



Special Court for Sierra Leone

Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 17 January 2005

Judges of Second Trial Chamber Sworn In

The three new Judges of the Special Court's long-awaited Second Trial Chamber were sworn in Monday morning in a brief ceremony held at the Special Court's landmark courthouse in Freetown.



Judges Teresa Doherty (Northern Ireland), Julia Sebutinde (Uganda) and Richard Lussick (Samoa) solemnly undertook to serve “without fear or favour, affection or ill-will...honestly, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously” as Judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The event was witnessed by H.E. Solomon Berewa, Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and Mr. Victor da Silva Angelo, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who represented the United Nations.

Judges Doherty and Sebutinde were appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, and Judge Lussick was appointed by the Government of Sierra Leone under a formula stipulated in the Special Court Statute.

Registrar Robin Vincent, who administered the oath to the new Judges, told them he was “enthusiastically happy to welcome you at long last” to the Special Court.

In his welcoming address, Judge Benjamin Itoe, the Presiding Judge of the First Trial Chamber, told the new Judges that “it is a very daunting task indeed to assume the responsibility of trying those who are alleged to bear the greatest responsibility for what happened in this country.”

“We feel that with your presence we would be able to fulfil the mandate which has been given to us by the international community to wrap up our activities,” Judge Itoe said.

The Second Trial Chamber will begin hearing the case of the Prosecutor v. Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu. The three alleged former leaders of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) are charged with 18 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and

other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The setting-up of the Second Trial Chamber also gives the Special Court options with regard to the envisaged trial of another accused, former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996. To date, the Prosecutor has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.

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Produced by the
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