a future of continued peace, justice and progress in Sierra Leone." The Special Court will close its doors before the end of 2013, and will be immediately replaced by the Residual Special Court. A primary function of the Residual Special Court will be the continued protection and support of Special Court witnesses and individuals at risk on account of testimony. The Residual Special Court will respond robustly and effectively to any reports of interference with, or harassment of, witnesses.

Global Times
Friday, 27 September 2013

Editorial Charles Taylor Trial: Any Lessons To Learn?

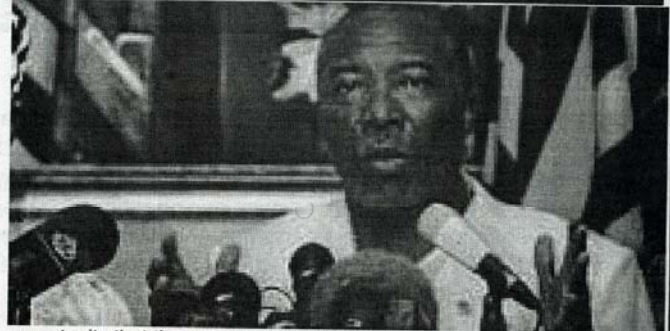
By Joe Pemagbi, Country
head, OSIWA in Sierra Leone

The appellate of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) issued a landmark verdict on the appeal of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in The Hague yesterday September 26, 2013. Charles Taylor was tried and convicted on 11 counts of aiding and abetting war crimes, crimes against humanity, rape and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, committed by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) rebel forces from November 30, 1996 to January 18, 2002 during the course of Sierra Leone's civil war. Judgment was pronounced by the trial chamber of the Court on April 26, 2012 and he was sentenced to 50 years imprisonment on May 30, 2012. It was clear that the defense team was not going to take the verdict lying down.

An appeal by the defense on forty-two grounds followed on July 19, 2012 while the prosecution also challenged the sentence on four grounds. More than a year on, it is judgment time again- however, this time, it is final judgment. Taylor remains the first former President to be convicted by an international criminal tribunal for the crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war that started in 1991 and officially ended in 2002. Six years after the Taylor trial began on June 4, 2007, the interest and demand for justice continues to invigorate human rights activities, policy makers and victims of the gruesome crimes. The trial has largely been transparent and has been followed by the general public through direct radio broadcasts and, howbeit slightly delayed, television images of court sessions broadcast from The Hague.

The trial was moved to The Hague due to concerns that holding the trial in Sierra Leone might jeopardize security in the West African sub-region, which might in turn have a negative impact on the work of the Special Court. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, special efforts were made by the Special Court in partnership with various media outlets to reach out to victims as well as residents of the Mano River Union and West Africa throughout the process. Among the issues raised by prosecutors in their appeal brief was the trial chambers' failure to find Taylor guilty on the ordering and instigation of crimes. Prosecutors also appealed the 50 year jail term to which the trial chamber sentenced Taylor. They had originally requested a jail term of 80 years. Enormous resources have gone into the operations of the court to send a strong message to leaders, especially from the African continent, and citizens across the world that the long arm of justice will find and reach those who have committed heinous crimes, no matter how long it takes.

The commencement of the Hussein Habre case after years of reluctance by Senegal's governments to bring him to book for alleged crimes is an



opportunity that the courts must not miss. African leaders who cling on to power at all costs, often subjecting their citizens to unimaginable cruelty and abuse in order to do so, must rethink and redirect their focus to people-centered leadership. Immediately before and even during the operations of the SCSL which, coincidentally, functioned concurrently with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), rumors and suspicions rose about the motive and rationale behind its establishment. All major stakeholders - national and international - were at pains to explain to victims about the deterrent value of the hybrid court and remained optimistic about the legacy that the court would leave. Other than a physical structure which could decay in the coming years for lack of maintenance, the jury is still out on the legacy of the court. The expectation was that as obsolete as some of the provisions in the laws of Sierra Leone may be, some of them remained relevant to the trial of those who bear the greatest responsibility for the mayhem that was unleashed in Sierra Leone. As Sierra Leoneans and Liberians, both near and far, move on with their lives over a decade after the war officially ended, Taylor's alleged role in Sierra Leone's civil strife that left millions displaced, thousands killed, maimed or demoralized will be waiting patiently for the final decision of the Special Court for Sierra Leone's appellate to help them bring a closure to their pain and suffering. For victims of the war, they felt short-changed by a system as the millions of dollars went into the operations of the court while they live in abject poverty. On Thursday, Taylor's role in the Sierra Leone war -- will receive a final judgment from the appellate of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. As many Sierra Leonean and Liberian survivors heal over a decade after the end of this war, they long for closure so that they can continue with their lives. Hopefully, this judgment can give it to them.

CHALES TAYLOR LOST APPEAL: SENTENCED 50-Years Jail

From front page

prosecution appeal for his jail term to be extended to 80 years.

Mr. Taylor was found guilty in April 2012 on all counts of an 11-count indictment alleging war crimes and crimes against humanity relating to his role in aiding murderous rebels who committed atrocities in Sierra Leone during its civil war in the 1990s.

He was accused of fomenting widespread brutality that included murder, rape, the use of child soldiers, the mutilation of thousands of civilians and the mining of diamonds to pay for guns and ammunition.

In May 2012 he was sentenced to 50 years in prison - the first former head of state convicted by an international tribunal since the Nuremberg trials in Germany after World War II.

After the reaffirmation of his conviction on Thursday, the hunt for Mr. Taylor's suspected fortune could well resume.

Under the tribunal's rules, victims

in Sierra Leone, particularly thousands who suffered during the attack in 1999 on Freetown, the Sierra Leone capital, are entitled to seek reparations in national courts.

Experts believe these civil cases could go on for years because Mr. Taylor's widely rumored assets have proved elusive.

Investigators have succeeded in freezing \$8 million held by his relatives and associates.

But, according to court filings, the tribunal failed to discover the final destination of millions traced through Liberian and other banks while he was in power and the court's investigators were unable to prove his presumed ownership in a number of companies.

With Mr. Taylor claiming he was "partially indigent," the nations that helped fund the tribunal - the United States was the largest donor - have had to cover his legal bills, and the broader expenses of a trial that cost more than \$20 million.

The defense had appealed the verdict and sentence on 42 grounds, arguing that the Special Court on Sierra Leone had made "systematic errors in the evaluation of evidence and in the application of law" sufficiently serious to "reverse all findings of guilt entered against him," the United Nations-backed tribunal said in a statement summing up the case. Defense lawyers also argued that the sentence was "manifestly unreasonable."

For its part, the prosecution said the sentence was not "reflective of the inherent gravity of the totality of his criminal conduct and overall culpability" and should be increased to 80 years.

But after a detailed review of their findings, read out to the court, the panel upheld the bulk of the conclusions drawn by judges at his trial which lasted from 2007 to 2011. Dressed in a dark suit, white shirt and pale gold tie, Mr. Taylor sat impassively through the 90-minute hearing that confirmed his sentence.

After discussions earlier in the trial,

Mr. Taylor, 65, had been expected to serve his sentence in a British maximum security prison, but he is now seeking to be transferred to a jail in Rwanda. Given his age, he will likely spend the rest of his life in prison.

During weeks of testimony, Mr. Taylor said he had heard about atrocities in Sierra Leone but that he would "never, ever" have permitted them.

But the presiding judge at the appeals hearing on Thursday, George Gelaga King, who is from Sierra Leone, said Mr. Taylor had been fully aware of the crimes being committed by rebel groups he advised and encouraged.

"Their primary purpose was to spread terror. Brutal violence was purposely unleashed against civilians with the purpose of making them afraid, afraid that there would be more violence if they continued to resist," Judge King said.

City Voice

Friday, 27 September 2013

Charles Taylor war crimes convictions upheld



A UN-backed special court in The Hague has rejected an appeal against war crimes convictions by lawyers representing former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

It ruled that his convictions had been proved beyond doubt.

Taylor appeared impassive in court as the judge upheld his convictions and 50-year sentence.

He was sentenced in May 2012 for aiding rebels who committed atrocities in Sierra Leone during its civil war.

His lawyers had argued that there were legal errors during his trial.

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But he wrote less as it became clear that his appeal was going to be unsuccessful. At one stage, there was a small shake of the head as the chief judge outlined the wide range of Mr Taylor's support for rebel groups in Sierra Leone.

He stood to hear a summary of the appeal decision, his hands resting on the desk below him. But there was no other visible display of emotion, even when the judge listed some of the horrific crimes for which he has been convicted, crimes that had 'shocked the conscience of mankind'.

Charles Taylor has no further grounds for appeal before this court, and he was given no opportunity to speak. He will serve his sentence in a foreign country, possibly the UK. Sweden and Rwanda have also offered to find a cell to house him.

Taylor, 65, was found to have supplied weapons to the Revolutionary United Front rebels in exchange for a constant flow of so-called blood diamonds.

He was found guilty at his trial of 11 crimes including terrorism, rape, murder and the use of child soldiers by rebel

groups in neighbouring Sierra Leone during the vicious civil war of 1991-2002.

Judge Richard Lussick said at his trial that they were "some of the most heinous crimes in human history".

Taylor has always insisted he is innocent and his only contact with the rebels was to urge them to stop fighting.

He became the first former head of state convicted by an international war crimes court since World War II.

"The appeals chamber... affirms the sentence of 50 years in prison and orders that the sentence be imposed immediately," Judge George King told the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) on Thursday.

'Campaign of terror'

The BBC's Chris Morris in The Hague says the court's decision has been closely watched because the guilty verdict was hailed as a landmark, proving that even people at the highest level of power can be held to account.

In its ruling, the special court said that Mr Taylor's personal conduct had a "significant effect on the commission of crimes in Sierra Leone".

It said that he unleashed a campaign of terror against the Sierra Leonean opposition "using terror as its modus operandi".

"The Appeals Chamber is of the opinion that the sentence imposed by the trial chamber is fair in the light of the totality of the crimes committed," Judge King said.

He said that Taylor's lawyers had "failed to demonstrate any errors in the trial chamber's reasoning."

Correspondents say that Taylor is now expected immediately to serve his sentence in a foreign jail. The UK has offered to accept him at a British prison - other possible destinations include Sweden or Rwanda.

It is likely to take about a week to organise his transfer from The Hague.

Human rights groups have welcomed the outcome of the appeal.

In a statement Amnesty International said that it sent a clear message to leaders across the world that no-one is immune from justice.

"The conviction of those responsible for crimes committed during Sierra Leone's conflict has brought some measure of justice for the tens of thousands of victims," said Stephanie Barbour, head of Amnesty's Centre for International Justice in The Hague.

"The conviction of Charles Taylor must pave the way for further prosecutions."

Justice Delayed Is Not Justice Denied!

By Ahmed Sahid Nasralla (De Monk)

It took the Special Court of Sierra Leone about ten years with a reportedly whopping cost of about US\$300 million to convict former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the decade long rebel war in Sierra Leone.

For some people, it's a strange type of justice, probably from another planet, after spending so much precious resources of time and money to convict just a few people for bearing the 'greatest responsibility' for the heinous crimes committed while the victims continue to wallow in pain, misery and poverty.

"Why did it take so much and so long, and why just Charles Taylor and a couple others?" asked Amadu Koroma, a young man whose arms were amputated during the war while he was only 17

years of age. "Can I get back my arms? No! Do I have a future? No! Is this what you call justice?"

Amadu's concern is shared by many of the victims who still carry the physical and emotional scars of the rebel war in Sierra Leone between 1991 and 2002.

However, for campaigners of equal rights and justice it's indeed an expensive and delayed justice but it's better than a shoddy one.

According to the Executive Director of Center for Accountability and the Rule of Law (CARL) SL, Ibrahim Tommy, the purpose of justice is to have a genuine closure to an issue of dispute and to move on.

"It is a slow but sure justice, but it's better than a shoddy or victor's justice that would have undermined the confidence of the accused and the victims," said Tommy, adding that the verdict against Taylor is a credible one that should be

respected by both sides.

He said the public should not confuse judicial justice and economic and social justice issues.

"The Special Court is for judicial justice and to foster accountability. It is our national responsibility as government and civil society to support the victims of the war through reparation programmes and other economic and social integrations," said Tommy, adding that the TRC makes provision for a war victims fund to seek the welfare of victims of the decade long war.

He said this is the time for the victims and all Sierra Leoneans to celebrate the victory of the rule of law over the rule of the gun.

"I think we should learn from the bitter experiences of the war and address the underlying factors which in fact led to the start of the war in 1991, which includes social and economic issues," said Tommy.

Standard Times
Friday, 27 September 2013

Taylor War Crimes Convictions upheld

A UN-backed special court in The Hague has rejected an appeal against war crimes convictions by lawyers representing former Liberian President Charles Taylor. It ruled that his convictions had been proved beyond doubt.

Taylor appeared impassive in court as the judge upheld his convictions and 50-year sentence.

He was sentenced in May 2012 for aiding rebels who committed atrocities in Sierra Leone during its civil war.

His lawyers had argued that there were legal errors during his trial.

Charles Taylor listened intently in court, as his appeal against his conviction for war crimes was rejected point by point. Dressed in a dark suit and light yellow tie, he began taking notes in the back of a small desk diary.

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including terrorism, rape, murder and the use of child soldiers by rebel groups in neighbouring Sierra Leone during the vicious civil war of 1991-2002.

Judge Richard Lussick said at his trial that they were "some of the most heinous crimes in human history".

Taylor has always insisted he is innocent and his only contact with the rebels was to urge them to stop fighting.

He became the first former head of state convicted by an international war crimes court since World War II.

"The appeals chamber... affirms the sentence of 50 years in prison and orders that the sentence be imposed immediately," Judge George King told the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) on Thursday.

'Campaign of terror'

The BBC's Chris Morris in The Hague says the court's decision has been closely watched because the guilty verdict was hailed as a landmark, proving that even people at the highest level of power can be held to account.

Taylor timeline

- o 1989: Launches rebellion in Liberia
- o 1991: RUF rebellion starts in Sierra Leone
- o 1997: Elected president after a 1995 peace deal
- o 1999: Liberia's Lurd rebels start an insurrection to oust Mr Taylor
- o June 2003: Arrest warrant issued; two months later he steps down and goes into exile to Nigeria



- o March 2006: Arrested after a failed escape bid and sent to Sierra Leone
- o June 2007: His trial opens - hosted in The Hague for security reasons
- o April 2012: Convicted of aiding and abetting the commission of war crimes
- o May 2012: Sentenced to 50 years in jail
- o September 2013: Conviction and sentence upheld by the SCSL

In its ruling, the court said that Mr Taylor's personal conduct had a "significant effect on the commission of crimes in Sierra Leone".

It said that he unleashed a campaign of terror against the Sierra Leonean opposition "using terror as its modus operandi".

"The Appeals Chamber is of the opinion that the sentence imposed by the trial chamber is fair in the light of the totality of the crimes committed," Judge King said.

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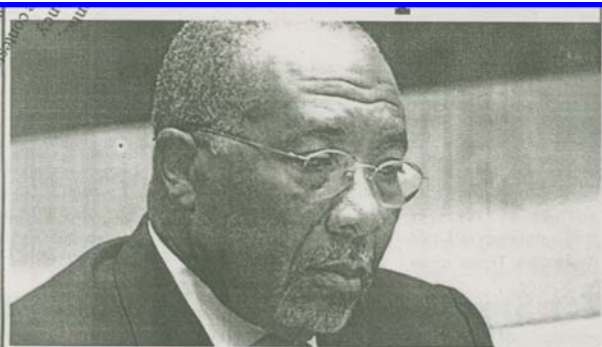
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"The conviction of Charles Taylor must pave the way for further

Credit: BBC

Awareness Times
Friday, 27 September 2013

Charles Taylor's War Crimes Conviction Upheld



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Awoko

Friday, 27 September 2013

Take Taylor to Rwanda - Lawyer

By Betty Milton (Hague)

Lawyers that represented Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia at the Appeals Chamber trial of the Special Court in The Hague have submitted to the court's Registry that their client will be pleased to be hosted in Rwanda to serve the 50-year sentence initially imposed by the Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and yesterday upheld by the Appeals Chamber.

Morris Anyah on behalf of his client stated, "There are other countries that can host Taylor and the UK will not be the right place... Mr. Taylor will be pleased if he is hosted in Rwanda which is hosting the other Special Court convicts."

This suggestion came as Taylor's sentence was upheld by the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

Following appeals made by both the Prosecution and Defense Teams in the trial of Charles Taylor former President of Liberia, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court of Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague yesterday upheld the 50 years sentence imposed by the court's Trial Chamber. This was received with mixed reactions, with the Prosecution Team expressing

satisfaction while the Defense Team is disappointed.

Dressed in black suit and white shirt with gold colored matching tie, Taylor was seen jotting down notes with calm as the presiding Judge, George Gelaga King read out the judgment and his subsequent sentencing to 50 years in prison with to be enforced immediately.

The Prosecution had raised four grounds of appeals, including that the Trial Chamber failed to find Taylor liable for ordering and instigating the commissioning of crimes and that the Chambers failed to find him liable for crimes committed in certain locations of five districts on the ground that they fell outside the scope of the indictment.

The Defense for Taylor had submitted 42 grounds on which they say the Trial Chamber erred in law as they convicted and sentenced Taylor in 2012. The area the Chamber erred in law they submitted included in the findings that he was involved in planning attacks on Kono, Makeni and Freetown in late 1998 and early 1999. The Appeals Chamber upheld most of the appeals made by the Prosecution with some modifications in some of the convictions and that aiding

and abetting generally warrants a lower sentence than criminal responsibility.

The defense had submitted that the Trial Chamber Judges "erred" in their failure to consider Taylor's expression of sympathy as grounds of mitigation as the Judges ruled that remorse as a mitigating factor has to be real and sincere which Taylor had not shown.

The Prosecutor of the Special Court, Brenda Hollis, told the media that they are satisfied with the judgment. "We welcome the Appeals Chamber's decision. This affirms Taylor's criminal responsibility of the grave crimes committed in Sierra Leone."

She stated that the judgment "brings some measure of justice for the victims" and called the day, "a day of celebration for the crimes committed and the relevance of justice" noting that the judgment affirms the critical role Taylor played to inflict violence on the people of Sierra Leone.

Hollis added that Taylor is the first Head of State to be convicted of war crimes noting that it is indicative that no person is above the law no matter how powerful. "A sentence not less than 50 years is enough for him to pay for

the crimes he committed in Sierra Leone," Hollis maintained.

The Special Court Prosecutor affirmed that they would have preferred "a higher sentence" in the range of 80 years jail term. She however asserted "we respect judgment, the impartiality, the integrity and the impartiality of the Judges".

The Defense Counsel, Morris Anyah in his statement said "we are disappointed at the judgment" adding, "We approached the court with optimism but we are not happy with it in the end and over the judgment," Counsel Anyah stated.

Taylor's Lawyer maintained that "the significant errors" of the Trial Chamber would have seen the reversal of the decision by the Appeals Chamber, but what he said they had "is an entirely chaotic jurisdiction with severe practical consequences." Anyah also argued that the Judges also failed to take into account "the good behavior of Taylor" during the course of the trial throughout which he has never been absent from court.

He alleged that politics and money played a significant role in the Taylor trial from the inception due to the poor nature of Africans.

Government of Sierra Leone
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation

STATEMENT by HON. DR. SAMURA M. W. KAMARA

Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
at the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of President Ernest Koroma

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government, Colleague Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

-SNIP-

We commend the support of the United Nations and international partners to the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) by which it has made meaningful contributions to the advancement of the rule of law, at both the national and international levels. With our continued support, the Special Court is expected to complete its mandate by the end of this year.

-SNIP-

United Nations

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Statement Attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on the Appeals Chamber Judgment in the Charles Taylor Case

The Secretary-General welcomes today's delivery by the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) of the appeal judgment in the case of Mr. Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia. This is a historic and momentous day for the people of Sierra Leone and the region. The judgment is a significant milestone in international criminal justice, as it confirms the conviction of a former Head of State for aiding, abetting and planning war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Secretary-General wishes to congratulate everyone at the SCSL for this important achievement and thank them for their commitment to ensuring accountability for the serious crimes committed during the conflict in Sierra Leone.

The SCSL has been a model of a cooperative partnership to bring those responsible for serious international crimes to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness and due process of law. It has helped the process of national reconciliation and the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone.

The Secretary-General thanks all Member States which have contributed to the Court, and calls on the international community to preserve and promote its legacy by supporting the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone which will commence functioning upon the closure of the SCSL in the coming weeks.

The New Dawn (Liberia)

Friday, 27 September 2013

"We Expected Nothing New" -Taylor Family Asserts



Family members of ex-President Charles Taylor has reacted to the decision by the Appeal Chambers of the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone to uphold his (Taylor) 50 years conviction, saying they are not surprise by the verdict.

"We did not expect anything new from the trial," Mr. Arthur Saye, an aide to Taylor who spoke to this paper on behalf of the Taylor family said.

"From the onset of the trial, we have said that the trial has been politically motivated," he said adding, "and that the whole Special Court was set up to target Taylor."

"The only expectation, I had was a reduction in the sentence," said adding, "But again as I said I didn't expect anything new."

The Special Court Appeals Chamber on Thursday unanimously upheld the conviction Mr. Taylor on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and affirmed the 50-year sentence imposed by the Trial Chamber.

The Court ordered that Mr. Taylor's sentence be enforced immediately, and that he will remain in the custody of the Special Court pending finalization of arrangements to serve his sentence.

Great Britain had been the earlier destination where Mr. Taylor could serve his sentence, but Rwanda is a second destination being considered as well. Under Rule 103(B) of the Court's Rules, Mr. Taylor's place of imprisonment will be designated by the Special Court President.

On 26 April 2012, the Trial Chamber found Mr. Taylor guilty of aiding and abetting crimes committed by RUF and AFRC rebel forces against Sierra Leones civilian population over a five-year period, and of planning, with RUF Battlefield Commander Sam Bockarie, crimes committed by rebel forces during the January 1999 attack on Freetown. The Defence and the Prosecution had each appealed both judgement

and sentence.

The Appeals Chamber, consisting of Justice George Gelaga King (presiding), Justice Emmanuel Ayoola, Justice Renate Winter, Justice Jon Kamanda, Justice Shireen Avis Fisher and Alternate Judge Justice Philip Waki, found that the Trial Chamber had properly applied the standard of proof of beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Judges also dismissed Defence challenges to findings of fact, saying that the findings were reasonable in light of the Trial Chamber's careful and cautious approach to the evaluation of the evidence.

The Judges said the Trial Chamber had relied on a combination of direct, circumstantial and hearsay evidence in reaching its findings, and that none of its findings were based on uncorroborated hearsay evidence.

The Trial Chamber also found that Mr. Taylor had supplied the rebels with arms and ammunition, military personnel, sustained operational support, encouragement and moral support, knowing that their strategy was to commit crimes against the civilian population.

The Appeals Chamber concurred, saying that Mr. Taylor had a substantial effect on the rebels' capacity to implement its operational strategy and to carry out attacks on civilians.

The Defence had argued that the Trial Chamber erred in finding the mens rea (intent) of aiding and abetting by applying a "knowledge" standard rather than a "purpose" standard.

The Appeals Chamber rejected this argument, holding that under customary international law; knowingly participating in the commission of crimes establishes individual criminal responsibility.

The Defence had also argued that the conviction was legally erroneous because Mr. Taylor had not assisted the individual soldiers who committed the crimes.

The Appeals Chamber did not agree, finding that the crimes were committed in furtherance of the RUF/AFRC operational strategy, and that the Trial Chamber had properly found that Mr. Taylor aided and abetted the planning, preparation and execution of that strategy and thus the crimes.

Justice King added that the Appeals Chamber was "not persuaded" by the recent ICTY Appeals Chamber's *Perišić* judgment, which concluded that "specific direction" is an element of aiding and abetting liability under customary international law.

Justice King noted that the ICTY's jurisprudence did not contain a clear, detailed analysis supporting the conclusion that "specific direction" is an element of aiding and abetting under customary international law.

The Appeals Chamber affirmed Mr. Taylor's conviction for planning the crimes committed during the January 1999 attack on Freetown.

The Appeals Chamber recalled that Mr. Taylor instructed Sam Bockarie to make Freetown "fearful" and to use terror tactics against the city's civilian population. Mr. Taylor thus demonstrated his intention that crimes would be committed in Freetown.

The Prosecution had argued that, based on the evidence before the Court, the Trial Chamber should have found that Mr. Taylor had ordered or instigated crimes committed by RUF and AFRC rebel forces.

The Appeals Chamber found, however, that ordering and instigating were "inadequate characterisations of

culpable acts and conduct” found by the Trial Chamber, and held that aiding and abetting “fully captures Taylor’s numerous ‘interventions’ over a sustained period of five years.”

The Appeals Chamber agreed with the Prosecution, however, that the Trial Chamber erred in concluding that aiding and abetting liability generally warrants a lesser sentence. The Appeals Chamber held that a sentence must be based on the convicted person’s actual conduct and the totality of the gravity of that conduct.

The Appeals Chamber agreed with the Trial Chamber’s finding that Mr. Taylor had breached the trust of Sierra Leoneans and the international community when he had pledged publicly to work in the interest of peace while, in reality, abusing that trust by aiding and abetting widespread crimes against the Sierra Leonean population.

The Appeals Chamber concluded that the 50-year sentence imposed on Mr. Taylor was fair and reasonable in light of the totality of the circumstances. Justices Shireen Avis Fisher read out a concurring opinion on behalf of herself and Justice Renate Winter.

She stated that “the confirmed findings overwhelmingly establish that Mr. Taylor, over a five year period, individually, and knowingly, and secretly, and substantially assisted the perpetration of horrific crimes against countless civilians in return for diamonds and power, while publicly pretending that he was working for peace.”

Justice Fisher noted that eight independent judges had established Mr. Taylor’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, and stressed the importance of judicial independence. She stated that to suggest that judges do not act “independently ‘without fear or favour, affection or ill-will’... wrongfully casts a cloud on the integrity of judges in international criminal courts generally and the rule of law which we are sworn to uphold.”

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ABC News (Australia)

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Charles Taylor's 50-year war crimes conviction upheld at The Hague

A United Nations-backed court in The Hague has upheld the conviction of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, reaffirming the 50-year prison sentence he was given for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Judges last year convicted Taylor for aiding and abetting the rebels who murdered, raped and pillaged their way through neighbouring Sierra Leone during an 11-year civil war which cost some 50,000 lives until 2002.

Lawyers for Taylor had argued that the case against him was flawed, but presiding judge George Gelaga King threw out their arguments.

He said Taylor had provided advice and encouragement to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) rebels, knowing full well the kinds of crimes they were committing.

"Their primary purpose was to spread terror. Brutal violence was purposely unleashed against civilians with the purpose of making them afraid, afraid that there would be more violence if they continued to resist," he said.

"Governments and the international community were also afraid that unless the RUF's and the AFRC's demands were met, thousands more killings, mutilations, abductions and rapes of civilians would follow."

Taylor, 65, sat impassively throughout the reading of the judgement, rising at the end to hear his sentence.

He is to be transferred from the seaside detention centre that has been his home since 2006 to a British maximum security prison.

Victims hail war crimes verdict

Around 100 people, including human rights activists and survivors of the Sierra Leone civil war, watched a live broadcast of the ruling in the capital Freetown.

For Sullay Turay, who lost a hand and a foot to Taylor-backed rebels, the outcome "showed that no matter what you do, justice will finally catch up with you and this is what has happened in Taylor's case".

Some victims of the conflict remain bitter and voiced frustration that Taylor had not received the 80-year sentence requested by the prosecution.

"Let Taylor rot in jail. I only wish he would have served his sentence in an African prison to suffer the more," said Freetown taxi driver Andrew Lebbie.



But there was also a note of reconciliation among the crowd gathered for the ruling in Freetown.

"Forgiveness is all I would ask for. The court should have tempered justice with mercy," said vicar Sam Fergusson.

Reuters/AFP

Allafrica.com

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Court Rejects Charles Taylor's Appeal

Appeals judges at the Special Court for Sierra Leone have upheld the 50-year sentence of former Liberian President Charles Taylor after his landmark conviction for aiding murderous rebels in Sierra Leone's civil war, a report from Al Jazeera says.

The 65-year-old former head of state was convicted in May 2012 for crimes that included terrorism, murder, rape and using child soldiers.

The BBC reported Taylor as appearing "impassive" in court as the judge upheld his convictions and sentence.



Providence Journal

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Rebuilding Liberia: Charles Taylor loses appeal of 50-year war crimes sentence Thursday

By Philip Marcelo

Editor's note: Journal Staff Writer Philip Marcelo spent two weeks in Liberia in August to report on that country's progress 10 years after the end of a devastating civil war. This is the latest installment of an online and print series called "Rebuilding Liberia: The R.I. Connection." The project is funded by the International Center for Journalists, in Washington.

PROVIDENCE, R. I. -- Charles Taylor, the disgraced former Liberian President who armed rebel groups throughout Africa by trading in illegal diamonds and timber, has his day in court Thursday morning. He lost.

The United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone denied the warlord and former New England resident's appeal of a 50-year prison sentence for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The decision, made in a special session at The Hague in the Netherlands, means that the 65 year old, who is currently detained in a Dutch jail, will likely live out his remaining days in prison, possibly in Great Britain, which has agreed to incarcerate Taylor, according to The Guardian newspaper.

BBC News has a pretty thorough rundown of the Taylor's history and his war crimes trial, as does CNN and others.

Taylor became the first former head of state convicted by an international war crimes court since World War II's Nuremberg Trials when his 11-count sentence was handed down last year.

But the charges, which include murder, rape, torture, sexual slavery and use of child soldiers, are not related to Taylor's central role in Liberia's 14 year long civil war, which ended in 2003 and resulted in an estimated 250,000 deaths.

They stem from his support of rebels during neighboring Sierra Leone's equally brutal civil war, which lasted from 1991-2002.

Taylor, as Liberia's president from 1997-2003, had trained and armed rebel groups in Sierra Leone in exchange for illegally-mined "blood diamonds."

But even though the charges center on Taylor's actions in Sierra Leone, Thursday's court decision was closely watched in Liberia, where Taylor's legacy still casts a long shadow.

One former Rhode Islander who has returned to Liberia has already passed on this reactions to the decision.

Former newspaper editor Nyekeh Forkpa had been among the tens of thousands of Liberians who found refuge in Rhode Island during the civil war years before returning to Liberia in 2011.

Now a top deputy at the National Port Authority, he writes: Taylor is "bad news for Liberia. Freeing him would have emboldened those steeped in criminality and the culture of impunity. He must be made example of so that others dealing or planning to deal in blood for power and wealth can understand that consequences await....in the fullness of time..... "

The decision will also likely have reverberations here in Rhode Island, where tens of thousands of Liberian refugees settled during the war years and Taylor's family once lived.

The Ocean State continues to have among the highest populations of Liberians in the country, with, at last count, roughly 15,000 out of a total state population of just over one million.

With Thursday's court session at The Hague having started at 5 a.m. eastern standard time, many local Liberians will be just wake up to the news.

I'll be reaching out to some of them during the course of the day to get their reactions.

Then, starting Sunday, The Journal will launch a four-part series that takes an on-the-ground-look at what Liberia is like now, a decade after Taylor ruled the country.

The series, which is the result of a two-week trip in August and months of interviews with local Liberians in Rhode Island, will focus on how Rhode Island Liberians and their families, in particular, are faring as the country rebuilds.

The Guardian

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Charles Taylor's 50-year sentence for Sierra Leone war crimes upheld

Former Liberian president to be jailed in UK for supporting rebel leaders who committed atrocities in Sierra Leone for 'blood diamonds'



The former Liberian president Charles Taylor has had his 50-year prison sentence for aiding and abetting war crimes in west Africa upheld at a UN-backed tribunal.

The decision by the court means that the 65-year-old is likely to be sent to the UK to serve out the rest of his life in a British jail.

There had been speculation that the tribunal could overturn Taylor's convictions, following stricter precedents set in the international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia about what constitutes "aiding and abetting". A series of recent judgments in that court required proof that senior military commanders had "specifically directed" atrocities.

But the judges in the Sierra Leone tribunal dismissed the Balkans precedents as irrelevant and said Taylor had known at the time that atrocities were going to be committed by rebel forces attacking the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown.

They found that the former warlord and political leader had not demonstrated "real and sincere remorse" for his actions.

The judgment was delivered by the appeal chamber of the special court for Sierra Leone in The Hague. Taylor had challenged the 50-year sentence imposed on him for supporting rebels who carried out atrocities in Sierra Leone in return for "blood diamonds".

He had been found guilty on 11 counts that included participating in the planning of murder, rape, sexual slavery and enforced amputations.

Taylor's lawyers argued that the original trial chamber made systematic errors in the evaluation of evidence and in the application of the law governing what constitutes "aiding and abetting" sufficiently serious to "reverse all findings of guilt entered against him".

The prosecution, however, also appealed against the original decision, saying that Taylor should have been found individually criminally responsible for ordering and instigating crimes committed by rebels in Sierra Leone. It maintained a 50-year sentence was not "reflective of the inherent gravity of the totality of his criminal conduct and overall culpability" and should be increased to 80 years.

Last year the three-judge panel unanimously found that Taylor had been criminally responsible for "aiding and abetting" the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and other factions carrying out atrocities in Sierra Leone between 1996 and 2002.

The court heard that the Liberian leader knew from August 1997 about the campaign of terror being waged against the civilian population in Sierra Leone.

Among the atrocities detailed was the beheading of civilians. Victims' heads were often displayed at checkpoints. On one occasion a man was killed, publicly disembowelled and his intestines stretched across a road to form another checkpoint. "The purpose," Judge Richard Lussick said, "was to instil terror."

Taylor was the first former head of state to face judgment in an international court on war crimes charges since judges in Nuremberg convicted Karl Dönitz, an admiral who led Nazi Germany for a brief period following Adolf Hitler's suicide.

His conviction was widely welcomed in Sierra Leone but the response in Liberia, where Taylor was once seen as a freedom fighter, was more critical.

The prison authorities in England and Wales have made preparations for Taylor's arrival. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have agreed to enforce any sentence handed down to Charles Taylor." A special act of parliament, the International Tribunals (Sierra Leone) Act 2007, had to be passed – a demonstration of what the government said at the time was its "commitment to international justice".

Open Society Foundations

Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Charles Taylor's Fate: Will He Be Back in Liberia?

It took ten years to reach this point but finally, on Thursday, September 26, 2013, Appeals Chamber judges at Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) in The Hague will determine whether former Liberian president Charles Taylor will return to Liberia or spend most or possibly the rest of his life in jail.

When Taylor left the Liberian presidency to seek asylum in Nigeria in 2003, after a SCSL indictment against him had already been issued, he told the people of Liberia that “God willing, I will be back.” He was back in Liberia in 2006 but only temporarily, as he was being transferred to the custody of the SCSL in Freetown, following his arrest in Nigeria. The verdict delivered by the SCSL’s Appeals Chamber on Thursday will determine whether Taylor will finally return to Liberia.

In April 2012, the SCSL’s Trial Chamber convicted Taylor of aiding and abetting 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, committed by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) rebel forces in Sierra Leone during the West African country’s 11 year civil conflict.

Taylor’s trial itself, reported on our trial monitoring site www.charlestaylortrial.org, lasted for about four years. The judges heard stories of RUF and AFRC rebel forces who paraded through Sierra Leone, hacking off the limbs of civilians, subjecting women and young girls to rape and other forms of sexual violence, and of drugged child soldiers who were ordered to kill civilians with guns and machetes.

Judges also heard stories of the role that “blood diamonds” played in Sierra Leone’s conflict: diamonds, which, according to witness testimony, Sierra Leonean rebel forces transferred to Taylor in return for arms and ammunition. In convicting Taylor of aiding and abetting crimes in Sierra Leone, the judges found that Taylor provided arms and ammunition, military personnel as well as operational and moral support to the rebel forces in Sierra Leone.

Without these forms of support from Taylor, the judges were convinced that many of the crimes would not have been committed and the conflict in the country would have ended earlier. Judges also said Taylor was guilty of planning RUF and AFRC attacks, including the invasion of the country’s capital Freetown in early 1999. In their verdict, judges called Taylor a “two-headed janus” who publicly proclaimed peace while secretly supporting the rebels to commit atrocities.

The judges, however, rejected the prosecution’s theory that Taylor was in a position of command and control over the rebels. Judges were also not convinced that Taylor ordered or instigated the commission of crimes, as alleged by the prosecution.

In May 2012, the judges sentenced Taylor to a jail term of 50 years. The prosecution had originally asked for a jail term of 80 years. But in his quest to walk out as a free man and possibly return to Liberia, Taylor’s fight did not end with his sentencing. He appealed the judgment of the Trial Chamber on 42 grounds. In his appeal, he not only argued against the grounds on which he was convicted, but also called his 50 year jail term “manifestly unreasonable.”

Prosecutors raised four grounds of appeal, including asking for an increase in Taylor’s 50 year jail term.

When Appeals Chamber judges read out their final judgment on Thursday, prosecutors and defense lawyers will be listening to hear key things of interest to them.

For defense lawyers, they’ll want an appeal judgment that overturns a Trial Chamber decision that Taylor helped in planning the rebel attacks in specific parts of the country, including Freetown.

They hope to hear that the Trial Chamber made systematic errors of law in its assessment of the evidence, including the judges’ reliance on “uncorroborated hearsay.”

The defense argues on appeal that by systematically failing to assess the reliability of such hearsay, that the trial judges erred in law and fact when they ruled that assistance provided to RUF and AFRC with awareness that they had committed crimes in the past consisted aiding and abetting of subsequent crimes.

Defense lawyers further argue that the Trial Chamber erred in finding that Taylor provided military and operational advice to RUF and AFRC, which constituted assistance to crimes, and that they erred in finding that Taylor was aware of shipment of arms from/via Liberia to Sierra Leone.

Prosecutors on the other hand will be hoping for Appeals Chamber judges to agree with them that the Trial Chamber was wrong to have acquitted Taylor on charges of ordering and instigating the commission of crimes, or that Taylor ought to have been sentenced to a jail term exceeding 50 years.

With all their expectations, both prosecutors and defense lawyers will be anxious to know whether a recent decision by Appeals Chamber judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the case of General Momčilo Perišić will have an impact on the Taylor case.

Perišić, a former commander of the Yugoslav army, had been convicted by the ICTY Trial Chamber for aiding and abetting by facilitating military and logistical supplies to perpetrators of crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On appeal, the Appeals Chamber of the ICTY reversed the Trial Chamber's decision by establishing that for a person to be guilty of aiding and abetting, his/her conduct must be "specifically directed" to the conduct/crimes of the perpetrator.

The Trial Chamber had ruled that there was no "specific direction" requirement for a person to be convicted of aiding and abetting. In the eyes of the Trial Chamber judges, the aider and abettor's conduct only ought to have had a "substantial effect" on the actions of the perpetrator.

For the Appeals Chamber, however, in the absence of said "specific direction," Perišić could not be liable for aiding and abetting the crimes for which he had been convicted by the Trial Chamber.

SCSL Trial Chamber judges in their decision of April 26, 2012, referencing the ICTY Trial Chamber's decision in Perišić, had ruled that there was no "specific direction" requirement for aiding and abetting.

In appealing the judgment of the Trial Chamber, Taylor's defense lawyers raised this as a ground of appeal, arguing that the Trial Chamber was wrong to have ignored the "specific direction" requirement when it convicted Taylor of aiding and abetting the commission of crimes in Sierra Leone.

After the ICTY Appeals Chamber decision, many observers have wondered whether the SCSL Appeals Chamber will do the same and reverse the decision of the Trial Chamber. If SCSL Appeals Chamber applies the standard set by ICTY appeals judges in Perišić, then Taylor will be a happy man.

However, Taylor was not only convicted for aiding and abetting the commission of crimes in Sierra Leone, he was also convicted for planning attacks in various places including Sierra Leone's capital, an attack that saw the commission of heinous crimes. That remains a worry for him.

It therefore remains to be seen whether Taylor's promise to the Liberian people that he "will be back" becomes a reality.

Associated Press

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Court to deliver appeals verdict in Charles Taylor's Sierra Leone war crimes convictions

LEIDSCHENDAM, Netherlands – Judges at a U.N.-backed tribunal are delivering their judgment in former Liberian president Charles Taylor's appeal against his convictions and 50-year sentence for planning and aiding atrocities by rebels in Sierra Leone's bloody civil war.

Taylor, 65, became the first former head of state convicted by an international war crimes court since World War II when the Special Court for Sierra Leone found him guilty on April 26, 2012, of 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity including terrorism, murder, rape and using child soldiers.

The court said he provided crucial aid to rebels and planned attacks in return for "blood diamonds" mined by slave laborers in Sierra Leone and political influence in the volatile West African region.

Judges are handing down their decision Thursday in his appeal.

Associated Press

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Charles Taylor to hear Sierra Leone appeal verdict

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands -- Former Liberian President Charles Taylor will hear Thursday whether appeals judges uphold or overturn his landmark conviction and 50-year sentence for aiding murderous rebels in Sierra Leone's civil war.

Taylor, 65, became the first former head of state convicted by an international war crimes court since World War II when the Special Court for Sierra Leone found him guilty on April 26, 2012, of 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity including terrorism, murder, rape and using child soldiers.

Judges said he provided crucial aid to rebels and helped plan attacks in return for "blood diamonds" mined by slave laborers in Sierra Leone and political influence in the volatile West African region. His conviction was hailed as ushering in a new era of accountability for heads of state.

"The trial and judgment of Charles Taylor sets out a clear marker that even those at the highest levels of power can be held to account," Elise Keppler, associate international justice director at Human Rights Watch said in a statement. "The Taylor trial, and the Sierra Leone Special Court's work overall, have made a major contribution to justice for brutal crimes committed during Sierra Leone's conflict."

About 50,000 people died in the 11-year civil war that ended in 2002. Thousands more were left mutilated in a conflict that became known for the extreme cruelty of rival rebel groups who gained international notoriety for hacking off the limbs of their victims and carving their groups' initials into opponents. The rebels developed gruesome terms for the mutilations that became their chilling trademark: They would offer their victims the choice of "long sleeves" or "short sleeves" — having their hands hacked off or their arms sliced off above the elbow.

Taylor was convicted not only of aiding and abetting Sierra Leone rebels from Liberia, but also for actually planning some of the attacks carried out by Sierra Leone rebel groups, the Revolutionary United Front and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council.

It isn't clear if the Sierra Leone court's appeal panel will take into account a February appeals judgment by the U.N. Yugoslav war crimes tribunal that acquitted the former chief of staff of the Yugoslav National Army, Gen. Momcilo Perisic, of aiding forces fighting in a neighboring country. Perisic was freed after appeals judges said it hadn't been proven that he sent supplies to Bosnian Serb forces with the "specific intent" that they be used to commit atrocities.

The ruling was seen as raising the bar on the level of proof needed to uphold such aiding and abetting charges, though the Sierra Leone court isn't bound to follow in the Yugoslav tribunal's footsteps.

Taylor's lawyers say he should be acquitted on all counts. Prosecutors asked appeals judges to rule that he was even more closely involved in the crimes in Sierra Leone than was laid out in his original conviction and urged judges to increase Taylor's sentence to 80 years, saying the 50-year sentence wasn't "reflective of the inherent gravity of the totality of his criminal conduct and overall culpability."

If Taylor's sentence is upheld, he will be transferred to Britain, which has agreed to provide a cell for him.

Taylor's trial was moved from the Special Court of Sierra Leone's headquarters in the capital, Freetown, to the Netherlands because of fears it could destabilize the West African region if held in Sierra Leone.

The Taylor appeals ruling will be the final judgment at the court, which indicted 13 of the main architects of the atrocities in Sierra Leone. Two died before trial and one more remains unaccounted for and possibly dead. Another died before hearing a verdict and all the others were tried and convicted.

The court's trial chamber in Freetown will be converted to house Sierra Leone's Supreme Court in the future. Another part of the court is being turned into a peace museum and its detention facility has been put to use as a prison by local authorities.

Read more here: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/09/25/3649563/charles-taylor-to-hear-sierra.html#storylink=cpy>

Sky News

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Final court verdict for Liberia's Taylor

A UN-backed court will hand down its final verdict against Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor, jailed initially for 50 years for arming rebels during Sierra Leone's brutal 1990s civil war.

The appeals judges' ruling at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) on Thursday marks the end of the road for the former west African strongman's seven-year long trial.

Taylor, 65, was found guilty in 2012 of supporting rebels from neighbouring Sierra Leone who waged a campaign of terror during a civil war that claimed 120,000 lives between 1991 and 2002, in exchange for 'blood diamonds' mined by slave labour.

Arrested and transferred to The Hague in mid-2006, where his case was moved for fear of stirring up divisions at home, Taylor was sentenced in May last year for 'some of the most heinous crimes in human history'.

As Liberia's president from 1997 to 2003, Taylor aided neighbouring Revolutionary United Front rebels by supplying guns and ammunition during the conflict, known for its mutilations, drugged child soldiers and sex slaves, the judges found.

Throughout the trial, Taylor maintained his innocence.

His lawyers in July last year appealed his conviction, saying judges 'made systematic errors' in evaluating evidence.

Lawyers argued at an appeal hearing in January that there was no evidence that he knew about crimes committed by Sierra Leone's brutal rebel forces, nor did he provide logistics, guns and ammunition.

They want appeals judges to reverse the conviction and quash the sentence.

The prosecution, which had sought an 80-year jail term for Taylor, has also appealed, saying the judges were 'unduly lenient'.

Thursday's hearing almost certainly draws the curtain on Sierra Leone's special court, set up in 2002 by agreement between Freetown and the United Nations.

One suspect remains wanted but is widely believed to have died.

The Telegraph

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Liberia's Charles Taylor faces final war crimes verdict

A UN-backed court will today hands down its final verdict against Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor, jailed initially for 50 years for arming rebels during Sierra Leone's brutal 1990s civil war.



he appeals judges' ruling at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) marks the end of the road for the former west African strongman's seven-year long trial.

Taylor, 65, was found guilty in 2012 of supporting rebels from neighbouring Sierra Leone who waged a campaign of terror during a civil war that claimed 120,000 lives between 1991 and 2002, in exchange for "blood diamonds" mined by slave labour.

Arrested and transferred to The Hague in mid-2006, where his case was moved for fear of stirring up divisions at home, Taylor was sentenced in May last year for "some of the most heinous crimes in human history".

His historic sentence on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity was the first handed down by an international court against a former head of state since the Nazi trials at Nuremberg in 1946.

As Liberia's president from 1997 to 2003, Taylor aided and abetted neighbouring Revolutionary United Front rebels by supplying guns and ammunition during the conflict, known for its mutilations, drugged child soldiers and sex slaves, trial judges found.

Throughout the trial, Taylor maintained his innocence.

His lawyers in July last year appealed his conviction, saying judges "made systematic errors" in evaluating evidence.

The judges relied on "uncorroborated hearsay evidence as the sole basis for specific incriminating findings of fact," the defence said in its 42 points of appeal.

Lawyers argued at an appeal hearing in January that there was no evidence that he knew about crimes committed by Sierra Leone's brutal rebel forces, nor did he provide logistics, guns and ammunition.

They want appeals judges to reverse the conviction and quash the sentence.

The prosecution, which had sought an 80-year jail term for Taylor, has also appealed, saying judges were "unduly lenient".

Legal observers and rights groups said the verdict may be influenced by a recent controversial ruling before the Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal (ICTY), also based in the Netherlands.

The ICTY acquitted Yugoslav ex-army chief Momcilo Perisic on appeal in February, overturning a 27-year sentence for war crimes committed during the bloody Balkans wars of the 1990s.

In Perisic's case, appeals judges found that "specific direction" in the committing of crimes was necessary for a conviction on aiding and abetting to stand - something Taylor's lawyers argued was not proved in his own trial.

The ICTY ruling "is not binding on the Special Court for Sierra Leone, but may be considered," Human Rights Watch said in a statement.

Should Taylor's appeal succeed, he will walk out of the court a free man, having been held at the UN Detention Unit in The Hague since June 2006.

If it fails, he is likely to spend the rest of his life behind bars, possibly in a British jail.

A number of headline-grabbing witnesses took the stand during Taylor's trial including actress Mia Farrow and former supermodel Naomi Campbell, who told of a gift of "dirty diamonds" she received in 1997 after a charity ball hosted by then South African president Nelson Mandela.

The hearing almost certainly draws the curtain on Sierra Leone's special court, set up in 2002 by agreement between Freetown and the United Nations.

One suspect remains wanted but is widely believed to have died.

Edited by Bonnie Malkin

BBC

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Charles Taylor appeal verdict due in The Hague

A UN-backed special court in The Hague is due to rule on an appeal by former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

Last May, the court sentenced him to 50 years in prison for aiding and abetting rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone during the 1991-2002 civil war.

He became the first former head of state convicted by an international war crimes court since World War II.

His lawyers want him acquitted arguing that legal and factual errors were made during the trial.

However, the prosecution has sought to increase his sentence to 80 years.

The BBC's Chris Morris in The Hague says the court's decision will be closely watched because the guilty verdict was hailed as a landmark, proving that even people at the highest level of power can be held to account.

Charles Taylor, 65, was found guilty of aiding and abetting war crimes in Sierra Leone, including terrorism, rape, murder and the use of child soldiers.

He was also found guilty of planning some of the attacks carried out by rebel groups in neighbouring Sierra Leone during the vicious civil war.

The former Liberian leader was arrested in 2006 and maintained his innocence throughout the trial.

If his appeal fails, Charles Taylor will serve his sentence in a foreign jail. The UK has offered to accept him at a British prison - alternative destinations include Sweden or Rwanda.

Our correspondent says it would take about a week to organise his transfer from The Hague.

Voice of America

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Court Upholds Conviction, 50-Year Sentence for Charles Taylor

A U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal has upheld the conviction of former Liberian president Charles Taylor.

The appeals chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone also upheld Taylor's 50-year prison sentence and ruled that it be imposed immediately.

Taylor was found guilty last year of arming and otherwise aiding rebels in Sierra Leone during that country's brutal civil war.

Taylor's lawyers appealed, arguing that he knew nothing about the war crimes and did not help with logistics or supplies.

The prosecution in the case also appealed, saying Taylor's sentence was too lenient.

Last year Taylor told judges at his sentencing hearing in the Netherlands he has "deepest sympathies" for those who suffered during Sierra Leone's civil war, which ended in 2002. But he stopped short of admitting any wrongdoing or apologizing.

The 64-year-old former president was convicted on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity -- including acts of terrorism, murder, rape and the recruitment of child soldiers.

The court said that although Taylor did not have command and control of the rebels, he was aware of their activities and provided them with weapons and other supplies.

Taylor's trial was held at the Hague because of fears his presence might spark unrest in Sierra Leone.

He was the first African head of state to be brought before an international tribunal to face charges for mass atrocities and violations of international humanitarian law.

CNN

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Charles Taylor: War crimes conviction, 50-year sentence upheld

By Laura Smith-Spark, CNN



(CNN) -- An international court in the Netherlands ruled Thursday to uphold the 50-year sentence handed down last year to Liberia's former president, Charles Taylor, after he was convicted of aiding war crimes in neighboring Sierra Leone.

The ruling by the appeals judges in the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague brings to an end a lengthy legal battle.

Taylor, 65, was found guilty last year of supplying and encouraging rebels in Sierra Leone in a campaign of terror, involving murder, rape, sexual slavery, looting and the conscription of children younger than 15.

He was also convicted of using Sierra Leone's diamond deposits to help fuel its civil war with arms and guns while enriching himself with what have commonly come to be known as "blood diamonds."
Understanding Charles Taylor's sentence

Both the defense and prosecution lodged appeals after the court convicted the former president of all 11 counts against him, following a trial lasting nearly four years.

Taylor's defense appealed the court's judgment and sentence on multiple grounds, arguing that the trial chamber had made mistakes in evaluating the evidence and in applying the law.

But the appeals judges rejected those arguments, saying that the trial chamber had "thoroughly evaluated the evidence for its credibility and reliability," and that its assessment of Taylor's criminal responsibility and liability was in accordance with international laws.

The appeals judges also dismissed defense claims that Taylor was not given a fair trial.

The defense also argued that the 50-year sentence handed down was "manifestly unreasonable," while the prosecution had argued that it should be increased to 80 years to adequately reflect the gravity of his crimes.

The appeals judges dismissed both claims, saying the sentence was fair and reasonable.

READ: Charles Taylor: Lay preacher and feared warlord

Rights group Amnesty International welcomed the ruling, saying it sent a clear message to leaders around the world.

"The Court's landmark ruling underlines that no one is above the law," said Stephanie Barbour, head of Amnesty International's Centre for International Justice in The Hague.

"The conviction of those responsible for crimes committed during Sierra Leone's conflict has brought some measure of justice for the tens of thousands of victims. The conviction of Charles Taylor must pave the way for further prosecutions."

Role in atrocities

Taylor was the first former head of state to be convicted of war crimes since the Nuremberg trials that followed World War II.

The trial chamber heard that rebels from the Revolutionary United Front, which the former president backed, committed horrendous crimes against Sierra Leone civilians, including children. Some were enslaved to mine the diamonds used to fund the rebels' fight.

The presiding trial judge described Taylor as responsible for "aiding and abetting as well as planning some of the most heinous and brutal crimes recorded in human history."

But Taylor said during his sentencing hearing in May 2012 that his role in the conflict was much different than represented. "I pushed the peace process hard, contrary to how I have been portrayed in this court," he said.

A pivotal figure in Liberian politics for decades, he became president in 1997 and was forced out of office under international pressure in 2003. He fled to Nigeria, where border guards arrested him three years later as he was attempting to cross into Chad.

The United Nations and the Sierra Leone government jointly set up the special tribunal to try those who played the biggest role in the atrocities. The court was moved to the Netherlands from Sierra Leone, where emotions about the civil war still run high.

Associated Press

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Court Upholds 50 Years for Liberia's Taylor

LEIDSCHENDAM, Netherlands

An international war crimes court upheld the conviction and 50-year sentence of former Liberian President Charles Taylor for aiding rebels in Sierra Leone, ruling Thursday that his financial, material and tactical support fueled horrendous crimes against civilians.

The appeals chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone kept the 65-year-old Taylor's conviction on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including terrorism, murder, rape and using child soldiers.

Taylor's conviction in April 2012 was hailed as ushering in a new era of accountability for heads of state. He was the first former head of state convicted by an international war crimes court since World War II.

Wearing a black suit and a gold-colored tie, Taylor showed little emotion while Presiding Judge George Gelaga King read the unanimous verdict of the six-judge panel.

Prosecutor Brenda Hollis said the court's final ruling "affirms Taylor's criminal responsibility for grave crimes."

"He's caused untold suffering for thousands, if not tens of thousands, of victims in Sierra Leone," she said at a press conference after the ruling. "Today's judgment brings some measure of justice for those victims who suffered so horribly."

Others focused on the future impact of Thursday's decision.

"Taylor's conviction sends a powerful message that those at the top can be held to account on the gravest crimes," said Elise Keppler of Human Rights Watch.

Steven Rapp, the ambassador for war crimes issues at the U.S. Department of State and former prosecutor at the Sierra Leone court, said the ruling "sends a clear message to all the world, that when you commit crimes like this, it may not happen overnight, but there will be a day of reckoning."

The court found Taylor provided crucial aid to rebels in Sierra Leone during that country's 11-year civil war, which left an estimated 50,000 people dead before its conclusion in 2002.

Thousands more were left mutilated in a conflict that became known for its extreme cruelty, as rival rebel groups hacked off the limbs of their victims and carved their groups' initials into opponents. The rebels developed gruesome terms for the mutilations, offering victims the choice of "long sleeves" or "short sleeves" — having their hands hacked off or their arms sliced off above the elbow.

Memunatu Kamara, who had her left hand chopped off by rebels in 1999, had traveled to the court in the Netherlands to hear the appeals verdict. She said she felt ill when she first looked at Taylor but "when I saw him convicted, I was feeling good."

Taylor was convicted not only of aiding and abetting Sierra Leone rebels from his seat of power in neighboring Liberia, but also for actually planning some of the attacks carried out by two Sierra Leone rebel groups — the Revolutionary United Front and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council. In return

he was given "blood diamonds" mined by slave laborers in Sierra Leone and gained political influence in volatile West Africa.

Prosecuting Taylor proved how hard it is to bring leaders to justice. He fled into exile in Nigeria after being indicted in 2003 and wasn't arrested for three years. And while the Sierra Leone court is based in that country's capital, Taylor's trial was staged in the Netherlands for fear it could destabilize the region.

Arthur Saye, Charles Taylor's brother-in-law, who monitored the verdict on television from his shop in Paynesville, Liberia, said he was not surprised at the ruling.

"From day one, my position has been that the trial of Mr. Taylor was orchestrated by the powers that be — the Western powers," he told The Associated Press. "This was an international conspiracy; so I am not surprised or disappointed" by the verdict.

He added he had spoken by telephone to Taylor's wife Victoria, who is in the Netherlands.

"I thought she (would be) downhearted, but she was not," he said. "We are going to put our lives back together."

Taylor's lawyer Morris Anyah said outside the courtroom that Taylor himself was disappointed but "he has remained stoic and calm."

"He expressed his view that the next phase of life is to see how to preserve his contact with his family and ensure that his younger children are provided for," Anyah said.

In a development that could have a lasting impact on future war crimes cases, Thursday's ruling clashed with an appeals decision by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, in which former Serbian Gen. Momcilo Perisic was acquitted of aiding and abetting war crimes.

Judges at the ICTY said in order to aid and abet a crime, a suspect has to have "specifically directed" aid toward committing crimes.

But judges in the Taylor case openly disagreed with that. They said the key to guilt in aiding and abetting a crime is that a suspect's participation encouraged the commission of crimes and had a substantial effect on the crimes actually being committed — not the particular manner in which a suspect was involved.

Aljazeera

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Judges uphold Charles Taylor's jail sentence

Hague judges confirm 50 year jail sentence of ex-Liberian president for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Judges at the Hague have upheld the 50-year jail sentence of former Liberian President Charles Taylor for aiding murderous rebels in Sierra Leone's civil war.

Taylor, 65, had earlier been found guilty by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on April 26, 2012, of 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity including terrorism, murder, rape and using child soldiers. He was sentenced to 50 years in prison.

Judges at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) on Thursday rejected Taylor's appeal against his earlier conviction.

"The trial and judgment of Charles Taylor sets out a clear marker that even those at the highest levels of power can be held to account," Elise Keppler, associate international justice director at Human Rights Watch said in a statement. "The Taylor trial, and the Sierra Leone Special Court's work overall, have made a major contribution to justice for brutal crimes committed during Sierra Leone's conflict."

Gruesome attacks

About 50,000 people died in the 11-year civil war that ended in 2002.

Thousands more were left mutilated in a conflict that became known for the extreme cruelty of rival rebel groups who gained international notoriety for hacking off the limbs of their victims and carving their groups' initials into opponents. The rebels developed gruesome terms for the mutilations that became their chilling trademark: They would offer their victims the choice of "long sleeves" or "short sleeves" - having their hands hacked off or their arms sliced off above the elbow.

Taylor was convicted not only of aiding and abetting Sierra Leone rebels from Liberia, but also for actually planning some of the attacks carried out by Sierra Leone rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council.

Taylor's trial was moved from the Special Court of Sierra Leone's headquarters in the capital, Freetown, to the Netherlands because of fears it could destabilise the West African region if held in Sierra Leone.

The Taylor appeals ruling is the final judgment at the court, which indicted 13 of the main architects of the atrocities in Sierra Leone. Two died before trial and one more remains unaccounted for and possibly dead. Another died before hearing a verdict and all the others were tried and convicted.

Euronews

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Ex Liberia leader Charles Taylor loses war crimes appeal in The Hague

The former Liberian President Charles Taylor has lost his appeal against a 50-year jail term for war crimes at a special UN-backed tribunal in The Hague.

Rejecting defence claims that trial judges had made legal and factual errors, the appeal court upheld Taylor's conviction for aiding and abetting what one judge called "brutal and heinous" crimes.

The ex Liberian president was found guilty in May last year of backing rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone who were notorious for atrocities during the country's long civil war between 1991-2002.

Despite proclaiming his innocence he was convicted of 11 crimes including aiding and abetting murder, rape, and the use of child soldiers. Witnesses said he armed rebels in exchange for diamonds mined by slave labourers.

Taylor is the first former head of state to be found guilty by an international war crimes court since the Second World War.

Many saw the case as a sign that no longer would African warlords escape justice.

Deutsche Welle

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Liberia's ex-president Charles Taylor loses appeal at war crimes court for Sierra Leone

A UN-backed court has upheld war crimes convictions against former Liberian president Charles Taylor. He had appealed against a 50 year jail sentence for backing rebels in Sierra Leone in exchange for 'blood diamonds'.



The final ruling by the appeals judges at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) marks the end of seven years of proceedings.

It leaves in place a 50-year jail sentence imposed in April 2012 by the original court panel, which convicted Taylor of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the 1991-2002 civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone.

The prosecution had sought an 80-year jail term, but charges that Taylor had directly ordered massacres could not be verified during his trial.

His defense lawyers had pointed to "systematic errors" in the analysis of evidence and claimed that the case against Taylor relied on "uncorroborated hearsay evidence as the sole basis for specific incriminating findings of fact."

Taylor's advocates also accused the court of a "miscarriage of justice" and claimed that he "never stood a chance" in a tribunal that practiced a "one size fits all form of international justice."

Multiple crimes

Sierra Leone's conflagration claimed some 120,000 lives.

At last year's trial, the former Liberian president was found guilty on numerous charges of having aided and abetted the Revolutionary United Front rebels in their crimes, including murder, rape and torture, in exchange for diamonds mined by slave laborers in regions controlled by the rebels.

A number of high-profile witnesses were heard, such as actress Mia Farrow and former supermodel Naomi Campbell, who allegedly received such diamonds from Taylor as gifts.

Taylor was president of Liberia for six years, between 1997 and 2003. He went into exile in Nigeria in 2003, in response to international pressure. He was arrested there in March 2006 and transferred to the court in The Hague.

The war crimes court was set up in 2002 by agreement between the government in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and the United Nations.

Taylor is the first former head of state to be convicted at an international court since the Nuremberg Trials of 1946. There, German Admiral Karl Dönitz, who coordinated Germany's World War II surrender in a brief tenure as "president" after Adolf Hitler's suicide, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for his wartime role.

He is now likely to spend the rest of his life in jail, possibly in Britain.

rg/ipj (AFP, dpa, Reuters)

New Dawn (Liberia)

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Britain or Liberia -Taylor's Fate September 26



Judges at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone will this morning at 9:00 AM GMT begin the reading of the judgment in the appeal filed by ex-President Charles Taylor against his fifty years jail sentence.

Last Friday, family members and friends of Mr. Taylor held a prayer service ahead of today's verdict with a prophetic pronouncement from Bishop Isaac Winker of the Dominion Christian Fellowship Ministries

in Sinkor. Whether that prophetic declaration is truly of God it will be seen today.

Mr. Taylor was found guilty on all 11 counts of the indictment, which includes planning of crimes, and of aiding and abetting crimes, committed by rebel forces in Sierra Leone on 26 April 2012 by the Trial Chamber. On 30 May 2012, the Trial Chamber sentenced him to a prison term of 50 years.

If upheld this morning, ex-president could find his way in a maximum British cell for the next fifty years, or he could a free man and fly right back to Liberia, if the Appeal Chambers overturn the ruling of the Trial Court judges.

Mr. Taylor defense team has appealed against the judgment and sentence on 42 grounds, arguing that the trial chamber had made systematic errors in the evaluation of evidence and in the application of law sufficiently serious to “reverse all findings of guilt entered against him” and to vacate the judgment. The Defense also argued that the 50-year sentence was “manifestly unreasonable.”

The Prosecution also appealed on four grounds, arguing that Taylor should have been found individually criminally responsible for ordering and instigating crimes committed by rebels in Sierra Leone.

The Prosecution further asked the Appeals Chamber to reverse the Trial Chamber’s finding that crimes committed in certain areas of five districts fell outside the scope of the indictment, and argued that the 50-year sentence was not “reflective of the inherent gravity of the totality of his criminal conduct and overall culpability” and should be increased to 80 years.

The September 26, 2013 judgment in Taylor's appeal will bring an end to a long standing trial full of drama and intrigue. The Appeal Judgment will be streamed live to the SCSL courthouse in Freetown, and journalists in Freetown will join journalists in The Hague by video link for a post-judgment press conference

Special Court Supplement

Social media reaction to the Taylor Appeal Judgement

Thursday, 26 September 2013



@NSCPress @NSCPress 1h
 @SpecialCourt's decision sends a clear message: war criminals cannot operate with impunity
 Expand



@NSCPress @NSCPress 1h
 Decision today by @SpecialCourt for #SierraLeone to uphold Charles Taylor conviction = major step 4 justice, accountability & reconciliation
 Expand



Watchlist @1612Watchlist 1h
 @SpecialCourt verdict is milestone for accountability of those who use child soldiers, SRSG Zerougui @childreninwar bit.ly/16tPzLD
 Expand



Lydia Vicente @lvicentem 11h
 Charles #Taylor's 50yr sentence upheld at @SpecialCourt, dismissing #ICTY precedents on aiding & abetting #complicity theguardian.com/world/2013/sep...
 View summary



Allan Rutambo @justruz 11h
 Appeals Chamber of the @SpecialCourt for Sierra Leone upholds #Taylor conviction and 50 year sentence.
 Expand



Krystle Lai @KrystleLai 11h
 Am wondering how @SpecialCourt plan on disseminating the verdict to the population in #SierraLeone? #CrucialCommunications
 Expand



AJ Cole @_AJCole 11h
 @annaholligan @SpecialCourt I thought transfer to the UK was Hollands condition for allowing #CharlesTaylor trial in The Hague?
 View conversation



Lisa ShermanNikolaus @Lisa_LSN 11h
 @SpecialCourt upholds Charles Taylor conviction and sentencing as fair and reasonable in the totality of the circumstances. #SierraLeone
 Expand



Dov Jacobs @dovjacobs 11h
 #SCSL #CharlesTaylor jdgmt live: I've lost sound on the streaming @SpecialCourt
 Expand



anna holligan @annaholligan 11h
 Charles Taylor most likely to serve sentence in #Rwanda - but #UK is an option - @SpecialCourt president will decide...
 from Leidschendam-Voorburg



Dominic Johnson favorited your Tweet 12h
 12h: Hague - Appeals Chamber upholds Charles Taylor's sentence and 50 year conviction imposed by the Trial Chamber.



Olly Barratt @ollybarratt 11h
 MT @SpecialCourt: Hague - Appeals Chamber upholds Charles Taylor's sentence and 50 year conviction . via @SandraGathmann
 Expand



Luke Moffett @Amnestiesni 12h
 #CharlesTaylor @SpecialCourt AC aiding and abetting better captures Taylor's role in SL conflict, rather than ordering and instigating.
 Expand

-  **Jeff Lobman** @Buhuteelobs 3m
Charles Taylor former head of Liberia, gets 50 years for genocide rape and destruction. You call 50 years to a 65 year old justice? #hardly
 Expand
-  **Thabo Kupa** @ThaboKupa 3m
 Now that England has offered to host **Charles Taylor** in their prison, can SA in the spirit of JZ posture today offer Pta Central maximum prison
 Expand
-  **Karim Walker** @honorabledork 4m
 BBC News - **Charles Taylor** war crimes convictions upheld [bbc.in/16KqoPI](#)
 Expand
-  **Leonel Humano** @leonel_humano01 8m
 50 años de condena para este opresor el expresidente de Liberia, **Charles Taylor** [sunoticiero.com/index.php/titu...](#)
 Expand
-  **Kenneth Roth** @KenRoth 12m
Charles Taylor conviction for providing weapons for atrocities in Sierra Leone is warning to Putin for arming Assad. [trib.al/nR4z3q2](#)
 View summary
-  **Akira Matsumoto** 松元 彰 @mahimahi_fan 13m
 L'ex-président du Liberia **Charles Taylor** condamné à cinquante ans ... - [goo.gl/news/rADB](#) via [news.google.com](#)
 Expand
-  **Laura Martin** @thelauram16 13m
 #**Charles Taylor** case: doing #justice for whom? #SierraLeone #SpecialCourt
 Expand
-  **urania caldera** @uracal 13m
 CONDENAN AL EXPRESIDENTE LIBERIANO **CHARLES TAYLOR** A 50 AÑOS DE CÁRCEL
 Más de un [tl.gd/n_1rp2b51](#) via @uracal
 Expand
-  **urania caldera** @uracal 13m
 CONDENAN AL EXPRESIDENTE LIBERIANO **CHARLES TAYLOR** A 50 AÑOS DE CÁRCEL Más de una década después de (cont) [tl.gd/n_1rp2b51](#)
 Expand
-  **CeeJay** @Ceejay_i_am 14m
 Model Naomi Campbell testified against **Charles Taylor** in his 2009 trial that he gave her a huge diamond after they met at a Mandela dinner!
 Expand
-  **Orekelewa** @Daisy_PLatinum 15m
Charles Taylor is definitely gonna die in jail...50years imprisonment?? They shoulda just said Life imprisonment
 Expand
-  **Leonel Humano** @leonel_humano01 9m
 50 años de condena para este opresor el expresidente de Liberia, **Charles Taylor** [sunoticiero.com/index.php/titu...](#)
 Expand
-  **Balogun Tunde Moses** @IamTundebabs01 10m
 Former Liberian president, **Charles Taylor** sentenced to 50yrs imprisonment. #justice
 Expand
-  **Skunky66613** @Skunky66613 10m
 Former Liberian Warlord **Charles Taylor** Loses Appeal 2 Have War Crimes Sentence Slashed.
[daily.m.ai/16CsLmk](#) via @DailyMailUS
 #Despots
 View summary
-  **Liam van Zyl** @LiamVanZyl 10m
 "@_SarahMarx: #**Charles Taylor** to spend the rest of his life in jail. A #win for justice! [theguardian.com/world/2013/sep...](#)" Great news. Justice triumph!
 View summary
-  **koldanews** @koldanews 10m
 #Liberia: condamnation à 50 ans de prison confirmée en appel pour #**Charles Taylor** [goo.gl/Ztqk7K](#)
 Expand
-  **Manchester Amnesty** @amnestymanc 11m
 #Liberia from "@hrw: Dispatches: Justice for Victims of **Charles Taylor's** Crimes, At Last by Corinne Dufka [bit.ly/1b9BpxG](#)"
 Expand
-  **Ayo Tokunbo - Salami** @ayo_999 17m
Charles Taylor given a 50 year sentence. Not perturbed. Doesn't change the countless who died for no reason!!
 Expand
-  **National Security** @NationSecurity 17m
Charles Taylor's victims hail war crimes verdict - Victims of the bloody regime of Liberian warlord **Charles Taylor**... [ow.ly/2Ae6iD](#)
 Expand
-  **Comedian Dynamic V** @IamDynamicV 17m
 Na there him go die jare"@eboghomen: Too small"@IamDynamicV: **Charles Taylor** gets 50yrs imprisonment...."
 Expand
-  **The Notice Newspaper** @TheNoticeEA 18m
 A UN-backed special court in The Hague has rejected an appeal against war crimes convictions by former Liberian... [fb.me/2qx30dPGF](#)
 Expand
-  **Charles** @CharlesH226 18m
Charles Taylor Loses Appeal in War Crimes Conviction | [TIME.com world.time.com/2013/09/26/cha...](#)
 Expand
-  **Mz Smallzzz** @eboghomen 19m
 Too small"@IamDynamicV: **Charles Taylor** gets 50yrs imprisonment...."
 Expand
-  **marcellidaumas** @marcellidaumas 19m
[lemonde.fr/afrique/articl...](#) La peine de **Charles Taylor** confirmée en appel #actu
 View summary

-  **iwenbordier** @iwenbordier 19m
La peine de **Charles Taylor** confirmée en appel [lemonde.fr/afrique/articl... #actu](#)
[View summary](#)
-  **Foreign Affair Polls** @F_A_Polls 19m
Charles Taylor's victims hail war crimes verdict - Freetown (AFP) - Victims of the bloody regime of Liberian warlo... [ow.ly/2Ae77B](#)
[View summary](#)
-  **24-Hour News Source** @Skibabs 21m
Decision today by @SpecialCourt for #SierraLeone to uphold **Charles Taylor** conviction = major step 4 justice, accountability & reconciliation
Expand
-  **Richard Pescod J.** @ripeji 21m
"@MonumentalCR: Infografía: **Charles Taylor**, condenado por un Tribunal Internacional [pic.twitter.com/huGRMJsia](#)"#Venezuela Les Ilega!
[View photo](#)
-  **Comedian Dynamic V** @IamDynamicV 21m
Charles Taylor gets 50yrs imprisonment...
Expand
-  **Anthropologist** @Geraldanthro 21m
Charles Taylor war crimes convictions upheld - [goo.gl/news/m3ln](#) Assad next,G
Expand
-  **marcellidaumas** @marcellidaumas 21m
[lemonde.fr/afrique/articl...](#) La peine de **Charles Taylor** confirmée en appel #articles
[View summary](#)
-  **marketingworld.com** @marketing_world 23m
Special Court of Sierra Leone upholds **Charles Taylor** conviction for 50 years in prison [bit.ly/1dMFHMP](#)
Expand
-  **iBujumbura .Net** @ibujumbura 24m
Nouvel article: **Charles Taylor's** conviction upheld [goo.gl/j7TF6M](#)
Expand
-  **Jorge Govea Cabrera** @jorgegovea 25m
"@noticiaaldia: Condenan al expresidente liberiano **Charles Taylor** a 50 años de cárcel [goo.gl/t1WNqa](#) @noticiaaldia"
Expand
-  **Luana Senesi** @LuanaSenesi 25m
Charles Taylor perde l'appello sconterà 50 anni di carcere - La Stampa [tinyurl.com/gqjnusa](#)
Expand
-  **Just Security** @just_security 25m
Beth Van Schaack on today's Charles #Taylor judgment. Coming soon on [justsecurity.org](#). #SCSL
Expand
-  **Afrikatv** @afrikatvnet 25m
Libéria / Condamnation définitive de **Charles TAYLOR** à 50 ans de prison #AFRIKATV [afrikatv.net/web/243-Liberi...](#)
Expand
-  **Andrew Forrest** @Andrew_Forrest 26m
What happened in Sierra Leone is one of the clearest examples of evil I've known. We wait for God's justice.
[telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews...](#)
[View summary](#)
-  **Jorge Fajer** @JORGEFAJER 26m
NYTimes: Court Upholds 50-Year Jail Term in Sierra Leone War Crimes Case
[nyti.ms/16BwINp](#)
[View summary](#)
-  **Chijioke Ezeh (Cj)** @Cjcool3 27m
I'm watching Liberia's **Charles Taylor** loses... [vod.io/z329i/](#) on [app.vod.io](#)
[View app](#)
-  **Gloria SH. Gocher** @gdeangel_ 28m
Charles Taylor, el cruel ex presidente de Liberia, condenado a 50 años de prisión por crímenes contra la humanidad. [nytimes.com/2013/09/27/wor...](#) ...
[View summary](#)
-  **Sally Hayden** @sallyhayd 29m
Charles Taylor is the first head of state since Nuremberg to be convicted of war crimes by an international court [uk.reuters.com/article/2013/0...](#)
Expand
-  **Mukelenge Kasiala** @Mkasiala 29m
BBC News - **Charles Taylor** war crimes convictions upheld [bbc.in/16KqoPI](#)
Expand
-  **Leonardo Rodriguez** @LeonRodrH 29m
Charles Taylor, primer líder africano condenado por un tribunal internacional [mun.do/18rvTnl](#) vía @elmundoes
Expand
-  **Laura Miller** @laura_sync 30m
Charles Taylor's conviction as a war criminal upheld [theguardian.com/world/2013/sep...](#) via @guardian
[View summary](#)
-  **Noticia al Dia** @noticiaaldia 31m
Condenan al expresidente liberiano **Charles Taylor** a 50 años de cárcel [goo.gl/t1WNqa](#) @noticiaaldia
Expand
-  **william** @equalzerpi 31m
Taylor's war crimes conviction upheld: [edition.cnn.com/2013/09/26/wor...](#) [pic.twitter.com/HBEIN9IZQI](#)
[View photo](#)
-  **yek keme** @yekeme 31m
Since world war 2 #charles Taylor is the 1st former leader to b prosecuted by the Int'l court of #justice #AJazeeraAmerica #AC360Later
Expand
-  **PaPier Scheveningen** @PaPierSchevenin 32m
@BarackObama U.N. is more important. Seen **Charles Taylor**? A warning for leaders, not to kill own population. U.N, must show power!
[View conversation](#)

-  **El dre** @Darellait 37m
Is Blossom Taylor **Charles Taylor's** Daughter As She Claims?
goo.gl/fb/BFUXO
Expand
-  **Tobe** @TobeDadiva 37m
"@gugbai: Paddi mi how are u? "@TobeDadiva: And that is that for **Charles Taylor**" wwhhhiiiizzzzzz...I dey kamkpe
Expand
-  **henrysadowy** @2tired2retire 37m
@theGeorgeWB Now that **Charles Taylor** gets life for Sierra Leone war crimes it's time to prosecute BUSH and CHENEY.
mail.google.com/mail/?null&ui=...
Expand
-  **Elias Muñoz** @VKekos 37m
#Anzoategui Condenan al expresidente liberiano **Charles Taylor** a 50 años de cárcel bit.ly/1h6qrtz #Barcelona
Expand
-  **La Naranja** @la_naranja1 37m
Condenan al expresidente liberiano **Charles Taylor** a 50 años de cárcel: "La condena de Taylor envía un mensaje ... bit.ly/1h6qrtz
Expand
-  **Noticias 24/7** @noti24_7 37m
Condenan al expresidente liberiano **Charles Taylor** a 50 años de cárcel: "La condena de Taylor envía un mensaje ... bit.ly/1h6qrtz
Expand
-  **UN Radio** @UN_Radio 40m
UN chief welcomes Appeals Chamber judgment in the **Charles Taylor** Case bit.ly/195jwvC
Expand
-  **Foreign Affairs Cmte** @HFACDemocrats 41m
An important day for #Justice: #**Charles Taylor's** 50 year sentence for war crimes against the people of Sierra Leone has been upheld.
Expand
-  **~Limite Del;Diablo*X** @Oyepedro_x3 41m
Charles Taylor se convierte en el primer líder africano condenado por un tribunal internacional: EFE Se consid... bit.ly/14M5GAU
[View summary](#)
-  **MoZaRisTa** @_PEPI04 41m
Charles Taylor se convierte en el primer líder africano condenado por un tribunal internacional: EFE Se considera que fue cómplice de...
Expand
-  **taritha sari** @tartararitha 41m
Today's decision on **Charles Taylor** clearly affirms that NO ONE is above the law. Juuuuuujustice!
Expand
-  **Johannes Wheeldon** @JusticeLawDev 42m
Charles Taylor war crimes convictions upheld.
m.bbc.co.uk/news/world-afr...
Expand

-  **Joel Allotey** @JCallotey 43m
10 years of war, 70,000 killed, millions displaced. 50 years, equivalent to a life sentence, is just. #**Charles Taylor**
Expand
-  **LKNA Sitole** @NATIV3Skull 43m
Dstv will make you refuse sleep as you slumber with burning eyes trying watch news saying **Charles Taylor** gonna serve his sentence in Britain
Expand
-  **Blobic Argentina** @blobicargentina 43m
Confirman 50 años de cárcel para el ex presidente liberiano **Charles Taylor** bit.ly/15WGhW4
Expand
-  **MOHAMEDALI CHAMKHIA** @MACTUNISIANO 43m
50 ans de prison pour #**Charles Taylor** tixup.com/international-...
Expand
-  **IRP Part Two (Robot)** @IRP_Robot 43m
War Crimes Sentence Upheld Against Liberian Ex-President: **Charles Taylor** had been given a 50-year prison term ... n.pr/19KKwWB
[View summary](#)
-  **Aorta Rock Official** @AortaRock 44m
War Crimes Sentence Upheld Against Liberian Ex-President: **Charles Taylor** had been given a 50-year prison term for aiding and abetting...
Expand
-  **Just Security** @just_security 9m
Prof Van Schaack: #**Charles Taylor** Jdgmt and new liability rules for aid to rebels? bit.ly/19DgiBM @santaciaralaw #SCSL @SpecialCourt
Expand
-  **AthensOf Africa Blog** and 68 others followed you 13m
-  **24-Hour News Source** @Skibabs 28m
Decision today by @SpecialCourt for #SierraLeone to uphold **Charles Taylor** conviction = major step 4 justice, accountability & reconciliation
Expand
-  **Elies van Sliedregt** favorited your Tweet 1h
10h: Hague - Read the Prosecutor's press release on the Taylor appeal judgement: sc-sl.org/LinkClick.aspx...
 **Lesley Anne Warner** @lestey_warner 1h
"Most" war criminals, that is RT @NSCPres: @SpecialCourt's decision sends a clear message: war criminals cannot operate with impunity
[View conversation](#)
-  **PresMalfesanceActs** @_Principal 1h
@NSCPres @SpecialCourt
Sure as within the USA WILL NEVER BE PROSECUTED NOR CONVICTED – as you know. Instead accuser will be discredited.
[View conversation](#)
-  **Lorrie Cellini** @LCellini 1h
All WAR CRIMINALS Should Be Tried, CONVICTED And Sent Away To ROT In Either #GITMO, #BAGRAM or #AbuGhraib @NSCPres @SpecialCourt
-

Special Court Supplement
The Taylor Appeal Judgement, in Pictures
Thursday, 26 September 2013

