



SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PRESS RELEASE

The Hague, 12 November 2010

The Special Court Prosecutor welcomes the end of the Defence Case

Prosecutor Brenda J. Hollis today welcomed the end of the evidence phase of the trial as an “important step towards the completion of the Charles Taylor Trial”.

The Prosecutor echoed the appreciation of the Presiding Judge in thanking the staff of the Court for their hard work in moving the trial forward. Prosecutor Hollis looked forward to what she hoped would be a fair and expeditious completion of the trial process.

Prosecutor Hollis also expressed thanks to all the witnesses who testified during both the Prosecution and the Defence phases of the trial. “Their courage and willingness to take the stand and bear witness has been an inspiration. We in the Prosecution have always said that we fight for justice in the name of the victims, but they are the ones who have truly made justice possible”.

The Prosecution closed their case in February 2009 reopening briefly in August 2010 to hear the evidence of three additional witnesses. The Prosecutor explained, “we closed our case when we felt we had presented sufficient evidence to prove it, and now it is for the judges to decide, based on all the evidence, whether we have met our burden of proof.”

Prosecutor Hollis said now the parties would turn their focus to completing the final written submissions due in January.

#END

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