

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



The Registrar hands over the ceremonial key to the courthouse to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. For more photos of yesterday's ceremonies, see today's *'Special Court Supplement'*.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Tuesday, 3 December 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Outreach and Public Affairs

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Special Court for Sierra Leone
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2 December 2013

Sixteen Judges Sworn-in for Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone

Sixteen distinguished jurists today were sworn-in as Judges of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, the institution which will succeed the Special Court which closes this month.

Each Judge in turn subscribed to the solemn declaration to “without fear or favour, affection or ill-will, serve as a Judge of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone honestly, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously.” Their declarations were witnessed by Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Franklyn Bai Kargbo on behalf of the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and by UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Miguel de Serpa Soares on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.



Ten of the Judges were appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and six by the Government of Sierra Leone. The Judges will not serve full time. They will be on a roster, and may be called upon to exercise judicial functions in an *ad hoc* capacity on matters arising from the ongoing legal obligations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. These could include the review of applications by convicts for early release of SCSL prisoners or judicial review of their convictions. The Judges may also be called upon to preside over any contempt of court proceedings.

Mr. de Serpa Soares hailed the achievements of the Special Court in Outreach and its contributions to

international jurisprudence. “You can be very proud of what we have achieved together for the people of this country,” he said. You stood by the people of Sierra Leone in their most desperate hour of need.”

But, Mr. de Serpa Soares told the Judges, the work is not finished.

“You – the men and women Residual Judges of the Special Court have a particular responsibility to carry on the functions of the Special Court and, by doing so, to preserve its legacy.” he said.

The RSCSL Judges include Justice George Gelaga King of Sierra Leone, Justice Rosolu John Bankole Thompson of Sierra Leone, Justice Richard Brunt Lussick of Samoa, Justice Pierre G. Boutet of Canada, Justice Jon Moadah Kamanda of Sierra Leone, Justice Renate Winter of Austria, Justice Teresa Anne Doherty of Northern Ireland, Justice Shireen Avis Fisher of the United States of America, Justice Philip Nyamu Waki of Kenya, Justice Elizabeth Ibanda Nahamya of Uganda, Justice Vivian Margarete Solomon of Sierra Leone, Justice Abdulai Hamid Charm of Sierra Leone, Justice Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake of Botswana, Justice Andrew John Hatton of the United Kingdom, Justice Emmanuel Ekundayo Roberts of Sierra Leone, and Justice Isaac Lenaola of Kenya.

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Special Court Hands Over Courthouse and Complex to the Government of Sierra Leone

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In a colourful ceremony in front of the courthouse, Registrar Binta Mansaray handed an over-sized ceremonial key to Sierra Leone's Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Franklyn Bai Kargbo.

The courthouse saw the trials of leaders of the Civil Defence Forces, the Revolutionary United Front, and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, as well as the initial appearance of former Liberian President Charles

Taylor. These trials saw first-ever convictions for attacks against UN peacekeepers, forced marriage as a crime against humanity, and for the use of child soldiers.

The building will now house the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone.

"We will be the first international court – the very first – in more than half a century to complete our mandate successfully and to close," Ms. Mansaray said. "We now hand over to the Residual Special Court in the knowledge that we have accomplished what has been asked of us."

Attorney-General Kargbo hailed the Court's mandate which, he said, had been envisaged as a way to bring an end to impunity, to break the cycle of violence which took place during Sierra Leone's civil war and, he said, to give the people of Sierra Leone "an opportunity to show the world that Sierra Leoneans prefer peace, development, rule of law, justice and accountability instead of war."

"The undesirability of impunity and crimes against civilians under international humanitarian law is now firmly entrenched in the psyche of every Sierra Leonean," Mr. Kargbo said. "The country continues to rebuild and make progress with its development in a free, fair and peaceful atmosphere."

Mr. Giles Norman, the Chair of the Special Court's Management Committee and the Committee's

representative for Canada, recalled that the Court's agreement called for the return of the 11.5-acre site and buildings to Government after the court had completed its work. "This significant day has come upon us all," he said.

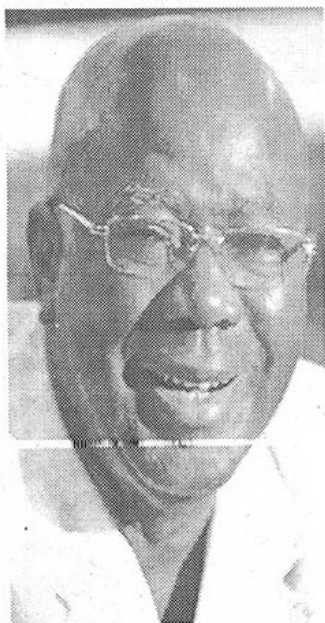
"This complex is an internationally recognised monument for international criminal justice, and it is my pleasure to be here on this significant day to witness its handover to the Government of Sierra Leone," Mr. Norman said. "It is our hope that this Courthouse will be used as a tool to enhance access to justice for the people of Sierra Leone. It is our hope that the legacy of what this Courthouse has achieved is remembered forever."

Sierra Leone's Chief Justice, Umu Hawa Tejan-Jalloh expressed appreciation for the handing over of the courthouse. "We are grateful for this wonderful legacy," she said. "The judiciary of Sierra Leone will ensure that these courtrooms are well maintained and put to good use, to dispense justice and enhance the rule of law and our own jurisprudence."

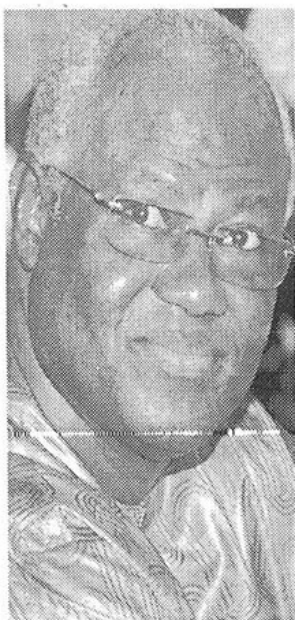
The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice unveiled the new inscription on the side of the courthouse: "The Special Court for Sierra Leone, upon the successful completion of its mandate, officially handed the courthouse over to the Government and People of Sierra Leone. Presented to the Chief Justice on 2 December 2013 by SCSL Registrar Madam Binta Mansaray."

The formal ceremony was followed by a "soft opening" of the Sierra Leone Peace Museum, located within the court complex.

#END



Former President Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah introduce Special Court



President Ernest Bai Koroma, presided over closure of Court

SPECIAL COURT SHUT DOWN

The Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL), which was established as a special hybrid court to try those people who carry the highest responsibility in the debilitating eleven year war in Sierra Leone shut down yesterday, December 2, 2013 at two separate ceremonies, both at the premises of the Special Court, Jomo Kenyatta Road and later at State House, where the security for the Special Court was formally handed over to the Sierra Leone Police Force.

President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma said at the State House ceremony that Sierra Leoneans were satisfied that the violence and impunity that characterized the eleven year civil war was addressed by the Special Court.

He paid tribute to the United Nations for supporting the Special Court and for encouraging Member Countries of the UN to provide financial resources for the operations of the Special Court.

The President of the SCSL, Justice Kalaga King held the audience spell-bound at the grounds of State House when he graphically narrated the history of the Special Court as he also spelt out the advantages of the Special Court and the legal precedents created by the hybrid court.

The Special Court will be remembered for arresting and bringing to justice a serving Head of State, Charles Taylor, the same Special Court will be remembered for arresting the War Lord, Foday Sankoh, who was charged by the court for violence perpetrated by his Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels.

Continued on page 7



Charles Taylor ...indicted



Foday Sankoh ...indicted



Sam Hinga Norman ...indicted

In Maforki Chieftdom... **No PC Election Tomorrow**

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Special Court Shut Down

From page 1

Another precedent is the indictment of suspects for arming young men below the age of fifteen for taking part in a violent civil war.

But the objective nature of the Special Court was found in the fact that in implementing the clause of those who carry the greatest responsibility during the eleven year old war the leadership of the rebellious RUF, Foday Sanku and Issa Sesay were indicted just as that of the Civil Defense Force including a former Minister, Hinga Norman head of the pro-government militia was also arrested and charged in court. Also, the leadership of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), including the Chairman, Johnny Paul Koroma was also indicted. The greatest precedent established in the Special Court can be found in the fact that for the very first time, a sitting President was forced to subject himself to the law, when Charles Taylor of Liberia was tried and later sentenced by the Special Court sitting in The Hague.

The end of the activities of the Special Court as announced yesterday is not total as a residual court will remain to be served by Judges who took the Oath of Office yesterday at the Premises of the Special Court.

Mr. Soares, a special representative of the United Nations Secretary General, who is also the Under-Secretary of State for Legal Affairs at the United Nations, paid tribute to Sierra Leoneans and the Government for agreeing to allow a judicial experiment found in the structure of the Special Court to operate in Sierra Leone in an effort to end impunity.

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Frank Kargbo who was very conspicuous at the Jomo Kenyatta Road ceremony during the swearing-in of residual Judges formally presented a token key to the President, marking the end of the main activities of the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

Frank Kargbo said later in his keynote address thanked both the people of Sierra Leone and the United Nations as he also conceded that the Judiciary in Sierra Leone has benefited from the operations of the Special Court both in terms of legacy and practice.

The SCSL was set up in Sierra Leone in 2002 as a result of a request made to the UN Secretary General by the then president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah supported by Sierra Leone Civil Society in an effort to address the issues impunity during the eleven year old rebel war.

Awoko

Tuesday, 3 December 2013

*As Special Court closes down...***Over \$2m for Residual Court**

Registrar of the SCSL Binta Mansaray handing over the key to the Court to Frank Kargbo

As Special Court closes down... Over \$2m for Residual Court

By Betty Milton

Over nine years since the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) has been operating in the country, it has finally come to an end, as they have handed over the legacy to the Government of Sierra Leone to be used as a Residual Court for Sierra Leone, where pledges of two million nine hundred and forty nine thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,949,700.00) have been made to the court.

During the handing over ceremony yesterday, Chairman of the Management Committee of the SCSL also representing Netherlands Giles Norman said his government has been a major contributor to the work of the Court in Sierra Leone and they will continue in that regard. It is in this vein that he pledged the sum of

one million Euros (£1M).

Former Prosecutor of the Special Court now America Ambassador at Large for War Crimes, Stephen Rapp, said his government has been contributing 40% to the work of the SCSL and that since the Residual Court is also an important component in the justice system in the country. Because of this, the Ambassador said the Government of America is contributing one million six hundred dollars to the work of the Residual Court.

In his statement, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice Frank Bai Kargbo gave a brief background of the court which he said started its work in Freetown since 2002 with support from the United Nations and International Community to end impunity.

He said the presence of the court shows the world that

there is no more war in the country, shows accountability, rule of law, transparency and justice.

The Attorney-General maintained that because of the presence of the court and the work it has done, the nations have benefited immensely as International Humanitarian Law is now in the minds of all Sierra Leoneans.

In handing over the court to the Government, Chairman of the Committee, Giles Norman said it is an historic day considering where the court has come from since 2004, when the court was built in the country and nine years later they are presenting the court to the government and people of Sierra Leone.

He stated that the building is a special legacy, as it provides both physical and justice evidence, as well as justice was brought to the people and the buildings can be used as a tool to be used by the people as an international monument.

In her statement, the Chief Justice Umu Tejan Jalloh said history was made when the court was established but as the saying goes "all good things must come to an end" this will officially mark the end of the court

in Sierra Leone.

She said since 2007, there has been a discussion among the people as to the use of the courts after the its mandate would have ended and people are also eager to know about the legacy of the court. Adding that two courts will be handed over to the government and this came at the right time when the judiciary is grappling with court buildings all over the country. And they will ensure that the facilities are used well and maintained.

The CJ said the court has completed its mandate to a large extent and what is left will be handled by the Residual Court.

Sixteen judges which includes six from Sierra Leone; Justices George Gelaga King, Bankole Thompson, John Kamanda, Vivian Margret Solomon, Abdulai Hamid Cham and Ekundayo Roberts, these judges were sworn in and they will exercise judicial functions in an ad hoc capacity on matters arising from the ongoing legal obligations of the SCSL.

The Residual Court will look into unfinished matters like the case of the former AFRC leader Johnny Paul Koroma and in case witnesses rights are violated.

Global Times

Tuesday, 3 December 2013

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"We will be the first international court - the very first - in more than half a century to complete our mandate successfully and to close," Ms. Mansaray said. "We now hand over to the Residual Special Court in the knowledge that we have accomplished what has been asked of us."

Attorney-General Kargbo hailed the Court's mandate which, he said, had been envisaged as a way to bring an end to impunity, to break the cycle of violence which took place during Sierra Leone's civil war and, he said, to give the people of Sierra Leone "an opportunity to show the world that Sierra Leoneans prefer peace, development, rule of law, justice and accountability instead of war."

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Mr. Giles Norman, the Chair of the Special Court's Management Committee and the Committee's representative for Canada, recalled that the Court's agreement called for the return of the 11.5-acre site and buildings to Government after the court had completed its work. "This significant day has come upon us all," he said.

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Sierra Leone's Chief Justice, Umu Hawa Tejan-Jalloh expressed appreciation for the handing over of the courthouse. "We are grateful for this wonderful legacy," she said. "The judiciary of Sierra Leone will ensure that these courtrooms are well maintained and put to good use, to dispense justice and enhance the rule of law and our own jurisprudence."

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Sworn-In For Residual Special Court For Sierra Leone



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Each Judge in turn subscribed to the solemn declaration to "without fear or favour, affection or ill-will, serve as a Judge of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone honestly, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously." Their declarations were witnessed by Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Franklyn Bai Kargbo on behalf of the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and by UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Miguel de Serpa Soares on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Ten of the Judges were appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and six by the Government of Sierra Leone. The Judges will not serve full time. They will be on a roster, and may be called upon to exercise judicial functions in an ad hoc capacity on matters arising from the ongoing legal obligations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. These could include the review of applications by convicts for early release of SCSL prisoners or judicial review of their convictions. The Judges may also be called upon to preside over any contempt of court proceedings.

Mr. de Serpa Soares hailed the achievements of the Special Court in Outreach and its contributions to international jurisprudence. "You can be very proud of what we have achieved together for the people of this country," he said. "You stood by the people of Sierra Leone in their most desperate hour of need." But Mr. de Serpa Soares told the Judges, the work is not finished.

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For di People

Tuesday, 3 December 2013

Closing Ceremony of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

CLOSING OF the Special Court for Sierra Leone a great day for international justice. UK contributes £100,000 to help secure the legacy.

Introduction: The UK High Commissioner attended the Closing Ceremony of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) held in Freetown today and announced a UK contribution of £100,000 to the Residual Special Court. The High Commissioner said:

"It is my great privilege to attend the Closing Ceremony of the Special Court of Sierra Leone today, the first international court to complete its mandate. It is fitting that His Excellency President Koroma is hosting us to commemorate this remarkable achievement which marks another milestone of which Sierra Leone can be justly proud.

"The Court has made

an extraordinary contribution to international justice and the fight against impunity. Its jurisprudence on sexual violence in armed conflict has set international benchmarks. And it has sent a clear signal that those who commit the most horrific atrocities, including rape, sexual slavery and forced prostitution will be brought to justice regardless of their position. I would like to add my congratulations and gratitude to the legal teams, judges, and staff of the Court for their tireless and dedicated work over the last 10 years. And I am proud that the United Kingdom has been the second largest bilateral donor to the Special Court over its lifetime.

"The new Residual Special Court will soon take up the ongoing functions of the Court such as witness protection and managing the sentences of the convicted. This will be essential to securing the legacy of the Court and

will rely on voluntary contributions from donors. So I am delighted to announce that the UK will be contributing £100,000 to the Residual Special Court and I urge other states to consider making their own contributions.

Awareness Times
Tuesday, 3 December 2013

Special Court Closes Down

By State House
Communications Unit

The activities of the Special Criminal Court in Sierra Leone have been formerly closed down by His Excellency President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma.

The court which started operations in 2002 indicted and sentenced those who carried out the greatest responsibilities in the eleven years civil in Sierra Leone, including the former Liberian

president, Charles Taylor.

At the special ceremony at State House, attended by the United Nations, ministers, diplomats, parliamentarians, national and international legal experts yesterday 2nd December 2013, the Head of State stated that the country was making history in international Humanitarian Law and celebrating the contribution of the Special Court to the rule of law throughout the world.

As a trail blazer and pace

setter in international justice, he observed, the Special Court succeeded in establishing peace and security in the sub-region and beyond.

Describing the partnership with the United Nations as achieving peace, justice and prosperity, he paid glowing tributes to the UN system, the Judges, Registrar, Lawyers, staff, as well as the Sierra Leone judiciary.

Meanwhile, a Residual court has been established to sustain the legacies and other activities of the closed Special Court.

At the same time, President Koroma also received the symbolic golden key for the closing of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and warmly congratulated and received the sixteen standby judges of the residual court, for Sierra Leone and Hague, in the Netherlands. A Sierra Leonean judge and current president of the Special Court, Justice Gelaga King, narrated the history, nature, challenges and successes of the Special Court, which have all made positive contributions to

International Humanitarian Law.

The State House ceremony chaired by the Minister of Information and Communications, Hon. Alhaji Alpha Kanu, was also addressed by the traditional ruler and parliamentarian from the Moyamba district, Paramount Chief Kavura.

The ceremony was also preceded by a special parade a contingent of the Sierra Leone Police and security personnel of the Special Court.

Sixteen Judges Sworn-in for Residual Special Court

By Dauda Koroma

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"You can be very proud of what we have achieved together for the people of this country," he said, adding, "You stood by the people of Sierra Leone in their most desperate hour of need."

He reminded the judges that they have a particular responsibility to carry on the functions of the Special Court and, by doing so, to preserve its legacy.

The Judges include Justice George Gelaga King of Sierra Leone, Justice Rosolu John Bankole Thompson of Sierra Leone, Justice Richard Brunt Lussick of Samoa, Justice Pierre G. Boutet of Canada, Justice Jon Moadeh Kamanda of Sierra Leone, Justice Renate Winter of Austria, Justice Teresa Anne Doherty of Northern Ireland, Justice Shireen Avis Fisher of the United States of America, Justice Philip Nyamu Waki of Kenya, Justice Elizabeth Ibanda Nahamya of Uganda, Justice Vivian Margarette Solomon of Sierra Leone, Justice Abdulai Hamid Charm of Sierra Leone, Justice Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake of Botswana, Justice Andrew John Hatton of the United Kingdom, Justice Emmanuel Ekundayo Roberts of Sierra Leone, and Justice Isaac Lenaola of Kenya.

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Sierra Leone's Attorney-General, Frank Kargbo hailed the Court's mandate which, he said had been envisaged as a way to bring an end to impunity, to break the cycle of violence which took place during Sierra Leone's civil war. He said this was to give the people of Sierra Leone "an opportunity to show the world that Sierra Leoneans prefer peace, development, rule of law, justice and accountability instead of war." Attorney-General went on that the undesirability of impunity and crimes against civilians under international humanitarian law is now firmly

entrenched in the psyche of every Sierra Leonean. He said the country continues to rebuild and make progress with its development in a free, fair and peaceful atmosphere. Mr. Giles Norman, the Chair of the Special Court's Management Committee and the Committee's representative for Canada, recalled that the Court's agreement called for the return of the 11.5-acre site and buildings to Government after the court had completed its work.

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monument for international criminal justice, and it is my pleasure to be here on this significant day to witness its handover to the Government of Sierra Leone," Mr. Norman said.

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"This significant day has come upon us all," he said. "This complex is an internationally recognised monument for international criminal justice, and it is my pleasure to be here on this significant day to witness its handover to the Government of Sierra Leone. It is our hope that this courthouse will be used as a tool to enhance access to justice for the people of Sierra Leone. It is our hope that the legacy of what this courthouse has achieved is remembered forever."

Sierra Leone's Chief Justice, Umu Hawa Tejan-Jalloh, expressed appreciation for the handing over of the courthouse. "We are grateful for this wonderful legacy," she said. "The judiciary of Sierra Leone will ensure that these courtrooms are well maintained and put to good use, to dispense justice and enhance the rule of law and our own jurisprudence."

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice unveiled the new inscription on the side of the courthouse: "The Special Court for Sierra Leone, upon the successful completion of its mandate, officially handed the courthouse over to the Government and People of Sierra Leone. Presented to the Chief Justice on 2 December 2013 by SCSL Registrar Madam Binta Mansaray."

The formal ceremony was followed by a "soft opening" of the Sierra Leone Peace Museum, located within the court complex.

Credit: Outreach and Public Affairs Office, Special Court for Sierra Leone

Special Court hands over courthouse, complex to Salone Gov't



Registrar Binta Mansaray hands ceremonial key to Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Franklyn Bai Kargbo

Editorial

Building on the Legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has virtually finished its task and yesterday handed over the court complex to the Sierra Leone government, in keeping with the agreement signed between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone for the establishment of the court.

The Chairman of the Special Court's Management Committee, Mr. Giles Norman, said during the handing over ceremony "It is our hope that this Courthouse will be used as a tool to enhance access to justice for the people of Sierra Leone. It is our hope that the legacy of what this Courthouse has achieved is remembered forever."

We wish to echo the hope of Mr. Giles Norman that the Special Court building that has just been handed over, will indeed be a beacon of hope for the dispensation of real justice in Sierra Leone. We know that the Chief Justice promised as much in her statement at the handing over of the building, but we also know that as Sierra Leoneans, we are quick to make promises. Fulfilling those promises is what always poses challenges.

While we would like to take the Chief Justice at her word, we are not fully confident that indeed the judiciary in Sierra Leone as presently constituted and as evidenced by some of the judgements being handed down, has the capacity to dispense justice without fear or favour.

Even though the Special Court for Sierra Leone did not capture the attention of the majority of Sierra Leoneans on a sustained basis, it is clear that the justice it dispensed was indeed without fear or favour. It taught Sierra Leoneans a valuable lesson about what happens when the law is applied across the board.

Many of us believed people like the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman should not have been charged by the Special Court, because he led the fight to resist the RUF/AFRC and the imposition of tyranny on the people of this country, but the Special Court taught us that being on the right side should not provide impunity if human rights are violated. Unfortunately, Chief Norman died before the evidence against him could be presented in Court, and so we will never know what the basis was for his being charged.

The success of the Special Court in prosecuting Charles Taylor also taught us that the high and mighty are not immune from the long arm of the law when it is being applied without fear or favour.

We hope that our Chief Justice and all the other members of the Bench will draw inspiration from the Special Court, particularly the judges of our Supreme Court who will be occupying the beautiful edifice left behind by the court.

We hope they will draw inspiration from the Special Court because we believe very firmly that the destiny of this country lies partly in their hands and in their ability to dispense justice without fear or favour. The destiny of this country also lies partly in their ability to rise above the fear of losing job or status and ensure that no one, no matter how highly placed, can ride roughshod over the less powerful. They also need to have the capacity to ensure that government does not use state power to oppress minorities.

If our Supreme Court cannot achieve this, then the legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone will be like dust in the wind.

Special Court now Supreme Court

By Aminata Phidelia Allie

Attorney General and Minister of Justice has revealed that the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, together with the office of the Chief Justice will henceforth occupy the Special Court premises on Jomo Kenyatta Road in Freetown.

Frank Kargbo made the disclosure while talking to journalists immediately after the handing-over ceremony of the courthouse to Sierra Leone yesterday, 2 December.

He said the programme, which also saw the swearing in of sixteen Residual Judges, would take care of unfinished businesses like the trial of Jonny Paul Koroma should it arise, prisoners wanting to appeal their conviction, the peace museum, amongst other issues that may arise. The AG went on to explain that the Special Court was started in 2002 "to break impunity and the cycle of violence in Sierra Leone", adding that it was also to show the world that "we can uphold peace, oneness. The end of the court marks the achievement of all that".

Giving a background the UN-backed hybrid court, the registrar, Binta Mansaray, said the court came about as a result of a letter of request from then

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to the United Nations to establish a court to try people who committed atrocities and bore the greatest responsibility during the civil war that lasted for eleven years.

Because of that letter, Mansaray recalled, the special court was established to try those that bore the greatest responsibilities "which it successfully did since its inception in early 2000".

She said the most challenging times for the court had been "assuring the public that the court would not lead to war as most people feared would be the case". She assured that the closing of the court did not in any way mean that all issues they dealt with were closed, adding that issues like witness protection and cases with regards to sentences would be taken care of by the court over which the Residual Judges presided.

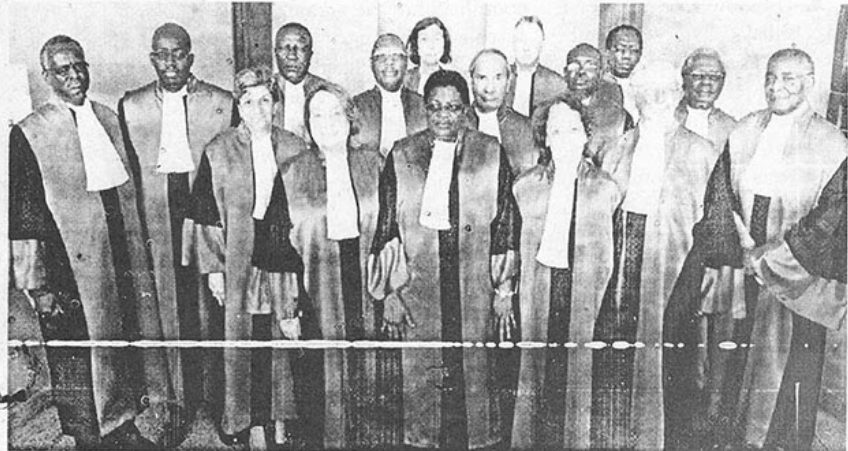
Six of the sworn-in judges were from Sierra Leone and ten from Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, Austria, Canada, Samoa, Northern Ireland, the USA and the UK. They would reside in their different countries of residence and would only meet in Sierra Leone when called upon to sit on matters that may arise.

Rule of Law Sixteen Judges Sworn-in for Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone

Sixteen distinguished jurists today were sworn-in as Judges of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, the institution which will succeed the Special Court which closes this month.

Each Judge in turn subscribed to the solemn declaration to "without fear or favour, affection or ill-will, serve as a Judge of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone honestly, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously." Their declarations were witnessed by Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Franklyn R. Kargbo on behalf of the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and by UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Miguel de Serpa Soares on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Ten of the Judges were appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and six by the Government of Sierra Leone. The Judges will not serve full time. They will be on a roster, and may be called upon to exercise judicial functions in an ad hoc capacity on matters arising from the ongoing legal obligations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. These could include the review of applications by convicts for early release of SCSL prisoners or judicial review of their convictions. The Judges may also be called upon to provide an expert opinion on matters



of the Special Court in Outreach and its contributions to international jurisprudence. "You can be very proud of what we have achieved together for the people of this country," he said. You stood by the people of Sierra Leone in their most desperate hour of need."

But, Mr. de Serpa Soares told the Judges, the work is not finished.

"You – the men and women Residual Judges of the Special Court have a particular responsibility to carry on the functions of the Special Court and, by doing so, to preserve

John Bankole Thompson of Sierra Leone, Justice Richard Brunt Lussick of Samoa, Justice Pierre G. Boutet of Canada, Justice Jon Moadah Kamanda of Sierra Leone, Justice Renate Winter of Austria, Justice Teresa Anne Doherty of Northern Ireland, Justice Shireen Avis Fisher of the United States of America, Justice Philip Nyamu Waki of Kenya, Justice Elizabeth Ibanda Nahamya of Uganda, Justice Vivian Margaret Solomon of Sierra Leone, Justice Abdulai Hamid Charm of Sierra Leone, Justice Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake of Botswana, Justice Andrew John Hatton

Local News

Special Court Hands Over Courthouse & Complex to the Gov't

Registrar Binta Mansaray handed an over-sized ceremonial key to Sierra Leone's Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Franklyn Bai Kargbo. The Special Court today formally handed over the Court's landmark courthouse and the surrounding court complex to the Government of Sierra Leone, as it takes the final steps towards closure of the institution. In a colourful ceremony in front of the courthouse, Registrar Binta Mansaray handed an over-sized ceremonial key to Sierra Leone's Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Franklyn Bai Kargbo.

The courthouse saw the trials of leaders of the Civil Defence Forces, the Revolutionary United Front, and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, as well as the initial appearance of former Liberian President

Charles Taylor. These trials saw first-ever convictions for attacks against UN peacekeepers, forced marriage as a crime against humanity, and for the use of child soldiers.

The building will now house the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone.

"We will be the first international court – the very first – in more than half a century to complete our mandate successfully and to close," Ms. Mansaray said. "We now hand over to the Residual Special Court in the knowledge that we have accomplished what has been asked of us."

Attorney-General Kargbo hailed the Court's mandate which, he said, had been envisaged as a way to bring an end to impunity, to break the cycle of violence which took place during Sierra Leone's civil war and, he said, to give

the people of Sierra Leone "an opportunity to show the world that Sierra Leoneans prefer peace, development, rule of law, justice and accountability instead of war."

"The undesirability of impunity and crimes against civilians under international humanitarian law is now firmly entrenched in the psyche of every Sierra Leonean," Mr. Kargbo said. "The country continues to rebuild and make progress with its development in a free, fair and peaceful atmosphere."

Mr. Giles Norman, the Chair of the Special Court's Management Committee and the Committee's representative for Canada, recalled that the Court's agreement called for the return of the 11.5-acre site and buildings to Government after the court had completed its work. "This significant day has come upon us all," he said.

The Patriotic Vanguard

Tuesday, 3 December 2013

Freetown: Special Court Closes Down

The activities of the Special Criminal Court in Sierra Leone have been formerly closed down by His Excellency President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, according to a State House report.

The court which started operations in 2002 indicted and sentenced those who carried out the greatest responsibilities in the eleven years civil in Sierra Leone, including the former Liberian president, Charles Taylor.

At the special ceremony at State House, attended by the United Nations, ministers, diplomats, parliamentarians, national and international legal experts, the Head of State stated that the country was making history in international Humanitarian Law and celebrating the contribution of the Special Court to the rule of law throughout the world.



As a trail blazer and pace setter in international justice, he observed, the Special Court succeeded in establishing peace and security in the sub-region and beyond. Describing the partnership with the United Nations as achieving peace, justice and prosperity, he paid glowing tributes to the UN system, the Judges, Registrar, Lawyers, staff, as well as the Sierra Leone judiciary.

Meanwhile, a Residual court has been established to sustain the legacies and other activities of the closed Special Court.

At the same time, President Koroma also received the symbolic golden key for the closing of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and warmly congratulated and received the sixteen standby judges of the residual court, for Sierra Leone and Hague, in the Netherlands.

A Sierra Leonean judge and current president of the Special Court, Justice Gelaga King, narrated the history, nature, challenges and successes of the Special Court, which have all made positive contributions to International Humanitarian Law.

The State House ceremony chaired by the Minister of Information and Communications, Hon. Alhaji Alpha Khanu was also addressed by the traditional ruler and parliamentarian from the Moyamba district, Paramount Chief Kavura. The ceremony was preceded by a special parade a contingent of the Sierra Leone Police and security personnel of the Special Court.

Voice of America
Monday, 2 December 2013

Sierra Leone Tribunal Turns Over Courthouse to Government

The UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone has handed over its courthouse to the government, one of the final steps before the tribunal shuts down.

Court Registrar Bina Mansaray gave the court's keys to Sierra Leone's minister of justice and attorney general at a ceremony Monday.

She said the court is the first international tribunal in more than 50 years to complete its mandate successfully and to close.

The Special Court tried leaders of militia and rebel groups for atrocities committed during the country's 11-year civil war, which ended in 2002. It also tried and convicted former Liberian president Charles Taylor for supporting the rebels in exchange for diamonds.

The courthouse and surrounding court complex will now house the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone.

No Peace Without Justice

Monday, 2 December 2013

Press Release

Sierra Leone: NPWJ says farewell to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, with pride in our partnership and gratitude for a job exceptionally well done



In a ceremony held today at its premises in Freetown, Sierra Leone, the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) formally handed over the Court's landmark courthouse and the surrounding court complex to the Government of Sierra Leone, as it takes its final steps towards closure of the institution. Niccolo' Figa Talamanca, Secretary-General of No Peace Without Justice attended the ceremony alongside numerous other guests who have been longtime supporters of the Court, from inside and outside Sierra Leone. Sixteen distinguished jurists were also sworn-in as Judges of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, the institution that will succeed the Special Court when it closes this month.

Statement by Alison Smith, Legal Counsel and Director of the International Criminal Justice Program of No Peace Without Justice:

"On the day that formally marks the closure of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) and the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty (NRPTT) acknowledge the remarkable work of this Court, the tremendous impact it has had on the people of Sierra Leone and

Liberia and, above all, its historic achievements in the accountability process for the people of Sierra Leone and for international criminal justice world-wide.

“We are proud to have contributed to the establishment and functioning of the Special Court over the last more than twelve years. Back in July 2000, when the Special Court was first conceived, many openly expressed scepticism as to whether it would be an obstacle to peace, whether it would be able to play a role in post-conflict reconstruction and, frankly, whether it was really worth it. We are doubly proud that the Special Court has stood the test of time and proved them all wrong. We saw the Special Court’s potential right from the start, from our secondment of legal advisers to assist the Government, through starting country-wide outreach with civil society before the Court was established including working closely with members of the Sierra Leone legal profession, to the conflict mapping program we implemented with our civil society partners, to gather the stories of what happened throughout the conflict and try to help make some sense of it all. We are proud to have been part of this journey together with so many others, including friends and colleagues in Sierra Leone and at the Special Court; it will always occupy a special place in our hearts and minds.

“It is a great privilege for us to have been there from the very beginning with a body which, through the successful completion of its mandate, brought an essential contribution to Sierra Leone’s long road towards ending impunity for the horrors of the armed conflict committed between 1996 and 2002. Chief among these contributions has been providing justice and redress to the victims and populations affected by it. It has also shown that the rule of law – beloved of many Sierra Leoneans, especially those behind the establishment of the Court – has a place in Sierra Leone, which has had its own impact on the country’s legal and judicial system.

“For this, we would especially pay tribute to the late Robin Vincent, the first Registrar of the SCSL and subsequent Registrars up to Binta Mansaray, the current SCSL Registrar, whose vision has taken the Court through to its successful conclusion. We would also pay tribute to all the SCSL Prosecutors and all its judges; His Excellency Solomon E. Berewa, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice at the time of the SCSL negotiations; Ambassador Allieu I. Kanu, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations at the time of the SCSL negotiations; the members of the SCSL Management Committee throughout the years; and all the members of the Special Court Working Group, as it then was, the Coalition for Justice and Accountability as it is now, for the tremendous work done to keep the Special Court on track and in touch with the people of Sierra Leone. The dedication and determination of all of these people, working together, that the SCSL should form an integral part of Sierra Leone’s post-conflict recovery made all the difference and they cannot be thanked nor recognised enough.

“Critically, the final judgement in the trial of Charles Taylor handed down on 26 September 2013 by the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone also signalled a major achievement for international criminal justice world-wide. Charles Taylor was the first former head of State whose case has been heard through to the appeals stage by an international tribunal since the Second World War and the Nuremburg trials: this is remarkable in and of itself. More importantly, the decision sent a deterrent and unequivocal message to leaders who at this very moment may be considering committing serious crimes in violation of international law: nobody is above the law and even those at the highest level will be held to account for their actions.

"We would also like to recall that the SCSL’s efforts in reaching out to the people who suffered so much at the hands of those indicted and judged before it remain unparalleled, allowing justice not only to be done, but to be seen to be done by the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia, on the radio, in the newspapers and in the courtrooms. As highlighted by a recent survey (LINK) conducted by NPWJ and its Sierra Leonean and Liberian partners, at the request of the SCSL, the main reason the SCSL had the impact it did was twofold: much of this success can be attributed to the work of the Outreach section and to the

vision established during the early stages of the Court of it being an institution embedded in and responsive to the expectations and needs of the people affected by the crimes it was investigating and prosecuting.

“Now that the SCSL has completed its mandate successfully, it is essential that all necessary efforts and measures are carried out to ensure that the SCSL leaves a meaningful and consolidated legacy for justice, reconciliation and the rule of law. This is important not only for the Government and people of Sierra Leone and Liberia, it is also critical for future international criminal justice initiatives in Africa and worldwide, including the International Criminal Court. The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, which takes over from the SCSL, is an important tool in ensuring the sustainability of the SCSL’s legacy and ensuring that the SCSL’s ongoing obligations, such as witness protection and management of the archives, are properly fulfilled. It also stands as a reminder and a guardian: do not commit crimes under international law and do not tamper with witnesses, lest you face the justice you seek to deny others.

“The Residual Special Court needs support to consolidate the impact of the Special Court and to ensure its promise lives on long into the future. For this reason, NPWJ and the NRPTT strongly urge the international community, and particularly States who have been friends to Sierra Leone over the years, to ensure that the Residual Special Court has the more than modest funding it needs to fulfil these essential functions and ensure the legacy of the Special Court is not lost to Sierra Leone, the region or the world. This in the end is the most fitting tribute any of us can pay to the Special Court and the very real difference it has made to the lives of so many people in Sierra Leone and beyond.”

No Peace Without Justice and Sierra Leone

NPWJ has a long standing commitment to Sierra Leone, including a wide-ranging program in the country from 2000 to 2004 that was designed to contribute to the accountability process for violations of international criminal law. That program contributed to the establishment and functioning of the Special Court and to strengthening Sierra Leonean society’s ability to address violations of human rights and humanitarian law, with a particular focus on outreach and conflict mapping. In recent years, NPWJ has been working in Sierra Leone on ICC issues, including implementing legislation and holding seminars and round table discussions, and on FGM. NPWJ will continue with its involvement in Sierra Leone to facilitate the government and local stakeholders participating in and influencing the processes for maintaining the rule of law, peace and stability.

The New Dawn (Liberia)

Tuesday, 3 December 2013

Sierra Leone's Special Court Closes Soon



The Special Court of Sierra Leone climaxes its activities for eventual closure this December following the trial and conviction of several war crimes suspects, including former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is serving a 50-year sentence in Britain.

Already, 16 jurists were sworn-in on Monday as Judges of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, the institution that replaces the Special Court after its closure.

According to a release issued by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office of the Special Court, each Judge in turn subscribed to the solemn declaration to “without fear or favor, affection or ill-will, serve as a Judge of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone honestly, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously.”

Their declarations were witnessed by Sierra Leone’s Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Franklyn Bai Kargbo and the UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Miguel de Serpa Soares. Ten of the Judges were appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and six by the Government of Sierra Leone.

They will be kept on a roster, and may be called upon to exercise judicial functions in an ad hoc capacity on matters arising from the ongoing legal obligations of the Special Court, including review of applications by convicts for early release of SCSL prisoners or judicial review of their convictions as well as preside over any contempt of court proceedings.

UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Miguel de Serpa Soares hailed the achievements of the Special Court in Outreach and its contributions to international jurisprudence.

“You can be very proud of what we have achieved together for the people of this country,” he said, and added, “You stood by the people of Sierra Leone in their most desperate hour of need.”

But, Mr. de Serpa Soares told the Judges, the work is not finished. “You – the men and women Residual Judges of the Special Court have a particular responsibility to carry on the functions of the Special Court and, by doing so, to preserve its legacy.” he stressed.

The RSCSL Judges include Justice George Gelaga King of Sierra Leone, Justice Rosolu John Bankole Thompson of Sierra Leone, Justice Richard Brunt Lussick of Samoa, Justice Pierre G. Boutet of Canada, Justice Jon Moadeh Kamanda of Sierra Leone, Justice Renate Winter of Austria, Justice Teresa Anne Doherty of Northern Ireland, Justice Shireen Avis Fisher of the United States of America, Justice Philip Nyamu Waki of Kenya, Justice Elizabeth Ibanda Nahamya of Uganda, Justice Vivian Margarete Solomon of Sierra Leone, Justice Abdulai Hamid Charm of Sierra Leone, Justice Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake of Botswana, Justice Andrew John Hatton of the United Kingdom, Justice Emmanuel Ekundayo Roberts of Sierra Leone, and Justice Isaac Lenaola of Kenya.

Special Court Supplement
The Swearing-in, Court Handover, and Court Closing Ceremonies, in pictures
Monday, 2 December 2013









