STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the sentencing of Mr Charles Taylor

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"The High Representative takes note of the decision of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to reject the appeal of Former Liberian President Charles Taylor and to confirm the 50 years prison sentence for eleven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity including terrorism, rape, murder and the use of child soldiers by rebel groups in Sierra Leone during the civil war of 1991-2002.

The High Representative congratulates the Sierra Leone Special Court for its constant efforts to ensure justice for the citizens of Sierra Leone who were victims of such atrocities.

This legal process is now complete and represents an historic milestone in the fight against impunity as it demonstrates that nobody is above the law and that all those who commit crimes against humanity, whether in power or in rebellion, can be brought to justice.

The EU is firmly committed to international justice and the fight against impunity and has been a strong supporter of the Special Court for Sierra Leone."

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