

IN THE CASE, R/L BY AND THRU: The Ministry of Justice Versus H.E.
Madam Jewel Howard Taylor, Defendant

REPRESENTATIONS:

Prosecution: The Republic of Liberia is in court and is being represented by the Ministry of Justice, which include all prosecuting Attorneys and Counsellors of the aforesaid Ministry; present in court for these proceedings are Counsellors J. Adolphus Karnuan II, Randolph D.M.O. Johnson, Aliku Bility, Attorney Kulee C. Varfley, Alfred F. Bandiyo and Alex Hawkins S. Younge who say they are in court and ready to proceed. And submit.

Defense: And while the defendant, H.E. the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, Madam Jewel Howard Taylor is in court and represented as follow:

1. Justice Cllr. Kabineh M. Ja'neh Professor
2. Cllr. Lavalá Superwood
3. Cllr. Sandra Howard
4. Cllr. Ahaji Swaliho Sesay
5. Cllr. Garrison D. Yealue, Jr.
6. Atty. Gbawou Kowou
7. Cllr. Jonathan Massaquoi and
8. Cllr. Finley Y. karnaga and others

One of counsels for defendant informs court that the Honorable Madam Taylor has a submission to make after Your Honor shall have recognised the parties along with their lawyers

THE COURT: The court notes the legal representation of the parties and requests counsel for defendant to proceed. And so ordered

At this stage, the defendant, Madam Taylor, through counsel requests Your Honor to grant her Preliminary Examination as a matter of law

That having granted the said preliminary Examination Madam Taylor again requests this court to grant her a compassionate Detention at a medical facility where she is presently undergoing medical attention.

Madam Taylor informs the court through her counsels that the medical condition for which she is being treated is life-threatening and if she is not allowed the opportunity to be treated by the doctor of her choice, she may lose her life.

4. Counsel also requests court to take judicial notice of section 25.1 of the Criminal Procedure Law (historical facts) and section 25.2 (judicial notice)

Prosecution cites the charged relative to the unlicensed possession of Narcotics Drugs, importation as captioned in the charging section of the writ of arrest. Additionally, prosecution cites Article 21, paragraph (D) of the 1986 Constitution.

Defense rays Your Honor to allow for Jewel Howard to return to the hospital to conclude her medical attention. Defense counsel says for the acute medical condition of the defendant, this court should grant her temporary opportunity to be determined by Your Honor just as the police did. And counsel so prays and respectfully submits.

THE COURT: the Court recess for 15-Minutes.

The Court: Recess time having expired, the matter is ordered resumed. And so ordered/.

The Court: In so far as it relates to the application of the defendant by and through her legal counsels, this court is inclined to rule as follows.

1. That the resistance of the defendant seeking Preliminary Examination which is consistent with our statute and to which prosecution interposed no objection, same is hereby granted as a matter of right.
2. That Chapter 34, section 34.20.1 provides that the Attorney General shall formulate rules and regulations governing compassionate leave for institution and in accordance with such rules and regulation may permit any prison to leave the institution for short period of time based on ... for compelling reason which so appeal to compassion that presupposes that under the Liberian law, the statute, the motion to grant a formal compassion leave rests with the Executive Branch which is the Ministry of Justice and not the Judiciary.

Additionally, the medical report in my possession dated August 21 2026 has the following recommendations: " Due to fluctuation blood pressure anxiety in a stressful environment, she will benefit from 48-hours admission and that 48-hoiurs admission has since expired which suggests that the defendant is in a stabled condition

Counsel further informs Court that when Honorable Taylor sensed her arrest, she felt seriously ill and she has been undergoing medical condition and her doctor has advised her to continue with medical treatment.

Wherefore and in view of the counts above, the situation of Madam Taylor (health condition) and the law controlling on Preliminary Examination, defense prays this Honorable Court and for Your Honor to grant as you finds appropriate, equitable and just considering that Honorable Taylor is the Former Vice President of the Republic of Liberia. And counsel so prays and respectfully submits.

In resistance, one of counsels for Prosecution says and submits that Your Honor should grant the defense's submission in part and vehemently deny the submission in part:

1. Counsels says that relative to the request for preliminary examination, counsel says that this is permissible in this jurisdiction that which is compliance with chapter 12, of the Criminal Procedure Law of the Republic of Liberia; hence, Prosecution interposes no objection to the request for Preliminary Examination;
2. As to the bogus and unmeritorious request or submission by defense for the defendant in the dock to be granted what defense referred to as "Compassionate Detention", one of counsels for prosecution vehemently objects and requests court to have same denied and thrown outside of the window of this Honorable Court the following factual and legal reasons to wit:
 - a) Counsel says as to Compassionate Detention, this phrase does not exist in the legal cyclopaedia of this legal jurisdiction, counsel says that the clause that is normally used is compassion release as in the instance case, the defendant having been held for infamous crimes cannot be given compassionate leave, and more so, the crimes charged against the defendant are serious and infamous crimes some of which by virtue of the statue codification does not permit the defendant to be admitted to bail.
 - b) Counsel says and contends further that for the defense to be asking this Honorable Court for Compassionate Detention, enumerating medical conditions, those can be consider as trivialous and it only meant to bring this proceeding into mockery.

Furthermore, even if there were species of evidence adduced before this court regarding the medical condition of the defendant, the charges levelled against the defendant, some of which are non-billable; that means the defendant can only be acquainted with her constitutional rights by Your Honor and this Honourable Court, and Your Honor can further grant her Preliminary Examination so as to establish whether there are probable cause or causes to have the defendant held to answer to the charges levied against her.

Additionally, the purported medical report referred to by Defense Lawyers states in clear and unambiguous terms as follows:

"From the time of submission to the time of admission, patient has not had any significant adverse effect and her vital signs including Blood Pressure and blood Sugar levels have been relatively normal with stabilized sleep pattern and anxiety."

Counsel contends and says that with this clause of the medical report, one cannot be claiming that the defendant's life is threatened due to medical condition. Hence the averment of the submission by the defense lawyer calling for what he terms as compassionate detention is a legal nullity which should be ignored, denied and dismissed by Your Honor and this Honourable Court.

Wherefore and in view of the foregoing facts and circumstances, one of counsels for the state most respectfully prays and requests Your Honor and this Honourable Court to grant Defense's submission in part which has to do with granting of Preliminary Examination and deny the bogus request for what defense termed as compassionate detention which by law and practice does not exist in this jurisdiction. With that said, one of counsels for prosecution requests court to grant Prosecution's resistance and permission and award to prosecution all other relief Your Honor may consider just and equitable. And respectfully submits.

THE COURT: Argument, seven minutes excluding legal reliance. And so ordered.

The Movant/Defendant in arguing their side of the case cites this court to the following legal reliance:

1. Chapter 34, section 34.20 (Leave from Prison on a Compassionate basis)
2. Chapter 13, section 13.1, subsection 3 of the Criminal Procedure Law
3. Article 20, subsection A (the right to life)

Wherefore and in view of the above and defense requests for Preliminary Examination is hereby granted and the request for Compassionate Leave is hereby denied and the defendant is ordered committed at the Monrovia Central Prison and the sheriff of this court is order to effect this court's order. And it is hereby so ordered.

To which ruling one of counsel for defendant excepts in part, that is, defense excepts the portion of the ruling which grants the Preliminary examination and excepts to the portion of the ruling which denied the defendant's medical leave request based on the state of her health which is life threatening and inform court that they will take advantage of the controlling law and practice in this jurisdiction.

THE COURT: And the Court notes defense counsel's exception. Matter adjourned. **AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED**

