

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the President of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone



January – December 2025



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12th



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Justice Richard Lussick
President

FOREWORD

I am honoured to submit to you the Twelfth Annual Report ("Report") on the operations and activities of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone ("Residual Special Court" or "RSCSL"), covering the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

During this reporting period, the Residual Special Court in The Hague and Sierra Leone continued to execute its mandate to carry out the functions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone ("Special Court") that must continue after its closure. This mandate consists of the following ongoing functions and *ad hoc* functions, which are more fully set out in the INTRODUCTION to this Report.

Ongoing functions, including ensuring that witnesses and victims are protected and supported; maintaining, preserving and managing archival material for research and posterity; and ensuring that enforcement of sentences of convicted persons continues to meet international standards, were executed accordingly. The Residual Special Court also supervises the conditions of early release of convicted persons serving their sentences pursuant to Practice Directions governing early release.

The Court is also well prepared, if and when called upon, to perform *ad hoc* functions such as reviewing convictions and acquittals; conducting contempt of court proceedings; holding the trial of Johnny Paul Koroma; providing defence counsel and legal aid; responding to national authorities with respect to claims for compensation; and preventing double jeopardy.

During the year under review, the judges continued to work remotely from their various locations and I continued to work as Duty Judge on judicial matters requiring my attention pursuant to Article 12(1) of the Statute.

The question of financial and budgetary support to ensure the Court's continued operation remains a problem of great concern. The support, cooperation and timely efforts of the Oversight Committee, the approval of subvention funds by the United Nations, and limited voluntary contributions, are always very much appreciated. However, it is hoped that with continued support, a lasting and sustainable solution will be achieved.

I greatly appreciate the determination and cooperation of the Judges, principals and staff of the Court to work hard to fulfill its mandate, and also the Oversight Committee's tireless support of the Court's operation.

On behalf of the Residual Special Court, I thank your Excellencies for your support to the Court over the years.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lussick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Justice Richard Lussick
President

INTRODUCTION

The President of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone ("Residual Special Court" or "RSCSL") issues this Twelfth Annual Report ("Twelfth Report") pursuant to Article 26(1) of the Statute of the RSCSL ("Statute") which states:

The President of the Residual Special Court shall submit an annual report on the operation and activities of the Residual Special Court to the Secretary-General and to the Government of Sierra Leone.

The report provides an update on the RSCSL's work, including the fulfilment of its primary mandate, and reports on the major activities of all organs of the RSCSL, namely the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry including the Defence Office, during the twelfth year of its existence. It covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025.

PRIMARY MANDATE

The RSCSL was established pursuant to an Agreement dated 11 August 2010, between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on the Establishment of a Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone ("Agreement"). The Agreement was ratified by the Sierra Leone Parliament on 15 December 2011 and signed into law on 1 February 2012.

Pursuant to Article 1(1) of the Agreement:

There is hereby established a Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone ("the Residual Special Court") to carry out the functions of the Spe-

cial Court for Sierra Leone that must continue after the closure of the Special Court.

Article 1(1) of the Statute annexed to the Agreement sets out the competence of the RSCSL as follows:

... the Residual Special Court shall: maintain, preserve, and manage its archives, including the archives of the Special Court; provide for witness and victim protection and support; respond to requests for access to evidence by national prosecution authorities; supervise enforcement of sentences, review convictions and acquittals; conduct contempt of court proceedings; provide defence counsel and legal aid for the conduct of proceedings before the Residual Special Court; and respond to requests from national authorities with respect to claims for compensation; and prevent double jeopardy.

Furthermore, pursuant to Article 1(2) of the Statute:

... the Residual Special Court shall have the power to prosecute the remaining fugitive Special Court indictee Johnny Paul Koroma, if his case has not been referred to a competent national jurisdiction, and to prosecute any cases resulting from review of convictions and acquittals.

COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

In line with the Agreement, though the RSCSL's principal seat remains in Freetown, it carries out its functions at an interim seat in the Netherlands, with a sub office in Freetown for witnesses and victims

protection and support. During the reporting period, the RSCSL was funded largely by United Nations subvention funds and very limited voluntary contributions.

Pursuant to Article 2 of the Agreement, the RSCSL maintained its composition of the Prosecutor, the Registrar, and the Chambers. The Chambers consist of 16 judges on a roster which includes the President. The RSCSL also has a Principal Defender whose services are engaged on an *ad hoc* basis. The President and judges continued to work remotely, or at the Court's principal or interim seat as required, and are remunerated on a *pro rata* basis.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The RSCSL continued to successfully execute its mandate during the period under review. In line with its ongoing functions which are managed by its offices in Freetown and The Hague, RSCSL activities carried out during the reporting period include:

- Maintenance, preservation, and management of the archives in both Freetown and The Hague;
- Witness protection and support, including actively monitoring and providing support to former witnesses of the SCSL located in various regions of Sierra Leone and other countries;
- Requests for assistance received from national prosecution authorities;
- Requests to take statements from convicted persons pursuant to the Practice Direction on the Procedure Following a Request to Take a Statement from a Person in the Custody of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone ("Practice Direction on Statement Taking");
- Supervision and monitoring of prison sentences of convicted persons in Rwanda and the United Kingdom pursuant to enforcement of sentence agreements with the respective enforcement states, and

- Supervision of the term of conditional early release of one convicted person in Sierra Leone.

The *ad hoc* functions for which the RSCSL will convene or act if required include:

- The trial of Johnny Paul Koroma;
- Review of convictions and acquittals;
- Defence counsel and legal aid issues;
- Claims for compensation; and
- Prevention of double jeopardy.

During the reporting period, the RSCSL continued investigations into an alleged contempt case pursuant to Rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence ("Rules").



*Justice Richard Lussick
President*

THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CHAMBERS

JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

President Richard Lussick continued to work remotely from the United Kingdom and to liaise with the Judges and Registrar during the reporting period.

Investigation into Alleged Contempt

President Lussick continued to receive updates and to issue directions in an ongoing investigation into the allegation that a person or persons may have knowingly or willfully interfered with the administration of justice of the Special Court or Residual Special Court, and may be in contempt of the Special Court or Residual Special Court by disclosing classified information relating to proceedings contrary to Rule 77 of the Rules. Following confidential consultations, the President issued further directives to the Registrar on this matter.

Augustine Gbao's Compliance with Conditional Early Release

On 12 March 2025, President Lussick received the Principal Defendant's update on Augustine Gbao's compliance with his conditions of early release, including the modified special condition. According to the Defence Office, the visit was to assess Augustine Gbao's compliance with his obligations under conditional early release, including the special condition in paragraph 83(viii) of the Decision of the President on Conditional Early Release dated 8 September 2020. The visit also included engagements with the

Monitoring Authority ("the Sierra Leone Police") in Blama.

Pursuant to the special condition, Augustine Gbao was to "commit to producing a community volunteer plan in support of his stated commitment to contribute to restitution of victims". The plan submitted by Augustine Gbao proposed his engagement in large-scale agricultural activities as restitution to the victims of his community, and was approved by the President. Subsequently, that special condition was modified by the President on 27 January 2023, based on a request from Augustine Gbao, who cited his deteriorating health condition, to instead comprise small-scale agricultural activities, the proceeds of which should be distributed to the victims of his crimes within Blama.

According to the latest report on Augustine Gbao's compliance, no agricultural activities were ongoing, which Augustine Gbao again attributed to deteriorating health situation. Regarding Augustine Gbao's compliance with the other conditions of early release, however, the head of the Sierra Leone Police in Blama reportedly confirmed that he had never skipped his weekly schedule of reporting to the police station; he is reintegrating positively within his community, and is generally in compliance with the conditions of his early release. Another letter addressed to the President from Augustine Gbao requesting a second review of his obligations under the special condition of early release in paragraph 83(viii) of the Decision of the President on Conditional Early Release due to medical reasons was also transmitted to the President.

On 27 March 2025, the President directed the Registrar to submit an independent and comprehensive medical report on Augustine Gbao's health, and the Principal Defender to submit an alternative proposal for community service by Augustine Gbao. The medical report and alternative proposal were both received by the President on 30 April 2025. As directed by the President, the report included an expert medical opinion as to the extent of any limitations on his physical activity due to his medical condition. Subsequently, the President also requested and received the views of the Prosecutor and the Sierra Leone Police on the request, pursuant to Clause 11(B) of the Practice Direction on Conditional Early Release of Persons Convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the views of the Registrar pursuant to Rule 33(B) of the Rules.

On 21 July 2025, the President issued his Decision on Request for Review of Special Condition in Paragraph 83 subparagraph (viii) of Decision of the President on Application for Conditional Early Release. The President granted Augustine Gbao's further request for review of the Conditional Early Release Agreement and the special condition in Paragraph 83 subparagraph (viii) of the Decision, and directed that the special condition shall constitute the following:

- (i) As part of his community volunteer service plan, Augustine Gbao shall participate in radio discussions on peacebuilding and peace consolidation which are to be held twice every three months;
- (ii) The radio programmes shall be broadcast in Blama and in other parts of Sierra Leone;
- (iii) The Registrar's Office shall liaise with the Defence Office to discuss the structure and content of the programmes, plan

their implementation, and align them with the community outreach programmes within the remit of the RSCSL Registry; and

- (iv) Augustine Gbao shall submit the content of the programmes developed to the President for approval within 21 days of publication of the Decision.

The President further ordered that Augustine Gbao must comply strictly with the terms of the reviewed special condition of early release, including the existing requirement to submit comprehensive quarterly written updates on activities undertaken therein. On 18 August 2025, the President approved the contents of Augustine Gbao's timetable for radio programmes, which was developed by the Principal Defender and Registrar in accordance with the President's directive.

Investigation into Claims of Conspiracy to Defraud the RSCSL

On 19 February 2025, the President received a letter from the Registrar regarding claims made in a defamatory article written by a purported journalist named "Christopher Thomas" against the Registrar and certain staff members of the RSCSL, containing claims of conspiracy to defraud the Court of the sum of three hundred million (old) leones (or US\$12,782) for the brushing and cleaning of the Court site in Freetown. The letter, which set out the nature of the defamatory claim of conspiracy to defraud the Court, clarified with evidence that the total amount paid per year for the brushing and cleaning services is fifty eight million leones (US\$2,471). The letter also notified the President of a related matter involving a reported confession of a contractor involved in the cleaning of the Court's premises in Freetown which allegedly implicated the former office supervisor

in Freetown, in another scheme of financial impropriety involving the cleaning of the Court's premises. The Registrar requested the President's intervention in the aforesaid matters to avoid a conflict of interest. Being seized of the matter, the President designated Justice Alusine Sesay of the RSCSL to conduct an investigation into both claims and report back to him.

On 9 April 2025, the President received the final report of the investigation conducted by Justice Alusine Sesay into the claims. Having perused the report, the President issued a final decision and directive on the matter on 18 June 2025 in which he adopted Justice Sesay's conclusions on the claims in the impugned article, consequently finding no merit in the claims or allegations of conspiracy to defraud the RSCSL of the sum of three hundred million leones (or US\$12,782) made against the Registrar and staff members of the RSCSL. The President also adopted most of the recommendations made by Justice Sesay, while noting that most of them pertain to internal administrative processes of the RSCSL which were already being implemented by the Court.

A formal written Complaint against the purported journalist "Christopher Thomas" and a certain Umaru Kanu (another purported journalist who had associated himself with the impugned article but had been uncooperative with the investigation) was also made to the Independent Media Commission of Sierra Leone ("IMC"), for breach of certain sections of the Independent Media Commission Print and Electronic Media Regulations 2022 and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists Code of Ethics. The IMC notified the President that the persons against whom the Complaint was directed do not meet the criteria of

VIRTUAL DIPLOMATIC BRIEFING 2025



VISITS TO THE PEACE MUSEUM

CHIEF MINISTER - SIERRA LEONE



CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ACCREDITED TO SIERRA LEONE





CHIEF JUSTICE - SIERRA LEONE



SPANISH DELEGATION



MADAM AWA DANI



being registered media practitioners working for or affiliated with licensed media entities regulated by the IMC, or being individually registered with it. Consequently, it could not invoke its disciplinary mandate under the Regulations.

On the related issue of a reported confession involving the cleaning of the Court's premises in Freetown, the President found that the evidence was insufficient to establish any financial impropriety as there was an absence of corroborative evidence. He therefore found that the issue was inconclusive and did not accept Justice Sesay's recommendation that the former supervisor of the Freetown Office must refund the sum of three million leones (US\$128) to the contractor. The President agreed with Justice Sesay, however, that the issue borders on conflict of interest and breach of trust, and consequently directed the Registrar to develop provisions in the Staff Rules and Regulations of the RSCSL relating to conflict of interest issues, and to incorporate them into an Administrative Instruction for publication.

Interoffice Memorandum on Plenary Meetings

By interoffice memorandum dated 20 August 2025, the Registrar conveyed a letter from the RSCSL Oversight Committee ("OC") requesting the reconsideration by the judges of in-person plenary meetings to hold instead virtual plenary meetings. The judges responded on 24 September 2025, justifying the need for an in-person plenary every two years.

Notification of a Request to Interview a Special Court Convicted Person

On 29 October 2025, the President received notification from the Registrar of a request to interview

a Special Court Convicted Person pursuant to Article 2(3) of the Practice Direction on Statement Taking.

OTHER CHAMBERS ACTIVITIES

Working Group on Amendment of Rules

The Working Group of Judges set up by the plenary to deliberate on proposals for amendment of the RSCSL's Rules continued deliberations on matters before it. This includes a draft Practice Direction on Procedures Enabling Third Parties to Seek Variation of Protective Measures Applicable to Witnesses and Victims Under Rule 75(H) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence AND to Access Classified Records Under the Access Policy of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone and affected rules in the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, assisted by the Chambers Senior Legal Officer, and the Court's Archivist.

Participation of President's Office and Chambers in RSCSL Stocktaking

The Chambers, through the Senior Legal Officer, participated in the ongoing RSCSL Stocktaking exercise being undertaken by the Registry. Following feedback from the Registrar on the first draft of compilation of data, the Chambers, through the Senior Legal Officer, transmitted an updated draft to the Registrar in the ongoing exercise.

ICRC Report on Annual Visit to Mpanga Prison – 2025

On 4 June, the President received the International Committee of the Red Cross ("ICRC") confidential report on their annual visit to the Court's convicted persons in Rwanda.

Distribution of 2024 Annual Report

In June and July 2025, the President's Annual Report was completed and distributed to the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Operational Requirements for Office of the President and Chambers – 2026

In July 2025, the operational requirements for the Office of the President and Chambers for the Budget Year 2026 were submitted to the Registry.

Virtual Diplomatic Briefing on RSCSL

On 3 October 2025, Vice-President Isaac Lenaola deputized President Richard Lussick and led the RSCSL presentations during a virtual diplomatic briefing on the Court, hosted jointly by the Permanent Missions of Canada and Sierra Leone to the United Nations. Remarks were also made by Prosecutor Mr. James C. Johnson, Principal Defender Mr. Ibrahim Yillah and Registrar Ms. Binta Mansaray.

Consultations on Potential Dates for RSCSL Judges' Plenary Meeting – 2026

By interoffice memorandum dated 20 October 2025 and pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules, the President consulted with the judges on potential suitable dates for an in-person plenary meeting of judges in 2026, subject to the outcome of the RSCSL budget subvention process for 2026. In December 2025, upon the Registrar's notification to the President of the United Nations' approval of the Court's subvention request, the President's Office and Registry commenced preparations

for an in-person plenary, which is projected to be held in The Hague on 26 and 27 February 2026.

Presentations and Engagements

On 14 and 15 January 2025, the Chambers Senior Legal Officer participated in a two-day Training of Trainers Session organized by the RSCSL for members of the Residual Special Court Interactive Forum ("RSCIF") in Freetown. The Senior Legal Officer presented on the topic: "The Legal Basis and Mandate of the RSCSL".

From 2 to 4 June 2025, Justice Renate Winter attended the 5th International Congress on Juvenile Justice in Madrid, Spain. The event was hosted by the International Association for Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates ("IAYFJM"), UNICEF, Human Rights Forum, and Terre des Hommes. Justice Winter participated on two panel discussions, on the theme: "Children in Armed Conflict" and "Girl Child Soldiers", respectively, with a focus on the jurisprudence of the SCSL and legislation in Sierra Leone.

On 10 June 2025, Justice Renate Winter gave a video address to the Austrian Embassy in New York for a side event to Child Abuse Action Group ("CAAG"), done together with the Liechtenstein Embassy concerning the jurisprudence of the SCSL on child soldiers – particularly the Prosecution's decision not to try child soldiers under the age of 15. The side event was themed: "Children in Armed Conflict".

On 31 July 2025, Justice Emmanuel Roberts and a cross-section of RSCSL staff in Freetown received H. E. Sanalor Yawlui, High Commissioner of Ghana to Sierra Le-

one, at the RSCSL Office and the Sierra Leone Peace Museum. The High Commissioner had expressed a keen interest in visiting the SCSL and RSCSL to gain insights into the Courts' operations and impact. On behalf of the Court's Principals, Justice Roberts expressed satisfaction and thanks for the assistance Ghana has given to the RSCSL. Justice Roberts also gave a background on the operations of the SCSL and the international nature of its staff and judges. He emphasized the groundbreaking achievements of successfully fulfilling its mandate and transitioning into the residual phase. Also present at the meeting were the Acting Supervisor of the Freetown Office, Joseph Saffa, Outreach Focal Person, Patrick Fatoma, WVS staff member, Tamba Sammie, and Senior Legal Officer, Rhoda S. Kargbo.

On 12 September 2025, Justice Renate Winter was awarded with the Justitia Award 2025, a top award of Austrian Women in Law Initiative for Leadership and Lifetime Work. Justice Winter was honoured for her leadership and lifetime achievements in law and her citation listed her in the category of "Women in top legal professions where important decisions for both sexes are made are rare. So is their most necessary influence in legal developments". Justice Winter's work in both the SCSL and RSCSL were included as foremost in her sphere of influence, citing how her career reflects a pioneering commitment to juvenile justice, human rights and international law, shaping global reforms, and protection for vulnerable communities.

On 22 September 2025, Senior Legal Officer Rhoda S. Kargbo was Keynote Speaker at an event organized by the Roots & Shoots Organization to commemorate the 2025 UN International Day of Peace, with the theme "Act Now for a Peaceful

World". The RSCSL was a partner in the event, which was hosted for students at the Limkokwing University in Freetown. The Outreach Focal Person of the Court, Patrick Fatoma, and other members of the outreach team led the delegation from the RSCSL.

On 17 November 2025 Justice Teresa Doherty joined other judges and professional women leaders in an International Association of Women Judges project on "Empowering Women in International Law". The project links female judges/professionals with students around the world to speak and answer questions ranging from professional career to personal attribute suggestions. This is the second year of the project and the second year Justice Doherty and Justice Sanji Monageng of Botswana spoke with students from Australia, Malaysia, the United States of America, and others around the world on issues including the development of SCSL precedents in international human rights law.

On 19 November 2025, Senior Legal Officer, Rhoda S. Kargbo represented the Registrar at an event hosted by the British High Commission in Freetown to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty King Charles III.

On 10 December 2025, Justice Renate Winter held a meeting with the National Council of Women Austria, a non-governmental organization with representative status at the United Nations, and spoke about the problem of child soldiers in the civil war in Sierra Leone and the way the SCSL dealt with them as victims and witnesses.

On 12 December 2025, Senior Legal Officer Rhoda S. Kargbo represented the Registrar at an event celebrating the United Na-

tions Development Programme's ("UNDP") 60th Anniversary, a milestone that reflected six decades of commitment to sustainable development and global progress.

On 19 December 2025, Justice Teresa Doherty was the subject of a webinar organised and broadcast by A.T Socio-Judicial Consulting's Courts & Society Webinar Series ("CSWS") on the "Impact of Women Judges on Society and Democratic Development". Justice Doherty was described as an icon during the webinar. Other speakers included Justice Desmond Edwards of RSCSL. Both Justice Doherty

and Justice Edwards referred to the development and impact of SCSL jurisprudence on the rights and status of women and the changes in court procedures to improve the delivery of justice.

In 2025, the Senior Legal Officer, Rhoda S. Kargbo, participated in RSCSL Public Lectures in tertiary institutions on the topic "The Greatest Responsibility Requirement at the Special Court for Sierra Leone". The public lectures, which are part of a series supervised by the Registrar, were organized by the Outreach Section of the Court and were held at the College of Tourism,

Aviation and Hotel Management, Walpole Street in the central business district of Freetown; Freetown Polytechnic in Jui Junction, Greater Freetown; Milton Margai Technical University ("MMTU") campuses in Congo Cross and Brookfields; Limkokwing University; and Blue Crest College, both in Freetown.





Prosecutor James Johnson

THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

The Prosecutor's Office functioned normally during the year under review. Except for the Prosecutor's short visit to Sierra Leone and Liberia in March-April, the Prosecutor worked remotely from his home in New York, while the Prosecution Legal Adviser worked from The Hague Office and briefly from Freetown.

From 30 March to 6 April, the Prosecutor travelled to Sierra Leone and Liberia to accomplish aspects of his mandate relating to prospective Rule 120 review application(s) from RSCSL convicts. During the trip, in addition to meeting with numerous witnesses and sources, the Prosecutor paid diplomatic visits to foreign missions both in Freetown and Monrovia. The Prosecutor used the trip to also intensify efforts at tracing the whereabouts of the remaining RSCSL fugitive indictee Johnny Paul Koroma ("JPK"), including paying courtesy visits with the Registrar to Sierra Leone's Attorney General and Minister of Justice and the Inspector General of Police to foster continued support and cooperation from their offices. Also, during the trip, the Prosecutor received fresh intelligence relating to the rumour that Johnny Paul Koroma had died in Sierra Leone and had been secretly buried in his home town in the north, which prompted his subsequent expansion of investigation activities in Sierra Leone aimed at collecting and assessing information.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE/ INFORMATION

During the year, the Prosecutor's Office responded to inquiries for information from national prosecu-

tion authorities, including one such request sent through the Registry seeking follow-up information from a 2020 request for assistance. All requests were fully responded to. Additionally, the Prosecutor's Office continued to provide verbal and email responses to minor inquiries from researchers, journalists and from colleagues in sister tribunals.

JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA ("JPK") INVESTIGATION

The Prosecution Legal Adviser started working with the Witness and Victims Office in Freetown immediately following receipt of the information on the possible location of JPK. However, this effort had to be suspended after a short while due to the prevailing unsafe conditions in the environment concerned and the poor health (including hospitalization) of the Prosecution's primary contact regarding this information.

While this was pending, the Prosecutor received intelligence from another source, unrelated, indicating that JPK is alive and living outside of Sierra Leone. This prompted the Office to look deeper into establishing the credibility of both stories. The Prosecutor's Office is still engaged in following up on these two contradictory leads regarding JPK's status and location. One concerns his alleged death and secret burial in Sierra Leone, while the other concerns an allegation that he is alive and living outside Sierra Leone. In relation to the first lead, the Prosecution has continued to work with the Witness and Victims Office in Freetown, to establish direct contact with the sources of intelligence, assess their credibility and determine further steps to take, if needed, but

securing the free cooperation of the sources so far identified has been hampering its efforts. With respect to the second lead, the Prosecution has been working with the sketchy information provided to initiate its own investigations remotely. The credibility of the sources as well as the information provided remains to be established.

WITNESSES

The Prosecution worked with the Witness Management team in Freetown on various activities as needed, including obtaining updated witness lists and coordinating with the Registrar and an RSCSL Consultant on Witness Protection and Support to respond to a letter from a state hosting one of the Court's former witnesses.

OTHER MATTERS

In January, the Prosecution Legal Adviser/Evidence Officer worked with the Associate Legal Officer Registry to host two visits of students to the RSCSL. The first was by students on Winter Courses at The Hague Academy, and the second was by students from the School of Law, O. P. Jindal Global University, New Delhi, India. Both visits were hosted successfully, including the Prosecution Legal Adviser participating in a workshop hosted externally in The Hague by the O. P. Jindal Global University group.

From January to February, the Prosecution Legal Adviser supervised the work of a law intern from Case Western Reserve University, Ohio, United States of America. In addition to familiarizing himself with the basic working documents of the RSCSL and key aspects of the SCSL's work and achievements, the intern did research on prosecution projects, including finding materials suitable for responding to a prospective Rule 120 review application in light of recent IRMCT jurisprudence, and preparing a draft lecture presentation for the ongoing RSCSL lecture series, addressing the scope of Rule 77's application to cases of contempt involving witness interference. After departing The Hague in February, the intern continued to work remotely until April.

In March, the Prosecution Legal Adviser travelled to Groningen for a lecture presentation about the work of RSCSL and the legacy of the SCSL to students of the group SIB-Groningen ("Dutch United Nations Association"), University of Groningen. Established in 1947, the main objective of the association is to inform its membership from various disciplines about developments in international affairs and their consequences for our present world. The SIB-Groningen invitation to RSCSL requested a lecture about "your activities, as





well as your role in domestic and international affairs”. The association has had an impressive list of speakers over the years, including professionals from various walks of life.

On 27 March, the Prosecutor participated remotely in the Third International Roundtable on International Justice and Criminal Accountability in Syria and Afghanistan. He sat on a panel that addressed the topic: “Reforming International Criminal Justice: Enhancing Effectiveness and Overcoming Jurisdictional Challenges”. The roundtable, which took place from 27-29 March 2025, was organized by the Centre for the Study of United Nations O.P. Jindal Global University, New Delhi.

In the first quarter of the year, the Prosecutor’s Office prepared submissions in response to convicted person Augustine Gbao’s renewed application for review (reduction) of the conditions of his Conditional Early Release (“CER”) Agreement, pursuant to the President’s directive.

In early April, the Prosecution Legal Adviser/Evidence Officer worked with the Associate Legal Officer Registry to host a visit by students from the American University, Brussels Centre to the RSCSL.

In the second quarter, the Prosecutor participated in coordination meetings with the Registrar on the

stocktaking project, intended to capture information about work so far accomplished by various organs and sections since the RSCSL began operations in 2014. The project is intended to also cover ongoing activities and anticipated future activities pertaining to the Court’s outstanding residual functions. The Prosecutor later collaborated with the Registrar on other projects including reviewing drafts of the updated RSCSL Media Policy, and the audit recommendations of the draft Office of Internal Oversight Services (“OIOS”) Report; jointly addressing fundraising letters to prospective donor countries; and conducting multiple follow-up fundraising meetings with the embassies.

Also in the second quarter, the Prosecution Legal Adviser assisted with other administrative functions of the Registry, including participating in the Property Survey Board with two other staff members at the request of the Registrar.

In July and August, the Prosecution Legal Adviser/Evidence Officer worked with the Associate Legal Officer Registry to host three visits by legal practitioners, academics, and students. The first visit, in mid-July, was by the group Kompus Juris from India, followed in succession by two visits from The Hague Academy of Law in late July and early August. On 24 and 25 August, the Pros-

ecutor organized and participated in the 17th International Humanitarian Law Roundtable, held at the Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York. The theme for this year’s roundtable was “The United Nations at 80 – Relevancy and Challenges for International Criminal Law in the Coming Decades”. Issues discussed included: international justice institutions under attack and how do we respond, the role of the United Nations in international criminal justice in the coming years, and facilitating the delivery of international criminal justice at the regional and national level. The roundtable was attended by ten current and former Chief International Prosecutors, current and former Ambassadors, and a cross section of leading academics, experts and practitioners.

On 26 and 27 September, the Prosecutor participated in the mid-year meeting of the American Society of International Law, held in Cleveland, Ohio, United States of America. At the meeting the Prosecutor moderated a panel on “The Landscape of Accountability”, which discussed papers on *de facto* amnesties and transitional justice in Colombia.

On 24 and 25 October, the Prosecutor attended various events at the International Law Weekend in New York City, including the United Nations Mission Reception which was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations. He further attended the American Branch of the International Law Association Member’s Meeting and Awards Presentation, where he accepted, on behalf of former SCSL/RSCSL Prosecutor Brenda J. Hollis, the Outstanding Achievement Award.

In addition to matters within the Prosecution’s mandate, the Prosecution Legal Adviser worked gener-

ally in support of activities/projects run by the Registry. These included contributing to the Prosecution's segment of the ongoing stocktaking exercise, assisting in putting together for analysis RSCSL documents on staff appeals and providing analysis and comments on other matters as requested.





Registrar Binta Mansaray

THE REGISTRY

Under Article 15 of the Statute, the Registry provided assistance to the organs of the RSCSL. The following activities were conducted between 1 January and 31 December 2025.

WITNESSES AND VICTIMS SUPPORT UNIT ("WVS")

The WVS staff in Freetown continues to provide support services to protected witnesses in Sierra Leone and Liberia, as well as those located outside of the sub-region. The WVS staff continues to maintain contact with relevant authorities and agencies that provide support to the Court's witnesses. The support provided includes the provision of welfare and medical assistance to vulnerable witnesses. The WVS staff also conducted field missions for welfare and security checks on witnesses in Liberia and Sierra Leone. In coordination with a witness expert, the Registrar, and Prosecutor's Office, the WVS team carried out a threat assessment in June, at the request of a state hosting a relocated witness.

MAINTENANCE OF ARCHIVES AND COURT MANAGEMENT

The original archives of the RSCSL continued to be maintained at the Dutch National Archives in The Hague. In Freetown, a copy of the Public Archives continued to be stored at the Sierra Leone Peace Museum alongside the Truth and Reconciliation Commission records.

In the first quarter, the archiving unit in The Hague continued to work on the review and digitization of administrative records. The team continued to assist the Registrar with responding to requests for in-

formation and employment verification. An IT/Audio-Visual Specialist commissioned by the Registrar conducted an assessment, in consultation with an IRMCT IT technician, of the technical requirements for the digitization of the audiovisual records of the judicial proceedings of the SCSL. The primary objective of this project is to mitigate the risk of deterioration inherent in magnetic media, which has been the storage format for these materials. The digital preservation of the judicial audiovisual records was implemented in June 2025 by the Specialist. Following the on-site visit of the Audio-Visual Specialist to implement the digital preservation plan for the judicial audiovisual records of the SCSL, preparations are underway to address gaps identified in relation to 369 MP4 files without corresponding AVI versions.

In the third and fourth quarters, the Archiving Unit in The Hague continued reviewing and digitizing the finance records of the SCSL.

In Freetown, the archivist continued maintaining the public archives of the SCSL while making them accessible to researchers, visitors of the Sierra Leone Peace Museum, and the public. The archivist continued processing and preserving the records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The archivist also collaborated and provided oversight of the digitization of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission records by short-term contractors recruited under a UNDP-funded project.



Digitization of the TRC records in Freetown

ENFORCEMENT OF SENTENCES

The RSCSL continues to supervise the enforcement of sentences imposed by the SCSL, pursuant to the enforcement of sentences agreements with the states enforcing the sentences of the Court's convicted persons.

Six SCSL convicted persons continue to serve their sentences in three countries. Four convicted persons are serving their sentences in Rwanda (Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu), one in the United Kingdom (Charles Taylor), and one in Sierra Leone (Augustine Gbao) on conditional early release.

United Kingdom

The Registrar continues to coordinate with prison authorities and the Principal Defender on matters relevant to Charles Taylor's service of sentence at HM Prison Frankland of His Majesty's Prison Service in the United Kingdom. Issues raised by Mr. Taylor's *pro bono* counsel were dealt with by the prison authorities.

The Registrar consulted with the prison authorities on issues raised by Mr. Taylor to get them resolved. In June, the RSCSL Prison Advisor visited HM Prison Frankland to monitor Mr. Taylor's conditions of imprisonment and report back to the Registrar. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture ("CPT") visited Mr. Taylor in December to inspect his conditions of imprisonment.

Rwanda

Monitoring of Enforcement of Sentences: The Office of the Registrar continues to work closely with the Rwandan authorities to monitor the enforcement of sentences of the four remaining convicted persons at Mpanga Prison in Rwanda, and continues to receive monthly reports on the convicted persons which are shared with the Principal Defender. Additionally, through the Principal Defender's Office, the Office of the Registrar continues to respond to specific requests from convicted persons.

In May, the Registrar held virtual meetings with the International Committee of the Red Cross ("ICRC") to discuss the feedback on their 2024 visit to the SCSL convicted persons at Mpanga Prison.

On 23 September, the Registrar addressed letters to Rwandan authorities, including the Commissioner-General and the Ministers of Justice and Interior, requesting meetings during her upcoming visit, together with the Principal Defender, to Rwanda in October. The Registrar informed the Rwandan authorities that the purpose of the visit was to supervise the conditions of imprisonment, and it was also part of the ongoing stocktaking exercise of the Court. The trip to Rwanda took place from 13 to 16 October. During this period, meetings were



The Minister of Justice of Rwanda flanked by the RSCSL Registrar and Principal Defender

held with the Rwandan Minister of Justice, the Rwandan Minister of Interior, the Commissioner-General, the Prison Director, and other representatives of the Rwanda Correctional Services, the Court's convicted persons at Mpanga Prison, and the ICRC Delegation in Rwanda. The Registrar also met with in-country representatives of the states comprising the RSCSL Oversight Committee to brief them on the work of the RSCSL. The states represented included Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.



OC members in Kigali with the RSCSL Registrar and Principal Defender



The Commissioner General of the Rwanda Correctional Service with the RSCSL Registrar and Principal Defender



The Director of Mpanga Prison with the RSCSL Registrar and Principal Defender, during their visit to Rwanda

Sierra Leone

Conditional Early Release: The Office of the Registrar continues to work closely with the Principal Defender's Office and the Sierra Leone Monitoring Authority to su-

pervise the enforcement of the sentence of Augustine Gbao as he continues to serve the remainder of his sentence on conditional early release in his community in Blama, Small Bo Chiefdom.

On 12 March, the Registrar received the Defence update on Augustine Gbao's compliance with his conditional early release obligations (dated 11 March) as directed by the RSCSL President.

In accordance with the RSCSL President's directive of 27 March 2025 directing the Registrar "to submit an independent and comprehensive medical examination report on the health of Augustine Gbao no later than 30 April 2025, which must include expert medical opinion as to the extent of any limitations on his physical activity due to his medical condition", the Registrar submitted the medical report on 30 April 2025.

On 30 May 2025, the Registrar submitted her views concerning Augustine Gbao's request to the President for a review of the special condition in paragraph 83 (viii) of the Decision of the President on Application for Conditional Early Release dated 8 September 2020. This was following the Interoffice Memorandum from the RSCSL President, dated 9 May 2025, directing the Registrar to submit her views.

On 11 August, the Principal Defender informed the Registrar of Augustine Gbao's request to travel from Blama, Small Bo Chiefdom, to Waterloo in the Western Area of Sierra Leone, from Wednesday, 13 August to Thursday, 11 September 2025, to attend the funeral of one of his relatives. Upon receipt of the written authorization of the Monitoring Authority, the Registrar granted Augustine Gbao's request.

As reported in the Chambers' Section, in the RSCSL President's Decision of 21 July 2025 regarding the request for review of the special condition in paragraph 83, subparagraph (viii) of the President's Decision on the Application for Conditional Early Release of Augustine Gbao, he directed that "the Registrar's Office shall liaise with the Defence Office to discuss the structure and content of the programmes, plan their implementation, and align them with the community outreach programmes within the remit of the RSCSL Registry". In light of this, the Registrar's Office and the RSCSL outreach contractors collaborated with the Defence Office to design the contents of Augustine Gbao's radio programme, which was transmitted to the President by the Principal Defender.

ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

The Registry continues to execute its obligations by assisting national authorities who contact the Court to request information that may be useful for investigations and trials in domestic jurisdictions.



Visit of US Officials to the RSCSL

On 27 October 2025, the Registrar received a confidential request from the authorities of a state seeking assistance to interview a person convicted by the SCSL in connection with domestic proceedings. In accordance with the Practice Direction on Statement Taking, the Registrar notified the President of the RSCSL, the Principal Defender, and the Prosecutor of the request via a memorandum dated 29 October 2025. The convicted person and their *pro bono* counsel were also informed of the request by letter dated 29 October 2025. The convicted person's response is currently pending.

HOST STATE AGREEMENT

On 26 February, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands sent their contributions to the draft Host State Agreement to the RSCSL. The proposed new Article 29 on social security had been reviewed for further consultations with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The revised article ensures that the Dutch social security is not applicable to beneficiaries covered by similar schemes provided by the Court. On 16 April, the Legal Officer and Associate Legal Officer from the Office of the Registrar held a virtual meeting with representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment to seek clarification on the proposed

new Article 29 concerning social security. Subsequently, on 27 May, the Legal Officer submitted a set of outstanding questions to both ministries. In their response on 16 June, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated that they are still collaborating with colleagues from other ministries to prepare a document that will address the issues raised. The finalization of the Host State Agreement is pending as the RSCSL awaits the feedback from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the issues raised by the RSCSL on social security.

JUDGES' PLENARY MEETING

In the third quarter, the Registrar consulted with the RSCSL Oversight Committee and RSCSL President regarding the 2026 Judges' Plenary Meeting. On 20 August, the Registrar transmitted a confidential cover memo and the 2026 budget approval letter from the Oversight Committee for the consideration of the judges. In response, the judges confirmed the need for an in-person plenary and on 25 September, the Registrar provided additional information in relation to the cost of plenary to the judges at their request.

DEFAMATORY ARTICLE

On 19 February 2025, the Registrar submitted to the President of the Court a letter accompanied by a defamatory article authored

by a purported journalist named Christopher Thomas, for his information and determination of appropriate action. The article, titled "Mr. Zainu Deen and Others on the Spotlight as Criminal Investigations Surface and Registrar Madam Bintu Mansaray Allegedly Implicated" was initially sent to a staff member via WhatsApp on 9 December 2024 and forwarded to the Registrar on 12 December 2024. The Registrar sought the President's intervention after the purported journalist failed to present himself to the Court, despite several invitations by the RSCSL Press Officer for him to do so and to hear the Court's side of the story. On 18 June, the RSCSL President, Justice Richard Lussick, delivered his decision and final directive as reported in the Chambers' section above.

STOCKTAKING

Given the uncertainties of the current global financial environment, the RSCSL, led by the Registrar, initiated a comprehensive stocktaking exercise across its respective organs and the Defence Office. This review, which commenced in March, aims to identify and implement further efficiency measures to significantly reduce operational costs while ensuring the Court continues to meet its essential needs. A series of virtual meetings with the Court principals and staff representing different organs of the Court were convened by

the Registrar's Office to discuss the progress of the stocktaking exercise and provide clarification where necessary.

In the fourth quarter, ahead of the commencement of the drafting of the stocktaking report in January 2026, the Registrar held bilateral feedback sessions with all organs of the Court and, where necessary, requested clarifications or additional information in relation to the data they compiled and previously submitted.

Distribution of the Eleventh Annual Report (2024)

In collaboration with the Senior Legal Officer of Chambers, the Registry coordinated the printing, review, publication, and distribution of the Eleventh Annual Report of the President of the RSCSL.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Budget

The RSCSL was notified by the United Nations Controller's Office that due to the liquidity crisis facing the United Nations, the approved Subvention for 2025 in the amount of US \$2,916,200 will be reduced by 15-20% and that the RSCSL budget for 2026 must also be reduced by a similar percentage. Discussions with the Oversight Committee on these issues were held, and the Court was guided by this requirement in the management of its budget.

In August 2025, the Registrar submitted the revised 2026 budget of the RSCSL to the Oversight Committee in the amount of US \$2,752,500 that reflects deeper cuts based on the latter's initial feedback. The Oversight Committee approved the revised budget following budget discussions in which the Registrar and the Budget and Finance Officer

participated. A request for a subvention towards the RSCSL 2026 budget was submitted to the United Nations in September 2025.

In December 2025, the Registrar, Finance and Budget Officer, the United Nations Controller's Officer, and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs attended the Fifth Committee Hearing on the RSCSL 2026 Budget in New York to provide clarification and respond to questions raised by committee members. The Registrar and the Finance and Budget Officer attended the hearing virtually from The Hague.

In December, the Fifth Committee approved the RSCSL subvention request of US \$2,771,700, representing a 10% cut from its 2025 budget.

Audit

The audit of the RSCSL's 2024 accounts by the National Audit Office of Tanzania ("NAOT") commenced on 2 June. Four auditors traveled to The Hague and one to Freetown during the first weekend of June, where they conducted on-site work for two weeks. After the field visits, the audit continued remotely, and the audit report with unqualified opinion was submitted to the Oversight Committee in September.

In August, the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services ("OIOS") commenced an internal audit of the RSCSL's operations.

On 17 October 2025, Mr. Min Byung-kun, Director of the Internal Audit Division ("IAD") of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services ("OIOS"), met with the RSCSL Registrar in The Hague, accompanied by Mr. Brown Kalu, OIOS Resident Auditor. During the meeting, they discussed the Court's ongoing internal audit process and

the timeline for the completion and submission of the audit report.

On 4 November 2025, the Registrar and the Budget and Finance Officer held a virtual meeting with the OIOS Auditors to discuss preliminary findings of the audit. In December 2025, the OIOS submitted its audit report on the operations of the RSCSL to the Registrar, which was forwarded for the attention of the Oversight Committee.

FUNDRAISING AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

During the year under review, the RSCSL's Oversight Committee and the Registrar held a series of consultations concerning ongoing efforts to secure funding for the RSCSL. On 16 July 2025, the United Nations Secretary-General addressed letters to all United Nations Member States seeking voluntary contributions for the financing of the RSCSL. In August 2025, the Government of Sierra Leone sent a letter of appeal for financial support and long-term funding to the United Nations Group of African States.

The Court continued to conduct fundraising activities, mostly virtually. A few meetings requiring minimal travel resources were held in person. From January to December 2025, the RSCSL principals, including the Registrar and Prosecutor together with their staff, held a total of 108 fundraising, outreach and diplomatic meetings, most of which were conducted virtually.

Between May and June, the RSCSL sent letters to 140 Member States requesting virtual bilateral fundraising meetings. The letters were addressed to United Nations Permanent Missions in New York, African Union Member States, and states in The Hague and Brussels. Meetings were held with states including Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russia, Slovenia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

The Registrar participated in virtual meetings with the Chair of the RSCSL Oversight Committee and

members of the Oversight Committee to discuss matters including the Court's financial situation, liquidity crisis facing the United Nations, the Court's 2026 budget, and efforts towards fundraising and other non-judicial issues.

On 27 May, the Registrar met with the UNDP Resident Representative in Freetown to discuss a potential collaborative project aimed at honouring Sierra Leone's history and preserving the legacy of the SCSL to promote social cohesion. Following this initial meeting, several additional discussions were held with UNDP staff in June and July to further develop the project and its funding. A project proposal was submitted to the UNDP for the implementation of a few activities recommended by the legacy conference held in Freetown in February 2024, including digitization of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and other SCSL records located in Freetown, outreach, and public lectures in tertiary institutions. The proposal was approved and implementation of the project started in September.



UNDP Deputy Resident Representative and colleagues at the Peace Museum

On 25 August, IRMCT President Judge Graciela Gatti Santana met with the RSCSL Registrar in The Hague. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange insights and experiences on the enforcement of sentences, as well as to discuss matters of mutual interest.

The Registrar and Deputy Registrar of the Central African Republic Special Criminal Court ("SCC"), paid a courtesy call to the RSCSL Registrar on 3 September. The meeting, which was held at the RSCSL Office in The Hague, was an opportunity to update them on the developments at the RSCSL and to discuss other matters of mutual interest, including challenges in relation to fundraising and the liquidity situation of their respective institutions.

On 10 September, a delegation from the United States Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center ("HRVWCC"), led by a representative of the United States of America Embassy in The Hague, visited the RSCSL Office in The Hague. The delegation met with the RSCSL Registrar and the Prosecution's Legal Adviser, who provided a briefing on the operations of the RSCSL and clarification on the nature of the assistance provided by the Court to national prosecution authorities. The meeting served as an opportunity to raise the profile of the Court and to discuss other matters of interest.

During her visit to Rwanda in October, the Registrar's meeting with Rwandan authorities was also aimed at strengthening cooperation on the implementation of the Amended Bilateral Agreement on the Enforcement of Sentences imposed by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, dated 16 September 2009. The Registrar also requested a bilateral meeting with authorities of the United Kingdom to achieve simi-

lar objectives. On 27 October, the Registrar and the Principal Defender held a virtual meeting with Ms. Fatmata Lovetta Sesay, UNDP Resident Representative in Rwanda. The meeting provided an opportunity to brief the Resident Representative on the work of the RSCSL, including its achievements and ongoing challenges.

During the Registrar's trip to Freetown in October, she held bilateral meetings with the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, the Director of the Sierra Leone Law School, the Minister of Tourism of Sierra Leone, the Chair of the Monuments and Relics Commission, and other key stakeholders. These meetings provided an opportunity to brief Government of Sierra Leone officials and other stakeholders on the work of the Court, as well as on the increasing financial challenges it continues to face. The Registrar also informed them about the Court's ongoing stocktaking exercise.

On 8 October, while in Freetown, the RSCSL Registrar also met with the Chief Justice, Honourable Justice Komba Kamanda, and led him on a tour of the RSCSL site. Accompanied by Justices of the Superior Court of Judicature, the Chief Justice assessed the site's suitability as a potential new location for the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, and

described the visit as a "significant step" in the Judiciary's efforts to modernize its institutional environment and improve access to justice.

On 1 December 2025, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Sierra Leone, Mr. Alpha Sesay, together with the RSCSL Principal Defender, Mr. Ibrahim Yillah, paid a courtesy visit to the RSCSL Office in The Hague, where they met and interacted with staff. The visit provided an opportunity for informal engagement with RSCSL staff in The Hague and served to reaffirm continued institutional cooperation and collegial relations. The Attorney General was accompanied by two members of his delegation.

At the invitation of the President of the Assembly of States Parties ("ASP") to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court ("ICC"), the Registrar participated as an observer in the twenty-fourth session of the ASP, which was held in The Hague from 1 to 6 December 2025.

At the invitation of the Ambassador of the United States of America, Joseph Popolo, the Registrar attended a holiday reception at the Ambassador's residence in The Hague on 10 December 2025. The event was attended by members of the diplomatic community.



The RSCSL Registrar and members of the Oversight Committee in New York

VIRTUAL DIPLOMATIC BRIEFING

On 3 October 2025, the Permanent Missions of Canada and Sierra Leone to the United Nations jointly organized a virtual fundraising diplomatic briefing on the RSCSL. Over 60 participants, including members of the diplomatic corps and staff of the RSCSL, attended the briefing. The speakers included Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations H.E. Michael Imran Kanu, Principal Legal Officer at the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs Ms. Ana Peyro Llopis, RSCSL Vice-President Justice Isaac Lenaola, Prosecutor James C. Johnson, Principal Defender Ibrahim Yillah and Registrar Binta Mansaray. The briefing was moderated by Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations H.E. Michael Gort.

In their remarks and comments at the diplomatic briefing, H.E. Michael Imran Kanu, H.E. Michael Gort, and Ms. Ana Peyro Llopis addressed participants on the establishment and mandate of the SCSL, the Court's innovative nature, its key jurisprudential contributions, and its legacy and outreach efforts. They also discussed the creation and ongoing role of the RSCSL, the efficiency and credibility of the Court, its continued relevance in

the contemporary international justice landscape, and the financial challenges it currently faces. Reiterating the Secretary-General's call for financial support for the Court, they appealed for voluntary contributions from Member States, emphasizing that even modest contributions can play a significant role in sustaining the Court's legacy and ongoing work.

The RSCSL principals briefed participants at the diplomatic briefing on the work of their respective organs, and emphasized the continued need for financial support from Member States to sustain the Court's operations and legacy. In her remarks, the Registrar highlighted the Court's lean budget, operational constraints, and ongoing fundraising efforts. She explained that the Registry supports all organs of the Court and the Defence Office and leads the implementation of the Court's ongoing functions with an annual budget of approximately USD \$2.7 million and a total of 13 full-time staff across the Prosecution, Defence, and Chambers. Despite inflationary pressures, the Registry has sought to maintain a stable budget since the Court's inception, supplemented by in-kind contributions from Member States, particularly in the areas of archiving, enforcement of sentences, and witness protection. The Registrar

further outlined efficiency measures implemented by the Registry, including staff multitasking, maintaining a small workforce, and the use of short-term contractors where necessary. She commended the dedication and hard work of staff as a key contributor to the Court's operational efficiency. While reaffirming the Court's commitment to efficiency, she expressed concern that further budget reductions arising from liquidity challenges and austerity measures could negatively affect productivity and undermine the Court's effectiveness. She therefore joined the Vice-President in appealing for voluntary contributions to enable the RSCSL to continue fulfilling its mandate, and thanked the organizers for the opportunity to brief the gathering on behalf of the Registry. The Registrar responded to a series of questions asked by the participants relating to outreach, legacy, the future use of the Court's archival materials, and the possibility of institutional partnerships with the RSCSL.

LEGACY ACTIVITIES AND INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

In 2025, the RSCSL continued to uphold and maintain the legacy of the Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through



The Sierra Leone Attorney General and RSCSL Staff in The Hague

its collaboration with other institutions, its legacy projects, and outreach activities.

For experience-sharing purposes, the RSCSL Registrar participated in an assessment mission for the proposed War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia. The event, which was held from January 18 to 25, 2025, was organized by the Center for Justice and Accountability at the United States Department of State.

The RSCSL Registrar received a letter dated 14 March 2025, inviting her to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Gender and Social Justice ("CGSJ"), a Sierra Leonean-based non-governmental organization dedicated to advancing gender equality, empowering women, and addressing systemic injustices affecting women, girls, and marginalized groups across the country. On 24 April, the Registrar accepted the request to join the Board of CGSJ, noting that the vision and values that guide CGSJ resonate deeply with her career path and many years of commitment to justice, advocacy, outreach, empowerment of women and girls, and post-conflict peace-building in Sierra Leone.

At the recommendation of Professor Valerie Oosterveld, the RSCSL was invited to an expert roundtable titled "Using Technology to Improve Investigations of Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes: Advances, Challenges, and Opportunities". The event, which was held on 28 March 2025 at the Canadian Embassy in The Hague, facilitated a practice-oriented dialogue on the ethical and effective application of technology in investigating Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes ("SGBCs"). The RSCSL was represented virtually via Webex by four staff members, while the Court's Archivist/Records Manager attended in person.

The roundtable was organized by the XCEPT research project team, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, and the Embassies of Canada, Guatemala, and the United Kingdom to the Netherlands. The event featured distinguished speakers, including Valerie Oosterveld, Heather Flowe, Kirstin Wagner, Kateryna Busol, Polina Overchenko, Natia Navrouzov, Marie Lehmon, Albina Basysta, Gabriel Oosthuizen, and Alexa Koenig, who shared insights on the evolving role of technology in addressing SGBCs.

Collaboration with the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia ("ECCC")

Following the RSCSL's acceptance in 2024 to collaborate with the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia ("ECCC") on its upcoming exhibition, significant progress has been made in fulfilling this commitment. As part of this partnership, in March the RSCSL provided a selection of materials requested for inclusion in the exhibition. These materials cover key aspects of the Sierra Leone conflict and the work of the (R)SCSL including the historical context of the Sierra Leone conflict, key data and milestones of the (R)SCSL victim testimonies, videos, and information about The Flame of Justice. These contributions will inform the design of exhibition materials to be displayed at the ECCC in Cambodia, ensuring that Sierra Leone's experience in achieving justice for atrocity crimes is shared with a wider audience in Cambodia.

On 22 April, the Registrar briefed the President about the collaboration and his role in granting the ECCC special request by providing a short message "about the importance of exchanging information between tribunals and countries about their experiences, fostering aware-

ness about atrocities to advance prevention of repetition, stimulating archival research and education about the past, the importance of transitional justice, or similar, framed against the 'global' imperative to remember the past and prevent future atrocities".

On 28 April, Milan Jovančević, the Programme Management Officer at the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials ("UNAKRT"), acknowledged receipt of the first set of content materials provided by the RSCSL and provided an update about the significant progress that has been made in furtherance of the project.

In November, following inquiries by the RSCSL regarding the status of the project collaboration between the two institutions, Mr. Milan Jovančević informed the RSCSL that the 2025 liquidity crisis and the cap on UNAKRT's subvention, resulting in a cash shortfall, necessitated prioritizing the ECCC judiciary over non-judicial initiatives, including the RSCSL-ECCC collaboration and other outreach activities. He noted, however, that while assessing UNAKRT's financial situation for 2026, the office would continue to consider collaboration with the RSCSL and explore external funding for dedicated projects aimed at promoting sustainable education and awareness on atrocity prevention.

On 3 September, the Registrar attended a webinar organized by the African Bar Association Women Forum, titled "Reimagining a Brighter Future for African Women: Trends, Challenges, and Solutions". The event examined emerging developments, persistent obstacles, and actionable strategies for advancing women's rights and empowerment across the continent. The keynote address was delivered by RSCSL

Judge Paula Machatine Honwana. The Women Forum of the African Bar Association is chaired by Rhoda S. Kargbo, RSCSL Senior Legal Officer.

On 10 November 2025, the Registrar participated as a speaker in an international webinar examining transitional justice through the lens of Sierra Leone. The event focused on the legacy of the SCSL and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, highlighting key lessons for documenting international crimes and advancing accountability in post-conflict contexts. Other speakers included David M. Crane, former Prosecutor of the SCSL and Founder of the Global Accountability Network, and Volodymyr Hryshko, Legal Counsel at Truth Hounds. The webinar was moderated by Inna Liniova, Director of the Human Rights Institute at the Ukrainian Bar Association ("UBA"), and Kateryna Busol, Legal Adviser at the International Center for Transitional Justice ("ICTJ"). It was organized jointly by Truth Hounds, the Ukrainian Bar Association, the International Center for Transitional Justice, and the Faculty of Law of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

VISITS TO THE SIERRA LEONE PEACE MUSEUM AND THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Sierra Leone Peace Museum is a legacy project of the SCSL and the RSCSL. The museum serves as a center for the promotion of human rights and learning. It also serves as a historical and memorial site in honour of the victims of the 11-year armed conflict that took place in Sierra Leone in the 1990s and early 2000s.

One hundred and ninety-six (196) groups visited the Sierra Leone Peace Museum during the year under re-

view. These included groups from schools, families, communities, religious organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations ("CSOs"), diplomatic missions, government agencies, and tourist groups from Europe and other parts of the world. While taking a tour of the Sierra Leone Peace Museum and Memorial Garden, the visitors were briefed about the war and peace process in Sierra Leone, the transitional justice mechanisms, especially the work of the SCSL, RSCSL, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The schools that visited the Sierra Leone Peace Museum in 2025 include: Ansarul Islamic Secondary School, Bethel Temple Nursery & Preparatory School, Community Development Association Modern High School, Dele Pre-School, Diamond Child School, Don-Bosco Fambul, E.B. Williams Municipal Primary School, Fattah Rahman Municipal Primary School, Government Secondary Technical School, Grace Brethren Methodist School, International Islamic School, International Mission School, International School Limited, King Fahad Islamic Secondary School, King's Light Academy School, Lebanese International School, Limount College School, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Logos Academy School, National School for the Deaf, Prince of Wales School (CTA Career Fieldtrip), Providence International School, researchers on the history of the Sierra Leone Civil War from the History and African Studies Department Fourah Bay College, researchers on war and memorialization from the Faculty of Communication Media and Information Studies Fourah Bay College, Services Secondary School, Sierra Leone Grammar School, SOS International, SOS International School, St. Helena Secondary School, St. Joseph's Secondary School, St. Paul's

School (Special Needs), Standards International School, United Muslim Association Secondary School, International Criminal Law students from FBC, law students from Fourah Bay College, Peace and Conflict Studies students from Fourah Bay College, students from the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences ("COMAHS"), and students from the Faculty of Communication, Media, and Information Studies, Fourah Bay College.

The following groups and individuals also visited the Sierra Leone Peace Museum: AIOF from Liberia, tourists from the United States of America, beneficiaries of Justice Renate Winter's Scholarship Programme, Bosnian tourists, British tourists, British Tattersall Family, Canadian tourists, Chinese tourists, Council of Churches in Sierra Leone ("CCSL") and Liberian counterpart, Criage Johnson and One Family, delegates from Change Up Sports, Philadelphia, delegates from Miss Malaika Beauty Pageant, delegates from Mercy Ships, delegates from the Canadian Consulate in Sierra Leone, delegates from the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, delegates from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, delegates from the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, delegates from UNDP, delegates from the West Africa Tax Association Forum, tourists from the Netherlands, Fambul Tok Organization, Foreign Services Institute students in Liberia, former Vice-President of Liberia Jewel Howard-Taylor and her delegation, Future Leaders Organization, German doctors, German tourists, Ghanaian law students studying in Sierra Leone, Guinean tourists, Hope Organization, Icelandic tourists, Imperial College London researchers, Indian tourists, Irish tourists, Italian tourists, Kabba Family, Kamara family, Kings Fami-

ly from Sierra Leone, Luxembourg tourists, Magic TV journalists, visitors from the National Peace Museum, Network Aids Civil Society Organization, Pharmaceutical Society of Sierra Leone, Polish tourists, Residual Special Court Interactive Forum ("RSCIF"), RSCSL Prosecutor, Serbian tourists, Sierra Leonean tourists, Spanish Ambassador and accompanying delegates, staff from We Lek We Salone Organization, Swiss tourists, tourists from

ter-Day Saints, and members of the Judiciary of Sierra Leone.

On 22 February 2025, a group of girls in Sierra Leone who have been supported and assisted in their schooling over the years by Justice Renate Winter visited the Sierra Leone Peace Museum. Justice Winter organized their visit to the Museum and the RSCSL for them to learn about the devastating effects of the war and the advantages of peace.

On 18 March, being the week of the commemoration of the 34th anniversary of the invasion of Bomaru and the beginning of the civil war in Sierra Leone, the Chief Minister of Sierra Leone, Dr. David Moinina Sengh, visited the Sierra Leone Peace Museum. He was welcomed by the RSCSL Registrar, staff in Freetown, and the founder of the Center for Memory and Reparations. During his visit, Dr. Sengh reflected on the significance of peace



Australia, tourists from Centre for Memory and Reparations, tourists from France, tourists from Ghana, tourists from IP Travel, tourists from Kuwait, tourists from Liberia, tourists from Senegal, tourists from Spain, tourists from Sweden, tourists from Switzerland, tourists from the United Kingdom, tourists from the United States of America, tourists from Türkiye, the Turay family, Word Became Flesh Church-Sierra Leone members, members of Caritas Sierra Leone, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-

The project, supported by Justice Winter, aims to empower Sierra Leonean girls, and included full payment of tuition and other school charges for the girls. This has resulted in the successful completion of schooling for several girls. Since the inception of the Free Quality Education Programme (in which the Government of Sierra Leone assumed payment of tuition fees for all school children), Justice Winter pays for the extra school charges for the girls and other financial costs.

and the collective responsibility of Sierra Leoneans to build a just society where all individuals can reach their full potential.

On 23 March 2025, the Senior Legal Officer represented the Registrar at a commemoration of the 34th anniversary of the start of the civil war in Sierra Leone in 1991 titled: "Memba 34 – Remembrance of the Sierra Leonean Civil War". During the commemoration, which was organized by the Center for Memory and Reparations in partnership

with 3rd Culture Kid Productions, a documentary titled: “Peace Does Not Fall from The Sky” was debuted. The documentary delves into Sierra Leone’s remarkable story of resilience, healing, and the ongoing pursuit of peace. A short presentation on the legacy of the SCSL and work of the RSCSL in promoting a culture of peace in Sierra Leone was done by the Court’s Outreach Focal Person.

On Friday, 12 September, the Irish Ambassador-designate, H.E. Patrick MacManus, accompanied by his delegates, visited the Sierra Leone Peace Museum. They were warmly received, briefed on the conflict in Sierra Leone, and taken on a guided tour of the museum and memorial garden. During the visit, they learned about the work of the SCSL and RSCSL. The tour highlighted the enduring legacy projects of the Court.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

In 2025, RSCSL’s outreach activities successfully engaged multiple

community segments, ensuring the dissemination of valuable information about its role and contributions to post-conflict justice. In total, eight schools, six youth meeting points, and a series of community engagements were covered, demonstrating the Court’s ongoing commitment to public engagement and historical preservation. Some of the outreach activities held in 2025 were structured into three distinct categories, each targeting different groups. These efforts aimed to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Court’s legacy, ensuring its impact continues to resonate across various communities. Three categories of the outreach activities are discussed below:

Category One – Community Outreach Engagements: Small-scale community outreach engagements were conducted in Kailahun District and the Western Area Rural District through partner organizations. In Kailahun District, engagements were led by Madam Jemba Gandhi Ngobeh, a representative of the Mopama Women’s Organization,

who focused on traditional customary leaders and police personnel across Luawa, Kissi Tongi, Kissi Teng, Mandu, Upper Bambara, and Jawei Chiefdoms. Motorbike riders, welding shop operators, car wash youth groups, and the Masanta Welding Training Shop members were targeted. Similarly, in the Western Area Rural District, Madam Marie Bob-Kandeh of the Sierra Leone Market Women Association conducted outreach targeting secondary schools, religious communities, and war victims. The activities included radio programmes in Kent Village, Waterloo Village, Grafton Village, Jui Hangar Community, and Rokel Community. These sessions provided information on the SCSL and RSCSL’s legacy activities, with reader-friendly booklets distributed to participants. Interactive question and answer sessions allowed for deeper engagement.

Category Two – Mobile Exhibitions for Youth at Ataya Bases:

A key component of the outreach activities was engaging with youth at Ataya Bases, popular marginalized youth meeting points in the Western Area. These sessions were strategically planned despite limited resources. They featured displays of artefacts and materials from the Sierra Leone Peace Museum and Memorial Garden. Additionally, virtual tours of the Sierra Leone Peace Museum were showcased using digital equipment, directing audiences to the Court’s website for further exploration. These interactive exhibitions included question-and-answer sessions, where accurate responses were provided, and participants’ recommendations were documented.

- Mobile exhibition at the Old School Ataya Base on 25 June.
- Mobile exhibition at Normal Ataya Base, held on 23 July.
- Mobile exhibition at APC Ataya Base One, Calaba Town, held on 25 July.





- Juba Ataya Base engagement, held on 26 July.
- Unity Ataya Base engagement, Calaba Town, held on 3 August.
- Mobile exhibition at Central Ataya Base, Dwazack Farm, held on 28 August.
- Mobile exhibition at Bellaire Ataya Base, Dwazack Farm, held on 29 August.
- Meeting at Wallace Johnson Street Ataya Base, held on 3 September.
- Mobile exhibition at Wan-Word Ataya Base, held on 12 September.

The exhibitions were generally well attended, with participants including representatives from the Ataya Bases as well as motorcycle and tri-cycle ("Keke") drivers. At the Wan-Word Ataya Base, some attendees were older members of the Base who are now lecturers at tertiary institutions. Overall, participants were

highly interactive; they asked questions, made recommendations, and expressed appreciation to the Court for organizing the events.

Category Three: Mobile Exhibitions in Schools: Mobile exhibitions targeting school assemblies followed a similar format to the youth outreach initiatives. These exhibitions introduced students to the Court's history and significance, and students were encouraged to interact, ask questions, and explore the virtual Sierra Leone Peace Museum, reinforcing their understanding of the Court's legacy. A total of eight schools benefited from this programme in the first quarter of 2025.

Public Lectures and Briefings at Tertiary institutions

On 11 March, law students from Birmingham University visited the RSCSL Office in The Hague and were briefed on the SCSL's contributions to international criminal justice and its lasting impact, particularly in advancing accountability for serious crimes and strengthening the rule of law in post-conflict Sierra Leone. They were also introduced to the RSCSL and its ongoing mandate, including several key legacy projects, such as the Sierra Leone

Peace Museum, which serves as a testament to the Court's enduring role in preserving historical records and promoting education on justice and reconciliation.

The RSCSL Outreach team held its first public lecture on 14 May at the College of Tourism and Hotel Management, now renamed the College of Tourism and Transportation Services. The College Registrar, Mr. Koroma, expressed appreciation for including their institution in the Court's public lecture series. He noted that graduates from the college are expected to serve as key points of contact for foreign visitors, making a comprehensive understanding of the conflict's history and the peace process essential for their roles. The lectures were delivered by Chambers' Senior Legal Officer Rhoda S. Kargbo and Defence Associate Legal Officer James T. Kamara.

On 15 May, the second public lecture in the RSCSL lecture series was successfully held at Freetown Polytech. In attendance were diploma students from various disciplines as well as students from the Polytech Secondary School. The institution's Director of Academic Affairs, Mr. Lansana Fofana, expressed appreciation to the RSCSL for organizing the lecture series for the third consecutive year. He also expressed hope that he would arrange a visit to the Sierra Leone Peace Museum for his students in the future. The lectures were delivered by Chambers' Senior Legal Officer, Rhoda S. Kargbo, and Defence Associate Legal Officer, James T. Kamara.

STAFFING

While the RSCSL functions as a streamlined organization with minimal staff, its operations continue to require a diversity of skills to manage the workflow of its mandate. The Court retained the services of





School Outreach

individuals who have previously worked for the SCSL at minimal cost. These include a press officer, a prison adviser, and a communications and information technology services officer, all of whom were briefly brought in to complete a variety of tasks and projects.

In January, one intern was recruited from Case Western University to assist the Office of the Prosecutor and Registry. The Intern worked in person from the RSCSL Office in

The Hague and remotely from the United States of America.

In March, a short-term legal assistant was hired to assist Justice Alusine Sesay who was assigned by President Lussick of the RSCSL to conduct an investigation into a defamatory article discussed above against the Registrar and other staff members, which contained anonymous claims of financial impropriety. The legal assistant was recruited on the recommendation of Justice Sesay.

In May, the RSCSL accepted an offer of internship from a student at the German International School in The Hague. The intern worked with the archives team for two weeks to gain experience in records management as part of his secondary school orientation programme.

In June, an IT and Audio-Visual consultant was hired for the implementation of the RSCSL judicial audio-visual digital preservation project.



School Outreach

In the third quarter, six contractors were engaged by the RSCSL to implement the UNDP-funded project on the digitization of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission records in Freetown.

On 15 December 2025, the RSCSL Registrar circulated an internal memorandum regarding the review of contract extensions. The Information Circular was issued to notify staff and contractors of changes affecting contracts set to expire in December 2025 and 2026. It indicated that, due to significant budget cuts of 10-20% resulting from the United Nations liquidity crisis, the RSCSL has implemented interim



Members of the Oversight Committee and RSCSL Staff in The Hague

measures for contract extensions. Fixed-term staff and SSA contracts issued against regular posts will be extended until June 2026, while other SSA and GTA contracts will be extended on a quarterly basis. Retainer contracts will also be extended to June 2026. All subsequent extensions remain subject to the availability of funds. These measures are interim and will be reviewed considering developments in the Court's funding situation. The Registrar stated that the Court and its Oversight Committee continue to ensure operational continuity during this challenging period.

The RSCSL Information Circular No. 2025/01, dated 15 December 2025, on the Amended Policy on RSCSL Staff Pension/Savings/Social Security Scheme announced updates to the policy to reflect developments since its adoption in July 2014. For staff whose pension funds

were previously managed by ABN AMRO, the circular noted that these funds are now held in the RSCSL savings account at the United Nations Federal Credit Union ("UNFCU") in New York and administered by the RSCSL, as reflected in paragraph 1 of the amended policy. This change follows ABN AMRO's termination of pension services to the Court in June 2024. The Circular further indicated that the Court would continue to explore the possibility of joining the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund ("UNJSPF"). However, this remains a long and complex process with an uncertain outcome. Consequently, all references to UNJSPF in paragraph 1 were deleted until such time as participation becomes a viable option. Additionally, the reference to salary in paragraph 6 was removed for clarity, based on staff feedback. All other provisions of the policy remain unchanged.

FULL-TIME STAFF

The RSCSL's Office in The Hague continues to be served by a small team consisting of archivists, an office manager, a legal officer, an associate legal officer, a budget and finance officer, and a prosecution legal adviser. RSCSL staff positions in Freetown include three full-time witness and victim protection staff, an associate defence legal officer, an office administrator, a cleaner, and a senior legal officer. In New York, liaison activities are carried out by a liaison officer on a part-time basis.

STAFF ON A ROSTER

In addition to a roster of defence counsel, the Registry continues to maintain a roster of former SCSL and RSCSL staff, created pursuant to Article 15(4) of the Statute.

STAFF MEETING WITH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

On 2 December 2025, members of the RSCSL Oversight Committee attended the annual meeting with RSCSL staff and contractors, which took place at the RSCSL Office in The Hague, with RSCSL colleagues from the Freetown Office joining virtually. The Oversight Committee was represented in person by its Chair and representative of Canada, Ms. Beatrice Maille; the member representing the Netherlands, Ms. Wieteke Theeuwen; and the member representing the United Kingdom, Ms. Laura Grant. During the meeting, Ms. Maille addressed the financial situation of the Court, the liquidity crisis facing the United Nations, and the Court's ongoing fundraising efforts. She thanked RSCSL staff and contractors for the detailed updates provided on the Court's work throughout the year and reiterated the Oversight Committee's continued support for the Court's funding and operations. The RSCSL Registrar and Principal Defender expressed appreciation to the Oversight Committee for its sustained support in advancing the Court's mandate.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND FRAMEWORK: INTERIM SEAT IN THE HAGUE AND BRANCH OFFICE IN FREETOWN

According to the Memorandum of Understanding on Administrative and Technical Platform Sharing Arrangement between the two institutions, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals ("IRMCT") continues to provide administrative support services to the RSCSL on a cost-reimbursable basis. The RSCSL's branch office continues to be co-located with the National Witness Protection Office in Freetown.

During the reporting period, the Registrar worked from the RSCSL Office in The Hague. She also worked remotely from Freetown and New York. She worked with the President of the RSCSL, the Prosecutor, the Principal Defender, and the staff. She also liaised remotely with the Chair and other members of the Oversight Committee.

Due to heightened security measures for the NATO Summit, access to the RSCSL Office premises in The Hague was either limited or entirely restricted in June. Consequently, all RSCSL staff worked remotely from Thursday, 19 June through Friday, 27 June.

On 27 August, the Registrar transmitted a confidential memorandum to the IRMCT Registrar, Abubacarr Tambadou, requesting a review of the Memorandum of Understanding on Administrative and Technical Arrangements between the two institutions to explore the possibility of further cost savings.

On 6 November, the Registrar of the RSCSL and her team met with

the Registrar of the IRMCT, Mr. Abubacarr Tambadou and his team to review the MoU, with a view to identifying further cost-saving opportunities for the RSCSL. Consultations remain ongoing regarding the review of the service cost annexed to the MoU, as well as other aspects of the agreement.

Refurbishment of the Containerized Office Space at the Freetown Office

In Freetown, the RSCSL continued to be co-located with the National Witness Office at the former SCSL site. A review, restructuring, and refurbishment of the containerized office space in the Freetown Office to achieve greater efficiency that started at the end of 2024 was completed in April 2025. The refurbishment of the containerized office space has not been done in the past 20 years. The newly upgraded premises were handed over to RSCSL staff and contractors in Freetown, who are now operating from the new office spaces.



RSCSL Contractors in Freetown



RSCSL Staff in Freetown

Mpox outbreak in Sierra Leone

The Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) outbreak in Sierra Leone, which started around January 2025, continued until 15 December 2025, when the Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Health, declared the country Mpox-free. Throughout the outbreak, the Court provided regular updates and circulated relevant health and safety measures through the RSCSL's electronic broadcast system. RSCSL staff and contractors in Freetown were vaccinated, and the RSCSL Office in Freetown remained fully operational, continuing to execute its mandate without interruption despite the prevailing public health situation.

OBITUARIES



Ms. Wendy Woodroffe

On 7 April 2025, the Registrar announced, with sadness, the passing away of Ms. Wendy Woodroffe, former Chief of Personnel SCSL, which happened on the same day, in New York. In a message to staff, the Registrar stated that “Nearly everyone who worked at the Special Court for Sierra Leone must have been touched in one way or another by Wendy Woodroffe”. The Registrar further stated that Ms. Woodroffe joined the SCSL in August 2002 as Deputy Chief of Personnel. She was named Chief of Personnel in July 2008 and served in that role until her retirement in August 2010. Building on her experience from her career at the United Nations, Ms. Woodroffe facilitated the recruitment of a diverse team of staff that worked tirelessly to make the SCSL succeed in carrying out its mandate. As a result, she left an indelible mark on the SCSL. She was kind and helpful. Staff of the RSCSL who had the privilege of working with Ms. Woodroffe paid tribute to her. The President extended condolences to her family on behalf of the Court.



Courtenay Griffiths, KC

On 24 June, the RSCSL announced with sadness, the death of Courtenay Griffiths, KC. Mr. Griffiths represented Charles Ghankay Taylor during his war crimes trial before the SCSL sitting in The Hague. On 31 August 2023, he was appointed as *pro bono* counsel at the request of Charles Taylor. Mr. Griffiths served as Lead Counsel for Charles Taylor from his appointment in July 2007 until the end of the trial phase in May 2012. Previously, Mr. Griffiths had practiced law before the Bar of England and Wales. Principal Defender Ibrahim Yillah described him as “unyielding and eloquent beyond measure in presenting his case before the Special Court”. RSCSL President Justice Richard Lussick remembered Griffiths as “a fine lawyer”. Registrar Binta Mansaray called him “forceful and kind”. The RSCSL extended its condolences to his family.



Mr. Abdul Rahim Kamara

On 6 November 2025, the Registrar announced, with deep sadness and shock, the passing away of Mr. Abdul Rahim Kamara, who was working with the Court as an outreach contractor until a few weeks before his death. He died in Sierra Leone on 6 November following a short illness. In a message to staff, the Registrar stated that “Rahim was a die-hard civil society activist who will be remembered for his dedication and contributions to transitional justice and the (R)SCSL. He was one of the most knowledgeable people about the transitional justice process in Sierra Leone. He will be sorely missed for his humility, kindness, and loyalty to this organization”. On 13 November, RSCSL staff in Freetown, together with members of CSOs, paid a condolence visit to the family of Abdul Rahim Kamara and on 14 November, they attended his funeral, which was held in his home town of Rokupr in Kambia District, Sierra Leone.



Principal Defender Ibrahim Yillah

THE DEFENCE OFFICE

This report highlights activities undertaken by the Defence Office in 2025 pursuant to its mandate under Rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, as amended.

Regular Communication with SCSL Convicted Persons in Rwanda and the United Kingdom and Pro Bono Counsel

The Defence Office regularly communicated with SCSL convicted persons in Mpanga Prison, Rwanda on matters pertaining to their welfare and adherence to prison conditions and carried out follow-ups on the concerns raised by the convicted persons. The Defence Office also communicated regularly with *pro bono* counsel and authorities at Mpanga Prison on the convicted persons' conditions of detention and other related matters. The Defence Office also provided legal advice to the convicted persons, from time to time, on matters pertaining to detention conditions and the rules governing their incarceration.

Assessment on Augustine Gbao's Compliance with Conditional Early Release Measures

The Defence Office continued to work with the Monitoring Authority for Augustine Gbao, who is serving conditional early release in Blama, in Sierra Leone's Eastern Province. In this regard, the Defence Office regularly communicated with the Monitoring Authority, and in some cases carried out on-the-spot checks to ensure that Mr. Gbao adheres to his obligations under his conditional early release.

On 6 March 2025, Defence Associate Legal Officer carried out an assessment on Mr. Gbao's compliance with his obligations under the modified terms of his conditional early release, including the status of his small-scale agricultural activities. As part of the assessment, a meeting was held with the head of Blama Police Station, Officer-in-Charge Josiah, who doubles as Mr. Gbao's monitoring officer in Blama. The Monitoring Authority reported that Mr. Gbao reports to the police station once every fortnight as required of him under his conditional early release measures. The Monitoring Authority also reported that there are no adverse reports against



Mr. Gbao since he re-joined the Blama community.

With regards to Mr. Gbao's agricultural activities under his modified conditions, Mr. Gbao wrote to the President of the Court requesting a review of those conditions; in particular, the condition that required him to engage in small-scale agriculture. According to Mr. Gbao, his health situation deterred him from effectively engaging in such activities, hence his request to be relieved of those activities. Following Mr. Gbao's request for the President to relieve him of his agricultural obligations due to health reasons and instead allow him to engage in radio programmes for peace building, the President granted Mr. Gbao's request and directed, among other



The RSCSL Registrar with the Principal Defender, Mpanga Prison Staff and RSCSL Inmates

things, that Mr. Gbao should undertake quarterly radio programmes within his community and other parts of the country.

In compliance with the President's directives, and with support from the Office of the Registrar, Mr. Gbao participated in a radio programme hosted by the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation at New England Ville, Freetown on 1 October 2025. Guided by the approved contents of his radio programme, Mr. Gbao spoke about his role during the 11-year war in Sierra Leone as a member of the Revolutionary United Front ("RUF"). He appealed to young Sierra Leoneans to always uphold the rule of law and not to resort to violence as a means of addressing their grievances. Mr. Gbao further appealed to political leaders to refrain from using young people to perpetrate political violence for political gains.

Facilitation of Family Visits to The United Kingdom and Rwanda

In September/October 2025, with support from the Office of the Registrar, the Defence Office facilitated United Kingdom visa applications for Mr. Charles Taylor's wife and two of her daughters to enable them visit Mr. Taylor in the United Kingdom. The visas were granted and the family is scheduled to visit Mr. Taylor before the end of January 2026. The Office of the Registrar has also provided support to Mrs. Taylor, including the purchase of a return air ticket to the United Kingdom.

The Defence Office also facilitated four family visits to SCSL convicted persons in Mpanga Prison, Rwanda, which family visits occurred in December 2025. All four family members received financial support from the Office of the Registrar in the form of air tickets and provision of allowances and have returned safely.

Review of Monthly Reports from Mpanga Prison and Follow-ups

The Defence Office continued to receive and review monthly reports from authorities at Mpanga Prison on medical, food, recreational, and other services accorded to SCSL convicted persons. Upon receipt of the prison reports, the Defence Office made follow-ups with prison authorities in consultation with the RSCSL Registrar on all issues contained in the monthly reports to ensure that the convicted persons are treated in line with best practice under international law.

Principal Defender's visit to Mpanga Prison in Rwanda

In October 2025, the Principal Defender accompanied the Registrar to meet with SCSL convicted persons in Mpanga Prison, Rwanda. During the visit, the Registrar and the Principal Defender held meetings with prison authorities as well as the SCSL convicted persons to address various issues including their conditions of detention.

VISITS TO THE SIERRA LEONE PEACE MUSEUM





SCHOOLS







OTHER VISITS TO THE SIERRA LEONE PEACE MUSEUM















ANNEX I

Overview of the 2025 Residual Special Court Budget

The Registrar submitted the Residual Special Court 2025 Budget to the Oversight Committee for their consideration and approval. The proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget was US \$3,076,100.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

To manage the non-judicial residual functions and the judicial and other proceedings, the budget for the Residual Special Court's operations for 2025 is US\$ 3,076,100. Further breakdown of the 2025 non-judicial figure is as follows: permanent staffing costs (US\$1,699,900), which includes income tax liability of (US\$10,000); and operational costs (US\$1,376,200). The operational costs include IRMCT administrative support services (US\$489,600) and the annual cost for enforcement of sentences of the five remaining SCSL convicted persons in Mpanga Prison, Rwanda (US\$65,000).

Non-Judicial and Judicial

Requirements by Object of Expenditure

(United States Dollars)

Object of expenditure	Non Judicial	Judicial	Total Budget
Posts	1,250,800	104,600	1,355,400
Common Staff Cost	321,000	13,500	334,500
Compensation to Judges	53,800	99,600	153,400
Consultants and experts	27,100	0	27,100
Travel	73,300	135,000	208,300
Contractual services	626,500	50,000	676,500
General operating expenses	266,400	28,000	294,400
Supplies and materials	21,500	0	21,500
Acquisition of furniture and equipment	5,000	0	5,000
	2,645,400	430,700	3,076,100

ANNEX II

Residual Special Court Judges and Personnel Nationalities 2025

JUDGES

Austria	1
Botswana	1
Canada	1
Ireland	1
Kenya	2
Samoa	1
Sierra Leone	6
Uganda	1
United Kingdom	1
United States of America	1
Total	16

PRINCIPALS

Sierra Leone	2
United States of America	1
Total	3

STAFF

Nigeria	1
Sierra Leone	9
Somalia	1
Total	11

CONTRACTORS

Canada	1
Pakistan	1
*Sierra Leone	19
United Kingdom	2
United States of America	3
Total	26

INTERNS

Netherlands	1
United States of America	1
Sierra Leone	1
Total	3

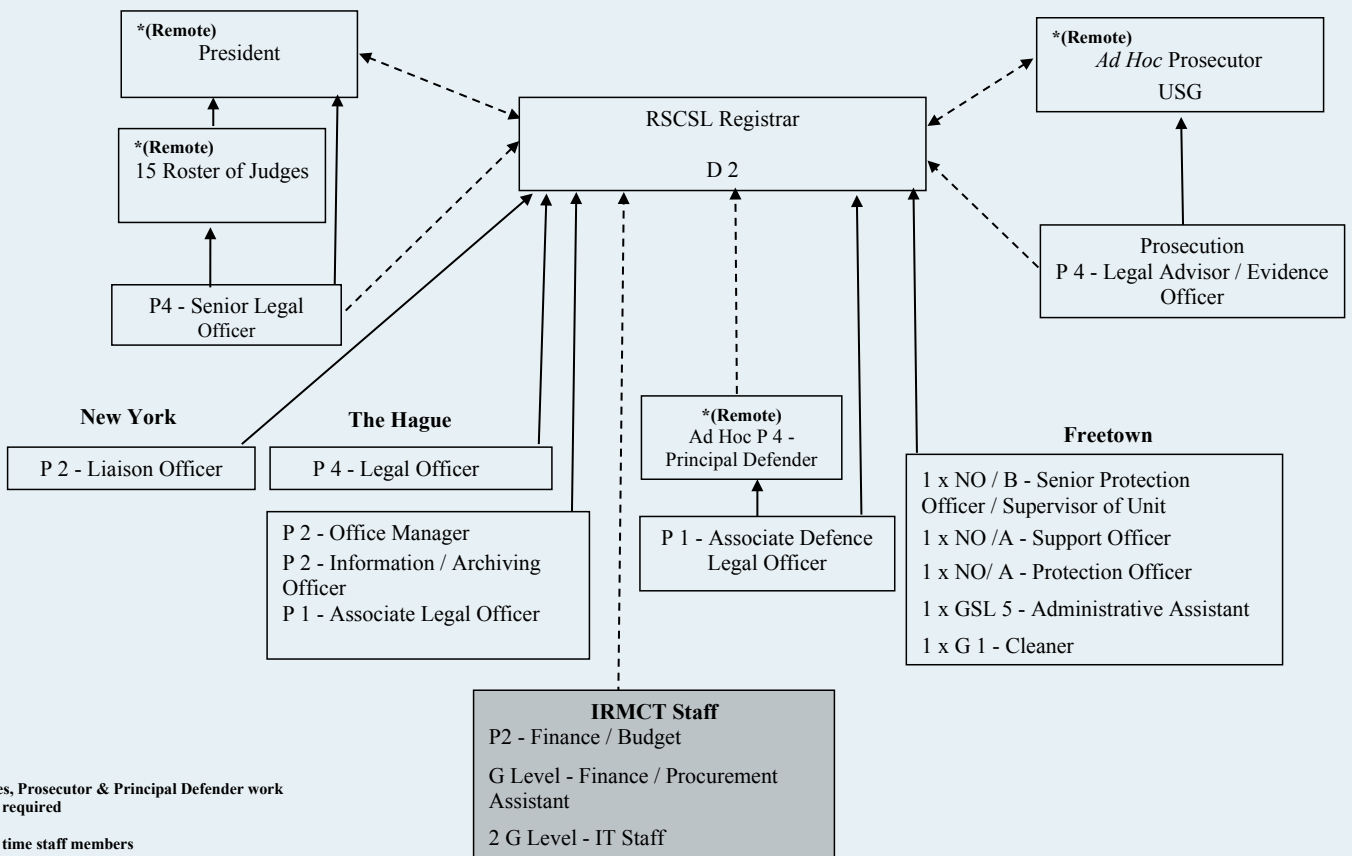
Grand Total **59**

*Contractors for Special Projects, Outreach and Peace Museum in 2025

ANNEX III



RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE ORGANOGRAM 2025



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