

James Ibori (United Kingdom)

Case ID:

ARW-86

Jurisdiction of Origin of Public Official or Entity Allegedly Involved:

Nigeria

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

Delta State Governor (1999-2007)

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:

2008

Asset Recovery End:

Ongoing

UNCAC Offenses Implicated:

Art.17

Art.20

Art.23

Money laundering Implicated:

Yes

Legal Basis for Asset Recovery:

Criminal Prosecution and Forfeiture

Basis for Intl Cooperation:

Unspecified

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:

N/A

Case Summary:

According to media reports, the confiscation hearings in Mr. Ibori's case which was to take place in June 2016, has been adjourned. (Source: Today (Nigeria), "London court suspends James Ibori's confiscation hearing," June 10, 2016.)

On June 4, 2008, the UK High Court issued a Restraint Order against properties, accounts and other assets owned and/or controlled by Governor Ibori and legal entities Haleway Properties Limited; Telaton Quays Limited, Stanhope Investments Limited, and Erin Aviation Limited located within and outside of the United Kingdom. (Source: IN THE MATTER OF

James Onanefe IBORI, Restraint Order Prohibiting Disposal of Assets, UK High Court, Queen's Bench Division, June 4, 2008.). In February 2012, in reporting on Mr. Ibori's guilty plea in the UK, the BBC News reported, "Some \$35m of his alleged UK assets were frozen in 2007." (Source: BBC News, "Nigeria ex-Delta state governor James Ibori guilty plea," February 27, 2012.)

On November 17, 2008, the High Court also issued a Restraint Order against assets related to Bhadresh Gohil, including in India, Hong Kong and the UK. (Source: IN THE MATTER OF Bhadresh Babulal Gohil, Restraint Order Prohibiting Disposal of Assets, UK High Court, Queen's Bench Division, November 17, 2008.)

Disposition of Criminal Case(s):

According to a May 2014 statement by Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, a lower court decision to strike out "all 170-count charge of money laundering preferred against former governor of Delta State, James Onanefe Ibori by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, a three-man panel of justices at the Benin Division of the Court of Appeal today, May 15, 2014 ruled that the ex- governor who is currently serving a 13-year jail term in a London prison, has a case to answer." (Source: EFCC, "Money Laundering: Ibori Has Case to Answer - Appeals Court," May 15, 2014.) According to the US Department of Justice, "Governor Ibori was convicted in the United Kingdom of money laundering and conspiracy to defraud and was sentenced by a British court on April 18, 2012, to 13 years in prison." (Source: US Department of Justice Press Release, "U.S. Restrains More Than \$3 Million in Corruption Proceeds Related to Former Governor of Nigeria," July 23, 2012.)

Jurisdiction of Origin: Investigative Agency:

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

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

N/A

Jurisdiction of Origin: Courts Involved:

Court of Appeals, Benin Division

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

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Courts Involved:

High Court, Queen's Bench

Documents:

Attachment	Size
 Ibori_UK_Restart_Confisc_Hearing_Channelstv_Oct_8_2013.pdf	545.01 KB
 Ibori_US_DDC_US_Response_Show_Cause_Order_Jul_16_2013.pdf	38.88 KB
 Ibori_US_Ex_Parte_Restrain_Order_DDC_May_2012.pdf	119.75 KB
 Ibori_US_Asset_Restraint_DOJ_PR_Jul_23_2012.pdf	350.47 KB

Attachment	Size
 Ibori_UK_Restraint_Order_Nov_2008.pdf	1.07 MB
 Ibori_UK_London judge adjourns Ibori's case to June 6, 2016 - Vanguard News_Apr_14_2015.pdf	583.71 KB

Other Sources:

Nigeria Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), "Money Laundering: Ibori Has Case to Answer - Appeals Court," May 15, 2014, at <https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/870-money-laundering-ibori-h...>

Today (Nigeria), "London court suspends James Ibori's confiscation hearing," June 10, 2016, at <https://www.today.ng/news/national/135296/london-court-suspends-james-ib...>

Vanguard News, "London judge adjourns Ibori's case to June 6, 2016," April 15, 2015;

IN THE MATTER OF James Onanefe IBORI, Restraint Order Prohibiting Disposal of Assets, UK High Court, Queen's Bench Division, June 4, 2008; IN THE MATTER OF Bhadrash Babulal Gohil, Restraint Order Prohibiting Disposal of Assets, UK High Court, Queen's Bench Division, November 17, 2008, attached as Exhibits to In Re: Enforcement of Restraining Order Issued by the High Court of England and Wales, Case No. 1:12-mc-00289 (D.D.C.), Ex Parte application by United States filed on May 16, 2012 (both accessed via PACER);

US Department of Justice Press Release, "U.S. Restrains More Than \$3 Million in Corruption Proceeds Related to Former Governor of Nigeria," July 23, 2012, accessed at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2012/July/12-crt-906.html>;

BBC News, "Nigeria ex-Delta state governor James Ibori guilty plea," February 27, 2012. < <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-17181056>>;

Channeltv.com, "UK Court May Restart \$145m Ibori Asset-Confiscation Case," October 8, 2013, at <http://www.channelstv.com/home/2013/10/08/uk-court-may-restart-145m-ibor...>