

**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, 28 September 2012

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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Local News

... Former Acting Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone / *Standard Times* Pages 3-4

President Koroma Appoints Justice Kamanda / *Global Times* Page 5

Standard Times
Friday, 28 September 2012

Joseph Kamara Speaks... Former Acting Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

(Courtesy Angela Stavrianou,
The Hague in the MONITOR)

(PART 2)

BY: ISSA. B.M. KAMARA

In previous editions I presented to you "ADMISSABILITY OF HEARSAY EVIDENCE IN THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE" courtesy Angela Stavrianou in the MONITOR.

Today, I have decided to remind you of something close to the minds of many Sierra Leoneans who went through the brutal rebel war and its resultant disastrous consequences as concerns the about concluded trial of Charles Taylor. There have been mixed feelings on the outcome of the ruling and the sentence imposed on Charles Taylor. Well whatever the various views expressed both nationally, sub-regionally and even internationally, one will like to bring to you that during the trial of Charles Taylor, a Sierra Leonean born Joseph Kamara, acting Prosecutor for the Special Court of Sierra Leone in an interview with Angela Stavrianou elucidated as concerns hearsay evidence. Read part one of the interview below.

"Interview with Joseph Kamara Former Acting Prosecutor For the Special Court for Sierra Leone

CARL: *What do you think the Special Court has achieved to date, both in Sierra Leone and in terms of International Criminal Law?*

Kamara: The Special Court has achieved so much for Sierra Leone, and for the sub-region. Let's start with what it has done to ensure peace.

Without the Special Court, none of the leaders of the rebel groups that tore this country apart would have ever faced justice. They would be free to walk the streets of the country's cities and towns with impunity. In the Lome Peace Accord., the former rebel leader Foday Sankoh was made Vice President and the RUF gained control over the country's diamond mining areas. And we all know the violence that occurred after this accord.

Who can say with confidence there would have been no return to the violence and suffering brought by these leaders?

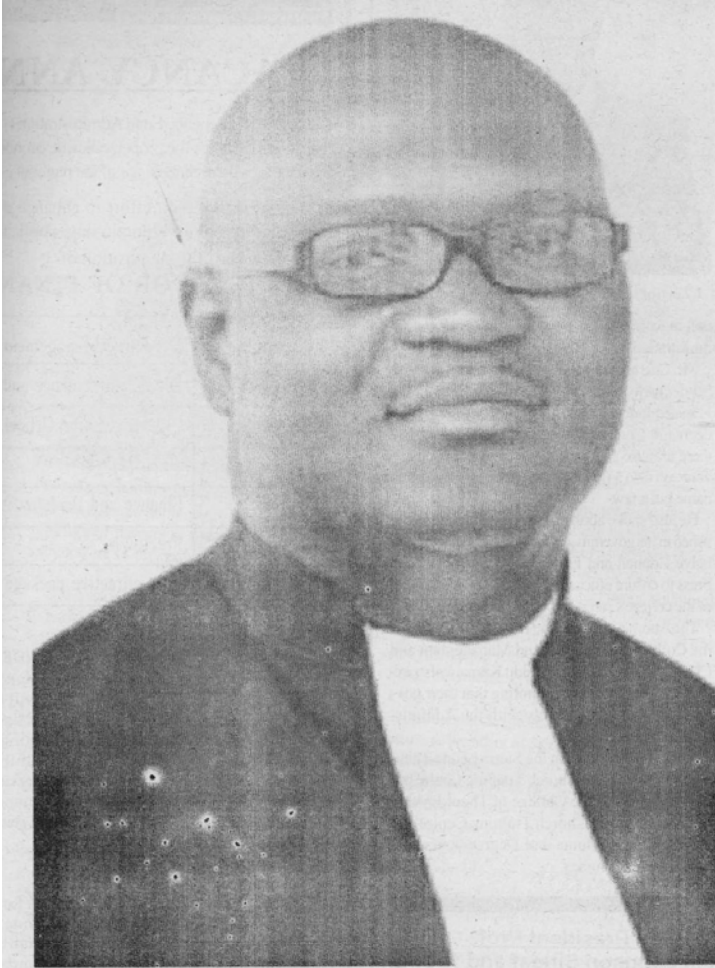
Further, Charles Taylor would today be a free man in the sub-region, and free to plan as he wished in Liberia and for Sierra Leone, instead of facing justice in a court of law for the crimes he is accused of.

You cannot put a price on peace, and you cannot put a price on justice. The work of the Court has been one of the reasons Sierra Leone and even Liberia has been able to move forward since the dark days of the war.

The BBC and the Special Court have both conducted public opinion surveys, and the results show that the majority of Sierra Leonean strongly support the work of the Court. They believe it has made a difference to their lives and to the country.



Author



The Court has also greatly encouraged the respect for the rule of law domestically, and has spread knowledge of the importance of this principle throughout the country. The Outreach department has been key in this regard, spreading the message of the Court's work and its principles to every city and town in the country.

The Court has also undertaken activities designed to leave behind a positive legacy. The hope of the SCSL and the OTP is that it has and will achieve something far beyond its mandate and impart skills, legal and non-legal principles and even infrastructure to the country.

One area where this legacy is being ensured is in the trainings the SCSL provides. Hundreds of police officers, lawyer, students and even Parliamentarians and judges have attended seminars or received trainings on a wide variety of topics, from International Humanitarian Law to criminal investigations practices.

As far as International Law the list of key precedents established by the Court is truly impressive: the world's first recognitions of the use of child soldiers and of forced marriage as crimes under international humanitarian law, and the first ever convictions on these charges; the first-ever convictions on the charge of Attacks on UN Peacekeeper. These rulings have the potential to help protect civilians and soldiers alike in the conflict zones of the world.

Finally, the example of the Charles Taylor on trial, like Slobodan Milosevic at the Yugoslavia tribunal before him, shows that no man is above the law.

It shows that when it comes to indicted accused war criminals, it's not a question of if they will face justice, but when.

CARL: What is the Prosecution's timeline for the Cross-Examination of Taylor?

Kamara: We are going to try and be as efficient as we can, while still doing justice to our need to effectively challenge Mr. Taylor on the truthfulness of his testimony. We do not intend to take as long as the 13 weeks the Defence took for the direct-examination.

How directly or evasively Mr. Taylor chooses to answer our questions will be a significant factor in how quickly we can proceed.

The judges' 30 November ruling affirmed the Prosecution's right under the established principles of international law to use new materials to impeach the credibility of the Accused. We've already tested the credibility of Mr. Taylor's claims on a number of fronts, and our cross has only just begun, he challenged us to bring forth evidence of the wealth he accumulated while in power. We were pleased to do this. And throughout our cross we will confront his claim that he was a peacemaker in Sierra Leone. Our evidence shows just the opposite.

CARL: What is the proposed use of the Special Court facilities in Freetown following the trial?

Kamara: Discussions are ongoing between the Court, the Government, and also the international community, but no final decisions have yet been reached. One aspect of the Court that has already been determined is the former prison facility for the inditees who have now all been transferred to Rwanda. That facility has been transferred over to the Government for their own use as a prison facility for women and possibly for younger offenders. As for the rest of the Court, one of the possibilities is to use it as a judicial training facility, possibly for the ECOWAS countries. There is also a planned museum and/or memorial of some kind on the Court premises that will be open to the public. This will focus on the civil war and to a smaller extent on the history of the work of the Court and the cases.

CARL: Who are you expecting the Defence to call in support of their case?

Kamara: Although they have filed summaries for some 260 witnesses and loudly proclaimed their preference for a public trial during the Prosecution case in chief, the Defence successfully applied to keep the names of those witnesses hidden from the Prosecution until 21 days before each witness testifies. So, to date, the Prosecution is only aware of the names of few Defence witnesses in addition to the Accused. We hope that however many witnesses they are allowed to call, the Defence proceed with their case in an efficient and responsible manner, as the Prosecution, sought to do during its case.



Charles Taylor

President Koroma **Appoints Justice Kamanda**

The Global Times can authoritatively reveal today that President Ernest Bai Koroma has finally decided to choose Justice John Mondeh Kamanda, as his Running Mate for crucial elections scheduled for November 17.

Justice John Mondeh Kamanda of the Special Court for Sierra Leone served as Member of Parliament for Kono Central in the late eighties. He was later appointed Minister of Health and Sanitation by former President Joseph Saidu Momoh.

Justice John Mondeh Kamanda is a Christian and a household name in

Kono. He is believed to be older than President Ernest Bai Koroma. Many people in the country are wondering why, President Ernest Bai Koroma a Christian, has finally settled down to appoint a Christian as his Running Mate in a country that is seventy percent Muslim dominated.

The official announcement is expected this weekend, according to a Senior Presidential Adviser at State House. Meanwhile, it is not immediately known whether or not President Koroma has formally communicated his decision with his loyal Vice President Chief Samuel Sam Sumana.