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SCSL-04-16-T
(18117 - 18120)

18117

**SPECIAL COURT FOR
SIERRA LEONE**

Case No. SCSL-2004-16-T

Before: Justice Richard Lussick, Presiding
Justice Teresa Doherty
Justice Julia Sebutinde

Registrar: Lovemore G. Munlo, SC

Date filed: 5 May 2006

THE PROSECUTOR

against

ALEX TAMBA BRIMA

BRIMA BAZZY KAMARA

and

SANTIGIE BORBOR KANU

**PUBLIC JOINT DEFENCE RESPONSE TO PROSECUTION MOTION
TO BRING FORWARD THE NEXT SCHEDULED STATUS CONFERENCE**

Office of the Prosecutor:
Desmond de Silva

Defence Counsel for Kanu:
Geert-Jan A. Knoops, Lead Counsel
Cary J. Knoops, Co-Counsel
A.E. Manly-Spain, Co-Counsel

Defence Counsel for Brima:
Kojo Graham
Glenna Thompson

Defence Counsel for Kamara:
Andrew Daniels
Mohamed Pa-Momo Fofanah

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE	
RECEIVED	
COURT MANAGEMENT	
- 5 MAY 2006	
NAME	MAUREN EDWARDS
SIGN	<i>M Edwards</i>
TIME	09:35

I INTRODUCTION

1. On 1 May 2006, the Prosecution filed a “Prosecution Motion to Bring Forward the Next Scheduled Status Conference” (“**Prosecution Motion**”)¹ following the Trial Chamber’s order of 26 April 2006 (“**Trial Chamber Order**”).² The Defence herewith files its “Response to Prosecution Motion to Bring Forward the Next Scheduled Status Conference” (“**Response**”).

II PROSECUTION REQUEST

2. In the Prosecution Motion, the Prosecution requests that the Status Conference as ordered by the Trial Chamber Order be rescheduled to the morning of 12 May 2006.
3. The Defence takes note of the Prosecution arguments for such request, but indicates that none of the counsel of the Defence team for Santigie Borbor Kanu can be present at suggested date. Lead Counsel Prof. Knoops is currently in the Netherlands and is unable to come to Freetown before his scheduled departure on 18 May 2006. Mrs. Knoops-Hamburger, Co-Counsel, has to undergo surgery by the end of this month, and will thus for medical reasons be unable to be present in Freetown at the requested date. Mr. Manly-Spain, Co-Counsel, is within the jurisdiction but will have to attend local court on Friday 12 May 2006.
4. Counsels for both the Brima and Kamara Defence teams, on the other hand, have a scheduled agenda to visit the provinces for further investigations relating to Defence witnesses and the Defence case. This agenda was made after the Court had given various orders in this regard and had in particular stipulated 17th May 2006 as the date for further Pre-Defence Status Conference.

¹ *Prosecutor v. Brima, Kamara and Kanu*, Prosecution Motion to Bring Forward the Next Scheduled Status Conference, 1 May 2006, Case No. SCSL-2004-16-T-482.

² *Prosecutor v. Brima, Kamara and Kanu*, Order for Disclosure Pursuant to Rule 73ter and the Start of the Defence Case, 26 April 2006, Case No. SCSL-2004-16-T-478.

5. For these reasons, it will be impossible for the Defence teams to have legal representation at the requested date. The Defence therefore objects to the Prosecution Motion herein.

III ALTERNATIVE DATE: 16 MAY 2006

6. The Defence wishes to indicate however, that the only possibility for an alternative date would be Tuesday 16 May 2006, at which date all Accused persons can be represented in court.

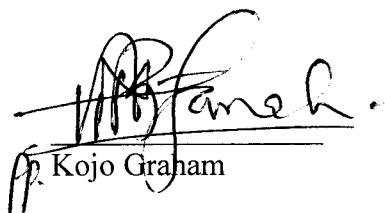
IV CONCLUSION

7. For the above reason, the Defence respectfully requests the honorable Trial Chamber to either dismiss the Prosecution Motion in its entirety, or reschedule the planned Defence Status Conference to Tuesday 16 May 2006.

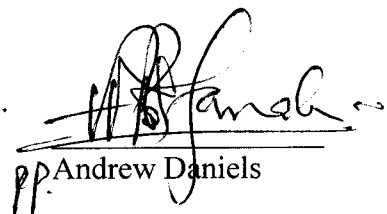
Respectfully submitted,
On 5 May 2006



Geert-Jan Alexander Knoops



pp. Kojo Graham



pp. Andrew Daniels

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Prosecutor v. Brima, Kamara and Kanu, Prosecution Motion to Bring Forward the Next Scheduled Status Conference, 1 May 2006, Case No. SCSL-2004-16-T-482.

Prosecutor v. Brima, Kamara and Kanu, Order for Disclosure Pursuant to Rule 73ter and the Start of the Defence Case, 26 April 2006, Case No. SCSL-2004-16-T-478.