

Diepreye Alamiyeseigha (United Kingdom)

Case ID:

ARW-54

Jurisdiction of Origin of Public Official or Entity Allegedly Involved:

Nigeria

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

Governor (1999-2005)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery:

United Kingdom

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery ? Description:

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

Asset Recovery Start:

2005

Asset Recovery End:

2010

UNCAC Offenses Implicated:

Art.15

Art.19

Art.20

Art.23

Money laundering Implicated:

Yes

Legal Basis for Asset Recovery:

Administrative Confiscation; Private Civil Action; Criminal Prosecution and Forfeiture

Intl.Cooperation: MLAT/Letter of Request?:

Unknown

Basis for Intl Cooperation:

Unspecified

Contributing Factors in Asset Recovery:

Effective cooperation between Nigerian and United Kingdom authorities (Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, United Kingdom's London Metropolitan Police (Source: Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative Case Study, "Diepreye Alamiyeseigha"; United Kingdom court's denial of Mr. Alamiyeseigha's petition of immunity as state governor, a ruling upheld by the High Court (Source: R on the application of Diepreye Solomon Peter Alamiyeseigha v. CPS [2005] EWHC 2704 (Admin).

Status of Asset Recovery :

Completed

Assets Returned (USD) - Description:

\$17,700,000. Please note that this amount is total recovered worldwide to date.

Agreement for Returned Assets:

No

Agreement for Returned Assets - Description:

NA

Case Summary:

According to a case study by the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, the recovery in the case consisted of (1) \$1.5 million in cash seized at the time of arrest and (2) \$2.7 million held in bank accounts [Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, Santolina Investment Corporation account in excess of GBP 1.8 million] and London real estate worth \$15 million [4 properties registered under Solomon & Peters Ltd. as sole proprietor]. In May 2006, a London court ordered confiscation of the seized cash pursuant to the Proceeds of Crime Act, after Mr. Alamieyeseigha skipped bail and returned to Nigeria; bank accounts and London real estate were confiscated pursuant to a December 2007 United Kingdom High Court summary judgment; and a July 2008 judgment left to confiscation of remaining assets in the United Kingdom, Denmark and Cyprus. Pursuant to his July 2007 plea in Nigerian High Court, he was sentenced to a two-year prison term and his assets in Nigeria were ordered seized. (Source: StAR Case Study, "Diepreye Alamieyeseigha").

Disposition of Criminal Case(s):

According to the December 3, 2007 UK High Court decision in Nigeria v. Santolina Investment Corp and Ors, Mr. Alamieyeseigha entered a guilty plea in Nigeria's High Court to six counts of making false declaration of assets. According to the same judgment, Mr. Alamieyeseigha was arrested at Heathrow Airport in September 2005 by officers of the Metropolitan Police and initially remanded but later granted bail. In breach of his bail requirements, he left UK and returned to Nigeria in November 2005. (Source: Nigeria v. Santolina Investment Corp and Ors, [2007] EWHC 3053 (Q.B.)) In March 2013, he was pardoned in Nigeria. (Source: BBC News, "Nigeria pardons Goodluck Jonathan ally, Alamieyeseigha," March 13, 2013.)

Jurisdiction of Origin: Investigative Agency:

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

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

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

Jurisdiction of Origin: Courts Involved:

Federal High Court (Lagos)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Investigative Agency:

London Metropolitan Police, Proceeds of Corruption Unit

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

Crown Prosecution Service; Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP (James Maton, Tim Daniel)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Courts Involved:

England and Wales High Court

Documents:

- Alamieyeseigha_2005_EWHC_2704 (Admin).rtf
- Alamieyeseigha_2007_EWHC_437 (Ch).rtf
- Alamieyeseigha_2007_EWHC_3053 (QB).rtf
- Alamieyeseigha_StAR_Case_Study.pdf
- Alamieyeseigha_StAR_Handbook.pdf
- Transparency_Intl_UK_Recovering_Looted_Gains_June_2009.pdf

Documents:

Attachment	Size
 Alamieyeseigha_Pardon_BBC_News_Mar_13_2013.pdf	172.36 KB
 Alamieyeseigha_StAR_Case_Study.pdf	90.28 KB

Documents Links:

Other Sources:

Jean-Pierre Brun, Larissa Gray, Clive Scott, and Kevin M. Stephenson, Asset Recovery

Handbook: A Guide for Practitioners, (StAR Initiative, December 2010), "1.3.3 Case of Diepreye Alamiyeseigha," at 17-18, accessed at <http://star.worldbank.org/star/publication/asset-recovery-handbook>; R on the application of Diepreye Solomon Peter Alamiyeseigha v. CPS [2005] EWHC 2704 (Admin) [UK High Court ruling upholding the Crown Court's denial of Alamiyeseigha petition on immunity]; Federal Republic of Nigeria v. Santolina Investment Corporation and Others [2007] EWHC 437 (Ch) and [2007] EWHC 3053 (QB). See also Transparency International UK, "Combating Money Laundering and Recovering Looted Gains: Raising the UK's Game," June 2009.

BBC News, "Nigeria pardons Goodluck Jonathan ally, Alamiyeseigha," March 13, 2013, at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-21769047>.