



## Special Court for Sierra Leone Press and Public Affairs Office

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 25 June 2004**

### **Security Council Mission Visits the Special Court**

A fourteen-member mission from the United Nations Security Council visited the Special Court for Sierra Leone today as part of their current tour of the West African region.

The mission, led by Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry of the United Kingdom, toured the Court complex in Freetown, and inspected the newly-completed courthouse.



The members, representing Algeria, Angola, Benin, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, Spain, the U.K. and the U.S.A., received briefings from Registrar Robin Vincent and Prosecutor David Crane about progress made at the U.N.-backed Court since its inception in 2002.

Trials at the Special Court commenced on June 3, with alleged members of the Civil Defence Forces answering an 8-count indictment for crimes against humanity, war crimes and other

serious violations of international humanitarian law.

A second trial, for alleged members of the Revolutionary United Front, is set to begin on July 5.

#END

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

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