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

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

"Former Liberian President Charles Taylor was sentenced on 30 May 2012 to 50 years in prison for 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone. On 26 April, the Special Court had found the ex-head of state guilty of aiding and abetting war crimes and crimes against humanity by supporting rebels in Sierra Leone. The sentence by the Special Court for Sierra Leone confirms the gravity of the crimes he committed.

This legal process, judgement and sentence demonstrate that nobody is above the law. All those who commit crimes against humanity, whether in their own country or another, whether in power or in rebellion, can and will be brought to justice. This is the least that the victims of such crimes deserve.

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

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