



Special Court for Sierra Leone
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 15 June 2012

Statement by Special Court President Justice Shirleen Avis Fisher on the detention of ICC staff in Libya

I am deeply concerned about the detention by the Libyan government of four ICC staff while on mission in Libya. Intimidation of staff members of the institutions of the international criminal justice system while on official duty strikes at the heart of that system. The success of the Special Court for Sierra Leone owes much to the co-operation of the international community in respecting the Court's mandate, and accommodating the necessary privileges of the Court's personnel and the lawyers who practice before it.

The privileges and immunities of the detained ICC staff are essential to the performance of their mandated functions, as ordered by the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber on 27 April 2012, consistent with UN Security Council Resolution 1970. They must be permitted to exercise these functions without fear, harassment or intimidation.

I therefore join the Presidents of the ICC and the ICTY in calling for the immediate release of the ICC staff members.

#END

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.

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