

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

PRESS RELEASE

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Special Court Prosecutor to Co-Host Film Screening at the UN to Promote Awareness on Child Soldiers

On Tuesday 15 July the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp, will co-host a special advance screening of the award-winning film on child soldiers, “Johnny Mad Dog”, at the United Nations in New York.

The Prosecutor is joining the UN’s Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict and the French Mission to the United Nations in a screening for diplomats, UN officials, and members of the press.

“This last year the Special Court for Sierra Leone rendered the first convictions in world history for the crime of enlistment and use of child soldiers”, said Rapp. “This film shows how this crime victimises both the enlisted children and the innocent persons who are subjected to their acts of brutality. It strengthens our resolve to end impunity for this crime and to do all we can to repair the harm that it does to human beings”.

“Johnny Mad Dog” premiered at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival, where it was awarded the Prize of Hope. It was filmed entirely in Liberia and features a cast that includes former child soldiers.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion on the enlistment and use of child soldiers. Panelists will include the director of the film, Jean-Stéphane Sauvaire, Prosecutor Rapp and SRSG Radhika Coomaraswamy. They will be joined by the Permanent Representatives of the UN Missions of Sierra Leone, Liberia and France.

The event takes place two days before the UN Security Council is scheduled to hold an open debate on children and armed conflict.

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