

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE CHAMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATE MAGISTRATE  
 MONTSERRADO COUNTY) MONROVIA CITY MAGISTERIAL COURT  
 TEMPLE OF JUSTICE, MONROVIA, LIBERIA

BEFORE HIS HONOR.....L. BEN BARCO.....STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE

R/L by & thru the Ministry of Justice  
 .....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

Dixon W. Seboe, Abu B. Kamara, J. Fonati  
 Koffa and Jacob C. Deebie of the City of  
 Monrovia .....DEFENDANTS

CRIMES:

Arson, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Conspiracy,  
 Criminal Solicitation, Criminal Attempt to  
 Commit Murder, Aggravated Assault, Illegal  
 Possession of Firearm, Release of Destructive  
 Forces, Recklessly Endangering Another Person  
 and Theft of Property

REPRESENTATIONS:



**Prosecution:** The State is present in court and is represented by the Ministry of Justice to include all prosecuting attorneys and Counsellors of the said Ministry; present in court are Counsellor at law Augustine C. Fayiah, Counsellor at law, Jerry D.K. Garlawolo, Counsellor Richard J. Scott, Jr., Counsellor at law, J. Adolphus Karnuah and Counsellor at law, Bobby F.W. Livingstone and Counsellor at law, Jonah Kerkulah as well as all other prosecuting attorneys and Counsellors of the said Ministry, Republic of Liberia. One of Counsels for the Republic says they are in court and ready to receive Your Honor's ruling. And respectfully submit.

**Defense:** While the defendants are continuously represented as per the records of this Honorable Court and present in court today's sitting are Counsellor at law, Jonathan T. Massaquoi, Counsellor J. Kuwu Davies and attorney Sampson who says they are in court to be joined by Counsellor at law, M. Wilkins Wright and say they are ready to receive Your Honor's ruling. One of counsels so prays and respectfully submits.

**THE COURT:** The Court duly notes the legal representations of the parties and will now proceed to read its ruling. And it is hereby so ordered.

COURT'S FINAL RULING ON PRELIMINARY EXMINATION

The Ministry of Justice via a police charge sheet filed this Complaint on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025 to the effect that on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at about 0500 hours the above named defendants, to include Dixon W. Seboe, Abu B. Kamara, J. Fonati Koffa, Jacob C. Deebie and others, through telephone conversations and actions criminally connived, conspired, sponsored and purchased explosives, including gasoline which was used to set ablaze the Joint Chambers of the Capitol Building housing the Liberian Legislature, thereby causing damages to the said Joint Chambers at the cost of over US\$1, 800, 000.00 (1.8 million United States Dollars). The complaint further alleges that previous to the December 17<sup>th</sup> incident and in the aftermath of a riot, Defendants brutally attacked or caused to attack a police officer and left him unconscious; whereas, they confiscated his gun and converted same into their personal use.



There and then, Defendants were charged with the crimes of Arson, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Conspiracy, Criminal Solicitation, Criminal Attempt to Commit Murder, Aggravated Assault, Illegal Possession of Firearm, Release of Destructive Forces, Recklessly Endangering Another person and Theft of Property, in violation of *Sections 15.1, 15.5, 10.4, 10.3, 10.1, 14.20, 15.4, 14.23 and 15.51 of the New Penal Law of Liberia.*

When the matter was called for hearing, Defendants by and thru their legal counsels filed an application, invoking *Chapter 12, Sections 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3 of the Criminal Procedure Law* for preliminary examination. Consistent with the said provisions, the State produced two (2) witnesses to prove that there exists a probable cause to hold Defendants to further answer to the crimes at the level of the circuit court.

### PROSECUTION FIRST WITNESS RAFELL WILSON



Prosecution first witness identified himself as Peter W. Johnson who says he is a Chief Inspector of the Liberia National Police. He narrated that during his first appearance before this Court, where he testified against Thomas Etheridge, Eric Susay, Stephen Broh and others, he told the Court that the crimes committed by the named persons were not committed on their own accord, but in concert with other people, who he identified as big hands, for which the investigation was ongoing.

The witness explained that they invited the within named Defendants to the headquarters of the Liberian National Police during which investigators talked to them in the presence of their lawyer. The first person they talked to, according to the witness, was Co-defendant Abu B. Kamara who was asked as to his relationship with Amos Koffa who is now on the run and the conversation he had with the said Amos, as well as Co-defendants Dixon Seboe, Jacob Debbie and J. Fonati Koffa when they were all riding in HOR-15 on December 9, 2024. The witness said in that conversation, Defendant Abu B. Kamara was heard saying who is the president; that that man is not president but you keep calling him president. The witness said at the time of this statement Defendant Kamara was on the phone, so when he was brought before the police and confronted with the said statement, he told Police investigators that the voice was AI generated.



He said Abu B. Kamara was further questioned concerning one of his lieutenants who was moving between him (Abu B. Kamara) and Dixon Seboe in person of Amos Koffa, but that Abu B. Kamara told investigators that he could not remember anything because his blood pressure was up. He said as a result of that statement they temporarily suspended the questioning of Mr. Abu B. Kamara, and turned their attention to Mr. Dixon Seboe, whom he described as the chief architect and organizer of the fire incident that gutted the Capitol Building. He explained that Co-defendant Seboe told the investigators that he had no idea with respect to their concern.

The witness explained further that John Nyantee who is one of the perpetrators of the fire incident worked in the office of Hon. Dixon Seboe, as well as Stephen Broh and other defendants. He said that those who burned the Capitol Building including Eric Susay, Stephen Broh and Thomas Etheridge were recruited by Hon. Dixon Seboe.

The witness also narrated that on the day of the commission of the crimes, Thomas Etheridge picked up Stephen Broh, John Nyantee and other persons who were involved in the commission of the crimes and conveyed them from Brewerville to the Capitol Building, and that while en route they stopped at the intersection of Carey & Buchanan Streets where they bought a gallon of gasoline. He said by this time, some of the men to include Kaba, Tyres, Jerry and other actors were already in town in the Capitol Building where they set ablaze the said building; after which, Thomas Etheridge and Eric Susay got on a motorbike and fled to the home of Mr. J. Fonati Koffa.

The witness narrated further that after the commission of the crimes, Mr. J. Fonati Koffa received the information because they had a senior staff chartroom created by office staffers assigned in his office, and in that chartroom information was shared and exchanged. The witness explained further that Mr. Koffa is a member of that chartroom and as such he received information about the burning of the Capitol Building.



The witness informed Court that Mr. Koffa is one of the financiers of the group that burned the Capitol Building. He said he knows this for a fact because one of the perpetrators of the arson attack on the Capitol Building in person of Thomas Etheridge told Police investigation that Hon. Koffa is referred to as "Higher-up" or "Boss Man" which names were repeatedly used in the referenced chatroom.

He said that after the commission of the crimes, Mr. Thomas Etheridge received the amount of US\$1000.00 from Mr. Koffa to pay those persons that were involved in the commission of the said crimes.

He explained that Mr. Dixon Seboe used Christian Koffa, a resident of New Kru Town who worked in the office of Mr. Seboe as filling clerk to help John Nyante to flee out of Liberia by providing him money. He said he knows this to be true because in their investigation with Stephen Koffa, Stephen told the investigators that he and Mr. Seboe had live discussions during which Mr. Seboe asked one Tutugirl to take John Nyantee out of Liberia for which he was sending Stephen Koffa to his Chief of Office Staff to facilitate the travelling process. He said at that point, Stephen Koffa and Tutugirl took John Nyantee out of Liberia to Loguatu, where he crossed the border into Ivory Coast.



The witness explained that Mr. Jacob Debbie was one of the persons who listened to the planning process of the fire incident because on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 he was in a vehicle marked HOR-15 with Defendants Abu B. Kamara and Dixon Seboe who were discussing the burning of the Capitol Building. The witness said, Jacob Debbie, as a responsible citizen refused to inform law enforcement authority but chose to remain silent before and after the burning of the Capitol Building.

He said further, as to the activities of Mr. Dixon Seboe, he specifically recruited the main actors that burned the Joint Chambers of the Capitol Building, including John Nyante, Jerry Kogar, Kelvin Bah and Ali Kaba and that after the commission of the crimes, he (that is, Mr. Seboe) facilitated their escape into their current hideouts. He said as for Co-defendant J. Fonati Koffa who is often referred to by his staffers as "Higher-up" or "Boss," facilitated Thomas Etheridge who was one of the principal actors that commanded and led the perpetrators to the Capitol Building where they set same ablaze.



He also narrated that in Mr. Koffa's Facebook post, dated July 17, 2025 which did not last for more than ten hours, he wrote about an event described as "Alamo" which the witness said is about the war between Texas and Mexico in which people were killed and women raped. The witness said that post served as motivation for the bravery of the conspirators that set the Capitol Building ablaze. With that testimony, Prosecution rested with its first witness.



### PROSECUTION SECOND WITNESS

Prosecution second witness identified himself as Rafell A. Wilson, who says he is employed by the Liberia Government and works as an Officer of the Liberian National Police, serving in the capacity as Chief Investigator of the Crimes Services Department (CSD).

Witness Rafell narrated that on November 10, 2024, there was what he calls "desecration" of the Joint Chambers in the building that houses the William R. Tolbert Hall in the premises of the Capitol Building, during which Defendant Thomas Etheridge and cohorts to be identified were the perpetrators that set the building ablaze. He said additionally, on December 9, 2024 there was an audio recording in which Defendants Abu B. Kamara and Jacob C. Debbie and some other persons who they considered as actors were onboard a vehicle marked HOR-15, wherein Defendant Abu B. Kamara placed a call to Co-defendant J. Fonati Koffa, and in that recording Abu B. Kamara can be heard asking Defendant Fonati Koffa about his location and that Defendant Fonati Koffa replied that he was in the President's yard; whereupon, Abu B. Kamara told him that the man (that is the President of Liberia) is not the President, but that Koffa continues to refer to him as president, but that Defendant Koffa replied that it is the title that the Liberian people gave him. Prosecution second witness explained further that in that conversation, Defendant Abu Kamara went on to inform Defendant Fonati Koffa that he (Abu Kamara) and others had a plan B, and that the actors were with him.



The witness narrated further that on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 there was a protest called by one Vandalark Patrick and that during the said protest, evidence available to investigators shows that Defendant Dixon W. Seboe commonly referred to as Gago, through John Nyantee and Amos Koffa, recruited several persons from the borough of New Kru Town, specifically District 16 for the sole purpose of disrupting activities at the Capitol Building on that day. The witness said that on Tuesday December 17, 2024, some of those that participated in the protest were claiming that the rule of law should be respected; whereas, others went with the intent to disrupt governance at the Capitol Building. He said some of them gathered at Jallah Town where they encountered an innocent police officer by the name of Amara Bility who was on his way to his assignment at the Headquarters of the National Elections Commission. He said those named persons and others assaulted the police officer, inflicted severe bodily injuries on his person and took away his properties, including a 9mm pistol assigned to him by the LNP, and left him unconscious as his perpetrators fled the scene to different directions. The witness narrated further that Thomas Etheridge who is one of the very close confidants of Co-defendant J. Fonati Koffa, along with John Nyantee and Amos Koffa who are themselves close associates of Co-defendant Seboe, alias Gago met on December 17, 2025 at about 8:00 A.M or thereabout behind Connex Gas Station, where used cars are sold, to discuss with Jerry Kogar, alias Tyres, Kivi Bah, informing them that the meeting with them was in furtherance of their discussion had in New Kru Town to burn down the Capitol Building and that Tyres and Kaba informed the planners that they were hungry and wanted to eat. The witness said at that moment Amos Koffa who is now at large, placed a call to Defendant Seboe and thereafter a white pickup truck arrived on the scene, and that Amos Koffa and John Nyantee moved to the said car and met a driver who was accompanied by another person sitting in the front seat and two other persons at the back and that the guy seated in the front delivered to Amos Koffa US \$100.00, which he handed over to Kaba and Tyres. The witness said on that same day when the same group met in the evening hours Nyantee gave them L\$250.00 to purchase a mayonnaise jar of gasoline, and then they departed in separated directions.



The witness said on 18 December 2024, at about 1:00 am, there was a call to Co-defendant Dixon Seboe, alias, Gago from Amos Koffa, and there were also call exchanges amongst Ethridge, Amos Koffa, Nyante as well as Co-defendant Dixon Seiboe regarding their plot. The witness narrated that during that period, Thomas Ethridge, who was driving one of the vehicles of Co-defendant Fonati koffa, was lifting Stephen Broh, John Nyante and Amos koffa towards Monrovia, but that as they approached Central Monrovia, they were not certain as to whether or not Kaba bought the gasoline; so, they moved to Buchanan and Carey Streets intersection to a street gas dealer, where they purchased one gallon of gasoline. The witness narrated that thereafter, the group drove unto the Capitol Building in the said pick-up and entered from the gate facing the University of Liberia before they disembarked from the vehicle.



Prosecution second witness said there were other actors already within the premises of the Capitol Building, and together, they moved into the joint chambers on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and set it al blaze, using gasoline and other flammable materials, before escaping from the premises of the Capitol Building, except for Ethridge, who remained to video tape the burning of the Capitol Building to report to their bosses as evidence.

Prosecution witness narrated that while police and other law enforcement agencies were in search of John Nyantee, Amos Koffa, Stephen Broh and other accomplices of the arson attack in January 2025, Defendant Dixon Seboe contacted Stephen koffa, the filing clerk in his office with an instruction to reach out to his Chief of Office Staff to provide cash to facilitate John Nyantee's escape from the country. Thereafter, according to Prosecution witness, the sister of John Nyantee as were as Christian Koffa escorted Nyantee to the Loguotuo border where he used the fake name, "Moses Boinyene" which is the name of a Governor in New Kru Town to obtain a laissez passé to cross the border and evade justice.



The witness also narrated that Defendant Dixon Seboe in his attempt to allow other defendants, to include Amos Koffa, evade justice so as to cover-up the criminal action at the Capitol Building reached out to Patrick Saah Ali, a resident of Banjor, Montserrado County where Amos Koffa had been hiding for two months and asked Ali to escort the said Koffa out of Liberia, and that was in the month of April 2025. The witness said as they were travelling, Defendant Seboe can be heard in an audio recording trying to find their location and that in the said audio, Ali responded that they were in Red-Light on their way. He said when they got in Nimba, specifically at the Loguatu border, Amos Koffa used the name Roland King and also obtained a laissez passé which he used to cross. The witness said when he crossed, Defendant Dixon Seboe called to confirm that they had left the bailiwick of the country, to which, Ali confirmed and he told Ali not to call him back on the number that he was using, as it was his wife's number. He provided an alternative number which is an Orange GSM number to reach out to Ali. With that narrative of Prosecution second witness, Prosecution rested and petitioned the Court for the admissibility of its evidence

### ISSUE



*Hence, the sole issue for the determination of this court is whether or not Prosecution did establish a prima facie case, such that Defendants can be held to further answer to the crimes as charged herein above?*

Before answering the above legal question, we shall look at the applicable laws instructive on this matter and the facts. Section 12.2 of the Criminal Procedure Law provides that "The accused shall be afforded a preliminary examination after his/her first appearance before the magistrate or justice of the peace. If the magistrate or justice of the peace determines that a prima facie case has been established against the accused, the magistrate or justice of the peace... shall hold him/her to answer."

*In RL v Chakpadeh, 35 LLR 715 (1988), Syllabus 4, the Supreme Court opined that a "Prima facie case is [a case] evidence sufficient to establish the fact unless rebutted." That presupposes that all Prosecution needs to establish is that a crime was committed, and that it is likely that the accused might have committed the crime. Hence, the standard in establishing a prima facie case is not proof beyond reasonable doubt but a determination as to the existence of a probable cause—that is, a reasonable ground to suspect that a person has committed a crime. See the Ninth Edition of Black's Law Dictionary, p.1321.*



The allegations in this complaint are that the above-named defendants of the City of Monrovia, through telephone conversations and other means, criminally connived, conspired, sponsored and purchased explosives, including gasoline which were used to set ablaze the Joint Chambers of the Capitol Building, housing the Liberian Legislature on December 17, 2024, thereby causing damages to the said Joint Chambers at the cost of over US\$1, 800, 000.00 (1.8 million United States Dollars). The complaint further alleges that previous to the December 17<sup>th</sup> incident and in the aftermath of a riot, Defendants brutally attacked or caused to be attacked a police officer and left him unconscious; whereas, they confiscated his gun and converted same into their personal use.

State witnesses were corroborative in the description of the events leading up to the burning of the Capitol, such that they also described the roles each of the defendants played in the conspiracy. Defendant Dixon Seboe is particularly named as the person who cooked the conspiracy, to the effect that he recruited and manipulated persons to burn the Joint Chambers of the Capitol Building, and thereafter, facilitated their escape.

Whereas Defendant Abu Kamara, as one of the financiers of the plot, is also accused of having recruited people he referred to as actors to help in the burning of the Capitol. For his part, Prosecution witnesses narrated the role of Defendant J. Fonati Koffia as one of the financiers behind the plot. They also accused Koffia of being aware of the burning of the Capitol even before the incident as he was part of a chatroom where the plot was hatched. For Defendant Jacob Debbie, he is said to have been aware of the plot, by listening to a conversation regarding same, but took no action, either before or after the incident to inform law enforcement authority, which inaction defines his complicity.

These narratives are sufficient grounds to establish probable cause. Therefore, it is the holding of this Court that Prosecution has established a prima facie case, such that Defendants can be held to further answer to the crimes as charged.

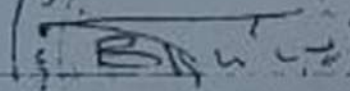
Wherefore and in view of the foregoing, the Clerk of Court is hereby ordered to transmit the records of this case along with the defendants to Criminal Court "A" consistent with law and practice in vogue. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

To which ruling of Your Honor, defendants except and announce that they shall take advantage of the law controlling in this jurisdiction. And respectfully submit.

**THE COURT:** Defense exception is hereby noted and it is hereby so ordered.

GIVEN UNDER MY HANDS AND SEAL OF COURT THIS 13th DAY OF JUNE, A.D. 2025.

SIGNED:

  
Ben Barco (Cllr.)  
STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE  
MONROVIA CITY COURT

