



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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New President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

Justice Raja Fernando of Sri Lanka has been elected the Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber, a position which makes him the President of the Special Court for a period of one year.



Justice Fernando will succeed President Emmanuel Ayoola of Nigeria, whose term as President will end on 26 May 2005.

Justice Fernando has been a Judge in Sri Lanka since 1992, and currently he is a judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. From 1995 to 1997 he served as Director of Public Prosecutions in Belize. Prior to 1992 he served as Senior State Counsel in the Attorney-General's Department in Sri Lanka, and as Judge Advocate of the Sri Lanka Navy at the rank of Commodore.

He was sworn in as a Justice of the Special Court on 10 March 2004.

Justice George Gelaga King of Sierra Leone has assumed office as the Vice President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

#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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