



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

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### **United Nations General Assembly and Security Council elect Ms Julia Sebutinde as a Member of the Court**

THE HAGUE, 15 December 2011. The General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations elected on Tuesday 13 December Ms Julia Sebutinde as a Member of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for a term of office of nine years, beginning on 6 February 2012.

The biography of Ms Sebutinde is annexed to this press release.

It is recalled that on 10 November 2011, Judges Hisashi Owada (Japan), Peter Tomka (Slovakia) and Xue Hanqin (China) were re-elected as Members of the Court. On the same day, Mr. Giorgio Gaja (Italy) was elected as a new Member of the Court. The election of a fifth judge could not be concluded, since no candidate obtained an absolute majority in both the General Assembly and the Security Council.

In February 2012, the Court as newly constituted will proceed to elect from among its Members a President and a Vice-President, who will hold office for three years.

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For more information on the composition of the Court, the way in which candidacies are submitted and the election procedure, please refer to Press Release 2011/34, which can be found on the Court's website ([www.icj-cij.org](http://www.icj-cij.org)) under the heading "Press Room".

Photographs of the election taken at the General Assembly and in the Security Council are available on the United Nations website at the following address: [www.unmultimedia.org/photo](http://www.unmultimedia.org/photo).

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by

States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. It is assisted by a Registry, its international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English.

The ICJ, a civil court open only to States for contentious proceedings and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an independent judicial institution composed of Lebanese and international judges, which is not a United Nations tribunal and does not form part of the Lebanese judicial system), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), an institution founded in 1899, which is independent of the United Nations.

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Curriculum vitae as published by the UN Secretariat in  
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**Julia Sebutinde (Uganda)**

[Original: English]

Judge Julia Sebutinde (born February 1954) is a highly accomplished Judge with over 32 (thirty-two) years of legal and judicial work experience at national and international level. She is a judge of the highest professional standards and moral integrity and has a demonstrated respect for diversity. Her career objective is to contribute to world peace through the adjudication and settlement of legal disputes at national, regional and international levels, and to excel in her service through the application of the core and managerial competencies of the United Nations. She is knowledgeable in International Law, International Humanitarian law and International Criminal Law; has extensive experience in drafting of Judgements, decisions, advisory opinions Memoranda and reports and in analysis and interpretation of Treaties, Protocols, Agreements, Statutes, Rules and Regulations. She is a team-player with excellent communication, organisational, leadership and analytical skills.

Currently the Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber 2 of the Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague, (2005-2011) she is handling several high-profile war-crime trials including the *Prosecutor v. Charles Ghankay Taylor*. She is also a Judge of the High Court of Uganda with original and appellate jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases (1996 to date). She conducted three high-profile Judicial Commissions of Inquiry into Corruption in Uganda where her work and recommendations led to major reforms in combating and/or eliminating corruption in Government (1999-2004). She has also served as a Legislative Consultant to the Republic of Namibia under the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation where she is credited with overhauling and replacing the country's Apartheid Laws and training Namibian legislative drafters (1991-1996).

She has participated in training of East African judges, magistrates and paralegals in the application of regional and international human rights instruments, in conjunction with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). She is also a trainer and resource person for the International Civilian Peace Keeping and Peace Building Training Programme (IPT) of the Austrian Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Stadschlaining (2008 to date). She contributed significantly to the formation and streamlining of several regional bodies on the African continent including the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African States (COMESA) and the Inter-Governmental Association on Drought and Development (IGADD) where she served as Legislative Consultant on various Legal Committees tasked with drafting and amending the Treaties, Instruments, Rules and Regulations for those bodies.

She holds a Master of Laws Degree, LL.M (with Distinction) from the University of Edinburgh, and has received numerous national and international awards and honours in recognition of her distinguished legal and judicial service, including a Doctorate of Laws honoris causa from the University of Edinburgh (2009).

**Qualifications**

- Master of Laws Degree with Distinction (LL.M), University of Edinburgh (Scotland, U.K (1990))

- Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) Makerere University, Uganda (1977)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, Law Development Centre, Uganda (1978)
- Called to the Uganda Bar and enrolled as an Advocate of the Courts of Judicature of Uganda (1979)
- Certificate in Legislative Drafting, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka in conjunction with the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (1983)
- Certificate in Advanced Leadership Studies, The Haggai Leadership Institute, Singapore (1998)
- Certificate in Computer programming and Court databases (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Live note, Case Map, TRIM, Ringtail) Uganda Management Institute (1997)
- Certificate in Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Skills, National Judicial College, University of Nevada, Reno, U.S.A (1997)
- East African Advanced Certificate of Education (Cambridge), Kings College Budo, Uganda (1973)
- East African General Certificate of Education (Cambridge), Gayaza High School Uganda (1971)
- Primary Leaving Education Certificate, Lake Victoria Primary School (Entebbe-Uganda) (1967)

### **Competencies**

- Over 32 years of legal and judicial work experience at national and international levels (1978 to date)
- Expert in International Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal law
- Extensive experience in writing Judgements, Decisions, Orders, Advisory Opinions, Memoranda and Reports
- Extensive experience in Trial management, Dispute Resolution (including ADR)
- Expertise and extensive experience in Drafting and Interpretation of Treaties, Protocols, Statutes, Legal Instruments, Rules, Regulations
- Technological versatility in Court databases (MS Word, Case-map, Live-note, Power-point, TRIM, Ringtail, Excel)
- Professionalism, conscientiousness and ability to prioritise, work under pressure and meet deadlines while remaining calm and focused
- Integrity including ability to maintain confidentiality, to resist undue pressure and to act without consideration for personal gain
- Excellent communication and listening skills. Fluent in English and French
- A Team-player who respects diversity, collegiality and a Leader and Role-model who is not afraid to take tough decisions when necessary

**Key positions held**

**International Judge of the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (2005-2011)**

Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber 2 of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (2007-2008, 2010-2011)

Judge of the High Court of Uganda (1996 to date)

Head, Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Corruption in the Uganda Police Force (1999-2000)

Head, Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (2001)

**Head, Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Corruption in the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) (2002)**

Legislative Consultant / Legal Drafter for the Republic of Namibia (1991-1996)

Principal State Attorney and Parliamentary Counsel, Ministry of Justice, Uganda (1978-1990)

Lecturer/Trainer: Law Development Centre Uganda; International Law Institute Uganda; Austrian Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution Austria; Jurisprudence of Equality Project, East Africa

**Selected publications include**

“International Criminal Justice: Balancing Competing Interests: The Challenges Facing Defence Counsel and Counsel for Victims and Witnesses”: Keynote Address at 8th ICC Seminar of Counsel at Steinenberger Kurhaus Hotel, Den Haag (May 2010)

“Security Sector Reform: Trans-national Justice Instruments: A Chance for Women”: Stadschlaining, Austria (November 2010)

“Celebrating Ten Years of the Rome Statute: Does Uganda Have Reason to Join the Party?” Sheraton Hotel Kampala, Uganda (September 2008)

“The Importance of Outreach when Trials for War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity are Conducted Away From the Country where the Crimes were Committed”: Institute for War Reporting, The Hague Chapter (April 2008)

“Making Violence Against Women Accountable: Case study of Sierra Leone and Uganda”: Stadschlaining, Austria (October 2008)

“Advancing the Rule of Law in 21st Century Africa”: at the 4th Global Convocation of Advocates International, Virginia U.S.A. (November 2004)

“Worth Your Salt: Combating Corruption”: at the South African Christian Leaders Conference, Pretoria, RSA. (July 2003)

## **Key responsibilities and achievements**

### **International Judge of the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (2005-2011)**

- Trial judge for 7 years on the hybrid international criminal tribunal that was set up to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the war crimes/crimes against humanity/violations against International Humanitarian law, committed against the people of Sierra Leone during the civil conflict of November 1996 to December 2000. The culturally diverse Court consists of 11 Judges and 2000 staff from over 30 nationalities.
- Court contributed significantly to bringing justice to numerous victims of the conflict and ending impunity, indicting and trying a total of eleven Defendants.

### **Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber 2 of the Special Court (2007-08; 2010-11)**

- Trial Chamber 2 is the first international criminal court to convict perpetrators of the offences of “Use of Child Soldiers” and of “Forced Marriage” as Crimes against Humanity.
- It is also the first international criminal court to try a sitting Head of State (Charles Ghankay Taylor of Liberia) for War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity.
- Presiding over the cases of the *Prosecutor v. Brima et al.* (SCSL-04-16-T) (2007-2008) and the *Prosecutor v. Charles Taylor* (SCSL-03-01-T) (2008-2011).
- Conduct of proceedings and Trial management including issuance of appropriate Protective Measures for the safety and security of victims and witnesses testifying before the Court and Drafting of two landmark Judgments and over 800 interlocutory Decisions and Opinions.
- Chairing of Judges’ deliberations and preparation of draft Judgements, Decisions and Opinions and Orders of the Court; formulating proposals for the Rules of Procedure and Practice Directions of the Court and writing periodic Reports of the Trial Chamber.
- General administration of the Trial Chamber, including recruitment, supervision and appraisal of professional staff.
- Participating in the Court’s Outreach Programmes through presentations/lectures on the role and jurisprudence of the Special Court to Civil Society Groups and the Academia.

### **Judge of the High Court of Uganda (1996 to date)**

- Adjudication and settlement of civil claims, commercial, domestic or family law disputes, criminal indictments and handling civil and criminal appeals and revisions from Magistrates courts.
- Trial management and conduct of Court proceedings.
- Drafting and issuing of over 2400 Judgements and 2500 interlocutory decisions during the period (1996-2004).

- Volunteering to oversee the welfare of Judges in the Judiciary, improving their working environment, including spearheading the training of all Judges in computer literacy and mobilising funding from DANIDA to equip each judge with a personal computer, resulting in improved efficiency of the Judiciary. At the time of volunteering, she was the youngest and newest member of the Judiciary and received recognition from the Chief Justice for her initiative and contribution to the welfare and efficiency of the Judges.
- Head of the Technology Planning Committee of the Judiciary, responsible for developing a strategic plan for computerisation of court records and recording of proceedings in the Uganda Judiciary, replacing the manual system of court recording and data management, resulting in greater efficiency and better data management in the Judiciary.
- Training East African Judges magistrates and paralegals in the application of Regional and International Human Rights instruments, under the auspices of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and in conjunction with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) as part of the Jurisprudence of Equality Project (JEP), thereby contributing to a fairer dispensation of justice in the sub-Region.
- Lecturing international students at the International Law Institute (ILI) Uganda on various legal topics under the auspices of the State University of New York (SUNY) and at the Austrian Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution Austria.
- In recognition of her integrity, professionalism and outstanding service in the Judiciary she was appointed by the President of Uganda to head three high-profile Commissions of Inquiry in 1999, 2001 and 2002, respectively, in addition to her normal judicial duties. The positions demanded the highest standards of professionalism, courage, leadership and moral integrity.

**Head, Commission of Inquiry into Corruption in the Uganda Police Force (1999)**

- Investigated general and specific allegations of corruption and mismanagement in the Uganda Police force, and in particular, allegations levelled against Senior Police Officers of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).
- Wrote a 3000-page report that formed the basis of major reforms including the criminal prosecution of corrupt officials, improvement in the management, efficiency and effectiveness of the Police Force and improved service delivery in the areas of criminal investigation and human rights.

**Head, Commission of Inquiry into the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (2001)**

- Investigated and established the circumstances pertaining to the procurement by the Ministry of Defence, of four MI-24 combat helicopters in 1997, valued at US\$ 12.9 million.
- Wrote a 1000-page report that formed the basis of major reforms in the Uganda Peoples Defence Force including streamlining of procurement and greater transparency and accountability, and discipline of implicated officials.

**Head, Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Corruption in the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) (2002)**

- Investigated over 500 general and specific allegations of corruption and mismanagement in the URA.
- Wrote a 3000-page report that formed the basis of major administrative reforms in the URA including discipline of implicated officials, improved revenue collection and efficiency as well as eliminating corruption in the URA.

**Commonwealth Legislative Consultant for the newly independent Republic of Namibia (1991-1996)**

- Advised the Government of the newly independent Republic of Namibia on the formulation and administration of legislative policies.
- Repealed out-dated Apartheid legislation and drafted new legislation to replace it.
- Served as First Parliamentary Counsel to the Namibian Parliament.
- Human Resource Development through training of Namibian legislative drafters.

**Principal State Attorney and Parliamentary Counsel, Ministry of Justice, Uganda (1978-1990)**

- Drafted and published major and subordinate legislation for the Uganda Government, wrote legal opinions for Parliament and the Executive, transforming legislative policies of Government into Bills and transforming Bills into Statutes through the parliamentary processes.
- Legislative Consultant to the regional bodies of Common Market for Eastern and Southern African States (COMESA) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), participated in the drafting and amendment of the governing Treaties, Protocols and Rules for those bodies.
- Lecturer at the Law Development Centre, Uganda teaching post-graduate students Legislative Drafting and Parliamentary Procedures.

**Honours and awards for distinguished service**

Julia Sebutinde has received a significant number of honours and awards in recognition of the distinguished service to society. These include the following:

- **Doctorate of Laws**, *honoris causa*, from the University of Edinburgh for distinguished service in the field of international justice and human rights (June 2009)
- She was one of only two African recipients of the prestigious “**Good Samaritan Award**” at the Congress of Advocates International (AI) in Washington DC, USA. AI is a global network of over 50,000 law professionals (including academicians, law students, parliamentarians, judges, practitioners etc) in over 135 nations who have through their careers, dedicated themselves



to promoting religious freedom, human rights, reconciliation and justice and ethics and the integration of faith and practice (October 2004)

- Honouree in the 7th Edition of the prestigious “**International Who’s Who of Professionals, 2000**” published in October 2000 by the American Biographical Institute. Her Biography features in this Edition in recognition of her “*significant career achievements and contributions to Society*”. Other personalities in this Edition include Oprah Winfrey and Hilary Clinton
- **Good-will Ambassador** for the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** Programme, which addresses Reproductive Health, Population Development Strategies and Advocacy
- **Chancellor of the International Health Sciences University, (IHSU) Uganda.** The University offers graduate and post-graduate degrees in medical science courses (June 2008 to date)
- Rated among the **Top 100 Africans of the Year in the Africa Almanac 2000** for her “*integrity, outstanding role and impact on Ugandan society*”. The criterion for selection to this category was based on concrete achievements, especially those with an impact on a large number of people. (March 2000)
- First and only recipient so far, of the **UBAA-Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award.** The Uganda-British Alumni Association recognised her for her excellent career and contribution to society, nationally and internationally. (June 2006)
- **Vocational award from the Rotary Club of Kampala East (Uganda)** for her “*dedicated and exemplary service to the people of Uganda*” (July 1999)
- **Vocational award from the Rotary Club of Kampala Central** for her “*high sense of dedication, integrity and consistency exhibited in the execution of her duties*” (October 1999)
- **Kings College Budo Award of Merit and Gayaza High School Order of Merit** in recognition of her “*outstanding contribution to the Nation of Uganda*”. This is an award to former students of the school that excel in their professional careers (April 2000)
- **Uganda Debt Network Certificate** for her “*significant contribution to the Anti-Corruption Campaign in Uganda*” (October 2000)
- **Special Award from the Uganda Law Society** in recognition of her “*courageous and exemplary contribution to the promotion of Justice in Uganda*” (June 2001)
- Appointed by Makerere University to represent Uganda Women Lawyers at the opening of the UN Decade for Women in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia (1975)