



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 29 April 2011

Peace Museum Preview Opens at Special Court

Sierra Leone's new Peace Museum opened a three-day preview exhibition Thursday at its future location



on the Special Court complex in Freetown. The opening ceremony was chaired by the President of the Special Court, Justice Jon Kamanda. Michael Schulenberg, the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, represented the United Nations and the UN Peacebuilding Fund, which is funding the establishment of the Museum.

The Peace Museum was proposed by the Government of Sierra Leone as a future use of the Special Court site. When it opens officially in 2012, the Museum will tell the story of Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war and its return to peace, and honour the

victims of the conflict. It will also contain an archive of war-related materials, including the permanent archives of the Special Court.

The preview was organized as part of celebrations for Sierra Leone's 50th Independence Anniversary. Yasmin Jusu-Sheriff, a Commissioner for Sierra Leone's Human Rights Commission, declared the exhibition officially open.

On display this week are videos, including "The Sierra Leone Story," on the country's independence; materials relating to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's "National Vision," and a preview of the Special Court's archives. A number of historical documents are on loan from the National Archives, including the 1788 treaty between King Naimbama and the British Government.

Thursday's exhibition was organized by the Peace Museum Project Management Team, which includes representatives from the Special Court, the Ministry of Justice, the Sierra Leone Judiciary, the Human Rights Commission, the Sierra Leone Museum, the National Archives, the Monuments and Relics Commission, and Civil Society.

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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.