



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 4 July 2008

Justice Boutet Elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber I

Justice Pierre G. Boutet of Canada has been elected to a one-year term as Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber I. He succeeds Justice Benjamin Itoe of Cameroon.



Justice Boutet previously served as Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber I from 27 May 2005 to 19 June 2006. Prior to his appointment by the United Nations as a Special Court Judge in December, 2002, Justice Boutet had served in the Canadian Forces as a Legal Officer occupying various positions and completed his career at the rank of Brigadier-General.

He had graduated from Laval University in Quebec City in 1969 and was admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1971. He subsequently joined the military in 1973.

In 1982, Justice Boutet became a Military Judge, assumed the position of Deputy Chief Military Trial Judge in 1986 and was appointed Chief Military Trial Judge in 1987. As a Judge, he participated in and presided over numerous trials in Canada, in many other parts of the world more particularly in Europe and the Middle East.

In 1993, on promotion, he became the Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Canadian Forces and was responsible for the provision of legal advice and legal services to the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces. He used his position to increase awareness of international humanitarian law in the Canadian Forces and in Canada.

He has received the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) and was awarded for distinctive merit and exceptional service as JAG the Order of Military Merit in the highest rank, that of Commander (CMM).

Since 1996 and until recently, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War.

Trial Chamber I, consisting of Justice Boutet, Justice Itoe and Justice Bankole Thompson of Sierra Leone, delivered a Judgment in the trial of the CDF Accused (Fofana and Kondewa) on 2 August 2007, and is expected to hear closing arguments in the trial of the RUF Accused (Sesay, Kallon and Gbao) on 4-5 August 2008.

#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.

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Produced by the
Press and Public Affairs Office
Special Court for Sierra Leone
Mobile: 232 76 655 237
Email: SCSL-pressoffice@un.org
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