



Special Court for Sierra Leone

Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Mongolian Peacekeepers Take Over Security at Special Court

Responsibility for the protection of the Special Court was formally transferred today from the United Nations Nigerian contingent (NIBATT) to the Mongolian contingent (MONBAT) of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).



General Tommy Goransson formally hands over to Lieutenant-Colonel Byambasuren Bayarmagnai; observed by NIBATT Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel J. Ismail.

In a brief ceremony in front of the courthouse, Brigadier-General Tommy Goransson, representing UNMIL Force Commander Lieutenant-General C.I. Obiakor of Nigeria, witnessed the handover of the Special Court Military Guard Force to Lieutenant-Colonel Byambasuren Bayarmagnai of Mongolia.

The Officer-in-Charge of the Registry, Joseph Poraj-Wilczynski, noted that various contingents of Nigerian peacekeepers had provided security at the Special Court since 2003, where they have served with professionalism and distinction.

The current Nigerian contingent is headed by Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel J. Ismail, and has been deployed in Freetown for just over a year.

extend their gratitude and thanks to the Commanding Officer and all ranks of NIBATT for a job well done,” Mr. Poraj-Wilczynski said. “We wish them a safe and speedy return home to Nigeria.”

The MONBAT force will be housed both at the Special Court complex in New England and at the U.N. Camp near the U.N. headquarters in Aberdeen. The force will be under the military command of UNMIL headquarters in Liberia.

This is MONBAT’s first peacekeeping deployment in West Africa, however individuals of the unit have served in U.N. missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Western Sahara, and Sudan. Other soldiers in the unit have taken part in peace-support missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“The Interim Registrar Mr. Lovemore Munlo and all staff members at the Special Court wish to

MONBAT personnel have attended a month-long training course to prepare them for their duties in Sierra Leone. The contingent will be equipped with heavy weapons and armoured personnel carriers.

The Mongolian contingent will conduct operational exercises with other elements of the UNMIL force, in particular with its Swedish and Irish contingents who are prepared to deploy rapidly by air, land and sea to support MONBAT if required.

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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