

## CHARLES TAYLOR TRIAL REPORT (May 5 – May 22, 2008)

### Overview

This report provides a summary of key themes and strategies of the Prosecution and Defense teams in *The Prosecutor vs. Charles Ghankay Taylor* case during the period from May 5 to May 22, 2008. It also provides a summary of decisions handed down by the Special Court in this case during the month of May. This report concludes with a general summary of key testimony of Prosecution witnesses. Please visit <http://www.scsl.org/taylor-transcripts.html> to access the official transcripts from the proceedings. Previous trial reports are available at <http://charlestaylortrial.org/trial-reports/>.

From May 5 to May 22, the Prosecution called four witnesses (three linkage witnesses and one crime-base witness):

1. TFI-028 (crime-base witness)
2. Karmoh Kanneh (linkage witness)
3. Moses Blah (linkage witness)
4. Samuel Kargbo (linkage witness)

One of the most publicized witnesses was Taylor's former vice-president, Moses Blah. The Special Court announced on May 8 that he would testify before the Special Court. Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp conducted his first direct examination in the case when he questioned Blah from May 14 to May 16.

These witnesses provided testimony on a variety of subjects, including atrocities committed by rebel groups in Sierra Leone, meetings among high-level RUF commanders under the alleged instruction and direction of Charles Taylor, and the alleged provision of arms from Liberia to rebel groups in Sierra Leone. The Defense team attempted to discredit witness testimony linking Taylor to atrocities committed in Sierra Leone and challenged each witness's credibility.

### Prosecution Themes and Strategies

Throughout its examinations of TFI-028, Karmoh Kanneh, Moses Blah, and Samuel Kargbo, the Prosecution sought to (1) detail the atrocities committed in Sierra Leone, (2) link Taylor to crimes committed in Sierra Leone, and (3) emphasize the role of diamonds and guns in the conflict.

(1) Details of the Harms Inflicted by RUF Forces. TFI-028 described graphic scenes of beatings, mutilations, rapes, and murders. For example, TFI-028 described the attacks she suffered under the AFRC/RUF rebels when she attempted to escape and how the rebels caught her at the edge of the village, stripped her naked, tied her up, and beat her with a sword. She also stated that she believed the only reason she was not murdered was because a soldier intervened

to save her life so that he could later rape her.

(2) Linking Taylor to Crimes. The Prosecution used linkage witnesses Kanneh, Blah, and Kargbo to connect Taylor to the crimes committed in Sierra Leone. The Prosecution has sought to establish a chain of command between Taylor and high-level commanders in the AFRC/RUF alliance. The Prosecution has also sought testimony to prove Taylor's knowledge of atrocities committed in Sierra Leone. Pertinent testimony included:

- Kanneh testified that Taylor spoke directly to RUF troops and ordered their attack on Sierra Leone. In addition, Kanneh testified that Sam Bockarie ("Mosquito") and Daniel Tamba ("Jungle") spoke directly to Taylor over a satellite telephone.
- Kargbo testified about conversations over a landline and satellite telephone that occurred between Koroma and Taylor. Kargbo stated that "Charles Taylor was the godfather for the RUF, so whatever the situation was we needed to call him to let him know that that was what was going on."
- Blah explained that as inspector general he was not permitted to investigate crimes against civilians committed by Taylor's Executive Mansion's Guard unit. He also described a meeting where Foday Sankoh implored Taylor to stop Liberians from looting, murdering, and raping Sierra Leoneans and Taylor responded with indifference.

(3) The Role of Diamonds and Guns. The Prosecution emphasized the role of diamonds and guns in the conflict. Specifically, the Prosecution sought to establish that Taylor profited from the mining of diamonds and provided arms and ammunition to forces in exchange for these diamonds. Testimony regarding the role of diamonds and guns in this conflict included:

- Kanneh testified about a meeting where Bockarie said that Taylor ordered Bockarie and General Ibrahim Bah to meet with the president of Burkina Faso to obtain ammunition. Kanneh then discussed Bockarie's return from Burkina Faso with AK-47s, G3s, hand grenades, mines, RPG rockets, RPG tubes, G3 rounds, and fatigues.
- Kargbo testified about the transport of ammunition by Bockarie, "Jungle," and members of Taylor's Special Security Service.
- Kanneh further testified about his role in packaging diamonds at Bockarie's residence. According to Kanneh, Bockarie and "Jungle" would report to Taylor by satellite telephone about the quantity of diamonds packaged. Kanneh said he heard Taylor thank Bockarie and tell Bockarie to give the diamonds to "Jungle" so that he could bring them to Taylor.
- Kargbo also discussed diamond mining operations in Sierra Leone and stated that he had seen the diamonds at AFRC/RUF Supreme Council meetings.

## **Defense Themes and Strategies**

Throughout its cross-examinations of TFI-028, Karmoh Kanneh, Moses Blah, and Samuel Kargbo, the Defense sought to (1) challenge evidence that fell outside the scope of Taylor's indictment, (2) weaken allegations of Taylor's involvement with the RUF, (3) and undermine the witness's credibility. To undermine the witness's credibility, the Defense emphasized prior inconsistent statements made to the Prosecution and the Special Court and "new" information that witnesses had never before spoken about with the Prosecution. The Defense also implied

that the Prosecution was coaching its witnesses to testify about specific issues, noted that certain witness testimony was potentially false or incomplete, and implicated one witness in the alleged crimes.

(1) Challenging Evidence Outside the Scope of the Indictment: The Defense continued to challenge the introduction of evidence that exceeds the temporal or jurisdictional mandates of the Special Court. During TFI-028's testimony, Defense Counsel Morris Anyah objected to evidence concerning crimes that were not charged in Taylor's indictment. Lead Prosecutor Brenda Hollis argued that the evidence was relevant and admissible in part to show that there was a campaign of terror as opposed to isolated acts by rogue commanders. Hollis stated that evidence of additional crimes spoke to Taylor's intent, knowledge, and awareness that crimes were occurring in Sierra Leone. After brief deliberation, Presiding Judge Teresa Doherty concluded that the evidence was relevant.

(2) Weakening Taylor's Connections to Atrocities: The Defense used cross-examination to undermine alleged connections between Taylor and the RUF.

- When questioned by Defense Counsel Munyard, Kanneh testified that there had been no relationship between Taylor and the RUF between mid-1992 and 1996 and agreed that ULIMO controlled the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia from mid-1992 until the Liberian elections in 1997.
- To undermine the notion that Taylor was engaged in military operations in Sierra Leone, Defense Counsel Griffiths underscored Blah's prominence in Taylor's government and then elicited testimony to demonstrate that Blah had no first-hand knowledge of Taylor's involvement in military operations in or financial support of the RUF.

(3) Undermining Witness Credibility: The Defense sought to undermine each witness's credibility by underscoring prior inconsistent statements, refuting new testimony, questioning the witness's relationship with the Prosecution and connecting one witness, Blah, to the alleged crimes.

Inconsistent Prior Statements: In questioning witnesses about their prior inconsistent statements, the Defense team noted that the Prosecution read statements back to the witnesses to ensure their accuracy and that each witness participated in "proofing sessions" in which they could make corrections to their statements.

- Defense Counsel Anyah confronted TFI-028 with inconsistent testimony regarding whether commander Tito came with commander SAJ Musa's group to Colonel Eddie Town, whether "Five-Five" was in command after Musa's death, the exact number of soldiers in the Red Lion Battalion, and the length of time the witness and the juntas spent in Mandahar.
- Defense Counsel Munyard confronted Kanneh with numerous inconsistencies, including statements regarding when the witness was fighting in Liberia and Guinea and for how long; when the witness left the RUF; the witness's rank within the RUF, time of promotion, and who he was promoted by; whether diamonds taken to Liberia were seized from civilians at checkpoints when Bockarie was in charge of mining;

whether the witness became a mining supervisor in Tongo; the circumstances surrounding the witness's trips to Liberia for arms and ammunition, and the number of times he traveled to Monrovia; how many times the witness saw "ZigZag" Marzah in RUF territory; whether Issa Sesay passed an order to the witness from Taylor not to allow disarmament in Kailahun; the circumstances of B.S. Massaquoi's arrest and death; and the number of rebel commanders who attended a meeting at Bockarie's house in December 1998.

New Testimony: The Defense pointedly noted each instance a witness offered additional testimony to that provided in previous statements.

- Defense Counsel Anyah noted that TFI-028 had not mentioned the Red Lion Battalion to prosecutors in her first interview in 2003, that she did not note that members of the Red Lion Battalion were Liberians when she testified in the RUF trial in 2006, and that she had not mentioned the murder of her brother or the rape of her niece in Mandahar prior to her current testimony.
- Defense Counsel Munyard questioned why Kanneh never told the Prosecution during previous interviews about Taylor's speech to RUF troops at Bomi Hills, formation of the Black Gaddafa group, the plot to kill SAJ Musa, or Bockarie and Taylor's planned invasion of Freetown.
- Defense Counsel Munyard noted that Kanneh testified that he had seen "Zigzag" Marzah eating human flesh in 1998 even though this information is not in his previous statements to the Prosecution. Munyard suggested that Kanneh had first learned of Marzah's cannibalism through widespread news coverage of Marzah's gruesome testimony in this case in March.

Questioning the Witness's Relationship with the Prosecution: The Defense has sought to undermine witness credibility by noting that the Prosecution may be leading the witnesses' testimony. For example, both Kanneh and Kargbo were asked about their recent testimony regarding cannibalism and why they never mentioned cannibalism in prior statements to the Prosecution. The Defense implied that these witnesses only now testified about cannibalism due to urgings from the Prosecution following "ZigZag" Marzah's recent testimony. The Defense also suggested a possible improper relationship between the Prosecution and various witnesses. For example, Defense Counsel Munyard emphasized that Kanneh referred to Prosecutor Julia Bailey as "Auntie Julia," and Defense Counsel Griffiths methodically questioned Blah regarding payments he received following his interviews with the Prosecution.

Connecting the Witness to the Alleged Crimes: Defense Counsel Griffiths implied that Blah's close friendship and professional relationship with Taylor for over 20 years implicated Blah in the commission of alleged crimes. Griffiths emphasized Blah's insistence that the Prosecution grant him immunity before he would cooperate. Griffiths implicated Blah in Bockarie's murder by using autopsy reports to discredit Blah's description of Bockarie's body and by implying that it was Blah's responsibility to remove Bockarie from Liberia.

## Legal Issues

In May, the Special Court issued three decisions: two decisions on Prosecution motions for additional protective measures for certain witnesses and one decision on a defense motion for the disclosure of exculpatory material.

(1) Decisions on Prosecution Motions for Additional Protective Measures for Prosecution Witnesses.<sup>1</sup> In two related motions, the Prosecution requested additional protective measures, including voice and facial distortion, the use of a protective screen, and partially closed or private sessions for the testimony of nine Prosecution witnesses. The Prosecution argued that the existing pre-trial protective measures, such as the use of a pseudonym and delayed disclosure to the Defense, were not sufficient to ensure protection of witness identities. The Prosecution also argued that these witnesses feared they or their families would suffer retribution for testifying and that these fears had heightened since the trial's commencement.

The Defense countered that the Prosecution failed to identify specific evidence of the risks posed to particular witnesses, emphasizing that the rights of the accused must be balanced with the need for protective measures on a case-by-case basis. The Defense argued that the Prosecution failed to detail events or examples of threats to witnesses and relied on unidentified sources. The Defense concluded that the requested protective measures of facial and voice distortion "will result in an impression of 'in camera' justice for the Accused."

The Special Court, citing the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Court, acknowledged Taylor's right to a fair and public trial, as well as the Court's ability to order protective measures to ensure witness privacy and security. The Court ordered additional protective measures of image and voice distortion and a screen for eight of the nine witnesses. The Court ordered additional protective measures of image distortion and the use of the screen for one of the nine witnesses.

(2) Decision on Disclosure of Exculpatory Material.<sup>2</sup> The Defense requested that the Prosecution disclose exculpatory material in its possession for a particular Prosecution witness. Specifically, the Defense requested that the Prosecution conduct a search of communications with this witness; disclose exculpatory materials, including a letter by then Prosecutor Desmond de Silva to the witness; provide contact information for representatives or agents of the Prosecution, including a "confidential source" who contacted the witness; and disclose the names of any Prosecution witness granted immunity by the Prosecution or nation-state granting immunity due to involvement of the Office of the Prosecutor.

The Prosecution reiterated that it is not in possession of any exculpatory material subject to disclosure under Rule 68 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. With regard to allegations

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<sup>1</sup> Decision on Confidential and Urgent Prosecution Motion for Additional Protective Measures for Witnesses TFI-375, TFI-401, TFI-521, TFI-542, TFI-555, TFI-567, TFI-585 and TFI-590 and on Public and Confidential Prosecution Motion for Leave to Substitute Confidential Urgent Prosecution Motion SCSL-03-01-T-435 with Amended Motion, SCSL-03-01-T-498 (May 7, 2008); Decision on Confidential Urgent Prosecution Motion for Additional Protective Measures for Witnesses TFI-338 and TFI-579, SCSL-03-01-T-515 (May 22, 2008).

<sup>2</sup> Decision on Confidential Defence Motion for the Disclosure of Exculpatory Material Pursuant to Rule 68 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, SCSL-03-01-T-516 (May 22, 2008).

concerning the Prosecution's "confidential source," the Prosecution countered that "[t]he confidential source did not act as an agent or representative of the OTP . . . or discuss issues such as immunities, indemnities or amnesties with the witness on behalf of, or as an agent or representative of the OTP." The Prosecution argued that the Defense put forth unsubstantiated allegations that did not amount to a prima facie showing that such materials exist. The Prosecution also noted that it has not granted immunity to any witness, nor intervened regarding a grant of immunity in any jurisdiction.

The Court cited Rule 68, which requires that the Defense make a prima facie showing of the exculpatory character of the materials requested and a prima facie showing that the Prosecution has custody and control over such materials, and noted the Prosecution performed a search for records between the Prosecution and the witness and that the Prosecution disclosed the letter from de Silva. The Special Court dismissed the motion on all matters except disclosure of the name and contact information of the "confidential source" who contacted the witness. The Court noted that the "confidential source" arranged the initial meeting between the Prosecution and the witness and did so on behalf of the Prosecution, and that the Chief of Investigation's statements regarding the witness contradicted the witness's statements with regard to a meeting arranged by this "confidential source." The Court stated that Rule 68 required disclosure of this information because of its potential effect on the credibility of Prosecution evidence.

### **Witness Testimony**

(1) TFI-028 (crime-base witness). TFI-028, the Prosecution's 24th witness, is a 42-year-old Sierra Leonean woman who was abducted by "juntas" and forced to travel from Karina (Bombali District) to Freetown. The witness testified under protective measures and her identity was protected through the use of a screen and voice distortion.

The witness provided graphic accounts of beatings, rapes, and lootings that occurred during the invasion of junta forces into Karina following the 1998 ECOMOG intervention. Specifically, the witness described the beating of her brother and his son, the rapes of her two young nieces, and the looting of homes ("Operation Pay Yourself"). According to the witness, a subsequent invasion into Karina resulted in further looting, the rapes of the witness's daughter and niece, the setting of fires in nearby villages, and amputations of civilians. The witness described her attempted escape from the juntas and the attacks she suffered as a result of her attempted escape.

The witness then described a horrific scene of violence during her travels with the juntas from Karina to Freetown. In Mandahar, the rebels killed her younger brother by hacking him to death and raped women and girls, including the witness's niece. In Sandar Makulo, the witness testified about an incident where rebels tied up a boy and dragged him around like a goat on the ground, threatening to kill the boy. In Rosos, men took the witness and her two sisters as "wives" and continuously raped them.

The witness also testified about the arrival of RUF reinforcements when the rebel group reached Colonel Eddie Town. The witness said that approximately 100 well-armed Liberian and Sierra Leonean soldiers arrived in a group known as the Red Lions Battalion. The witness said members of the Red Lions Battalion wore red headbands, had "RUF" written on their guns in red

ink, and had “RUF” carved on their chests. The witness said that another large group of Sierra Leonean Army members arrived after the Red Lions Battalion with AFRC commander SAJ Musa.

According to the witness, the juntas eventually moved out of Colonel Eddie Town and went to Freetown. During this time, she witnessed numerous murders during her travels to Freetown. As military pressure on the rebels increased, the witness moved with them out of Freetown and eventually escaped. The witness testified that she came back to Karina to find that the rebels had raped her daughter, who gave birth to a baby and was never the same again. Her sister-in-law became hearing impaired due to rebel abuses.

Defense Counsel Anyah cross-examined this witness about the level of RUF involvement in atrocities and attempted to undermine her recollection of events. Anyah questioned the witness about who led the rebel groups and pointed out her inconsistent statements to the Prosecution and before the Special Court in separate proceedings. Anyah noted inconsistencies in the witness’s statements regarding the towns visited from Karina to Freetown and the length of time spent in each town. The witness denied having made these prior inconsistent statements.

(2) Karmoh Kanneh (linkage witness). The Prosecution’s 25th witness, Karmoh Kanneh, is a former member of the RUF. He was forcibly conscripted into the RUF and trained largely by members of Taylor’s NPFL. Foday Sankoh, leader and founder of the RUF, promoted the witness to Lieutenant and later Captain. Bockarie, a senior RUF commander, subsequently promoted Kanneh to Lieutenant Colonel and made him a battalion commander. Kanneh was previously identified as TF1-571 but waived protective measures and testified in open session.

Kanneh provided testimony regarding Taylor’s role in the RUF command structure. He discussed a speech Taylor gave to RUF troops in Bomi Hills, Liberia. According to Kanneh, Taylor told the RUF troops he had come with armaments and ammunition and that they should prepare to return to Sierra Leone. Taylor told one group of RUF soldiers, the “Black Gaddafi,” that their mission was to “sabotage the movement of the enemy in Sierra Leone” by setting up ambushes and making areas “fearful.” The witness said that Taylor and Sankoh ordered the troops to attack SLA and ULIMO forces, as well as capture civilians.

Kanneh recalled one eight-hour meeting convened by Bockarie with over 600 RUF commanders and fighters around June 1998. Bockarie reported he had just returned from seeing Taylor in Monrovia. During this meeting Bockarie discussed numerous items: (1) Taylor had promoted Bockarie to the rank of general; (2) the AFRC was now subordinate to the RUF; (3) Tamba (“Jungle”) would serve as Taylor’s representative before the RUF; (4) Taylor ordered the “Fitti Fata” mission to take over mining areas in Kono so the RUF could obtain money for materials; (5) Bockarie met with Blaise Compaore (President of Burkina Faso) to obtain ammunition; and (6) ammunition was needed to take Freetown from ECOMOG and free Sankoh from prison.

Kanneh also discussed a second meeting of senior RUF commanders in December 1998 at Bockarie’s house in Foya. During the meeting, the group discussed attacks to “clear” the area from Kono to Freetown to free Sankoh and overthrow President Kabbah (known as “Operation Free the Leader”). According to Kanneh, Bockarie and “Jungle” came to the meeting with arms

and ammunition for the mission and instructions from Taylor that Kono was the first target of the attack. During this meeting, senior RUF commanders discussed the disloyalty of SAJ Musa, an AFRC commander, who rejected orders from Bockarie with regard to the taking of Kono. Bockarie told the RUF commanders that he had lodged a complaint against Musa to Taylor for not taking orders and for disloyalty. According to Kanneh, Bockarie said that Musa should die during battle. At the end of the meeting, Bockarie and “Jungle” allegedly spoke on a satellite telephone to Taylor.

Kanneh testified that he was involved with Bockarie in three attempts to obtain arms from Liberia for the RUF: Kanneh received (1) weapons and ammunition sent from Taylor to Foya shortly after the ECOMOG intervention in 1998, (2) weapons and ammunition and a “morale booster” of 10,000 USD from Taylor in Monrovia following successful attacks against LURD forces in Lofa County in 1998, and (3) weapons and ammunition in Kolahun when the LURD forces returned to Voinjama in 2000 and the government of Sierra Leone was capturing RUF soldiers. Kanneh also testified about a trip to Taylor’s house in May 2000, following successful attacks against LURD forces in Voinjama, during which arms and ammunition, as well as 50,000 USD, were brought to Foya to attack Guinea.

Kanneh further testified about a meeting with Bockarie during his last trip to Liberia where Bockarie told Kanneh that he was detained because Taylor was under a lot of pressure from the international community. Bockarie blamed his arrest on Taylor and he was genuinely “worried for his life.” Kanneh said that after the meeting he returned to Sierra Leone and it was there he learned that Bockarie had been killed in the Ivory Coast. Kanneh believes that Taylor killed Bockarie to prevent Bockarie from coming before the Special Court.

Defense Counsel Terry Munyard cross-examined Kanneh and pointed out inconsistencies between his testimony and prior statements to the Prosecution, as well as testimony that never appeared in the witness’s prior statements to the Prosecution. Munyard began by confirming that Kanneh’s previous statements to the Prosecution were read back to him to ensure their accuracy. Munyard also noted that the Prosecution interviewed Kanneh two months prior to allow him to clarify and expand his previous statements. Kanneh said at one point that his head “is not a computer” and noted that he only responded to questions the Prosecution asked him.

At the conclusion of the cross-examination Munyard asked Kanneh about an accusation that he had brought marijuana with him from Freetown to The Hague. Kanneh denied bringing marijuana from Sierra Leone and said he did not smoke. Munyard also reviewed payments made to the witness by the Prosecution and the Special Court’s Witness and Victims Section.

(3) Moses Blah (linkage witness). Moses Blah, the Prosecution’s 26th witness, served as Adjutant General of the NPFL, Inspector General of the NPFL, Liberia’s ambassador to Libya, Vice President under Taylor, as well as President of Liberia upon Taylor’s resignation in 2003. Blah testified about Taylor’s involvement with the NPFL, Taylor’s connections to the RUF, Taylor’s notice of atrocities committed in Sierra Leone, and the shipment of arms and ammunition to Liberia.

Taylor’s Involvement with the NPFL: Blah testified about the first time he met Taylor during his

military training in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and Tripoli, Libya. In Libya, he trained with a group of Gambians, as well as a group of Sierra Leoneans led by Foday Sankoh. Blah testified that Sankoh referred to Taylor as “chief.” Blah recounted that the first time he saw Taylor, Taylor introduced himself as “chief” and named the soldiers the National Patriotic Front of Liberia. Taylor also appointed Blah as Adjutant General of the NPFL.

Blah testified that the troops returned to Ougadougou for a year and then relocated to the Ivory Coast. Blah was in Libya awaiting weapons and ammunition when he heard from the Libyans that Taylor had invaded Liberia with shotguns and machetes on December 24, 1989. After entering Liberia, NPFL membership doubled from 10,000 to 20,000. Blah returned to Burkina Faso, and Taylor sent him to Abidjan, Ivory Coast. There, Blah said that he met with the country’s defense minister, who had a consignment of arms and ammunition for the NPFL. Following his arrest and release in Liberia, Taylor ordered Blah back to Abidjan to retrieve the trucks filled with arms and ammunition. In 1990, Taylor appointed Blah as Inspector General of the NPFL.

After Taylor’s election victory in 1997, Taylor appointed Blah as ambassador to Libya and Tunisia, and Vice President in 2000. Blah testified that Taylor appointed Benjamin Yeaten as the director of his Special Security Service (SSS) and a battalion commander of the “Jungle Fire Unit.” Blah underscored that Yeaten was more senior than himself and cabinet ministers but not more powerful than Taylor. Yeaten was the overall commander of the ATU and Marine Unit. Blah said that although all orders came from Taylor, Yeaten provided instructions to these units and communicated Taylor’s commands.

Alleged Links between Taylor and the RUF: Blah testified about the role of NPFL forces in Sierra Leone. For instance, Blah heard that the NPFL had men in Kuwait, which was code for Sierra Leone, fighting with the RUF. Blah explained that Kuwait was code for Sierra Leone, because Kuwait was an oil rich country that had money and Liberian soldiers were coming back from Sierra Leone with cars, radios, and money.

Blah also testified about connections between Taylor’s inner circle and high-level AFRC and RUF commanders. According to Blah, Yeaten told him about Sierra Leoneans under the command of Bockarie who fought alongside Yeaten against LURD forces. The witness stated that he first met Bockarie at Yeaten’s house and that he would see Bockarie driving a jeep that Taylor gave him. On another occasion Johnny Paul Koroma, Sankoh, and Bockarie came to Liberia for Taylor to settle a matter among them.

The witness testified that Yeaten murdered Bockarie in Liberia. He explained that Bockarie was staying at a house near Blah’s village. On May 5, 2002, Blah met with Yeaten and saw Bockarie’s dead body in the back of a truck alongside another decapitated body. When Blah reported the incident to Taylor, Taylor said that this was a military matter and none of his business. Blah testified that Yeaten killed Bockarie so that Taylor’s government would not be seen as supporters of the RUF.

Alleged NPFL Crimes: While serving as Inspector General of the NPFL, Blah investigated illegal acts carried out by NPFL fighters against civilians, including murders, rapes, and looting.

Blah recounted a few occasions when punishments were carried out against soldiers, but said only Taylor had the authority to order punishments. Blah was not allowed to investigate members of Taylor's special forces.

Blah testified about complaints that the commander of the Executive Mansion Guard abused civilians at checkpoints. Blah further testified that he had seen the head of the Marine Unit eating roasted human hands. In addition, Blah said he heard of an incident where the head of the Marine Unit ate the intestines of a farmer cooked together with the man's cassava harvest. Blah said he was reluctant to complain to Taylor about these incidents because they would be considered an attack on the Executive Mansion Guard unit. Blah recalled Yeaten's involvement in atrocities, and stated that Yeaten never faced punishment.

According to Blah, in 1991 Sankoh complained to him that the NPFL soldiers were committing atrocities in Sierra Leone, including raping women, killing civilians, and looting. According to Blah, Sankoh discussed this problem with Taylor. After this meeting, Taylor complained to Blah about Sankoh and said "This type of thing happens in war. You are not eating bread and butter. You are fighting."

Arms and Ammunition: Blah testified about a number of weapon shipments from Libya and Burkina Faso to Liberia. Blah said that following a trip to Tuah to see President Compoare, he returned to Monrovia on an airplane full of arms and ammunition. In addition, while the witness was vice president, a massive arms shipment was seized by UNMIL the morning after Taylor returned to Liberia from self-imposed exile in Nigeria. The witness testified that arms were stored at White Flower. Blah explained that his lack of knowledge of other arms deals was the result of his position as Vice President, which kept him "very far away" from arms and ammunition because he was solely focused on state matters.

Defense Counsel Courtenay Griffiths cross-examined Blah, emphasizing Blah's close relationship with Taylor and access to insider information while simultaneously eliciting testimony that Blah had no direct knowledge of Taylor's participation in any criminal acts or connections with the AFRC and RUF. Griffiths alluded that Blah's close relationship with Taylor may implicate Blah in the alleged crimes. Blah emphatically stressed that he had very limited authority and that any orders he gave came from Taylor.

Griffiths emphasized that despite Blah's position and access to information, he had no direct knowledge of arms supplied by Taylor to the AFRC or RUF, financial support provided by Taylor to the AFRC or RUF, diamond consignments to Taylor or his personnel, radio communications between Taylor and the AFRC or RUF, or instructions by Taylor to senior RUF commanders about military operations within Sierra Leone. Blah stated emphatically that he did not know about arms shipments because such knowledge was not in his job duties, but he did know Liberians were fighting in Sierra Leone.

Griffiths attempted to elicit testimony that would weaken the possibility that Taylor, through his leadership of the NPFL, had control over the region. Griffiths sought to emphasize the artificial nature of country lines in Africa; the multiple ethnic groups involved in the region's conflicts, such as Mandingos, Gios, Manos, and Krahn; and the lack of discipline within the NPFL.

Griffiths also undermined the possibility that Taylor could have supplied arms to rebels in Sierra Leone by noting that ULIMO controlled the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia from 1992 until 1997. In addition, in 1994 both ECOMOG and UNMIL forces had a widespread presence in Liberia and instituted checkpoints and roadblocks on all major routes to facilitate disarmament. Nonetheless, Blah noted that it was not impossible for the NPFL to transport large quantities of arms because ECOMOG would take money in exchange for favors.

Griffiths sought to convey the impression that Taylor made great efforts to establish the NPFL on a legal and professional footing. Specifically, Griffiths questioned Blah extensively about a tribunal established by Taylor to try crimes committed by the NPFL. Griffiths emphasized that the tribunal sought to impose the rule of law to “mete out punishment according to the law.” Blah noted, however, that the NPFL faced difficulties as time went on and the tribunal dissolved.

In an effort to cast doubt upon Taylor’s control of the RUF, the Defense noted Taylor’s efforts toward fostering peace in the region. Blah testified that Taylor wanted peace in Sierra Leone and discussed peace talks held by Taylor in 1999. Blah also testified that he accompanied Taylor to Togo to discuss bringing peace to Sierra Leone and that Taylor worked to finalize the Lome agreement. Blah noted that Taylor asked the UN to deploy troops between Liberia and Sierra Leone to reassure the world that Liberia was not involved in the conflict.

(4) Samuel Kargbo (linkage witness). Samuel Kargbo, the Prosecution’s 27th witness, is a former SLA staff sergeant (1990-2001) who fought against the RUF. Kargbo later served as a member of the AFRC/RUF Supreme Council, formed by the original instigators of the coup that overthrew President Tejan Kabbah. Kargbo was previously identified as TF1-597 but waived protective measures and testified in open session.

Kargbo testified about AFRC and RUF relations following the coup that removed Kabbah from power. According to Kargbo, Johnny Paul Koroma, head of the AFRC, called Sankoh and told him that the AFRC and RUF should join forces against ECOMOG and Kamajor forces. Sankoh sent Gibril Massaquoi to join the AFRC. Denis Mingo (“Superman”), Issa Sesay, Sam Bockarie, and Mike Lamin also joined AFRC force following Koroma’s call to Sankoh.

Kargbo also testified about three telephone calls placed by Koroma to Taylor: (1) one call to Taylor following the seizure of power from Kabbah, (2) one call to Taylor during which Taylor told Koroma to send delegates to Liberia, (3) and one call to Taylor following an incident involving looting at the Iranian Embassy and the possibility of establishing a board of inquiry to investigate AFRC and RUF soldiers responsible for the looting. Koroma allegedly spoke with Taylor on a landline regarding these orders. The witness discussed other communications between Taylor and Koroma involving arm shipments headed by Mike Lamin that were paid for with diamonds.

Following the ECOMOG intervention, Kargbo testified about calls Koroma made to Taylor on a satellite telephone. Allegedly, Taylor told Koroma that a helicopter could not pick them up because of ECOMOG raids and that Koroma should recapture Kono from the Kamajors with help from the SLA and RUF. Koroma again spoke to Taylor after a failed attempt to enter Kono and Taylor told Koroma to re-attempt capture of Kono. The group advanced and captured Kono.

Koroma and Kargbo, among others, then traveled to Buedu to meet Bockarie.

In Buedu, Taylor sent vehicles and Special Security Service (SSS) members to take Bockarie, Koroma, Kargbo, and others to Monrovia. Before the vehicles left, Mike Lamin and Issa Sesay placed Kargbo under gunpoint and said Bockarie had ordered his arrest. They beat Kargbo in an attempt to obtain diamonds in his possession and took him to a military police prison. Kargbo was removed from the cell and taken before Bockarie, members of the SSS, and others, and Bockarie told Kargbo that he was there for his failure to turn over diamonds needed to acquire arms. Kargbo and Koroma had diamonds in their possession, but Kargbo testified that he was under orders to transport these diamonds.

After his release, Kargbo served as deputy brigade commander in Pendembu, where he distributed ammunition to other brigades. Following orders from Taylor, Kargbo left Sierra Leone around August 1997 with Koroma, Bockarie, “Jungle,” and others. The group was taken to Taylor’s residence and had a subsequent meeting with the “West Side Boys.” Taylor was present at the meeting and gave words of encouragement to the group; Taylor distributed two packages, one of which contained 5,000 USD. Kargbo received 700 USD.

Defense Counsel Terry Munyard cross-examined Kargbo. Munyard questioned Kargbo about the alliance between Koroma and Sankoh to form the Alliance for Peace in October 1999. He also questioned Kargbo about the formation of the Government of National Unity, comprised of RUF and SLPP. Kargbo also stated that only one AFRC was appointed to the Government of National Unity. Munyard questioned Kargbo about his involvement in a coup attempt against the SLPP government in 2003, noting that Kargbo may have been angry that only one AFRC was appointed to the Government of National Unity. Munyard emphasized the hostility among groups present during this supposed “reconciliation” of AFRC, RUF, and SLPP members. Munyard noted that Kargbo’s testimony before the Special Court differed from his previous witness statements to the Prosecution. Munyard also stressed that the Prosecution had given Kargbo the opportunity to correct his statements on more than one occasion. Munyard’s cross-examination of Kargbo continues in June.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> For a full account of Kargbo’s testimony, please see the forthcoming June Taylor trial report at <http://charlestaylortrial.org/trial-reports/>.