

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD
WISCONSIN

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5323
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)
feingold.senate.gov

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

March 21, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

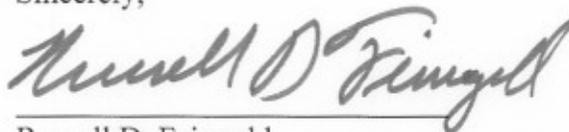
Dear Secretary Rice:

Last week I had an opportunity to meet with Liberian president Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson during her visit to Washington, DC. Among other things, we discussed the need to bring former Liberian war lord Charles Taylor to justice, and how important it is that he receives a fair and thorough trial. I know you agree with her call at the U.N. for Nigeria to deliver Mr. Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

Charles Taylor is a war criminal, and should stand trial for his egregious crimes. I have written to President Obasanjo to urge him to answer President Sirleaf-Johnson's call and deliver Mr. Taylor to justice. We all have a responsibility to ensure that the circle of violence and impunity is halted, and that people—especially leaders—are held accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Charles Taylor is at the heart of a deeply disturbing trend that has emerged in West Africa, in which violent regimes hold entire civilian populations hostage in order to win concessions from the international community. This is a trend that we must end. All of us should work together to support President Sirleaf-Johnson's call and demonstrate that the international community will hold criminals like Charles Taylor accountable for their actions. I urge you to pressure President Obsanjo as well and I look forward to working with you closely on this issue.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator

○ 1600 ASPEN COMMONS
ROOM 100
MIDDLETON, WI 53562
(608) 828-1200
(608) 828-1215 (TDD)

○ 517 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE
ROOM 408
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 276-7282

○ 401 5TH STREET
ROOM 410
WAUSAU, WI 54403
(715) 848-5660

○ 425 STATE STREET
ROOM 225
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 782-5585

○ 1640 MAIN STREET
GREEN BAY, WI 54302
(920) 465-7508