



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 1 July 2011

Initial Appearance for Five Accused of Contempt Will Take Place July 15

Five persons accused of contempt have been ordered to appear before the Special Court in Freetown on July 15 to plead to charges they attempted to interfere with Prosecution witnesses.

Hassan Papa Bangura, aka “Bomblast” and Samuel Kargbo, aka “Sammy Ragga”, are ordered to appear before Justice Teresa Doherty at 9:00 a.m., while convicted former Armed Forces Revolutionary Front (AFRC) leaders Ibrahim Bazy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu, aka “Five-Five”, are ordered to participate in the proceedings by video link from Rwanda. All four are charged with two counts of attempting to bribe a witness to recant testimony given in the AFRC trial. Kamara faces an additional count of disclosing the name of a protected witness “in knowing violation of an order of a Chamber”.

Eric Senessie is ordered to appear in court at 12:00 p.m. to plead to a nine count order in lieu of an indictment. He is charged with nine counts of attempting to induce Prosecution witnesses in the Taylor trial to recant testimony given before the Court in The Hague.

The Special Court’s Defence Office has assisted the Accused in securing legal representation.

If convicted of contempt under Rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Accused could face a prison sentence of up to seven years, a fine of up to two million leones (approximately \$500), or both.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

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