



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Special Court President Calls on International Community for Continued Support



Special Court President Justice George Gelaga-King briefed the Security Council on Friday about the Special Court's progress, and called on the international community to provide financial support to allow the Court to complete its mandate.

"The Special Court requires secure funding", Justice King told Security Council members. "Available funds will be exhausted by November 2007. This is of grave and imminent concern. It is imperative and vital that if the Special Court is to adhere to its completion strategy, adequate financial support is assured".

The Court recently finalised a completion budget for the last three years of its existence which envisions a total budget of \$89 million for ongoing trials in Freetown and in The Hague.

In his briefing of the Security Council, Justice King also encouraged states to support the Court's legacy projects. These include the transfer of expertise to Sierra Leoneans, including the training of courtroom interpreters, witness protection, and detention standards.

The Special Court is also looking at preserving its physical site and its archives.

"As President of the Special Court, and as a Sierra Leonean, it is my firm belief that the establishment of the Court has represented a major contribution to long-term peace and security in Sierra Leone and the region", Justice King said. "The Court has contributed greatly to the efforts being made in Sierra Leone to resurrect the rule of law and to end impunity".

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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.