



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Justice Geoffrey Robertson To Serve As New Vice-President of the Court

Justice Robertson QC, the first President of the Special Court, will serve as its new Vice-President for the next four months. He succeeds Justice George Gelaga King, while Justice Renate Winter will assume the Vice-Presidency in January.

The Vice-Presidency of the Court is filled by the Judges of the Appeals Chamber by rotation every quarter.

Justice Robertson's earlier tenure of the Court Presidency occurred during an important phase of its work, when its procedures were drafted, its courtrooms built and its financial viability established with the United Nations. Together with President Kabbah, he opened the new court in an historic ceremony in March 2004.

Geoffrey Robertson is founder and head of Doughty Street Chambers. He has argued many landmark cases in the European Court of Human Rights. A Master of the Middle Temple and visiting Professor in Human Rights Law at London University (Queen Mary College), he is also the author of several books on human rights and international humanitarian law. His latest work is entitled *The Tyrannicide Brief*.

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. To date, the Prosecutor has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.

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