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SCSL-03-01-T
(22879-22882)

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SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

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Before: Justice Teresa Doherty, Presiding Judge
Justice Richard Lussick
Justice Julia Sebutinde
Justice El Hadji Malick Sow, Alternate Judge

Registrar: Mr. Herman von Hebel

Date Filed: 4 December 2008

The Prosecutor -v- Charles Ghankay Taylor

Case No: SCSL-03-1-T

Public

**SUBMISSION OF THE REGISTRAR REGARDING DIRECTION OF THE
TRIAL CHAMBER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TESTIMONY OF
WITNESS TF1-303 VIA VIDEO-LINK**

Office of the Prosecutor
Brenda J. Hollis
Leigh Lawrie

Defence Counsel for Charles G. Taylor
Courtenay Griffiths, Q.C.
Terry Munyard
Andrew Cayley
Morris Anyah



Submissions

1. On 18 November 2008 the Trial Chamber granted the Prosecution's motion to allow Witness TF1-303 to give testimony by Video-Link¹ and directed the Registrar

“...to ensure that, before any video-link testimony is heard, the following arrangements in Freetown are in place:

- 1) The Witness shall testify from one of the courtrooms of the Special Court in Freetown, and the safety and solemnity of the proceedings must be guaranteed;
- 2) There must be a Courtroom Officer present at all times during testimony in order to ensure that the testimony is given freely and voluntarily. The Courtroom Officer shall identify the Witness and explain the nature of the proceedings and the obligation to speak the truth. He shall inform the Witness that she is liable to prosecution for perjury in case of false testimony, shall administer the taking of the oath and shall keep the Trial Chamber informed at all times of the conditions at the location
- 3)The Parties may each have a representative present in the courtroom from where the witness is testifying but such representative shall take no active part in the proceedings;
- 4)The Witnesses and Victims Section may have a staff member on hand throughout the testimony, but not seated in the courtroom, in the event that the Trial Chamber directs that assistance be provided to the Witness
- 5)The Witness must, by means of a monitor, be able to see, at various times, the Judges, the Accused and the questioner;”


2. In granting the Motion, the Trial Chamber further directed that
“the Registry, in consultation with the parties,...make arrangements for the testimony of Witness TF1-303 via video-link”.
3. On 18 November 2008, upon being served with the Decision of the Trial Chamber, the Office of the Registrar's Office took the following steps.

¹ SCSL-03-1-T-22439, *Decision on Public Prosecution Motion to Allow Witness TF1-303 to Give Testimony by Video-Link*.

4. On behalf of the Acting/Deputy Registrar, on 18 November 2008, the Legal Advisor to the Registrar sent an email to the Chief of Court Management, the Legal Coordinator of the Court Management Section at The Hague Sub-Office, the Chief of the Witnesses and Victims Unit (WVS), the Deputy Chief of the Witnesses and Victims Unit, the OIC of CITS, the Chief of Administrative Services, the Principal Defender and the Chief of Prosecutions in which she brought the Decision to their attention and requested that any steps necessary be taken by each of the sections in accordance with the Decision be taken as soon as possible, and that all arrangements be put in place to implement the Trial Chamber's direction to the Registrar.
5. On 18 November 2008, the OIC, CITS confirmed through the Chief of Administrative Services that CITS was technically prepared for the video link.
6. Prior to the handing down of the Decision of 18 November 2008, a 'mock trial' was held to test the video link on 7 November 2008 at 13.00 Freetown in Courtroom Two at which all the relevant parties – Prosecutions, Defence, WVS, Chambers, Court Management – had representatives.
7. On Wednesday 19 November 2008 at 15.15 in The Hague and 15.15 in Freetown, another 'mock trial' took place. The Presiding Judge, Justice Doherty and Justice Sebutinde were present. During this 'mock trial' at which the video link was tested, the Judges made some oral requests.
8. Sheik Badhusa, OIC CITS, and Arjan Baks, Operations Officer, ICC made additional technical measurements to implement the Judges' requests ensuring that it is possible to show 'ELMO' in colour and a 'Picture In Picture' of the witness camera simultaneously on screen without impairing VTC quality. This was confirmed on or about 21 November 2008.

9. The Registrar respectfully informs the Trial Chamber that the video link technology has been tested and is ready with all the required arrangements in place. He has, further, consulted with and apprised all of the relevant sections of the Registry of their obligations in relation to the arrangements that must be in place in Freetown to facilitate the video-link testimony.
10. The Registrar has therefore complied with the Direction of the Trial Chamber to make arrangements for the testimony of Witness TF1-303 via video-link.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Binta Mansaray

Deputy Registrar

for

Herman von Hebel

Registrar, SCSL