

## News Strauss-Kahn

## The fall and rise of IMF's top man

**July 2007** Dominique Strauss-Kahn is appointed chief of the International Monetary Fund



**October 2008** He is censured by the IMF over claims of an affair with a Hungarian. Strauss-Kahn apologises and admits an "error in judgment"

**May 14, 2011** Strauss-Kahn is placed in custody following allegations of attempted rape made by a worker at the Sofitel hotel, New York

**May 16** Strauss-Kahn's bail appeal is rejected and he is sent to Rikers Island prison



**May 16** Tristane Banon, a writer, claimed Strauss-Kahn ripped off her bra like a "chimpanzee on heat" when she met him nine years ago

**May 17** Aurélie Filippetti, a Socialist MP, says that she was once the object of a "very heavy-handed flirt" by Strauss-Kahn



**May 17** Another journalist, "Martina", claims that Strauss-Kahn twice offered her interviews in exchange for sex

**May 19** With "infinite sadness", Strauss-Kahn resigns from his post at the IMF. He denies the allegations filed against him



**May 20** His wife, Anne Sinclair, posts \$6 million bail. Strauss-Kahn is placed under house arrest



# The phone call that may destroy maid's allegation of rape

Tim Teeman  
Nico Hines New York

It was a phone call between a maid and a man in jail that may have changed the course of history, and decided the future presidency of France.

During the call, apparently recorded within a day of her alleged assault by the former head of the International Monetary Fund, the 32-year-old Guinean hotel worker discussed the possible benefits of pursuing charges against Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

Understandable, perhaps, under the circumstances, but ill-advised if the man was in prison on drugs charges and was one of several people to have made a number of cash deposits into the woman's bank account in the past couple of years, which totalled around \$100,000 (£62,000).

According to two "well-placed law enforcement officials", who spoke to *The New York Times*, the man had been arrested on charges of possessing almost 200kg of marijuana. It appears that the call may have given prosecutors pause before further investigation raised other questions about the maid's reliability as a witness.

The maid claimed that she knew nothing about the bank deposits beyond the fact that they were made by

## It's rich people against a poor young woman, says brother

Adam Sage Paris

The elder brother of the chambermaid expressed disbelief at the claim that she had made up the allegations against Dominique Strauss-Kahn and then lied to investigators. "It's totally false," he told Radio France Internationale.

Speaking from Conakry, the Guinean capital, he said: "We are the descendants of very pious Muslim scholars and we cannot let ourselves be carried away by easy money."

The 32-year-old maid who claims to have been raped by Mr Strauss-Kahn grew up in an isolated village in the mountains of northern Guinea, where she married her cousin at the age of about 16.

The couple had a daughter and are reported to have moved to Sierra Leone. But when her husband died, she returned to Guinea and lived in Conakry, where she sold cosmetics.

A decade ago she obtained a visa for the United States, where her sister already lived. Once there, she was given political asylum. Her daughter followed two years later.

Mouctar Diallo, who knew the maid in Conakry, said: "She was friendly and nice with everyone. Her practice of the

### Inside today

The fraying of the case was almost as dramatic as the airport arrest

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misrepresented her income to qualify for housing benefits and claimed that a friend's child was a dependant in order to increase her tax refund.

Prosecutors from the office of Cyrus R. Vance Jr, the Manhattan District Attorney, were said to have "serious problems" with the maid's credibility, although they would continue to pursue the case. "We believe we have done nothing but to support her," Mr Vance said outside the courthouse. "Our duty is to do what is right in every case. Our office's commitment is to the truth and the facts."

In an explosive performance outside court, Kenneth Thompson, the maid's lawyer, graphically outlined details of the alleged assault. He said that there was strong evidence to continue with the prosecution.

Both defence and prosecution accept that a sexual encounter took place: the defence claim that it was consensual, the prosecution that it was coercive. "Nothing changes one very important fact, namely, that Dominique Strauss-Kahn violently sexually assaulted the victim inside of that hotel room at the Sofitel," Mr Thompson said.

He also angrily decried the leaking of information, some of which was "totally false" and much of which had been voluntarily recounted by the maid. He said that the discrepancy in the accounts of her genital mutilation were down to desperation: she did not want her daughter to suffer what she had gone through. Mr Thompson said that she had also been raped in Guinea.

Mr Thompson claimed that the District Attorney wanted the case to collapse so that it didn't reflect badly on his tenure. One of the prosecution team was married to one of Mr Strauss-Kahn's lawyers, he added. Mr Thompson also claimed that prosecutors had screamed at the maid during her interrogation.

Mr Thompson insisted that Mr Strauss-Kahn had bruised the maid and pictures of an injury had been taken by medical staff. He had thrown her to the floor, torn a ligament in her shoulder and ripped her stockings, he said.

The maid would now "come before the world" to tell her story, he added. She was "absolutely distraught" and said that her life "was over", Mr Thompson said. She is reported to have said: "I have nothing left. I have no job. People around the world think I am a liar."

The maid would appear "in front of the cameras and tell the world what Dominique Strauss-Kahn did", he added.

Mr Thompson added that the physical evidence backed up the maid's claims that she had gone to Mr Strauss-Kahn's suite, 2806, on May 14 at the midtown Sofitel to clean it when he had emerged, naked, from the bathroom and attacked her. He is alleged to have ripped her stockings, attempted to rape her and forced her to perform a



Dominique Strauss-Khan leaves court yesterday with his wife, Anne Sinclair.

She is said to have mortgaged her home in Washington DC to raise his bail

sex act. His semen was identified in a DNA test of her clothing.

There were reports of CCTV footage showing both the maid and Mr Strauss-Kahn leaving the hotel room, both in a panicked state, but the District Attorney claimed last night that she had in fact cleaned another room before reporting the assault.

Mr Strauss-Kahn was arrested by police officers that afternoon while he waited on an Air France plane bound

for Paris after enjoying a 90-minute lunch with his daughter, Camille. Mr Strauss-Kahn was initially jailed on Rikers Island. When his bail request was finally agreed, the terms amounted to near-total house arrest. He was forced to post \$1 million (£623,000) bail and a \$5 million bond. He also had to pay \$250,000 a month for an armed guard and security team and was required to wear an ankle monitor. He was permitted to travel only to reli-

gious services, to visit a doctor, to see his lawyers or to attend a court date.

Many observers in France claimed that the unusual restrictions amounted to an extra-judicial punishment or a failure to respect the principle of innocence until guilt has been proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Some of Mr Strauss-Kahn's allies even suggested that he had been set up. "It is a great relief," said William Taylor, one of Mr Strauss-Kahn's lawyers.

His wife, Anne Sinclair, is said to have mortgaged her Washington home to raise his bail money. She arrived at court alongside her husband yesterday. In a recent e-mail Ms Sinclair said that she had "no doubts about the facts" of her husband's case. "But [I am] very worried nevertheless. Dominique is a good, honest, upright man. I believe in him more than ever. We will get through this drama together, dignified and upright, hand in hand."

# Former IMF chief is freed as case against him founders

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began when prosecutors drafted a letter to Mr Strauss-Kahn's defence team explaining that the alleged victim had admitted providing false accusations of brutality and sexual assault in an asylum application. "She stated that she fabricated the statement," it read.

Prosecutors also said that the chambermaid's account of the aftermath of the alleged assault in a suite of the Sofitel hotel had changed.

She initially claimed that she fled the scene and waited until she saw Mr Strauss-Kahn leave suite 2806 before reporting the attack to her supervisor. It subsequently transpired that she cleaned another suite and then returned to the room vacated by the French economist to continue cleaning before raising the alarm.

They also discovered that the alleged victim, a 32-year-old woman from Guinea, had links to drug dealing and money laundering.

They said she had given false testimony about what happened in the minutes after the alleged attack and suggested that there had been inconsistencies in previous allegations of rape and genital mutilation in an asylum application she filed after moving to the United States in 2002.

The prosecution maintains that forensic science evidence proves that a sexual encounter took place on May 14 after which the maid left the room abruptly.

Kenneth Thompson, a lawyer acting on the victim's behalf, accused the prosecutors of betraying her despite a wealth of graphic evidence corroborating the alleged attack.

"We believe the DA is laying the foundations to dismiss this case. The DA has an obligation to stand by this



Benjamin Brafman, Mr Strauss-Kahn's lawyer, advises him in court yesterday

rape victim, to stand up for all women who have been raped and sexually assaulted," he said. "She has made some mistakes but that doesn't mean she is not a rape victim."

In an extraordinary half-hour press conference in front of the courthouse, he described in detail the violence of the alleged attack and the injuries sustained to the victim's crotch and shoulder.

The maid had been brave enough to stand up to a powerful man who would now be free to attack other women. He said she had told him: "I will go to my grave knowing the truth, knowing what this man did to me."

Mr Strauss-Kahn, wearing a dark suit and light blue tie, smiled again as he left the court with his wife, the French journalist Anne Sinclair. He is free to travel throughout the United States but not to leave the country. His passport has not been returned.

Benjamin Brafman, his lead lawyer, said: "Today is a first giant step in the right direction. The next step will be a complete dismissal of all charges."

The case is due to resume on July 18, but the judge said he was confident that Mr Strauss-Kahn would attend the next hearing voluntarily after a prohibitive set of bail conditions were lifted. He was subject to extensive and expensive conditions, including an ankle monitor, surveillance cameras and armed guards.

"The risk that you will not be here appears to have receded quite a bit," said Justice Michael Obus, but he cautioned the French politician that he may still have to answer the charges that were laid against him.

"Of course, the case is not over as you just heard. In the meantime, there will be no rush to judgment. The People will, I have no doubt, continue to investigate."

## Loyal wife gave much more than moral support

Behind the story Adam Sage

**A**mid the maelstrom that moved Dominique Strauss-Kahn from his global pedestal, one supporter remained steadfastly beside him, never appearing to be troubled by doubts over his innocence.

Anne Sinclair, 62, his wife, not only rushed to New York to be with him, but was instrumental in obtaining his bail.

"I have no doubts fundamentally but I'm very worried nevertheless," she told Michel Taubman, a French author, after Mr Strauss-Kahn's arrest. Taubman said last week: "I was struck by her total, absolute and unshakeable confidence in her husband."

Ms Sinclair, pictured right with their daughter Camille, had provided similarly unflinching

backing for her husband in 2008 when the International Monetary Fund launched an internal inquiry after he was accused of favouritism towards Piroska Nagy, an economist with whom he had had an affair.

This was by no means the first time that his sexual behaviour had been scrutinised. When Mr Strauss-Kahn was appointed managing director of the IMF, Jean Quatremer, the Brussels correspondent for *Liberation*, the French daily, wrote:

"Strauss-Kahn's only real problem is his relationship with women. He is too pushy and often comes close to harassment."

Aurélie Filippetti, a leading Socialist MP, said that Mr Strauss-Kahn once made a "very heavy, very

insistent" attempt to seduce her.

But Ms Sinclair's friends say that her love for him has never waned. And in New York she offered more than moral support. She is a French television journalist and the millionaire granddaughter of one of

France's greatest 20th-century art dealers, and used her wealth to put up bail of \$6 million (£3.7 million) and to rent a house in the expensive Tribeca neighbourhood of New York. A home in the city was a condition for Mr Strauss-Kahn's release.

Her fortune also helped to pay for two of America's most expensive lawyers, Benjamin Brafman and William W. Taylor III.

Mr Brafman is reported to charge up to \$1,500 an hour and Mr Taylor about \$1,000. Her lawyers are reported to have hired Guidepost Solutions, a firm of private investigators, to look into the maid's background.

Ms Sinclair was also able to tap into a network of powerful friends in France, such as Robert Badinter, the former Justice Minister.

