



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS STATEMENT

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 18 August 2004

The following is a statement by Registrar Robin Vincent

The Sierra Leonean authorities have today charged Mr Peter Halloran, an employee of the Special Court, in connection with an allegation of sexual involvement with a minor.

The allegation against Mr Halloran first came to my attention in June. At that time, I immediately suspended Mr Halloran and ordered the formation of a high-level Board of Inquiry to investigate the matter. The inquiry board was composed of senior staff members who were independent of his section.

On the same day, I voluntarily notified the Inspector-General of the Sierra Leone Police of the allegation. He was content with my proposed action.

Based on the information and the statements presented to the Board of Inquiry, it was concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support the allegation against Mr Halloran.

On July 26, Mr Halloran was interviewed and subsequently arrested by members of the Sierra Leone Police. He was not taken into custody at that time, and he has remained in Freetown voluntarily pending the disposition of his case.

Let me stress that the Special Court has cooperated with the Sierra Leonean authorities since the beginning of the investigation, as has Mr Halloran. The Special Court provided a copy of its internal report, together with all supporting documents and statements, in order to facilitate the police's own investigation. I personally made a full statement to the police in respect of our internal inquiry.

The Inspector-General of Police and the Attorney-General have been kept fully informed at all stages, and they have acknowledged the extent of the cooperation they have received from the Court without the need even to ask for it.

Let me also stress that the Special Court does not condone any form of misconduct by members of its staff, and that we take such matters very seriously. At the same time, Mr Halloran has maintained his innocence throughout this matter and is entitled to the presumption of innocence whilst the charge against him is subjected to the judicial process.

#END

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

humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.

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

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