



**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DEFENDER**  
JOMO KENYATTA ROAD • FREETOWN • SIERRA LEONE  
PHONE: +39 0831 257000 or +232 22 297000 or +39 083125 (+Ext)  
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### INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Karim Khan, Assigned and Lead Counsel to Mr. Taylor

From: Vincent O. Nmehielle, Principal Defender of the Special Court

Date: 01 June 2007

Subject: Re: Concerns Regarding the Trial of Mr. Taylor

Your letter of 28 May 2007 to me on the above subject refers. In your said letter, you recount a number of logistical and other difficulties that you are encountering in putting up a formidable defence on behalf of Mr. Taylor and called upon me as Principal Defender of the Special Court to intervene in ensuring the rights of Mr. Taylor in accordance the stipulation of Rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Special Court.

As you are well aware, I have made every effort and taken every necessary step within my mandate as Principal Defender under the Rules of Procedure and Evidence to ensure that Mr. Taylor's case is properly serviced in the realization of the Article 17 rights of the accused under the Special Court's Statute. Unfortunately, I have increasingly been prevented from performing my role. Of late, the Registry has inhibited my ability to function as Principal Defender.

You would recall that Mr. Taylor recently requested to consult with me on a number of his concerns, but my authorized request to travel to consult with Mr. Taylor was denied, cancelled, or revoked and continues to be denied despite the admonition of the Honourable Trial Chamber that in that regard during the Pre-trial Conference of 7 May 2007.

I am regularly reminded that the Office of the Principal Defender is under the Registry and not administratively independent. While this is correct in the structure of the Special Court, it has long been settled that the Principal Defender and the Defence Office act independently of the Registry in the performance of their legal duties in the interest of the rights of the accused. Unfortunately, that has of late been whittled away. I have always maintained that the credibility of the process at the Special Court would be measured by how the Defence of the accused is treated, among other things.

Having recently been inhibited and prevented by the Registry from performing my mandated role in the Charles Taylor trial, despite having passionately performed that role in the Freetown trials for the last two years, I find it increasingly difficult to assist you with your concerns.



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You may wish to engage the Registry directly regarding your concerns.

Kind regards.