

Denis Sassou Nguesso

Case ID:

ARW-49

Jurisdiction of Origin of Public Official or Entity Allegedly Involved:

Congo, Republic of

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

President (1979-1992 and 1997-present)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery:

France

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery ? Description:

Location of Recovery Effort, Asset Location / Alleged Asset Location

Asset Recovery Start:

2007

Asset Recovery End:

Ongoing

UNCAC Offenses Implicated:

Art.20

Money laundering Implicated:

No

Legal Basis for Asset Recovery:

Criminal Prosecution

Intl.Cooperation: MLAT/Letter of Request?:

No

Basis for Intl Cooperation:

NA

Contributing Factors in Asset Recovery:

[Ongoing Case, but Transparency International stated that this is the first time French courts allowed such a complaint by nongovernmental organizations to proceed. Source: Transparency International Press Release, "'Biens Mal Acquis' Case: French Supreme Court Overrules Court of Appeal's Decision: The complaint filed by Transparency International France is ruled admissible," November 9, 2010.]

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 November 2010, the French Supreme Court held that the complaint filed by Transparency International France and SHERPA against Mr. Sassou Nguesso may proceed. The organizations had filed their "Biens Mal Acquis" (Improperly acquired property) complaint against Omar Bongo, Denis Sassou Nguesso and Teodoro Obiang and their relatives. With regard to Mr. Sassou Nguesso and his relatives, the complaint alleged that they had acquired

real estate, including 18 properties, one hundred and twelve bank accounts and fleet of automobiles including at least one vehicle estimated to be worth EUR 172,321. (Source: Transparency International Press Release, "'Biens Mal Acquis' Case: French Supreme Court Overrules Court of Appeal's Decision, The complaint by Transparency International France is ruled admissible," November 9, 2010.)

Disposition of Criminal Case(s):

In November 2010, the French Supreme Court held that the complaint ("Biens Mal Acquis"/Improperly Acquired Property) filed by Transparency International France and SHERPA against Mr. Sassou Nguesso may proceed. (Sources: Supreme Court of France, Case No. 6092, decision of November 9, 2010, L'association Transparence International France, partie civile, reversing High Court of Paris, section 2, judgment of October 29, 2009; Transparency International Press Release, "'Biens Mal Acquis' Case: French Supreme Court Overrules Court of Appeal's Decision, The complaint by Transparence International France is ruled admissible," November 9, 2010.)

Jurisdiction of Origin: Investigative Agency:

NA

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

NA

Jurisdiction of Origin: Courts Involved:

NA

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Investigative Agency:

Unspecified

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

Transparency International France, SHERPA (civil complaint)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Courts Involved:

La Cour de Cassation, Chambre Criminelle (Supreme Court)

Documents:

Sassou_Nguesso_France_SCt_Nov_9_2010.pdf

Sassou_Nguesso_Transparency_Intl_PR_Nov_9_2010.docx

Sassou_Nguesso_US_DOS_Congo_Profile_Dec_2010.pdf

Documents:

Attachment	Size
 Sassou_Nguesso_France_Mediapart_Oct_11_2013.pdf	467.26 KB

Documents Links:

Other Sources:

Supreme Court of France, Case No. 6092, decision of November 9, 2010, L'association Transparence International France, partie civile, reversing High Court of Paris, section 2, judgment of October 29, 2009. See also Transparency International Press Release, "'Biens Mal Acquis' Case: French Supreme Court Overrules Court of Appeal's Decision, The complaint by Transparence International France is ruled admissible," November 9, 2010, posted at http://www.transparency.org/news_room/latest_news/press_releases_nc/2010... US Department of State, Background Note: Republic of the Congo (December 2010), accessed at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2825.htm>; Mediapart, "A Paris, le shopping de la corruption du clan Sassou Nguesso," October 11, 2013, at <http://www.mediapart.fr/journal/international/101013/paris-le-shopping-d...>