



## Special Court for Sierra Leone

### Press and Public Affairs Office

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 16 July 2004**

### **Registrar Visits Liberia**

A delegation from the Special Court for Sierra Leone has returned from Monrovia after meeting with Civil Society, the Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), Sierra Leonean refugees, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Representatives of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA), UN Agencies and diplomats.

*Photo at Right: Registrar answers questions from Sierra Leonean Refugees at the UNHCR's VOA Camp in Monrovia.*

The purpose of the visit, led by Special Court Registrar Robin Vincent and organised by the Court's Outreach section in collaboration with Civil Society organizations in Liberia and Sierra Leone, was to inform as many people as possible about the work of the Special Court and its role in Sierra Leone and how that relates to Liberia.

An overwhelming number of questions about Charles Taylor and his indictment by the Special Court were asked of Mr Vincent during the meetings with Civil Society members and refugees. Mr Vincent told all of the gatherings that in line with the Special Court's mandate, Taylor has been indicted for the crimes he allegedly committed in Sierra Leone after the November 30, 1996.

Mr Vincent was also questioned whether or not a Special Court would be established in Liberia to which he answered that would be a matter for the permanent Liberian Government due to be elected in October 2005. He added that the Special Court for Sierra Leone has not been asked to extend its mandate to Liberia, and there was unlikely to be any further indictments of Liberians.

Mr Vincent also met with the SRSG of UNMIL, Ambassador Jacques Klein and the Chairman of the NTGL, Gyude Bryant.

"Both meetings were extremely helpful and facilitated an exchange of information between us and them. Chairman Bryant offered his full support in bringing Charles Taylor to Freetown to answer the charges against him at the Special Court," Mr Vincent said.



The Special Court delegation was comprised of Mr Vincent, Outreach Coordinator Binta Mansaray and her assistant Patrick Fatoma, Principal Defender Simone Monasebian, Special Assistant to the Registrar Margherita Capellino, Special Assistant to the Prosecutor Eric Witte and Chief of Press and Public Affairs Allison Cooper.

#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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Press and Public Affairs Office  
Special Court for Sierra Leone  
Mobile: 232 76 655 237  
Email: SCSL-pressoffice@un.org

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