



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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New Security Building Dedicated to the Memory of the Late Bob Parnell

The Special Court remembered one of its own yesterday, dedicating the new security building in honour of the late Robert L. Parnell III, the Special Court's first Chief of Security.



Bob, as he was commonly known, joined the Special Court in September 2002. He headed the Court's Security Section until his death from a heart attack on 22 October 2004.

In a ceremony in front of the courthouse, Bob's daughter Kelly and son Robert joined Registrar Robin Vincent in paying tribute to his memory.

Mr. Vincent told the assembled family members, friends and dignitaries that Wednesday's dedication was "a family

affair" and he welcomed Bob's wife and children into "the family of the Special Court."

Bob's daughter Kelly recalled her father's military career and his pride in the Special Court. His son Robert IV stressed his father's "deep sense of justice" for the less privileged.

Then, as trumpeters played a tribute, Bob's wife Rosemary unveiled the memorial plaque.

Bob Parnell had a long and distinguished career. He served in the United States Marine Corps for 23 years, rising to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. During that time he served as U.S. Marine Corps attaché to France, and U.S. Defence attaché to Liberia and Sierra Leone, where he received the Meritorious Service Medal.

Upon retirement from the Marine Corps, he worked for the U.S. State Department in the West Bank and Gaza.

He joined UNICEF in 1999 and was originally on loan from that organisation when he came to the Special Court.

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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