

Yillah, Ibrahim Sorie (Sierra Leone)

[original: English]

Statement of Qualifications

It is an honour for the Government of Sierra Leone to nominate Ibrahim Sorie Yillah, a Barrister at Law and Solicitor of the High Court of Sierra Leone who has practiced as a lawyer, locally and internationally over the past twenty six (26) years as a member of the Eighth Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims (“TFV”) of the International Criminal Court (“ICC”) for a second and final term. From December 2021 to date, Ibrahim Sorie Yillah has served as a member of the Seventh Board of Directors of the TFV as its Vice-Chair representing African States with distinction. In this capacity, Mr. Yillah chairs the Board in the absence of the substantive Chair and has led several missions on behalf of the TFV to ICC Situation countries and non-Situation countries on the African continent.

Ibrahim Sorie Yillah is of high moral character and integrity whose tenures at national and international tribunals were characterized by dedication to duty, selfless service, discipline, and efficiency. His record of service during his first term as a Board Member on the TFV been a successful tenure working with colleague board members to give more visibility to the TFV and enhancing the governance system of the Secretariat of the TFV to give it efficiency and visibility within and without the Rome Statute system. Ibrahim as one of two lawyers on the Board works closely with legal officers of the Secretariat in reviewing legal submissions to various Trial Chambers of the Court regarding applications by prospective victims as well as other legal documents that may be required to be submitted by the TFV to the Court from time to time. Ibrahim has worked assiduously with his colleague Board members to raise funds for victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

Ibrahim is a highly qualified and experienced lawyer who has worked previously in the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC as a Trial Lawyer and as a Defence Counsel. He is currently the Principal Defender of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone. Ibrahim’s unique experience in the Office of the Prosecutor, the Defence and the TFV gives the unique experience required to navigate the Courts’ structures with ease, an experience needed to guide and assist the Secretariat of the TFV. He brings a unique experience of dealing first-hand with witnesses and victims in the fields during investigations and understands the challenges victims face during investigations and trial phases and is uniquely placed to advise on reparative justice for victims of Rome Statute crimes.

Ibrahim’s re-nomination to the Eighth Board of Directors of the TFV brings much needed first-hand experience of a lawyer who hails from a country that has undergone a brutal civil war. He worked with Victims Unit at the Special Court for Sierra Leone to provide psycho-social counseling to victims. Ibrahim understands what it means to be a victim and the needs of victims, which is the center piece of the work of the Board of Directors of the TFV. Ibrahim speaks and writes English fluently and has an advanced knowledge of French.
