



## Special Court for Sierra Leone

Press and Public Affairs Office

# **PRESS RELEASE**

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 27 January 2006

### **Justice Renate Winter to Serve as New Vice-President of the Court**



Justice Renate Winter, who previously served as Acting President of the Special Court from March to May 2004, will serve as its new Vice-President for the next four months from 27 January 2006. She succeeds Justice Geoffrey Robertson QC, while Justice Emmanuel Ayoola will assume the Vice-Presidency next May.

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

Justice Renate Winter has served as an international judge of the Supreme Court in the former Yugoslavian province of Kosovo, as part of the United Nations interim civilian administration. Judge Winter has also worked on projects relating to youth and child soldiers for the United Nations in countries around the world, including Nigeria and Senegal, as well as in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, and Tunisia.

Judge Winter is an expert on family law, as well as on juvenile justice systems, gender issues, paedophilia, child labour and the role of the media in advocacy. Since 1981 she has been a judge at the Vienna Youth Court where she undertook projects to help rehabilitate youths with problems of drug addiction and mental disability. Throughout the 1990s, Justice Winter chaired numerous international conferences on matters relating to juvenile justice and gender. She is currently vice-president of the International Association of Youth and Family Court Judges.

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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. 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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