



Special Court for Sierra Leone Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Special Court Launches Witness Protection Training Programme



The Special Court for Sierra Leone this week launched a month-long witness training programme for Sierra Leone police officers which, it is hoped, will lead to a national witness protection programme in the country.

The training, which was opened by Acting Registrar Binta Mansaray, is being conducted by Administration of Justice World Wide (AOJWW), in which four former Scotland Yard witness experts are participating.

The 36 police officers taking part in the training were selected from more than 180 applicants. They will receive instruction in witness

protection and handling issues, including witness documentation and assessment, witness sensitization, threat assessment and relocation options.

The Court, as part of its residual mechanism, is committed to continuing protection for witnesses who testified in Special Court trials for a period of five years. During that time, officials will provide support for the national witness protection and assistance programme as part of the Special Court's Legacy.

"We are not walking away," said Witness and Victims Section Deputy Chief Naeem Ahmed. "We are doing our own work and at the same time building the capacity of the national institution."

#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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Outreach and Public Affairs Office
Special Court for Sierra Leone
Mobile: 232 76 655732
Email: SCSL-pressoffice@un.org

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