



**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 13 May 2010**

**Taylor Trial to Move to STL Courtroom**

The Special Court's trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor will relocate on 17 May from the International Criminal Court's (ICC) courtroom in The Hague to a newly-constructed courtroom in nearby Leidschendam built for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL).

The move, under a memorandum of understanding between the Special Court and the STL, is an acknowledgement of the increasing scheduling difficulties with ICC trials. Under the agreement, the Special Court will pay for all trial-related costs. Mr. Taylor's trial continues to be conducted by the Special Court.

The Special Court held its last trial hearing at the ICC on Wednesday, 12 May.

The Taylor trial was transferred to The Hague in 2006 due to concerns, expressed in UN Security Council Res. 1688, that a trial in Freetown would have security implications for the subregion. The trial is currently in the Defence phase.

Special Court Registrar Binta Mansaray said the Court is grateful to the ICC for the role it played in facilitating the Taylor trial.

"We appreciate the ICC's cooperation and support for the use of their facilities over the past three years," Ms. Mansaray said. "The scheduling challenges are a sign of the ICC's progress in implementing their own mandate. We wish them success in their work."

Ms. Mansaray said that Charles Taylor will continue to be housed at the ICC's detention facility Scheveningen for the duration of the trial.

The trial is open to the public. Directions to the new facility, and a schedule of trial sittings, are posted on the Court's website at <http://www.sc-sl.org>

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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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