



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Prosecution Concludes Case in RUF Trial

The Prosecution today concluded its case in the trial of three former members of the Revolutionary United Front, Issa Hassan Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao. The three accused each face an 18-count indictment for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Since the beginning of the trial on 5 July 2004, the Court has heard from 86 Prosecution witnesses over 183 trial days.

Following a discussion on the admissibility of certain documents, Senior Trial Attorney Peter Harrison told the Court that “the Prosecution has no further witnesses to call and the Prosecution closes its case”.

Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon were indicted in March 2003 and Augustine Gbao was indicted the following month. Indictments against two other accused former RUF leaders, Foday Sankoh and Sam Bockarie, were withdrawn by the Prosecutor in December 2003 due to the deaths of the two men.

Oral arguments on Motions for Judgment of Acquittal are scheduled to take place on 16 October.

This is the third of the ongoing trials in which the Prosecution has closed its case. The other two trials are currently hearing witnesses for the Defence. The case of the Prosecutor vs. Charles Taylor is currently in the pre-trial phase.

#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. Ten indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.

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