

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

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Date:	29 May 2007	Case No: SCSL-03-01-PT	The Prosecutor v Charles Ghankay Taylor					
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THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

In Trial Chamber II

Before:

Justice Julia Sebutinde, Presiding

Justice Richard Lussick Justice Teresa Doherty

Justice El Hadji Malick Sow, Alternate

Registrar:

Mr. Herman von Hebel, Acting Registrar

Date:

29 May 2007

Case No.:

SCSL-2003-01-PT

THE PROSECUTOR

-v-

CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR

URGENT & PUBLIC

DEFENCE REPLY TO REGISTRAR'S SUBMISSION PURSUANT TO RULE 33(B)
RELATING TO THE DEFENCE MOTION PURSUANT TO RULE 54
REQUESTING ORDER TO COURT MANAGEMENT
TO ACCEPT FILING AND SERVE HARD COPIES OF ALL FILINGS
ON THE PARTIES IN THE HAGUE IMMEDIATELY

Office of the Prosecution

Ms. Brenda Hollis

Ms. Wendy van Tongeren

Ms. Ann Sutherland

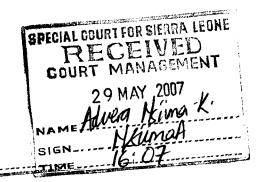
Ms. Shyamala Alagendra

Mr. Alain Werner

Ms. Leigh Lawrie

Counsel for Charles Taylor

Mr. Karim A. A. Khan Mr. Roger Sahota



I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the Trial Chamber's Order for Expedited Filing of 28 May 2007,¹ the Defence for Mr. Charles Taylor ("Defence") file the following reply to the Registrar's Submission Pursuant to Rule 33(B) Relating to the Defence Motion Pursuant to Rule 54 Requesting Order to Court Management to Accept Filing and Serve Hard Copies of All Filings on the Parties in the Hague Immediately, dated 28 May 2007 ("Submission").²

II. Reply to the Registrar's Submissions

- 2. The Defence appreciate that the Acting Registrar acknowledges the numerous problems the Defence has encountered in recent weeks in attempting to receive proper service of Court documents.³
- 3. The Defence also welcome the conclusion reached by the Acting Registrar, in that he suggests time limits be suspended until receipt of documents by the parties, which are to be served in hard copies to the Parties in The Hague on 30 May 2007.⁴ However, the Defence wish to clarify that there are problems with documents dated from 14 May 2007, not just from 17 May 2007 as the Acting Registrar submits.⁵ For instance, the Defence have yet to be served electronically or physically the Expert Witness Motion filed 15 May 2007.⁶
- 4. The Defence reiterate its submission that having a filing system in place in The Hague by the first week of June⁷ is too late, given the 4 June 2007 start date and the voluminous

¹ Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-258, Order for Expedited Filing, 28 May 2007.

² Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-259, Registrar's Submission Pursuant to Rule 33(B) Relating to the Defence Motion Pursuant to Rule 54 Requesting Order to Court Management to Accept Filing and Serve Hard Copies of All Filings on the Parties in the Hague Immediately, 28 May 2007.

³ Submission, para. 11.

⁴ Submission, paras. 12, 13.

⁵ See *Prosecutor v. Taylor*, SCSL-03-01-PT-250, Defence Motion Pursuant to Rule 54 Requesting Order to Court Management to Accept Filings and Serve Hard Copies of All Filings on the Parties in The Hague Immediately, 23 May 2007, para. 11 ("Motion").

⁶ Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-238, Expert Witness Motion, 15 May 2007.

⁷ Submission, para. 13(ii).

Prosecution submissions. The Defence has been significantly prejudiced in preparing for trial.⁸

- 5. For instance, the Defence note that one of the problematic filings, which triggered the initial Defence Motion requesting an Order to Court Management and which was included in the Trial Chamber's Order for Expedited Filing, was deficiently served on the Defence in hard copy in The Hague on 28 May 2007. The "Court Service Form 3 Proof of Service in The Hague" cover sheet states that various pages of the Opening Statement Motion are "inelligible" [sic]. Thus the Defence still does not have a complete and legible copy of the Opening Statement Motion.
- 6. Furthermore, the Order for Expedited Filing was only served on the Defence in hard copy in The Hague today, 29 May 2007, after time to respond had expired.¹¹ The Defence recognize that they did receive electronic service of the Order yesterday, but only 17 minutes before the imposed deadline.¹²
- 7. The Defence is aware that the Trial Chamber is fully congizant of its primary responsibility to ensure a fair trial in accordance with Article 17 of the Special Court Statute. Accordingly, the Defence accept that it cannot have been the intention of the Trial Chamber to railroad or bully an already harassed Defence team, struggling to discharge their own rather grave responsibilities, under very difficult conditions, in the context of well-catalogued litany of complaints.

⁸ Motion, paras. 5, 7.

⁹ Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-239, Urgent and Public Prosecution's Motion for Admission of Material Pursuant to Rule 89(C) and Rule 92bis for Use During Opening Statement, 16 May 2007.

¹⁰ See Court Service – Form 3 – Proof of Service in The Hague, 28 May 2007 [Annex A]. The Defence assumes that "inelligible" means "unintelligible" or "illegible".

¹¹ See Court Service – Form 3 – Proof of Service in The Hague, 29 May 2007 [Annex B].

¹² Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-261, Defence Motion Requesting Reconsideration of 28 May 2007 Order for Expedited Filing, 28 May 2007, para. 3; Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-262, Defence Reply to the "Prosecution's Response to 'Defence Motion Requesting Leave for Charles Ghankay Taylor to Give an Unsworn Statement from the Dock'," served 26 May 2007, 28 May 2007, para. 2.

III. Conclusion

- 8. The Defence maintains the original request that the Trial Chamber order Court Management to:
 - i. Accept electronic filing in The Hague as soon as practicable; and
 - ii. Serve all of the recent Prosecution Motions (those dated 14 May 2007 onward) on the Defence in The Hague in hard copy, after which time the clock will start running for the Defence to respond.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karim A. A. Khan

Lead Counsel for Mr. Charles Taylor

Dated this 29th Day of May 2007

Table of Authorities

Prosecutor v. Taylor

Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-239, Urgent and Public Prosecution's Motion for Admission of Material Pursuant to Rule 89(C) and Rule 92bis for Use During Opening Statement, 16 May 2007

Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-250, Defence Motion Pursuant to Rule 54 Requesting Order to Court Management to Accept Filings and Serve Hard Copies of All Filings on the Parties in The Hague Immediately, 23 May 2007

Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-258, Order for Expedited Filing, 28 May 2007

Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-259, Registrar's Submission Pursuant to Rule 33(B) Relating to the Defence Motion Pursuant to Rule 54 Requesting Order to Court Management to Accept Filing and Serve Hard Copies of All Filings on the Parties in the Hague Immediately, 28 May 2007

Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-261, Defence Motion Requesting Reconsideration of 28 May 2007 Order for Expedited Filing, 28 May 2007

Prosecutor v. Taylor, SCSL-03-01-PT-262, Defence Reply to the "Prosecution's Response to 'Defence Motion Requesting Leave for Charles Ghankay Taylor to Give an Unsworn Statement from the Dock'," served 26 May 2007, 28 May 2007

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SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

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URGENT AND PUBLIC PROSECUTION'S MOTION FOR ADMISSION OF MATERIAL PURSUANT TO RULE 89(C) AND 92BIS FOR USE DURING OPENING STATEMENT

(Attachments 1 – 11)



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ORDER FOR EXPEDITED FILING