

035

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE**

**TRIAL CHAMBER**

SCSL-2003-07-PT-3D-035  
(559-567)

**Before:** Judge Thompson, Presiding Judge  
Judge Itoe  
Judge Boutet

**Registrar:** Robin Vincent

**Date:** 29 May 2003

**The Prosecutor Against:** Morris Kallon

(Case No. SCSL-2003-07-PT)

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**APPLICATION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF AND/OR LEAVE TO  
APPEAL 'DECISION ON THE PROSECUTOR'S MOTION FOR  
IMMEDIATE PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR WITNESSES AND VICTIMS  
AND FOR NON-PUBLIC DISCLOSURE'.**

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**Office of the Prosecutor:**

Luc Cote, Chief of Prosecution

**Defence Counsel:**

James Oury  
Steven Powles

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE  
COURT RECORDS  
RECEIVED  
NAME Justice Thompson  
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DATE 30-05-03 9:31 am

1. This application is filed on behalf of Mr Kallon on the basis that His Honour Judge Bankole Thompson, as the Presiding Judge of the Trial Chamber who issued 'Decision on the Prosecution's Motion for Immediate Protective Measures for Witnesses and Victims and for Non-Public Disclosure' (the "Decision") on 23 May 2003, is still *functus officio* in this matter and accordingly at liberty to reconsider the said Decision and issue a variation of the Orders made.
2. In the alternative, it is respectfully requested that this application be read as an application to the Trial Chamber pursuant to Rule 73(B) for leave to appeal the said Decision on the basis that, for the reasons set out below, it would be in the interest of a fair and expeditious trial.

#### ***Variation of Order***

3. It is a common feature of most domestic jurisdictions that a judge is still *functus officio* in relation to any decision made and may, during a reasonable time frame, issue a variation of the decision.
4. It is requested that the Decision be reconsidered for the following reasons. James Oury and Steven Powles were provisionally assigned as lead counsel and co-counsel respectively to Mr Kallon on 1 May 2003. It follows that at the time of the Prosecution Motion for 'Immediate Protective Measures for Victims and Witnesses and for Non-Public Disclosure' filed 7 April 2003, Mr Kallon's counsel were not instructed in this matter. To avoid delays the Defence Office filed a response to the Prosecution Motion on behalf of Mr Kallon on 23 April 2003. In their Response the Defence Office stipulated that the Defence Office filed the Response on behalf of Mr Kallon "without prejudice to the position that might be taken by their assigned counsel once such counsel is assigned" (para 3).
5. The Prosecution filed a reply on 29 April 2003, and asserted that once Defence Counsel were assigned to Mr Kallon, no opportunity should be given to respond to the Prosecution Motion (para 28). The propriety of the Defence

Office’s request that their Response be treated on a “without prejudice” basis was correctly not considered in the Decision as, at the time of Decision, no indication had been made on behalf of Mr Kallon that present counsel would seek to rely upon the Defence Office’s request that their response be considered on a without prejudice basis and thereafter file an additional response.

- 6. In short, Counsel now assigned on behalf of Mr Kallon do seek to address the learned judge in respect of the Prosecution’s Motion. Counsel for Mr Kallon do not set out a lengthy response in this application. Instead, aware of the comprehensive Response made on behalf of Mr Gbao to the ‘Prosecution’s Motion for Immediate Protective Measures for Witnesses and Victims and for Non-Public Disclosure’ (which was made in identical terms to the original request for Protective Measures in Mr Kallon’s case), ‘Response to Prosecution Motion for Immediate Protective Measures for Witnesses and Victims and for Non-Public Disclosure’, filed 26 May 2003, counsel for Mr Kallon would simply seek to support and adopt the arguments made on behalf of Mr Gbao as their response to the Prosecution Motion in Mr Kallon’s case.
  
- 7. In the event that the learned judge is in agreement with the Prosecution’s submission that newly assigned counsel for Mr Kallon should not be permitted to file their own response to the Prosecution Motion, a secondary and alternative submission is made. If, after having considered the response and submissions of Mr Gbao in *Prosecutor v Augustine Gbao*, the learned judge decides to order different Protective Measures to those ordered in the case of Mr Kallon, it is respectfully requested that the Orders made on 23 May 2003 in Mr Kallon’s case be varied to the same as those to be ordered for Mr Gbao. This is on the basis that all defendant’s should be treated equally and enjoy similar circumstances for the preparation of their respective defences. In short, given the general nature of the Prosecution’s Motion, identical in relation to each accused currently indicted by the Special Court, it would be unfair for different protective measures and disclosure regimes to exist for each accused. If the Prosecution take a uniform approach to protective measures for each

accused, it is respectfully submitted that the Court should similarly adopt a uniform regime.

*Leave to Appeal*

8. In the event that the learned judge, His Honour Judge Bankole Thompson, is not minded to vary his Decision and/or Orders of 23 May 2003, it is respectfully requested that leave is granted pursuant to Rule 73(B) for leave to appeal on the grounds that a decision by the Appeals Chamber on this matter would be in the interest of a fair and expeditious trial.
9. The provision of protective measures and questions relating to the resulting disclosure by the Prosecution to the Defence are fundamental and form part of the 'paramount due process right of the Accused to a fair trial' (Decision para 10). Moreover, for the reasons set out below, resolution of these matters by the Appeals Chamber at this stage in the proceedings is central to ensuring both a fair and expeditious trial.
10. In its Reply to the Defence Response, filed 29 April 2003, the Prosecution sought to rely on the additional material of (i) Allan Quee, Director of Pride, (ii) Saleem Vahidy, Chief of Witness and Victims Unit for Special Court, (iii) President Kabbah's letter to the UN Security Council, (iv) Keith Biddle Inspector General of Police. This material had not been included as part of the Prosecution's initial Motion. It is respectfully submitted that the learned judge correctly took this new and additional material into consideration in reaching his Decision in this case. The provision of protective measures to witnesses by the Special Court is, as stated by the Prosecution in its Motion of 7 April 2003, critical to safeguarding the security and privacy of witnesses and victims and the integrity of the evidence and the proceedings (para 3). Thus the learned judge was right to admit and take into consideration all relevant evidence in the making of his decision.
11. It is, however, respectfully submitted, that given the importance of the fair resolution of questions pertaining to protective measures, the learned judge

erred in not allowing the Defence for Mr Kallon to address and comment upon the fresh material presented by the Prosecution in its Reply filed on 29 April 2003. Some of the assertions made by the Prosecution as to the security situation in Sierra Leone are incorrect. In the interests of justice the Defence should not have been denied the opportunity to address and confront the assertions made by the Prosecution and should have been given the opportunity to present contradictory evidence to the learned judge. In the absence of such submissions by the Defence, it is submitted that the learned judge did not have the benefit of having the complete facts upon which to base his Decision.

12. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the learned judge erred in ordering that the Prosecution may withhold identifying data of the persons the Prosecution is seeking protection as set forth in paragraph 16 of the Motion and any other information which could lead to the identity of such a person to the Defence, until forty-two days before the witness is to testify at trial.
13. In *Brdjanin and Talic* 'Decision on Motion by Prosecution for Protective Measures', 3 July 2000, the Trial Chamber, Judge Hunt (Presiding), now a senior judge on the Appeals Chamber for both the ICTY and ICTR, held that the Prosecution should not be permitted to seek a blanket protective measures regime and redact identifying material from every statement. The Trial Chamber held that the general security situation in the former Yugoslavia could not of itself amount to "exceptional circumstances" for the purpose of seeking protective measures. It was held that the Prosecution decision to redact the name and identifying features in *every* statement, "although no doubt administratively convenient, was both unauthorised and unjustified ... ." (para 13).
14. Thus, the Prosecution should be required to justify the protective measures sought for each individual witness. It is not enough for the Prosecution to make blanket assertions and for blanket protective measures to be made for all witnesses solely on the basis of the prevailing security situation in Sierra

Leone itself. The situation of each witness must be considered in isolation and then appropriate protective measures, if any, ordered for that witness.

15. In *Hadzihasanovic et al* 'Decision Granting Provisional Release to Mehmed Alagic' 19 December 2001, the Trial Chamber held that:

“A measure in public international law is proportional only when (1) suitable, (2) necessary and when (3) its degree and scope remain in a reasonable relationship to the envisaged target. Procedural measures should never be capricious or excessive. If it is sufficient to use a more lenient measure, it must be applied.” (para 8)

Although a decision on provisional release, it is submitted that the principle set out by the Trial Chamber is applicable to all facets of international criminal proceedings. In relation to protective measures it is submitted that where a less restrictive regime is possible with the effect of achieving the same result, it must be adopted. Not all witnesses will require protective measures. Although it may be administratively easier for the Prosecution to simply delay disclosure of witnesses' identity 42 days before testimony, it is submitted that this is clearly not necessary for each and every witness. In order to be a proportionate measure under international law the Prosecution must be required to identify which witnesses truly require a delay in disclosure of their identity so as to ensure their safety. The Trial Chamber must then determine the appropriateness of withholding the identity for that individual witness. A blanket delay in disclosure of witnesses' identity until 42 days before testimony is simply disproportionate and unlawful under international law.

16. Moreover, the effect of withholding the identity of witnesses until 42 days before testimony will be that at the commencement of the trial the Defence will not know the identities of many, if not the majority of witnesses that the Prosecution intends to call at trial. A consequence of this will be that the Defence will be cross-examining witnesses in the early stages of the trial, without full knowledge of the Prosecution case. A very real consequence of this may be that Prosecution witnesses will have to be recalled for further

cross-examination after the completion of the Prosecution case, with the effect of seriously delaying trial proceedings.

17. Finally, it is submitted that the learned judge erred in ordering that (g) the Defence maintain a log indicating the name, address and position of each person or entity which receives a copy of or information from a witness statement and (h) that the Defence provide to the Chamber and the Prosecution a designation of all persons working for the Defence team who, pursuant to (f) have access to information referred to in the order.
18. In *Brdjanin and Talic* 'Decision on Motion by Prosecution for Protective Measures', 3 July 2003, the Trial Chamber rejected the Prosecution request for the maintenance of a log by the defence team. This was held to be oppressive and, if details provided in the log were eventually to be used in contempt proceedings against members of the defence team pursuant to Rule 77, the disclosure of such a log could potentially amount to a violation of the rule against self-incrimination, something impermissible under the Statute of the Special Court. (see Decision para 49)
19. Accordingly, it is submitted that the Defence should not be required to maintain any such log and most definitely should not be required to disclose the details of persons working with the Defence to either the Chamber and most certainly not the Prosecution.

**Orders sought:**

- (i) Variation of the 'Orders for Immediate Protective Measures for Witness and Victims and for Non-Public Disclosure' after consideration of the submissions made on behalf of Augustine Gbao in 'Response to Prosecution Motion for Immediate Protective Measures for Witnesses and Victims and for Non-Public Disclosure', filed 26 May 2003.

In the alternative:

- (ii) Leave to appeal 'Decision on the Prosecutor's Motion for Immediate Protective Measures for Witnesses and Victims and for Non-Public Disclosure', 23 May 2003.

James Oury

Steven Powles

London, 29 May 2003

Signed by the Defence Office on behalf of Steven Powles, for the reasons set out in the attached e-mail.



Sdm Jones

29/5/2003

Acting Chief

Defence Office

**E-mail from Steven Powles, Counsel for Morris Kallon, to John Jones, Acting Chief,  
Defence Office, dated 29 May 2003**

Dear John,

Please accept this e-mail as a formal request to the Defence Office to sign (i) Application for Extension of Time to File Preliminary Motions, and (ii) Application for Reconsideration of and/or Leave to appeal 'Decision on the Prosecutor's Motion for Immediate Protective Measures for Witnesses and Victims and for non-public disclosure', both dated 29 May 2003 in Morris Kallon's case. Due to difficulty with fax transmissions it has not been possible for either James Oury or myself to send signed version today.

Many thanks in advance for your kind assistance.

Steven Powles