

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR**

PRESS RELEASE

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Prosecutor Meets Students at Milton Margai School for the Blind

It was Sierra Leone's children and women who suffered most during their country's brutal decade-long civil war, Special Court Prosecutor David Crane told students at Freetown's Milton Margai School for the Blind.



For more than an hour on Saturday, Mr Crane answered questions about the Court, which is mandated to try those deemed to bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the country after 30 November 1996. The assembled students, many of whom demonstrated extensive knowledge about the Special Court, ranged from primary school age to the university level.

Asked why he had not indicted any children, the Prosecutor answered that it was his job to bring those to justice who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and that no child in Sierra Leone fit that definition. Mr Crane said that while many children had done horrible things, these children were themselves victims, who require attention, rehabilitation, and reintegration into their communities.

Saturday's event, organized by the Outreach Section of the Special Court, marked the second time in the past year that Mr Crane has met with children at the school. It also symbolises the Court's commitment to Sierra Leone's children. On 20 November, Crane participated in a ceremony in Freetown to celebrate the anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"The whole nation's future is in your hands," Crane told the students on Saturday. He added that the Special Court, as their Court, would contribute to a just and lasting peace in their country.

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