

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Local News

UN Chief Appeals for Continued Support for Peacebuilding Fund / *Premier News* Page 3

International News

Security Council Holds Three More Rounds of Balloting... / *United Nations News Centre* Pages 4-6

General Assembly, After Four Inconclusive Voting Rounds... / *United Nations News Centre* Pages 7-9

Atrocities in Guinea Must never be Forgotten, Says UN Envoy on Sexual Violence / *UN News Centre* Page 10

UN Chief Appeals for Continuous Support for Peacebuilding Fund

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on U.N. member states to continue generously backing and financing a U.N. fund that supports peacebuilding activities in countries emerging from conflict.

The U.N. Peacebuilding Fund “delivers value for money” with its “timely and effective” support for efforts to mediate crisis between political parties in Sierra Leone, promoting return to constitutional order in Guinea, and reintegration of armed rebels in Burundi among other projects, the top U.N. official said at the fund's second annual stakeholders' meeting.

“Help us help the many people throughout the world who look to the United Nations for assistance in realizing their aspirations to build lasting peace and put violence behind them once and for all,” he added.

Ban also outlined plans to create a high-level group that would ensure the Peacebuilding Funds' relevance and effectiveness.

The U.N. Peacebuilding Fund was established in 2005 to help provide strategy advice, expertise and assistance to countries emerging from conflict in order to help them avoid slipping back into chaos and war.

Credit www.devex.com

United Nations News Centre

Tuesday, 22 November 2011

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sc10456.doc.htm>

Security Council Holds Three More Rounds of Balloting in Attempt to Break Deadlock with General Assembly over Fifth Slot on International Court of Justice

Today, the Security Council, meeting concurrently with, but independently from, the General Assembly, once again failed in three rounds of balloting to elect a fifth Judge to the International Court of Justice.

After having elected four Judges on 10 November, the Security Council and the General Assembly had before them two candidates: **Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone), currently a Judge of the International Court of Justice; and Julia Sebutinde (Uganda), Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber 2 of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.**

Under the terms of the Court's Statute, a candidate obtaining an absolute majority of votes in both the Assembly and the Council is considered elected. In the Security Council, eight votes constitute an absolute majority and no distinction is made between permanent and non-permanent Council members. By contrast, all 193 Member States in the General Assembly are electors. Accordingly, for the purpose of today's election, 97 votes constituted an absolute majority in the Assembly.

There had been eight candidates, including four incumbents, for the five positions. On 10 November, the Council and the General Assembly elected Giorgio Gaja (Italy), Professor of International Law at the University of Florence School of Law; Hisashi Owada (Japan), President of the International Court of Justice; Peter Tomka (Slovakia), Vice-President of the International Court of Justice; and Xue Hanqin (China), Judge at the International Court of Justice. They failed to fill the fifth available position in subsequent rounds of balloting. The Council repeatedly elected Mr. Koroma and the Assembly continued to choose Mr. Sebutinde. That pattern continued throughout today's meetings.

The Court's composition at 6 February 2012 will be as follows (terms expire on 5 February of the year in parentheses): Ronny Abraham (France) (2018); Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan) (2018); Mohamed Bennouna (Morocco) (2015); Joan E. Donoghue (United States) (2015); Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brazil) (2018); Giorgio Gaja (2021); Christopher Greenwood (United Kingdom) (2018); Kenneth Keith (New Zealand) (2015); Hisashi Owada (2021); Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor (Mexico) (2015); Xue Hanqin (2021); Leonid Skotnikov (Russian Federation) (2015); Peter Tomka (2021); and Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia) (2018), with one position to be filled.

Located in The Hague, Netherlands, the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It adjudicates between States and its legal opinions are binding. The Court also issues advisory opinions when requested to do so. It consists of 15 judges elected by the Council and the Assembly, voting independently. They are chosen on the basis of their qualifications, not on the basis of nationality, and care is taken to ensure that the principal legal systems of the world are represented. No two judges can be from the same country. Judges serve for a nine-year term and may be re-elected. They cannot engage in any other occupation during their term of office.

The terms of office of the following five members of the Court will expire on 5 February 2012: Abdul Koroma; Hisashi Owada; Shi Jiuyong (China); Bruno Simma (Germany); and Peter Tomka.

The curricula vitae of the candidates are contained in document A/66/184-S/2011/454.

The Council and the Assembly will meet again at a date to be announced to continue elections for five judges for the International Court of Justice.

The first meeting began at 3:10 p.m. and was adjourned at 4:30 a.m. The next meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. and adjourned at 5:30 p.m. A third began at 5:31 p.m. and ended at 6 p.m.

Background

The Security Council met this afternoon concurrently with, but independently from, the General Assembly to continue its election of five members of the International Court of Justice. On 10 November, in five rounds of secret balloting, the Council, and in seven rounds, the General Assembly, elected four members, but were unable to elect the fifth. For further background, see Press Releases SC/10444 and GA/11171. For General Assembly results, see Press Release GA/11178.

Sixth Round of Balloting

Number of ballot papers

15

Number of invalid ballots

0

Number of valid ballots

15

Number of abstentions

0

Required majority

8

Number of votes obtained:

Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)

9

Julie Sebutinde (Uganda)

6

Mr. Koroma achieved the required Security Council majority. The Council, however, was informed that Ms. Sebutinde received the required majority in the General Assembly. As neither candidate had received the required majority in both the Council and the General Assembly, a next round of secret balloting, therefore, was required.

Seventh Round of Balloting

Number of ballot paper

15

Number of invalid ballots

0

Number of valid ballots

15

Number of abstentions

0

Required majority

8

Number of votes obtained:

Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)

8

Julie Sebutinde (Uganda)

7

The Council was informed that in the General Assembly, Ms. Sebutinde had acquired the required majority. As neither of the two candidates had received the required majority in both the Council and the General Assembly, the Council proceeded to hold an eighth round of secret balloting.

Eighth Round of Secret Balloting

Number of ballot papers

15

Number of invalid ballots

0

Number of valid ballots

15

Number of abstentions

0

Required majority

8

Number of votes obtained:

Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)

8

Julie Sebutinde (Uganda)

7

Mr. Koroma had obtained the required majority in the Council. The Council was informed that Ms. Sebutinde had acquired the required majority in the General Assembly. As neither of the two candidates had received the required majority in both the Council and the General Assembly, a next round of balloting was required.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Council and the Assembly adjourned the meeting. The ninth ballot would be held at a date and time to be announced.

United Nations News Centre

Tuesday, 22 November 2011

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2011/ga11178.doc.htm>

General Assembly, After Four Inconclusive Voting Rounds, Remains at Stalemate with Security Council Over Filling Seat on International Court of Justice

A weeks-long stalemate to elect one member of the International Court of Justice continued today as, after four votes — bringing the total number of voting rounds in the General Assembly to 11 — no candidate received the absolute majority of votes in both the Assembly and the Security Council that was required to clinch the final seat on the World Court.

Following the inconclusive votes, delegates took the floor to emphasize that the Assembly could not “remain mired [in the deadlock] forever”. In an effort to “move things forward”, the representative of the Solomon Islands proposed that the Assembly President hold informal consultations with both States and their regional group, and report back to member States with the results. “We have expressed ourselves. We now need to move to the next level”, he stressed. The representative of Burundi seconded the suggestion.

Speaking on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, Vice President Csaba Kőrösi (Hungary) agreed to take up that proposal and report to Member States at a later date.

The deadlock began on 10 November 2011 when four judges — Hisashi Owada (Japan), Xue Hanqin (China), Peter Tomka (Slovakia) and Giorgio Gaja (Italy) — were elected or reelected to the Court. However, no candidate had earned the absolute majority in both Assembly and the Security Council — which vote independently but concurrently when seating judges for the Court — after an initial seven rounds of voting (See Press Release GA/11171).

Both bodies reconvened today to complete the election, which had been narrowed to two candidates: Julia Sebutinde (Uganda) and Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone). Throughout the additional four rounds of secret balloting this afternoon, neither candidate emerged victorious, as the Security Council continued to support Mr. Koroma, while the General Assembly backed Ms. Sebutinde. Voting was set to continue into a twelfth round at a date to be announced (For information on the Security Council voting, please see SC/10456).

Remaining on the Court from previous elections were 11 judges: Ronny Abraham (France); Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan); Mohamed Bennouna (Morocco); Thomas Buergenthal (United States); Christopher Greenwood (United Kingdom); Kenneth Keith (New Zealand); Bernardo Sepúlveda-Amor (Mexico); Bruno Simma (Germany); Leonid Skotnikov (Russian Federation); Antônio A. Cançado Trindade (Brazil); and Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia).

As the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice settles legal disputes between States parties and gives advisory opinions to the Organization and its specialized agencies. The Court is open to all parties to its Statute, which automatically includes all Members of the United Nations.

Voting Results for International Court of Justice

Eighth Round

Number of ballot papers:	189
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	189
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	189
Required majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)	93
Julia Sebutinde (Uganda)	96

As neither candidate received the required absolute majority of votes, the Assembly proceeded to a second round of secret ballot voting.

Ninth Round

Number of ballot papers:	191
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	191
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	191
Required majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)	92
Julia Sebutinde (Uganda)	99

Ms. Sebutinde received the required absolute majority of votes. However, as Mr. Koroma received an absolute majority of votes in the Security Council's parallel round of voting, the Assembly proceeded to a third round of voting.

Tenth Round

Number of ballot papers:	192
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	192
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	192
Required majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)	94
Julia Sebutinde (Uganda)	98

Ms. Sebutinde again received the required absolute majority of votes. However, as Mr. Koroma received an absolute majority of votes in the Security Council's parallel round of voting, the Assembly proceeded to a fourth round of voting.

Eleventh Round

Number of ballot papers:	191
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	191
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	191
Required majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)	89
Julia Sebutinde (Uganda)	102

Once again, Ms. Sebutinde earned the required absolute majority of votes in the Assembly. However, as Mr. Koroma received an absolute majority of votes in the Security Council's parallel round of voting, no candidate was elected today.

UN News Centre

Tuesday, 22 November 2011

Atrocities in Guinea must never be forgotten, says UN envoy on sexual violence

The United Nations official leading the fight against sexual violence during conflicts today urged the international community to never forget the deadly violence which ravaged Guinea in September 2009, noting that while justice in the country had been delayed, it could not be denied.



Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

In a statement issued following her visit last week to the West African country, Margot Wallström, the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, said that the atrocities, including mass rapes, committed on 28 September 2009 against peaceful protesters in the capital, Conakry, had "shocked the world."

"Its legacy is far from over. There remains today an urgent need to assist the survivors and bring the perpetrators to justice," she added.

Ms. Wallström is currently on a three-country trip to West Africa, visiting Guinea, Sierra Leone and now Côte d'Ivoire.

In 2009, at least 150 Guineans were killed and many others raped after armed forces opened fire on unarmed demonstrators at an opposition rally in Conakry.

Last week Ms. Wallström met with survivors, representatives of victims' associations, and senior Government officials.

In her statement the envoy welcomed the Guinean Government's commitment to fighting impunity and preventing sexual violence, noting that the UN will "continue to monitor the situation" in Guinea and "anywhere else that sexual violence may occur."

"The atrocities that occurred on 28 September 2009," she stressed, "must never be forgotten and never be repeated."