



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Justice Boutet Elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber I

Justice Pierre G. Boutet of Canada has been elected to a one-year term as Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber I. He succeeds Justice Benjamin Itoe of Cameroon.



Prior to his appointment by the United Nations as a Special Court Judge in December, 2002, Justice Boutet had served in the Canadian Forces as a Legal Officer occupying various positions and completed his career at the rank of Brigadier-General.

In 1982, Justice Boutet became a Military Judge, assumed the position of Deputy Chief Military Trial Judge in 1986 and was appointed Chief Military Trial Judge in 1987. As a Judge, he participated in and presided over numerous trials in Canada, in many other parts of the world more particularly in Europe and the Middle East.

In 1993, on promotion, he became the Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Canadian Forces and was responsible for the provision of legal advice and legal services to the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces. He used his position to increase awareness of international humanitarian law in the Canadian Forces and in Canada.

He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War since 1996.

Trial Chamber I, consisting of Justice Boutet, Justice Itoe and Justice Bankole Thompson of Sierra Leone, is hearing evidence in the trials of the CDF Accused (Norman, Fofana and Kondewa) and the RUF Accused (Sesay, Kallon and Gbao).

#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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