



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Prosecution Closes Case in AFRC Accused Trial

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Desmond de Silva QC, today officially concluded the Prosecution's case in the trial against the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) accused, Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu.

The three defendants each face a 14-count indictment for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Following a Court ruling on the admissibility of certain documents, Mr. de Silva QC concluded the Prosecution's case today after 97 days. In his final statement he told the Judges that "subject to any matter upon which the Court may seek the assistance of the Prosecution, I close the case for the Prosecution against the AFRC".

The AFRC trial began on 7 March 2005, shortly after the swearing-in of the Judges of Trial Chamber II. Alex Tamba Brima and Brima Bazzy Kamara were indicted on 7 March 2003. Santigie Borbor Kanu was indicted on 15 September 2003.

In all, 59 witnesses, including three experts, gave evidence for the Prosecution.

The Chamber has directed that the Defence must submit any Motions for Judgment of Acquittal to the Court in writing by 12 December. Prosecution will then have three weeks to respond to the motions and Defence will be given five days to reply.

Should the motions fail, the Defence will proceed to present their case early next year.

This is the second of the three ongoing trials in which the Prosecution has completed its case. Prosecutors completed their case in the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) trial on 14 July 2005. Defence Counsel for the CDF accused are scheduled to open their case on 17 January 2006.

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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