



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Oral Arguments Scheduled for Tuesday in CDF Case

Oral arguments are scheduled to take place Tuesday on motions for acquittal in the case of the three CDF accused. The hearing will take place before the Judges of Trial Chamber I, Justice Pierre Boutet presiding.

Following the conclusion of the Prosecution's case in July, counsel for the three accused – Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa – each filed a motion for acquittal (in the local jurisdiction, a “no case submission”), arguing that the Prosecution had failed to present evidence which, if believed, could satisfy the Chamber beyond reasonable doubt of the guilt of the accused.

The motions have been argued in written briefs submitted to the Judges. Now, the Judges have asked Defence attorneys and Prosecutors to summarise their position in open court.

Based on the written and oral submissions of the parties, the Judges have the option of dismissing indictments, individual counts, or even allegations where the evidence is insufficient to sustain a conviction.

If the Judges should uphold the charges, it should not be assumed that the indictees are presumed guilty. It indicates, rather, that at this stage in the trial there is a case to answer and that the accused should now proceed to present their defence.

The trial of the CDF accused began on 3 June 2004. The Prosecution concluded its case on 14 July 2005 after testimony by 75 witnesses during five trial sessions.

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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