



Judge Wesseh Warns State Prosecutors Over Delay

Judge Wesseh A Wesseh of Criminal Court “E” at the Temple of Justice has issued a stern warning to state prosecutors for their repeated failure to produce the victim in the Statutory rape case against former National Security Agency (NSA) staffer Peter Bon Jallah.

The court emphasized that such delays undermine the defendant’s Constitutional right to a speedy and impartial trial.

On Wednesday, August 12, 2026, His Honor Wesseh Aphonsus Wesseh, Sr., Assigned Circuit Judge of Criminal Court “E,” cautioned prosecutors after they requested another postponement.

The state argued that its principal witness, the victim, was unable to testify due to suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Prosecutors assured the court that the victim would be ready to testify after counseling and requested rescheduling to Friday, August 14, 2026.

Judge Wesseh granted the request but warned that no further delays would be tolerated on the same grounds. He noted that records show Bon Jallah and others were arrested in January 2026 and indicted during the February Term of Court on charges of gang rape, statutory rape, and kidnapping. Despite the indictment, the case has yet to proceed to full trial.

The judge stressed that under Liberian law, defendants indicted for serious offenses such as statutory rape are presumed innocent until proven guilty, and the court must safeguard their right to a fair and timely trial.

“Hence, this court says were the prosecution to return to court on Friday, with another continuance, for failure of the alleged victim to appear and testify in these proceedings, the court will not relent in making use of the laws that are available to the court. The prosecution is therefore warned to ensure the presence of its witnesses on Friday, August 14, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.,” Judge Wesseh declared.