



المحكمة الخاصة بلبنان  
SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FOR LEBANON  
TRIBUNAL SPÉCIAL POUR LE LIBAN

# THE CHAMBERS

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## STL FACT SHEET: THE CHAMBERS

The Chambers of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon are composed of (i) one international Pre-Trial Judge, (ii) a Trial Chamber (three judges: one Lebanese and two international, plus two alternate judges, one Lebanese and one international), and (iii) an Appeals Chamber (five judges: two Lebanese and three international).

All judges must be persons of high moral character, impartiality and integrity, with extensive judicial experience. The Secretary-General appointed the judges in consultation with the Lebanese Government and upon the recommendation of a Selection Panel, made up of two judges currently sitting on or retired from an international tribunal, and a representative of the Secretary-General.

The Lebanese Judges were appointed by the Secretary-General from a list of 12 nominees presented by the Government of the Lebanese Republic upon the proposal of the Lebanese Supreme Council of the Judiciary. The International Judges were appointed by the Secretary-General, from nominations received from Member States or competent persons. The Judges serve for a period of three years and are eligible for reappointment.

A single international judge serves as the Pre-Trial Judge. He may request deferrals of cases from the domestic courts of Lebanon, decides on detention matters in the pre-trial phase, reviews and confirms indictments, and organizes and facilitates the work of the parties in the pre-trial phase. He may also

issue arrest warrants, transfer requests, and any other orders required for the conduct of the investigation and for the preparation of a fair and expeditious trial.

The Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber is also the President of the Tribunal. He represents the institution as a whole, signing agreements on its behalf and submitting an annual report to the UN Secretary-General and to the Government of Lebanon. He may also issue practice directions to address detailed aspects of the conduct of the proceedings. He further supervises conditions of detention. The Vice-President exercises the functions of the President in case of his absence or inability to act, as well as any function delegated to him by the President.

Judges must ensure that issues raised by the charges made by the Prosecutor be heard expeditiously. The Trial Chamber is to hear the evidence and rule on procedural and substantive issues at public hearings with full respect for the rights of the accused, taking into account the interests of victims participating in the proceedings and the necessary protection of witnesses.



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**Judge Antonio Cassese (Italy), President**



Judge Cassese has been Professor of International Law at the University of Florence until 2008. He is a member of the *Institut de Droit*

*International*, and former President of the Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture. He was the first President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), serving in this capacity from 1993 to 1997 and then as the Presiding Judge of a Trial Chamber until 2000. In October 2004, Judge Cassese was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to be the Chairperson of the UN International Commission of Enquiry into Violations of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Darfur. In 2006, the UN Secretary-General appointed him as an independent expert tasked to review the judicial efficiency of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Since March 2009, after being elected Presiding Judge of the STL Appeals Chamber, he serves as President of the Special Tribunal.

**Judge Ralph Riachy (Lebanon), Vice-President**



Judge Riachy began his career in the Lebanese justice system as a defense lawyer (1971-1973). From 1976 to 1981 he served as Coun-

selor at the *Service des Avis et des Consultations* at the Lebanese Ministry of Justice. He was the President of the Commerce Tribunal in Beirut from 1981 to 1992. From 1992 to 1993, he served as General Advocate at the Financial Public Prosecutor's Department. From 1993 to 1995, he presided over the Court of Appeal of Mount Lebanon. He also served as President of the Judges' Disciplinary Council and as member of the Lebanese Magistracy Superior Council until December

2008. Judge Riachy was elected *ad litem* Judge at the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in 2000. Until his appointment to the Special Tribunal, he served as President of the Criminal Chamber in the Supreme Court of Lebanon.

In addition to his judicial appointments, Judge Riachy has been a Law Professor, including on Criminal Procedures, at the Faculty of Law at Saint Joseph University of Beirut, the Faculty of Law at the *Université du Saint Esprit de Kaslik* and *Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature* of Beirut. In March 2009, he was elected Vice-President of the Special Tribunal.

**Judge Daniel Fransen (Belgium), Pre-Trial Judge**



After working as a defense lawyer at the Brussels Bar from 1989 to 1993 and then as a lawyer in the public service at the *Société*

*Régionale du Port de Bruxelles* (1994 to 1995), Judge Fransen entered the judiciary, where he served as an investigating judge at the Brussels District Court for more than ten years. He dealt with serious and organized financial and economic crime before specializing in international humanitarian law and terrorism cases. Until his appointment as Pre-Trial Judge of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, Judge Fransen was also the dean of the investigating judges specialized in terrorism in Belgium (2006 to 2009). He has also participated in many international conferences and written several publications on terrorism.

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