



**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 24 November 2008**

### **Justice A. Raja N. Fernando Passes Away**



Justice A. Raja N. Fernando, a Judge of the Appeals Chamber and former President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, passed away Saturday in Colombo, Sri Lanka after a short illness.

Special Court President Justice Renate Winter has expressed condolences on behalf of the Special Court Judges and staff to Justice Fernando's family. She praised Justice Fernando as an outstanding colleague and a good friend.

“On behalf of the Judges and the staff of the Special Court, I wish to express our deep regret on the death of Justice Fernando,” Justice Winter said. “By his presence on the Appeals Chamber he helped to strengthen the Special Court and to enrich the jurisprudence of international criminal law.”

“He served with great distinction, competence and efficiency, and always with complete modesty. He was not only an exceptional colleague, but also a genuine friend to each of the Appeals Chamber Judges,” Justice Winter added.

Justice Fernando had served as a judge in Sri Lanka since 1992, and had been appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court. From 1995 to 1996 he served as Director of Public Prosecutions in Belize. 1995 to 1996 Prior to 1992 he served as Senior State Counsel in the Attorney-General's Department in Sri Lanka, and as Judge Advocate of the Sri Lanka Navy at the rank of Commodore.

Justice Fernando was sworn in as a Justice of the Special Court on 10 March 2004. In May 2005 he was elected to a one-year term as Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber and President of the Special Court.

#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.

INFORMATION FOR MEDIA - NOT FOR ADVERTISING

Produced by the  
Outreach and Public Affairs Office  
Special Court for Sierra Leone  
Mobile: 232 76 655732  
Email: [SCSL-pressoffice@un.org](mailto:SCSL-pressoffice@un.org)

Visit our website at [www.sc-sl.org](http://www.sc-sl.org)