



Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone  
Public Information

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**The Hague, the Netherlands, 28 May 2018**

### **War Crimes Convict Completes Sentence**

The Residual Special Court has reached a significant milestone, with the discharge later today of the first person convicted of war crimes to complete his full sentence.

Moinina Fofana, the one-time Director of War for the Civil Defence Forces, ends his sentence at midnight on Monday. Fofana was convicted by the SCSL on five counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. He was sentenced to a prison term of 15 years, with credit given for time served in custody since his arrest in May 2003.

The SCSL was set up in 2002 as the result of a request to the United Nations in 2000 by the Government of Sierra Leone for "a special court" to address serious crimes committed against civilians and UN peacekeepers during the country's 11-year civil conflict. The Residual Special Court was set up in 2013, after the Special Court closed, to take over the continuing legal obligations of the Special Court, including supervision of sentences. The RSCSL is also responsible for witness protection, and is mandated to prosecute any person who seeks to attack or intimidate witnesses who testified before the Court.

Fofana was granted conditional early release in March 2015, and since that time he has served the remainder of his sentence in his community of Bo, subject to stringent restrictions and monitoring.

Seven other persons convicted by the SCSL continue to serve sentences ranging from 20 to 52 years.

#END

The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone is responsible for the ongoing legal obligations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which concluded its mandate in December 2013. These include supervision of prison sentences, witness protection and support, maintenance and preservation of the archives, and assistance to national prosecution authorities.

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