



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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New Schedule for Special Court Trials

The Special Court for Sierra Leone will move to a new hearing schedule in 2005, with the Judges of Trial Chamber No. 1 hearing alternate cases for six weeks at a time.

This change should speed up the two trials currently underway: the trial of three alleged members of the Revolutionary United Front and the trial of three alleged members of the Civil Defence Forces.

The trial of the three alleged members of the CDF – Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa – is set to break on December 7. The Registry will remain open until December 17, when the official Judicial Recess begins.

The trial of the three alleged members of the RUF is set to resume on 10 January 2005 with a Status Conference.

Security at the Court's New England site will remain in force over the recess. Special Court security personnel and Sierra Leonean police officers will be complemented by Nigerian Battalion 19, which recently took up duty in Sierra Leone as part of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

The new Robert Lee Parnell Security Centre, named in honour of the Court's late Chief of Security, is due to be commissioned next week, and will provide space for the additional troops from Battalion 19 to be stationed at the compound over the break.

#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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