

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Freetown, 19 May 2005

### **Prosecutor Reacts to New Report on Charles Taylor's Activities from Exile**

Prosecutor David M Crane today renewed his call for the international community to finally put an end to Charles Taylor's career of destabilising West Africa. His comments follow an investigative report published yesterday by the Washington-based Coalition for International Justice, titled "Following Taylor's Money: A Path of War and Destruction".

"From exile, Charles Taylor has appointed officials to the Liberian embassy in Nigeria, wired \$160,000 to supporters in Monrovia last October to instigate riots that ended up killing 14 people, and continues to profit from businesses in Liberia and an extensive criminal network around the world. I don't understand how anyone can still argue that his continued stay in Nigeria somehow serves the interests of Liberian peace. CIJ's report makes clear that when it comes to Charles Taylor, the interests of peace and justice have never been more closely joined," said Mr Crane.

"The international community delivered Taylor to Nigeria in order to allow the Liberian peace process to begin. Now the international community has a duty to support Nigeria in the immediate delivery of Taylor to the Special Court in the interest of saving the Liberian peace process. This cannot wait until after Liberian elections. With Taylor bankrolling friendly candidates, further delay risks returning Liberia to rule by his cronies," Mr Crane said.

Charles Taylor faces a 17-count indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the conflict in Sierra Leone. The charges include terrorising the civilian population, unlawful killings, sexual violence, physical violence, forced conscription of child soldiers, abductions, forced labour, looting and burning, and attacks on UN peacekeeping personnel.

The Prosecutor indicted Charles Taylor on 3 March 2003, and unsealed the indictment on 4 June 2003. Official copies of the indictment and warrant of arrest were delivered to the Nigerian government by the Court's Registry on 27 November 2003, and the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL) issued a "Red Notice" for Charles Taylor on 3 December 2003. On 31 May 2004, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone rejected a motion filed by attorneys for Taylor, who sought to have the charges against him thrown out on the grounds that Taylor was a sitting head of state at the time of the indictment.

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. To date, the Prosecutor has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes,

crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.  
Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.

#END

Produced by the  
Office of the Prosecutor  
Special Court for Sierra Leone  
Email: SCSL-Prosecutor-Press@un.org

Visit the Special Court's website at [www.sc-sl.org](http://www.sc-sl.org)