

Charles Taylor / Viktor Bout / Richard Chichakli

Case ID:

ARW-37

Jurisdiction of Origin of Public Official or Entity Allegedly Involved:

Liberia

Position of Public Official(s) (yrs in office):

President (Taylor, 1997-2003) / Close Associate (Bout)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery:

United States

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery ? Description:

Undertaking Recovery Effort, Location of Recovery Effort, Asset Location / Alleged Asset Location

Asset Recovery Start:

2010

Asset Recovery End:

Ongoing

UNCAC Offenses Implicated:

Art.16

Art.17

Art.23

Money laundering Implicated:

Yes

Legal Basis for Asset Recovery:

Criminal Prosecution and Forfeiture

Intl.Cooperation: MLAT/Letter of Request?:

No

Basis for Intl Cooperation:

NA

Contributing Factors in Asset Recovery:

Ongoing Case

Status of Asset Recovery :

Ongoing

Stage in Asset Recovery Chain:

Before Court of First Instance

Agreement for Returned Assets:

Ongoing

Agreement for Returned Assets - Description:

NA

Case Summary:

In February 2010, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York court unsealed a 9-count indictment against Mr. Bout and his chief financial manager Richard Ammar Chichakli. The indictment included forfeiture allegations for more than \$1.7 million alleged to have been laundered through New York banks to other banks in the U.S. and noted that the U.S. Department of Treasury had blocked the U.S. accounts of Bout-associated companies in violations of US sanctions against the former Taylore regime. Both men are on the UN

Security Council Resolution 1521 asset freeze list. (Source: Indictment in U.S. v. Bout and Chichakli, Case No. 1:09-cr-1002 (S.D.N.Y.), unsealed February 17, 2010 and Press Release by U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York on same date; Superseding Indictment filed on October 25, 2013 against Richard Chichakli). On November 16, Mr. Bout was extradited from Thailand to the U.S. (Source: Seth Mydans, "Thailand Extradites Russian Arms Suspect to the U.S.," New York Times, November 16, 2010.) In April 2012, Mr. Bout was convicted and sentenced in another case against him in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York on terrorism-related charges; he appealed the conviction to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit. (Source: U.S. v. Bout, Case No. 1:08-cr-00365 (S.D.N.Y.), Judgment in a Criminal Case filed April 9, 2012. US Appeals Court case no. 12-1487).

Disposition of Criminal Case(s):

In April 2012, Mr. Bout was sentenced on terrorism-related charges in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York; he has appealed the conviction to the US Court of Appeals. (US v. Bout, Case No. 1:08-cr-00365 (S.D.N.Y.) According to the U.S. Government's indictment, Mr. Bout (and Mr. Chichakli) also faces money laundering, wire fraud and conspiracy charges in a separate case pertaining to violations of US Sanctions against the former Taylor regime before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. (US v. Bout and Chichakli, Case No. 1:09-cr-01002 (S.D.N.Y.), Indictment unsealed on February 17, 2010).

Jurisdiction of Origin: Investigative Agency:

United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone

Jurisdiction of Origin: Prosecuting Authority/Civil Attorney(s):

United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone

Jurisdiction of Origin: Courts Involved:

United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Investigative Agency:

Drug Enforcement Agency; Assistance provided by Department of Justice, Office of International Affairs and Department of State; INTERPOL

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Prosecuting Authority/Civil Attorney(s):

U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Courts Involved:

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

Documents:

Taylor_Bout_Case_108-cr-00365_SDNY_Court_Docket_May_3_2011.pdf

Taylor_Bout_Extradition_NYT_Nov_16_2010.pdf

Taylor_Bout_SDNY_Indictment_Feb_17_2010.pdf

Taylor_Bout_SDNY_Indictment_PR_Feb_17_2010.pdf

Taylor_Bout_SDNY_ML_DktRpt_May3_2011.pdf

Taylor_Bout_SDNY_ML_DktRpt_Pulled_Dec_3_2010.pdf

Taylor_Bout_SDNY_Terrorism_DktRpt_May_3_2011.pdf

Bout_SDNY_Arms_Conviction_WSJ_CC_Nov_2_2011

Documents:

Attachment

Size



Bout_SDNY_Arms_Conviction_WSJ_CC_Nov_2_2011.pdf

85.21 KB

Attachment**Size**

Bout_SDNY_Sanctions_Chichakli_Supersede_Indict_Oct_25_2013.pdf 485.93 KB

Other Sources:

U.S. v. Bout and Chichakli, Case No. 1:09-cr-1002 (S.D.N.Y.), Indictment unsealed on February 17, 2010 and Superseding Indictment (Chichakli) filed October 25, 2013); United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York Press Release, "U.S. Announces New Indictment against International Arms Dealer Viktor Bout and American Co-Conspirator for Money Laundering, Wire Fraud and Conspiracy," February 17, 2010. See also, US v. Bout, Case No. 1:08-cr-00365 (S.D.N.Y.), Judgment in a Criminal Case filed April 6, 2012; Notice of appeal filed April 7, 2012. Seth Mydans, "Thailand Extradites Russian Arms Suspect to U.S.," New York Times, November 16, 2010; Samuel Rubinfeld, "Viktor Bout Convicted In Arms-Dealing Case," Wall Street Journal Corruption Currents, November 2, 2011, accessed at <http://blogs.wsj.com/corruption-currents/2011/11/02/viktor-bout-convicte...>