



Special Court for Sierra Leone Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Special Court, Canadian Government, Train Police Investigators in Sierra Leone

Twenty-four senior police investigators from throughout Sierra Leone began a two-week training course at the Special Court on Monday.



The course, on Major Case Management, is being funded by a grant from the Canadian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

Two groups of police officers will receive training during November and December. This training will be followed in January and February of 2006 by a second round of two courses on Source/Witness Protection.

This training is aimed at increasing the professionalism of the Sierra Leone Police and building their capacity in law enforcement following more than a decade of civil war.

The course and its training is the result of a request made by the Office of the Prosecutor to the Canadian Government. The training is essentially in the hands of senior investigators from the Special Court.

Launching the training on Monday was the Chief Prosecutor Desmond de Silva, QC (*pictured left*), and Chief Investigator Gilbert Morissette from the Special Court. Assistant Inspector-General Chris Charlie (*at right*) of Crimes Services and CID Director Moussa B. Lappia represented the Sierra Leone Police.

In his opening remarks, Mr de Silva told the police officers that the Special Court was not going to “just walk away” from Sierra Leone after its work was complete. Instead, he said, “We intend to leave a significant heritage of an improved commitment to the rule of law and a more professional police force with the specific capacity to maintain a Major Case Management System and to provide witness protection services into the future”.

“I hope this will result in greater public confidence in the police and a stronger partnership between the police and the community” said Mr de Silva.

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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