



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Justice Julia Sebutinde Elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II

Justice Julia Sebutinde from Uganda has been elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II. She succeeds Justice Richard Lussick, who ended his one-year term as Presiding Judge on the 17 January 2010.



Pursuant to rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Presiding Judge of each Trial Chamber is elected for a renewable term of one year. It has, however been the practice of both Trial Chambers to rotate the position of Presiding Judge at the end of each one-year term. This is the second time Justice Sebutinde is serving as Presiding judge in Trial Chamber II. She previously served in that capacity from 18 January 2007 to 17 January 2008.

Justice Julia Sebutinde, British-trained Ugandan lawyer, was called to the Ugandan Bar in 1979. From 1978-1991 she worked with Uganda's Ministry of Justice, where she rose to the level of Principal State Attorney / Principal Legislative Counsel. From 1991-1996 she worked for the Commonwealth Secretariat, London as a Legislative Consultant and was seconded to the newly-independent Republic of Namibia, where she was attached to the Ministry of Justice as a Legislative expert.

In 1996 she was appointed Judge of the High Court of Uganda. Between 1999 and 2003 Judge Sebutinde chaired three high-level Commissions which investigated allegations of corruption in the Ugandan Police Force, the Ministry of Defence, and the Uganda Revenue Authority, respectively. In June 2009 Justice Julia Sebutinde received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from her alma mater The University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Trial Chamber II consisting of Justice Sebutinde, Justice Richard Lussick, Justice Theresa Doherty, and Alternate judge El Hadji Malick Sow are currently hearing cross examination of Mr. Charles Taylor who is testifying in his own defense in the case of Prosecutor vs Charles Ghankay Taylor.

#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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