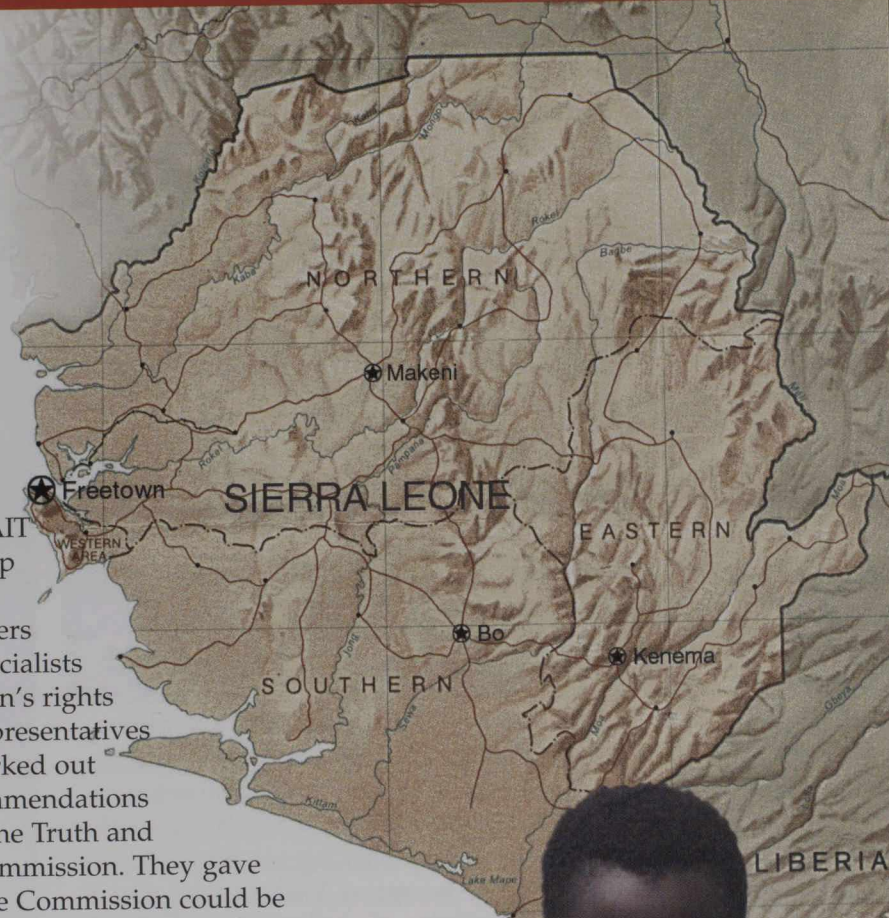




In Freetown, Sierra Leone, on May 26, 1998, young men whose ears, hands or fingers were chopped off by rebels the previous day wait outside a hospital operating room.



The studio also carries programs written and produced by children. *Golden Kids News* features news from children's perspectives. *Children's World* presents news plus music, drama and poetry by children.

Sierra Leoneans first heard the programming broadcast from Liberia, where the NGO Common Ground Productions set up TDS in 1997. Today, TDS-Liberia provides ongoing guidance and training to TDS-Sierra Leone staff. With Canadian support, TDS-Sierra Leone employs local journalists and production specialists. Aside from offering reliable news, the studio's programs lay the groundwork for the long-term process of reconciliation, and they help humanitarian relief agencies with media outreach.

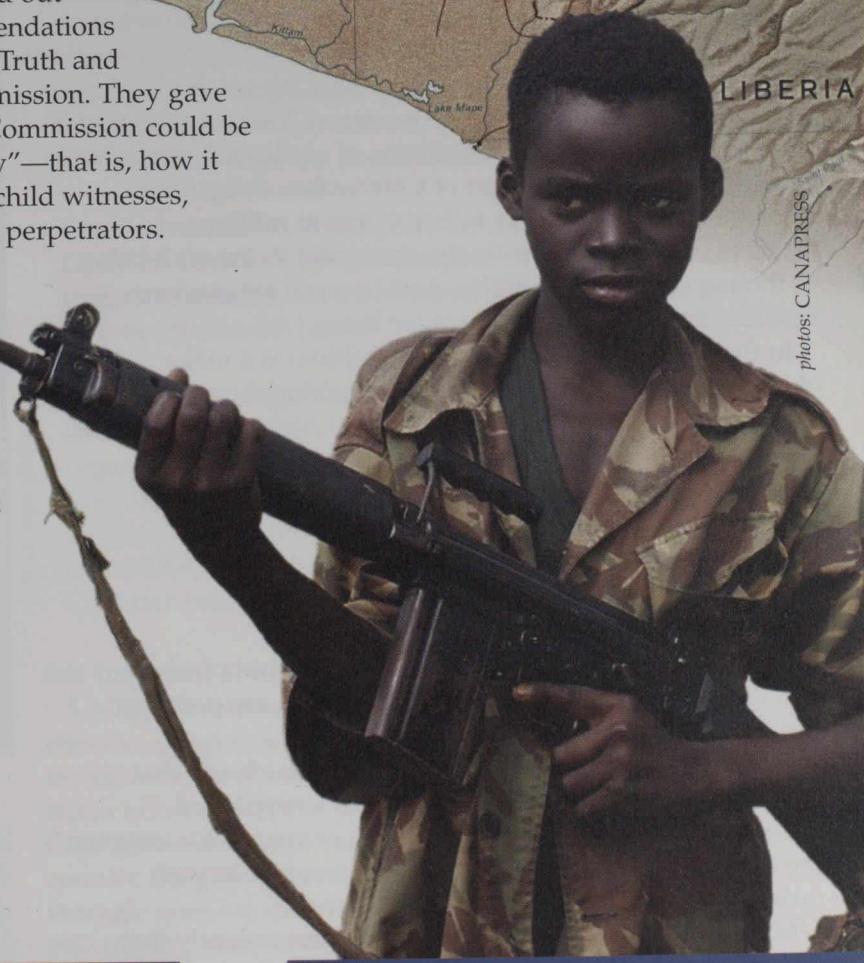
**Peace and justice for children**

To rebuild society, those who have committed war crimes must be held accountable.

The UN has negotiated an agreement with Sierra Leone for establishment of a Special Court to try those bearing chief responsibility for crimes against humanity, war crimes and serious violations of Sierra Leonean law. Canada has allocated \$2.25 million over three years to support the Special Court. But what if some of the perpetrators are children?

This spring, DFAIT funded a workshop where local and international leaders of society and specialists (including children's rights lawyers, NGO representatives and teachers) worked out operational recommendations for the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission. They gave advice on how the Commission could be made "child-friendly"—that is, how it should deal with child witnesses, victims and perpetrators.

Both the Special Court and the Commission are expected to be established in Sierra Leone this fall. ●—



photos: CANAPRESS

**Canada in Sierra Leone**

Canadian assistance in Sierra Leone is channelled primarily through two complementary programs:

- CIDA's Peacebuilding Fund promotes local peacebuilding initiatives.
- DFAIT's Human Security Program promotes the safety of people from threats of violence caused by conflict and political/economic upheaval. It also supports peaceful governance.

For more information about the Human Security Program, visit:  
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/foreignp/humansecurity/menu-e.asp>