



## Special Court for Sierra Leone Press and Public Affairs Office

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 20 July 2007

#### **New Registrar, Deputy Registrar for the Special Court**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has appointed Herman von Hebel as Registrar of the Special Court. Mr. von Hebel has served as Deputy Registrar of the Court since July 2006. He was named Acting Registrar in March 2007 following the departure of former Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC.

Mr. von Hebel has wide experience in international law. From 1991 to 2000 he was a member of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working within the Department of the Legal Adviser and the Directorate of Legal Affairs.

Between 1995 and 2000 he represented the Government of the Netherlands on the Preparatory Committee to set up the International Criminal Court. In 1998 he chaired the Working Group on the Definition of War Crimes at the Rome Conference, and from 1999 to 2000 he chaired the Working Group on the Elements of Crimes.

He joined the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 2001 as Senior Legal Officer.

Mr. von Hebel has named Binta Mansaray to succeed him as Deputy Registrar. Ms Mansaray, who has served since 2003 as the Special Court's Outreach Coordinator, is the first Sierra Leonean to hold this post.



"Together we will steer the Court in the coming years, focusing on implementing the completion strategy and leaving behind a legacy for Sierra Leone", Mr. von Hebel said in announcing the appointment.



Ms. Mansaray has long experience in advocating for human rights in Sierra Leone. Immediately prior to joining the Special Court, she worked as Country Representative with the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, where she advocated for the rights of women and children affected by conflict.

Her contributions to human rights have been recognized in Sierra Leone and internationally. In 2005, she was named a Global Rights Honoree for her work on behalf of war-affected women in Sierra Leone. In 2006 she was named a Civitan Good Will Ambassador.

The Outreach Section works to educate the people of Sierra Leone and the region about the work of the Special Court, and to develop a two-way dialogue between the Court and the people. Under Ms. Mansaray's leadership, Outreach Section has become recognized as a model for other international courts in the administration of justice.

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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.