

COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ICC JUDICIAL CANDIDATES
DECEMBER 2011 ELECTIONS

Conscious of the restrictions placed upon of ICC judges in making extra-curial comments which might affect the independence referred to in Article 40 of the Rome Statute and Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, we invite judicial candidates to please reply to the following questions as comprehensively or concisely as possible.

Name: Rosolu John Bankole Thompson

Nationality: Sierra Leonean

Nominating State: Sierra Leone

List: (tick one by clicking twice on a box and selecting “Checked”)

- A**
- B**

Background:

1. Why do you wish to be elected a judge of the ICC?

I wish to be elected a judge of the ICC primarily because of a fourfold motivation, academic and judicial, now crystallized into strong moral convictions. They are: (i) that human aspirations and progress cannot be realized outside the context or framework of organized civil society; (ii) that our modern civilization, despite its educational, scientific and technological sophistication remains nothing but a fragile veneer without the effective enforcement and preservation of the rule of law, nationally and globally; (iii) that the fair and impartial administration of justice, nationally and internationally, is a key dynamic in the preservation of a peaceful and secure global order; and (iv) that, as Daniel Webster observed, “just is mankind’s greatest interest on earth; it is the ligament that binds all civilised nations together.”

Predicated upon the foregoing convictions, I would like to contribute to the work of the ICC as the key judicial institution, uniquely placed today, to bring to full realisation the ideal of justice as “the greatest interest of mankind on earth” and to make a unique difference, as a member of the Court, to a world bedevilled by conflicts depicting acts and conduct that continue to shock the conscience of humanity.

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2. What do you think would be the biggest challenges you would face if you were elected as an ICC judge?

In my considered view, the biggest challenge I would face, if elected to the ICC, would be how to contribute judicially to bringing about radical and decisive change to the existing appalling and dismal global condition. In effect, such a challenge, put differently, would entail how, individually and as part of a collective bench of judges, to apply creatively, constructively and insightfully both substantive international criminal law and procedural international criminal law in the process of adjudicating difficult and complex cases involving international criminality as an important step along the arduous path of achieving the overall objective of the international community, namely, the eradication of the phenomenon of impunity, manifested by massive human rights violations worldwide.

3. What do you believe are some of the major challenges currently facing the Court? What do you believe will be some of the major challenges in the coming years?

As to existing challenges, one immediately comes to mind. It is the extent to which the Court, as a global judicial institution, is equipped to demonstrate, in the trial and disposition of the cases that come before it, the collective judicial will to uphold the principle of legality and other core values of the judicial culture, namely, impartiality, objectivity and dispassionateness, uninfluenced by national, regional or global geopolitical considerations.

As to future challenges, three immediately come to mind. The first is the extent to which, institutionally, the Court will be able to insulate itself from, and respond to, political, ideological, and related pressures from national, regional or international organizations to refrain from investigating and prosecuting Heads of States or Governments or other state or public actors who have, allegedly, committed crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. The second is whether the Court should be proactive or reactive in implementing its philosophy of ending the culture of impunity in the sphere of human rights violation. The third is the extent to which the Court will attach the utmost priority to the objective of becoming a legitimate and credible international judicial system, a *sine qua non* of its institutional existence.

Nomination Process:

4. What are the qualifications required in the State of which you are a national for appointment to the highest judicial offices? Please explain how you meet these qualifications.

Under the Sierra Leone Constitution Act No. 6 of 1991, the qualifications required for appointment to the highest judicial offices are embodied in Section 135. Section 135 provides as follows:

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- (1) The President shall, acting on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission and subject to the approval of the Parliament, appoint the Chief Justice by warrant under his hand from among persons qualified to hold office as Justice of the Supreme Court.
- (2) The other Judges of the Superior Court of Judicature shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand acting on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission and subject to the approval of Parliament.
- (3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Superior Court of Judicature, unless he is entitled to practise as Counsel in a Court having unlimited jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters in Sierra Leone or any other country having a system of law analogous to that of Sierra Leone and approved by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission, and has been entitled as such Counsel in the case of appointment to
 - a. the Supreme Court, for not less than twenty years;
 - b. the Court of Appeal, for not less than fifteen years;
 - c. the High Court of Justice, for not less than ten years;
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), a person shall be regarded as entitled to practise as Counsel if he has been called, enrolled or otherwise admitted as such and has not subsequently been disbarred or removed from the Roll of Counsel or Legal Practitioners.
- (5) For the purposes of this section, a person shall not be regarded as not being entitled to practise in a court by reason only that he is precluded from doing so by virtue of his holding or acting in any office.

I meet these qualifications requirements in three respects. First, I was called to the Sierra Leone Bar in 1971. Second, I was enrolled and admitted to the aforesaid Bar in the same year. Third, I have not been disbarred or removed from the Roll of Counsel or Legal Practitioners of Sierra Leone or any other country. Evidently, I do qualify for appointment to the rank of either Chief Justice or Supreme Court Justice of Sierra Leone.

- 5. Article 36 of the Rome Statute provides for two possible nomination procedures. Please describe in detail the procedure under which you were nominated. Please also provide any relevant information such as the national law governing the procedure for the nomination of candidates to the highest judicial office in the nominating state (an Article 36(4)(a)(i) nomination) or the nominating letter from the Permanent Court of Arbitration national group (an Article 36(4)(a)(ii) nomination).**

I was nominated pursuant to Article 36(a)(b)(i) of the Rome Statute which is in these terms:

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- (a) The judges shall be chosen from among persons of high moral character, impartiality and integrity who possess the qualifications required in their respective States for appointment to the highest judicial offices;
- (b) Every candidate for election to the Court shall:
- (i) Have established competence in criminal law and procedure, and the necessary relevant experience, whether as judge, prosecutor, advocate or in other similar capacity, in criminal proceedings;

In Sierra Leone, I served first as a Prosecutor and then as a Judge of the High Court of Justice (adjudicating mainly criminal cases). In the United States, I have served variously as Professor of Law and Professor of Criminal Justice. In those capacities, I have published two books covering both substantive criminal law and procedural criminal law, namely, (i) *The Criminal Law of Sierra Leone* and (ii) *American Criminal Procedures*.

I have set out in answer to question 4, the national law in Sierra Leone governing the procedure for the nomination of candidates to the highest judicial offices, namely, Section 135 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991. (Attached to this Questionnaire is a copy of the Nominating Letter from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, New York pursuant to Article 36(4)(a)(i) of the Rome Statute).

6. Have you provided the statement required by article 36(4)(a) of the Rome Statute and by the nomination and election procedure adopted by the Assembly of States Parties? If not, please provide an explanation for this omission.

I have provided the Statement required by Article 36(4)(a) of the Rome Statute.

Legal System and Language Abilities:

7. a) Which legal system does your country belong to?

My country, Sierra Leone, belongs to the common law system.

b) Do you have knowledge or experience working in other legal systems?

I do have considerable knowledge, from an academic perspective, of the Civil law system and the Islamic legal system, but certainly no experience working in those legal systems.

c) What difficulties do you envision encountering working with judges from other legal systems? How would you resolve such difficulties?

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I envision absolutely no difficulties working with judges from other systems of law. In the context of the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, I worked with judges from the civil law system. The degree of judicial collegiality and rapport was extremely good.

8. The Rome Statute requires every candidate to have excellent knowledge of and be fluent in English or French.

a) What is your knowledge and fluency in English, if it is not your native language? Do you have experience working in English?

Without meaning to sound immodest, I have an excellent knowledge of English, both oral and written. I, likewise, vouch for my fluency in it.

b) What is your knowledge and fluency in French, if it is not your native language? Do you have experience working in French?

French is not my native language. I have merely a smattering of legal French acquired during my years of service as Legal Officer in the Mano River Union, a West African economic integration unit comprising Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea (two Anglo-phone countries and one Franco-phone country).

List A or B Criteria:

Your response to this question will depend whether you were nominated as a List A candidate or a List B candidate. Since you may have the competence and experience to qualify for both lists please feel free to answer both parts of this question to give the reader a more complete view of your background and experience.

9. a) For List A candidates:

- How would you describe your competence in criminal law and procedure?

Under this List, in a nutshell, I believe that I have demonstrated an established competence in criminal law and procedure as a Prosecutor and then a High Court Judge in Sierra Leone and as a Professor in the United States of America. In the context of the former, as a Prosecutor, I prosecuted and won some landmark criminal law cases. My conviction rate was approximately 95%. I also argued them successfully before the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Sierra Leone. In the U.S., I taught Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure at three universities at various times. I also wrote "The Criminal Law of Sierra Leone" published by the University Press of America Inc., Lanham, Maryland, in 1999. This is the first and only treatise on that country's criminal law. The second edition, incorporating two new chapters on the principles of International Criminal Law, as developed and applied by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, is due for publication in January 2012. In 2007, I also co-authored a book entitled "American Criminal Procedures."

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- How would you describe your experience as judge, prosecutor, counsel, or in another similar capacity, in criminal proceedings?

As a judge of the High Court of Justice of Sierra Leone, my judicial workload was substantively that of trying criminal cases. In essence, I acquired considerable expertise in the trial of criminal cases, and accordingly became specialized in that segment of judicial work. The criminal cases that came before me for trial were complex major felony matters, involving notably, murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent, causing grievous bodily harm, rape (both common law and statutory), kidnapping, burglary, robbery, larceny, and conspiracy to defraud. I also exercised appellate criminal jurisdiction over the decisions of magistrates' courts, both in exercise of their general law jurisdiction and customary law jurisdiction. I served in those capacities both in the Western Area of Sierra Leone and later as Resident Judge of the Southern Province of Sierra Leone. I believe I developed tremendous judicial expertise in criminal matters as Judge of the High Court of Justice of Sierra Leone to justify being described as a consummate, fair, impartial, objective and insightful judge. As a prosecutor, I prosecuted major criminal law cases involving felonies as already stated above. Some of these cases were landmark cases in the sense that they involved complex questions of law coming before the courts for the first time for determination, especially at the appellate level. As already noted, I argued successfully those issues before the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. In that regard, I believe it is a fair judgment to say that as a Prosecutor, I acquitted myself with distinction.

b) For List B candidates:

- How would you describe your competence in relevant areas of international law, such as international humanitarian law and international human rights law?

Under List B, in a nutshell, I believe that I have demonstrated an established competence in international criminal law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law based on my judicial experience during the period 2003-2009 when I officiated as one of the trial Judges of the Special Court of Sierra Leone. I served twice as Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber One of the Court. In that capacity, I exerted considerable leadership influence in researching, interpreting, expounding and applying the law on diverse legal issues which came before the Chamber for determination, arising from interlocutory motions or in the context of the final decisions and judgments of the Chamber. I also contributed significantly to our rulings and decisions of a unanimous nature; wrote a number of separate concurring opinions on issues I believe were not adequately covered in unanimous opinions. I also wrote a few dissenting opinions where I disagreed strongly with the majority's rulings and decisions.

During my tenure as trial judge, I was also assigned by the Plenary of the Judges the task of law-reporting judge, with the responsibility for liaising with publishers interested in publishing the Court's jurisprudence. In that capacity, I assisted two Dutch lawyers in

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selecting and compiling certain key rulings and decisions of the Court which were ultimately published by T.M.C. Asser Press in The Netherlands.

- How would you describe your professional legal experience that is of relevance to the judicial work of the Court?

In my capacity as a trial judge to the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, I tried, as a member of a Bench of three trial judges of Trial Chamber One, two major cases involving alleged criminal activities of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the Civil Defence Forces (CDF). The offenses that formed the basis of the indictments fell broadly under the categories of crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law as specified in the Court's Statute. I served as Presiding Judge from 2003-2004 and 2006-2007. I was the Judge assigned the task of reviewing the proofs of the evidence forming the basis of the indictment preferred against Charles Taylor. I meticulously and judiciously reviewed the evidence, approved the indictment and authorized the issue of a warrant for his arrest. As noted in the answer to 9 (a), I did acquire tremendous judicial experience in researching, interpreting, expounding and applying the law on diverse legal issues that came before the Chamber for determination, either arising from interlocutory matters or in the context of final decisions and judgments. I also believe that during my tenure as a trial judge of the Special Court I did acquire sufficient competence and expertise in international criminal law, international human rights' law and international humanitarian law to justify my being described as a consummate, fair, impartial, objective and insightful adjudicator.

Expertise and Experience:

10. Please describe your qualifications for this position. Please also describe the aspects of your career, experience or expertise outside your professional competence that you consider especially relevant to the work of an ICC judge.

Briefly, I believe I am qualified for the position of judgeship in the ICC in three key respects. First, I meet the constitutional requirements for the highest judicial offices in State of Sierra Leone (Section 137 of the Sierra Leone Constitution Act No. 6 of 1991). Second, I have served within the Sierra Leone legal system, a country that inherited and practices the common law, as both a Prosecutor and a Judge of the High Court of Justice. I believe I served in those capacities with distinction and integrity. The practicing Bar in Sierra Leone has rated me both as a former Prosecutor and a Judge very highly. Third, as an academic I have spent considerable time in teaching both criminal law and criminal procedure at the university level. I have also recently taught international human rights law and international criminal law as special topics in the Criminal Justice Programmes at graduate level at Eastern Kentucky University in the U.S.A. I also served as Interim Dean of the Sierra Leone Law School and Tutor in International Criminal Law from 2007-2009. Again, my teaching effectiveness in those courses was rated very highly by my students.

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11. Do you have legal expertise in relevant areas such as the crimes over which the Court has jurisdiction; the management of complex criminal and mass crimes cases; or the disclosure of evidence?

I believe I do have much legal expertise in the crimes over which the ICC has jurisdiction, to wit, the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. The expertise I profess in this regard is twofold: (a) academic and (b) judicial. Further, I believe I do have legal expertise in both the management of complex criminal and mass crimes cases and disclosure of evidence. Of relevance in this connection are my judicial experiences as a trial judge of the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. In the context of the Court's trials, the trial judges attached a high priority to the effective and expeditious management of the cases.

12. The ICC is a unique institution, and judges serving on the court will inevitably face a number of unprecedented challenges (including managing a regime of victims' participation and protecting witnesses in situations of ongoing conflict). Even judges with significant prior experience managing complex criminal trials may not necessarily possess requisite skills and knowledge needed to manage these challenges.

a) Are you willing to participate in ongoing workplace training aimed at promoting legal innovation and coordination among all judicial chambers in adjudicating complex questions relating to law and policy?

I am fully cognisant of the institutional uniqueness of the ICC, and do not underestimate the tremendous nature and complex dimensions of the unprecedented challenges the court will face. My educational profile and curriculum vitae are amply illustrative of my philosophy that lawyers, judges and professors of law should consistently and continuously avail themselves of the opportunity to gain new insights, learn new concepts, new doctrines and new principles in the sphere of law and justice. I declare that I am so intellectually disposed, and willing to participate in on-going workplace education or training with the aim as indicated in the question.

b) Do you consider such training to be important?

Absolutely.

13. Historically, many of the grave abuses suffered by women in situations of armed conflict have been marginalised or overlooked.

a) Please describe any expertise and/or experience you may have in dealing with crimes of sexual and/or gender based violence.

I did, during my tenure as trial judge of the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, adjudicate cases involving crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other serious

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violations of international humanitarian law alleging acts of sexual and/or gender-based violence.

b) Are there situations or cases in the past where you believe you have applied a gender perspective, i.e. inquired into the ways in which men and women were differently impacted? If so, to what effect?

The situations or cases in the past where I believe I have applied a gender perspective have been in the academic context. Instances that immediately come to mind are two published articles. The first is "Rape in Sierra Leone: Conflict Between the Sexes and Conflict of Laws" (co-authored with Dr. Edna Erez, a lawyer and sociologist) in the International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice, Vol. 2, December 1990, pages 201-210). The second is "Married Women's Property Rights in Sierra Leone: Legislative and Judicial Trends Liberalization-A Historical Survey", published in the African Journal of International and Comparative Law, Vol. 3 part 1, June 1991, pp. 346-360. I believe that these articles contributed subsequently to law reform in those two areas of the law in the legal system in Sierra Leone.

14. Victims have a recognised right to participate in ICC proceedings and to apply for reparations under Article 75 of the Rome Statute. Please describe any experience that you have, which would be relevant to these provisions.

Regrettably, the Special Court for Sierra Leone did not have occasion to exercise this head of the Court's jurisdiction during the time when the two main cases involving crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other serious violations of international law were being disposed of by the Court.

15. Under Article 68(3) of the Rome Statute, victims are entitled to present their views and concerns and have them considered at stages of the proceedings to be determined by the Court and in a manner which is not prejudicial to or inconsistent with the rights of the accused and a fair and impartial trial.

a) Please describe any experience you may have that would make you particularly sensitive/understanding to the participation of victims in the courtroom?

In the context of the experience of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, as trial judges we did, from time to time, patiently listen to the testimonies of victims of alleged crimes. There was in place an adequate and effective victims and witnesses' protection mechanism with the twofold objective of sensitizing judges to the plight and traumatic experiences of victims and witnesses as they recalled their versions of the alleged atrocities after a long period of time, and to ensure judicial protection of victims and witnesses against adverse publicity that might endanger their safety or subject them to reprisals from relations of the defendants. To achieve these objectives, we sometimes had occasion to hear evidence in closed sessions but only after the Prosecution had satisfied us, as a matter of law, of the grounds justifying such a course of action, mainly that the due process rights of the defendants would not thereby be prejudiced.

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b) Do you have any experience in balancing victims' participation with the rights of the accused to due process and a fair and impartial trial? If so, please describe.

The experience I have is, as already noted in the Answer to Questions 15(a) that was acquired during my tenure of office as a trial judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

16. Have you advocated for the adoption and/or implementation of human rights or international humanitarian law treaties or other instruments? Please describe your experience.

Yes. I have had occasion in Sierra Leone, during public speeches, keynote addresses, or presentations to the Sierra Leone public on matters concerning human rights law and international humanitarian law, to advocate for the adoption and/or implementation of international treaties or related instruments on these subjects into the domestic legal system of Sierra Leone. I recall specifically one occasion of a workshop organized by a coalition of groups interested in the domestication specifically of the Rome Statute of the ICC and generally of international treaties in Sierra Leone law. It was held in Freetown. I did add my voice to the call for the domestication of international law in Sierra Leone.

17. Have you ever referred to or applied any specific provisions of international human rights or international humanitarian law treaties within any judicial decision that you may have issued within the context of your judicial activity or legal experience?

Yes. I have, as a member of Trial Chamber One of the Special Court of Sierra Leone, referred to or applied specific provisions of international human rights or international human law treaties in the course of our several rulings and decisions on interlocutory motions and final decisions of the Chamber, notably, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and additional protocols.

18. During the course of your judicial activity, if any, have you ever applied the provisions of the Rome Statute directly or through the equivalent national legislation that incorporates Rome Statute offences and procedure? If so please describe the context in which you did.

Yes. As a member of Trial Chamber One of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, I recall that we applied, analogously, as an entrenched principle or tenet of the law found in both common and civil law systems, Article 66 of the Rome Statute in the two cases that came before us for trial. We, likewise, applied analogously, Article 68 and 78, provisions which are *ipssissima verba* with provisions contained in the Rules of Procedure and Justice of the Special Court.

19. Have you ever referred to or applied the jurisprudence of the ICC, *ad hoc*, or special tribunals? If so, please describe the context.

Our Trial Chamber did not have cause to apply, in the adjudication of cases before us, the jurisprudence of the ICC.

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20. Have you served on the staff or board of directors of human rights or international humanitarian law organisations? Please describe your experience.

I have never served on the staff or board of directors of any human rights or international humanitarian law organization.

21. a) Please provide us with a list of and/or links to your writings and opinions relevant to evaluating your experience.

The book entitled “The Criminal Law of Sierra Leone” bears the history of Congress cataloguing number of ISBN-07618-1298-9 in the Library of Congress Cataloguing –in-Publication Data. It was published by the University Press of America, Inc., Lanham, Maryland in 1999. Website is www.univpress.com. The book entitled “American Criminal Procedures” is catalogued as ISBN-13: 978-1-59460-237-5 and ISBN-10: 1-59460-237-9. The Publishers are Carolina Academic Press, Durham, North Carolina. Website is www.cap-press.com. The year of publication is 2007.

b) Please provide us with an electronic copy of and/or links to any writing or opinion describing your experience as outlined in questions 1a), 1b) and 5.

Same as in (a).

c) Is there any other information in the public domain that would support your candidacy or provide additional evidence of your qualification as a judge at the ICC?

Other than my educational profile, curriculum vitae, published writings (namely articles, book chapters, and books) there is no information in the public domain that, to the best of my knowledge, recollection, and belief, I am aware of.

Other matters:

22. Have you ever resigned from a position as a member of the bar of any country or been disciplined or censured by any bar association of which you may have been a member? If yes, please describe the circumstances.

I have never resigned from a position as a member of the Bar of any country; I have never been disciplined or censured by any Bar Association of which I have been a member.

23. Have you ever been found by a governmental, legal or professional body to have discriminated against or harassed an individual on the grounds of actual or perceived age, race, creed, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, socioeconomic status, alienage or citizenship status, or any other grounds of discrimination? If yes, please describe the circumstances.

No.

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24. It is expected that a judge shall not, by words or conduct, manifest or appear to condone bias or prejudice, including, but not limited to, bias or prejudice based upon age, race, creed, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, socioeconomic status, alienage or citizenship status and shall require staff, Court officials and others subject to his or her direction and control to refrain from such words or conduct.

a) Do you disagree or have difficulty with this expectation?

I do not disagree or have any difficulty with this expectation.

b) Please provide any relevant information regarding your ability to meet this expectation.

I have always, in the conduct of my personal, public, academic and judicial activities shown utmost regard and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of others as enshrined in the UN Declaration of Human Rights, being very much aware that persons of my educational level, caliber, status and moral convictions should contribute, in every way possible, personally and officially, to the ideal of enhancing human dignity.

25. Article 40 of the Rome Statute requires judges to be independent in the performance of their functions. Members of the CICC and governments are concerned about the difficulties a judge may experience in independently interpreting articles of the Rome Statute on which his or her government has expressed an opinion.

a) Do you expect to have any difficulties in your taking a position on any matter independent of, and possibly contrary to, your government?

In my judicial frame of reference, a judge's nationality and loyalty to his State and Government are not valid or legitimate constraints on judicial independence, a concept which is guaranteed under the Constitution of the judge's nominating State as well as enshrined in the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct and Ethics. In the performance of my judicial functions, I have consistently and unflinchingly, paid due regard to judicial independence as a core value of the judicial culture.

b) Article 41 requires a judge's recusal "in any case in which his or her impartiality might be doubted on any ground." Do you feel you could participate in a judicial decision involving a matter in which your government has an interest, such as whether an investigation by your government on a matter of which the ICC was seized was genuine?

By parity of reasoning, consistent with the principle of judicial independence, I do not entertain a scintilla of doubt that I can participate, without inhibition, in a judicial decision involving a matter in which the Government of Sierra Leone has an interest, and specifically whether an investigation by the said Government on a matter of which the ICC was seized was genuine. This is precisely what is entailed by the expectation of the

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international community that judges should perform their judicial functions impartially, objectively, and dispassionately.

26. The Rome Statute requires that judges elected to the Court be available from the commencement of their terms, to serve a non-renewable nine-year term, and possibly to remain in office to complete any trials or appeals. In addition, a judge is expected to be on the bench or otherwise handle legal matters for at least seven hours per day, five days per week, and at times a judge's responsibilities may require him or her to be on the bench or at work into the evenings and on weekends. It may also include working on more than one case at a time and for Pre-Trial Division and Trial Division judges, the possibility of temporary attachment to the opposite Division.

a) Do you expect to be able to serve at the commencement and for the duration of your term, if elected?

Yes.

b) Do you expect to be able to perform the judicial tasks described above on your own or with reasonable accommodation? If no, please describe the circumstances.

Yes.

27. If there are any questions you wish were asked in this questionnaire but were not, or if there are any matters that you otherwise wish to bring to the attention of the Coalition in this questionnaire, please feel free to address them here.

None. The questionnaire is exhaustive both in substance and scope.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and further to the presentation of the **Honourable Justice Rosolu John Bankole Thompson under List A**, has the honour to forward the Statement of Qualification in support of his candidature. Attached also is an updated Curriculum Vitae of the Honourable Justice.

Justice Thompson fulfils all the conditions for appointment to the highest judicial offices, as provided for in article 36, paragraph 3 (a), of the Rome Statute of the Court. He possesses high academic, professional, and judicial experiences in criminal law and procedure, comparative criminal justice, international criminal law and international humanitarian law in accordance with the requirements of the Rome Statutes.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 5^{30th} June, 2011

**Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
New York**