

Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 4 December 2003

Red Notice Issued for Charles Taylor

The international law enforcement agency INTERPOL today issued a "Red Notice" to seek the arrest, with a view to transfer to the Special Court, of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who was indicted by the Special Court in March 2003 for crimes committed during Sierra Leone's war.

Mr Taylor faces a 17-count indictment on war crimes and crimes against humanity, which include terrorising the civilian population, unlawful killings, sexual violence, physical violence, use of child soldiers, abductions, forced labour, looting and burning, and attacks on peacekeeping personnel.

The issuance of the "Red Notice" is by an agreement that entered into force between the Special Court and INTERPOL on November 3, 2003 under which the Court may request that INTERPOL publish and circulate "Red Notices" for persons wanted by the Special Court.

The Office of the Prosecutor said the INTERPOL "Red Notice" will serve as a reminder that Charles Taylor remains a fugitive from justice.

The Office said there was no amnesty for war crimes or crimes against humanity.

The Prosecutor added that Mr Taylor's indictment will not go away and that he remains wanted by the international community to face the very serious charges against him.

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