



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 8 March 2005**

**Procedure for Selecting a New Prosecutor**

Registrar Robin Vincent said today arrangements will proceed to ensure the selection of a new Prosecutor to serve at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Special Court Prosecutor David Crane announced last week that he will step down from his position on July 15<sup>th</sup> when he completes his three year contract.

Mr Crane was appointed in July 2002 by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. It is expected the United Nations will now invite expressions of interest for consideration.

Mr Vincent said Mr Crane had provided sufficient time prior to his departure to arrange for a new Prosecutor to be appointed within a timeframe that will ensure continuity in prosecution proceedings.

Under the Special Court Statute, if there is temporarily no Prosecutor, Deputy Prosecutor Desmond de Silva QC would act in that role. Mr de Silva was appointed by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Mr Vincent stressed that the departure of Mr Crane would have no effect on trials at the Court, or on efforts to secure the arrest and transfer of indictees who are currently at large.

#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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