

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, 2 June 2009

Deputy Prosecutor Completes Successful European Mission

The Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Joseph F. Kamara, has completed a mission to several European capitals where he promoted the work of the Special Court.



One of the goals of the events was for participants to profit from the lessons of the Special Court. “By sharing our knowledge and learning from one another, we further the cause of justice and peace for all,” said Mr. Kamara.

During the month of May, Mr. Kamara first delivered a lecture at a training seminar in Berlin, Germany on rapid responses to humanitarian crises. He spoke on the role of the Special Court in securing peace and justice in Sierra Leone.

Next the Deputy Prosecutor was in Oslo, Norway, for an INTERPOL conference, where he addressed the challenges of prosecuting international war crimes.

Mr. Kamara then gave two final presentations in the Dutch capital of The Hague, seat of the Special Court trial of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor. At the International Criminal Court he spoke on the RUF Judgment and what it means for international jurisprudence and for Sierra Leone. At the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies Mr. Kamara concentrated on the legacy of the Special Court.

Participants were keenly interested in the precedents set by the Court. Mr. Kamara focused in particular on the recent groundbreaking rulings in the RUF judgement. “The groups I met with were particularly impressed by the RUF convictions for the crimes of attacks against United Nations peacekeepers, Sexual Slavery as a Crime Against Humanity, and Forced Marriage – the first such convictions in world history.”

“The Special Court has set a standard of independence and fairness hitherto unknown in the subregion,” said Mr. Kamara.

“There is great interest in our work and accomplishments internationally. Sierra Leoneans should be proud to know this tribunal is looked to as a model for justice in many respects.”

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