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Towards the Pursuit of Justice and Security in the Mano River Basin: The Special Court for Sierra Leone a Case Study

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The Prosecutor of the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone.

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Fourth Annual York University OPUTA Lecture on Governance in Africa

Thursday, 5 November 2009

Room 102

Osgoode Hall Law School



The Honourable Justice Oputa

Former Justice of the
Supreme Court of Nigeria



Mr. Joseph Kamara, The Prosecutor of the
UN Special Court for Sierra Leone,

**We gratefully acknowledge the kind donations from
our sponsors to make this lecture a successful one.**

**Jack and Mae Nathanson Centre on Transnational
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African Studies Program at York University

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The Honourable Justice Oputa

The Honourable Chukwudifu Akunne Oputa, is one of the most prominent African jurists of our time, a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and most recently the Chair of the Human Rights Investigation Commission. Justice Oputa helped launch the Supreme Court of Nigeria into its golden age in the 1980s and left an indelible mark on its jurisprudence.

Mr. Joseph Kamara

Mr. Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara was born in Makeni, Bombali District, Sierra Leone. In 1985 he was admitted to the Faculty of Law, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone and was called to the Bar in 1990. During his studies he was recruited into the Law Officer's Department where he served in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution for eight years. During those years he was involved in high profile cases and made several appearances in the High Court, Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Mr. J.F. Kamara advised the Government of Sierra Leone on legal issues and represented Government's interests in the Courts of the land.

In January 2004, Mr. J.F. Kamara joined the Special Court and a year later given the task to lead the CDF Prosecution Team. Again, his hard work and competence was quickly noted as he was promoted to the position of Senior Trial Attorney. He successfully completed the CDF Case to its appellate conclusion. In August of 2008 Mr. J.F. Kamara was appointed by the Government of Sierra Leone and approved by the UN Secretary-General to hold the position of Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court. He is the first Sierra Leonean to hold that office. He is now the Prosecutor of the Special Court.

The Oputa Lecture

The Oputa Lecture is named in honour of Chukwudifu Akunne Oputa, former Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and most recently the Chair of the Human Rights Investigation Commission. Justice Oputa launched the Supreme Court of Nigeria into its golden age in the 1980s and left an indelible mark on its jurisprudence. The Oputa Lectures provide a forum in which Africans who are involved with governance on the continent can interact and exchange ideas with the York University community and the larger Canadian audience, to the mutual benefit of both Canada and African societies, on the challenges and triumphs of governance on the continent.

The inaugural Oputa Lecture was delivered in 2007 by Chief Ojo Maduekwe, Nigeria's Presidential Adviser on Constitutional and Legal Affairs and current Foreign Minister.

This year's OPUTA lecture is sponsored by the Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security.

Convenor: Professor Obiora Okafor with the cooperation and assistance of Professor Craig Scott, Director of the Nathanson Centre, Professor François Tanguay-Renaud, Acting Director of the Nathanson Centre, Dr. Boniface Ahunwan, AO Consulting Canada Inc., Dr. Chinedu Idike, Stikeman Elliot, and Professor Uwafiokun Idemudia, Coordinator of the African Studies Program at York University.