



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Government of Sierra Leone to Enforce Sentences of Special Court Contempt Prisoners

The Government of Sierra Leone will take over responsibility for Special Court prisoners serving their sentences in Sierra Leone after the closure of the Court later this year, under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Special Court and the Government of Sierra Leone.

The MOU, signed this week by Special Court Registrar Binta Mansaray and Sierra Leone's Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Franklyn Bai Kargbo, establishes terms for the handover of the Special Court's detention facility to the National Prisons Service.

The facility forms part of the larger detention block that was handed back to the Government in 2010. Sentences will be enforced by the National Prisons Service in accordance with international standards, with costs to be borne by the Special Court and, after closure, the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.

There are currently three prisoners at the facility, serving sentences of between 18 and 30 months on contempt convictions.

#END

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.

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