

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Friday, 6 December 2013

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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Awoko

Friday, 6 December 2013

Back to School for Judges

The Judiciary of Sierra Leone has recognized the importance of continuing Legal Education for all levels of judicial staff.

This includes judges who are also very keen to enhance their skills for better performance of their judicial functions.

In pursuant of this vision, the Judiciary established the Judicial and Legal Training Institute (JLTI) which was officially opened by the Vice President Alhaji Sam Sumana on 11th December 2010.

Since then, the judiciary has undertaken various training programmes for Judicial staff, Police Prosecutors and Investigators, Prisons Officers, Probation Officers, State Counsels and many more, thus promoting the wide sector approach within the Justice Sector.

On the 14th to 16th November 2013, the Judiciary undertook three days training for its Judges. This was attended also by the judges from the Provinces.

The first day of training was for trainers in an effort to build the capacity of selected judges to be facilitators and resource persons at the Judicial and Legal Training Institute (JLTI).

The following two days were for all judges covering principally topics like Ethics and the Judicial Code of Conduct. Various hypothetical scenarios were discussed. Other topics covered were Case Management in an effort to improve case tracking and ensure minimum delays and transparency within the system, and sentencing including a discussion on the new sentencing provisions in the New Criminal Procedure Bill which will soon become law in Sierra Leone.

The new provisions, it is hoped, will help decongest the prisons and give judicial officers more latitude and innovative options in the sentences they pass.

The lead facilitator for this workshop was Hon. Justice Linda Dobbs, a retired judge and renowned judicial educator from the Judicial College of the United Kingdom. The workshop was a great success. The judges left with praises, satisfaction and with a feeling that the two days were well spent and wished the exercise could be repeated regularly, at least to be a refresher and a forum to share ideas, which will enhance the dispensation of justice and the rule of law in Sierra Leone.

Judges schooled on Ethics and the Judicial Code of Conduct

By Victoria Saffa

The judiciary has called on officials to continue their legal education and practice at all cadres within the specialized arm of government.

A release issued yesterday encouraged judges to enhance their

skills for diligent performance in their judicial functions. The release added that it is in pursuant of that vision that the judiciary established the Judicial and Legal Training Institute (JLTI), which was officially opened by the Vice President Alhaji Sam

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Judges schooled on Ethics and the Judicial Code of Conduct

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Sumana in 2010.

The release also highlighted various training programmes the judiciary has organized for judicial staff, police prosecutors and investigators, prison officers, probation officers, state counsels, et al, in a bid to promoting an integrated sector approach within the Justice Sector.

The release said a training of trainers' course to build the capacity of selected judges as facilitators and resource persons has been held at the JLTI and for all judges covering key topics on Ethics and the Judicial Code of Conduct.

The release also noted case

management in an effort to improve case tracking and ensure minimum delays and transparency within the system, and sentencing, including a discussion on new sentencing provisions in the New Criminal Procedure Bill which will soon become law in Sierra Leone, adding that the new provisions will help decongest the prisons and give judicial officers more latitude and innovative options in sentences they pass.

The lead facilitator at the workshop which was held for judicial staff was Justice Linda Dobbs, a retired judge and renowned judicial educator from the Judicial College of the United Kingdom.

Justice & Accountability

Justice Philip Waki Elected President of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone

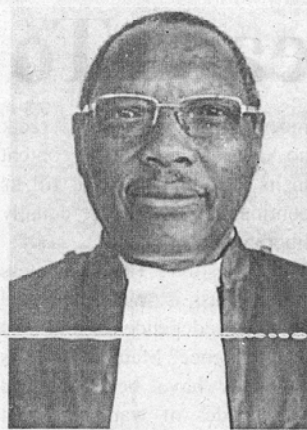
The Judges of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL) have elected Justice Philip Nyamu Waki of Kenya as President of the Residual Special Court. The Judges also elected Justice Jon Kamanda of Sierra Leone as Vice President of the Court.

Justice Waki joined the Special Court in 2012 as an Alternate Appeals Judge for the Taylor appeal. Before joining the Special Court, Justice Waki served as a judge of the Kenya Court of Appeal in 2003, after having been a Judge of the High Court of Kenya for nine years. Prior to 1995, he was in private law practice in Kenya since he was called to the Bar in 1975. Justice Waki has worked actively for reform within the Kenyan judiciary.

In 2008 he was named Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry into the Post-Election Violence

in Kenya, also called the "Waki Commission," to look into the political violence committed during Kenya's 2007 elections. In 2008 the International Commission of Jurists (Kenya) conferred the "Jurist of the Year Award" upon Justice Waki. He has served as Vice President of the East African Judges and Magistrates Association, and in 2012 was appointed by the Director of UNEP as a member of the International Advisory Council on Environmental Justice.

Justice Jon Kamanda served as an Appeals Judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone from 2007 to 2013. He was educated in Sierra Leone and in the UK. He trained as a Barrister at the Inns of Court School of Law in London, and was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1975. From 1976-80 he worked as State Prosecutor in the Government



Justice Philip Nyamu Waki



Justice Jon Kamanda

Law Office, rising to the rank of Senior State Counsel.

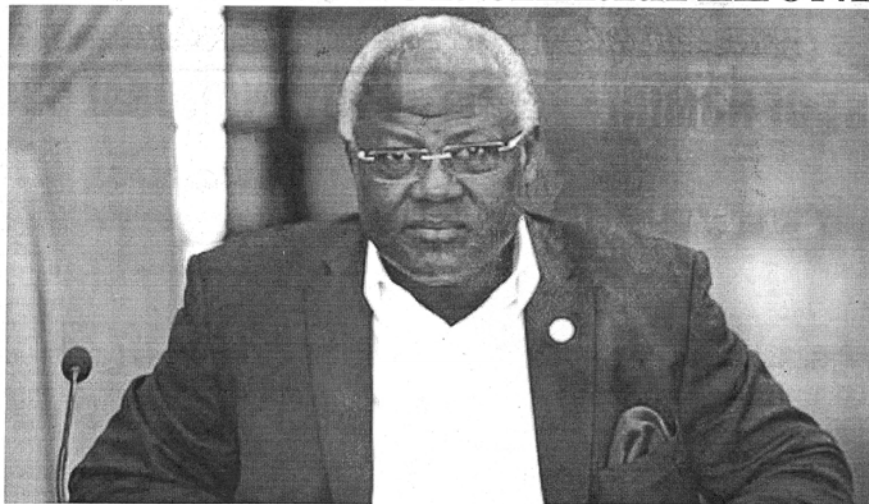
In 1980 he entered private practice in criminal law. Justice Kamanda has served as an Appeals Court Justice in the Sierra Leone judiciary since 2004, and is the Presiding Judge in criminal appeals. He has also served as a High Court Judge in the Civil Division. In 1982 he was elected

to Parliament, and he has served as Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Minister of Health, and also as Managing Director of the National Diamond Mining Company (NDMC). Justice Kamanda previously served three terms as President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Koroma closes Special Court

STATEMENT FOR THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

Mr. Vice-President
Our Lady the Chief Justice
Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares,
Under Secretary-General for Legal
Affairs,
Present and Past Presidents and
Honourable Judges and Members of the
Special Court,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:



L Today, Sierra Leone is making another significant history in international humanitarian law. We became the first country to establish an independent hybrid court to bring to justice persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law and national criminal law, with the seat of the court located within the territory of the country where the alleged crimes were committed. Now we are at the closing ceremony of this Special Court, but we are putting in place a residual mechanism in recognition of the fact that justice is a continuing commitment.

This closing ceremony reiterates our commitment to fight impunity, and it also underscores our respect for the promotion of the rule of law and preservation of peace and stability. In Sierra Leone today, we aspire to sustain our country's growth rates, amongst the highest in the world, and become a middle-income nation in 22 years. But we know that trade, investment, innovation and economic development all benefit from a stable, predictable and rule-based business climate. The economy cannot thrive in a society where human rights are violated, corruption is widespread and government revenues are misused. Sustainable prosperity depends on a robust, legitimate and reliable legal order. We still face challenges, but the Special Court has been a great contributor to the idea and practice of the rule of law in Sierra Leone.

As we rejoice the milestones of this unique institution, and as we applaud the excellent cooperation between the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations, we are keenly aware of the extraordinary circumstances that pushed us to pursue this uncharted course in the dispensation of justice. At no time in the history of Sierra Leone have we experienced horrific brutality against innocent civilians as in the 1990s. Those horrendous acts branded and tarnished the image of our nation. But the 1990s in Sierra Leone were also

moments of resilience, of bravery, and of faith by the overwhelming majority of Sierra Leoneans. It was that narrative of the efforts for peace, justice and prosperity that established the partnership for the Special Court. The narrative of the Special Court is thus not only a story about horrific crimes, it is also, and more importantly a narrative of the better values of hope, justice, resilience, peace, and the supremacy of law.

The Special Court was a partnership for the assertion of the better ideals of our common humanity. It was an acknowledgement of the intrinsic link between reconciliation and justice. The Government of Sierra Leone decided to work in partnership with the United Nations Security Council for the establishment of the Special court shortly after the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Sierra Leone is proud to be a pioneer that put into practice the two transitional justice mechanisms. We took this unfamiliar path due to our genuine desire to consolidate peace and equally seek justice for victims. Undoubtedly the two mechanisms boded well for the country.

We know all was not smooth sailing for the Special Court, the court had its own challenges, and there were many valid criticisms against it. But though to be less than perfect is all too human, the Special Court was a demonstration of our will to create a more perfect system of justice, one that is better than what obtained before it came into existence. It is against this backdrop that we consider the Special Court a success, a trailblazer, a pacesetter in international

humanitarian law.

The Special Court has made unprecedented contributions to gender justice and laid the foundation in international criminal jurisprudence for acts of forced marriage, sexual violence, sexual slavery and the recruitment and use of child soldiers during the conflict as punishable. It has also successfully established that wanton attacks on United Nations peacekeepers are proscribed and perpetrators liable to prosecution.

Furthermore, the Special Court's jurisprudence underscores the importance of understanding gender-related traumas from the point of view of those who experienced them, and their suffering within local cultural contexts. It also made critical contribution to national reconciliation efforts and to the restoration and maintenance of international peace and security in the sub-region.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the violent conflict in Sierra Leone in the 1990s was an aggressive war that was aided and abetted by a network of international dealers of illegal diamonds and illegal arms that took advantage of the absence of an international legal order prohibiting the illegal transfer of arms and ammunition. In this regard, my government applauds the efforts of the international community that culminated in the recent adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Finally, let me, on behalf my People and Government of Sierra Leone, and in my own name, take this opportunity to express sincere thanks and appreciation to the Office of the

Secretary-General of the United Nations, which on the instructions of the Security Council calibrated the plan for the creation of an independent hybrid ad hoc court to bring to justice those persons who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations to international Humanitarian law and Sierra Leone laws during the decade-old armed conflict.

We also applaud our development partners, international non-state actors and local NGOs. I must also recognize the role of the Judges, the Registrar and staff of the Court, the Judiciary of Sierra Leone, the Office of the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and all Government officials who in diverse ways made significant contributions to the success of this historic institution. The members of the Management Committee also deserve sincere thanks and gratitude of the Government and people of Sierra Leone for their relentless support and oversight function. It is the combined efforts of this network of stakeholders that will make the Court go down in history not only as the first modern tribunal to achieve its mandate but also for its transition to a residual court that will address the legal obligations of the Special Court. I am delighted to see the representatives of all these excellent agencies present at this ceremony. We look forward to this constructive network in managing the affairs of the residual court; in pushing forward the ideals of justice and reconciliation; and in asserting our common aspirations for peace, development and prosperity. I thank you for your attention.

Awoko

Thursday, 5 December 2013

Sierra Leone News: EU Head of Dele present credentials to government

-SNIP-

Sierra Leone News: EU Head of Dele present credentials to government

Ambassador Peter Versteeg, Head of Delegation of the European Union, has presented his credentials to President Ernest Bai Koroma where he promised his organization's support to the government and people of Sierra Leone.

-SNIP-

"It is particularly noteworthy that the European Union together with the international community has worked hand in hand with the Government of Sierra Leone in the peace building process that followed the cessation of conflict in 2002, contributing to the work of the **Special Court for Sierra Leone**, Ambassador Versteeg noted.

-SNIP-

BBC Focus on Africa
Wednesday, 4 December 2013

Special Court Wraps Up Operations in Sierra Leone

By Victor Sylver

The Special Court for Sierra Leone has now wrapped up its operations in the country after more than a decade during which it tried those alleged responsible for massive human rights violations. The court convicted among others top operatives of the Foday Sankoh Revolutionary United Front, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council of Johnny Paul Koroma, and former Liberian head of state Charles Taylor. A new court is now in place, called the Residual Special Court of Sierra Leone.