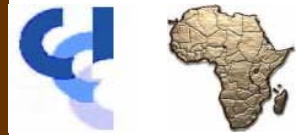


ICC-AFRICA

Newsletter of the Coalition for the ICC



ISSUE 8

FEBRUARY 2008

Editorial Note

Welcome to the 8th Edition of *ICC-Africa*!

Following a year of major advancements, the International Criminal Court (ICC) began 2008 with the arrest and transfer of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, a third suspect in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Mr. Ngudjolo is accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the 2003 attack of the village of Bogoro in the Ituri region. He is currently detained in The Hague (The Netherlands) with fellow Congolese Thomas Lubanga and Germain Katanga.

That same day, ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo made his first visit to Bangui, Central Africa Republic (CAR) to meet with victims and the local population.

The non-execution of arrest warrants remains a major issue in the situations under investigation in Northern Uganda and Darfur, Sudan.

New developments in Northern Uganda lead to a final peace agreement between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance

Army (LRA). The agreement could be considered a move to avoid the transfer of ICC indictees Joseph Kony and his top commanders to The Hague.

In Darfur, cooperation in ensuring the execution of arrest warrants for Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb is still lacking and recently prompted a number of NGOs to call for their arrest and surrender to the ICC.

In a positive development for the ICC, Madagascar recently deposited its ratification instrument to the United Nations in New York, making it the 106th State Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC. This development is covered on the first page of this 8th issue, followed by an article by CICC Lusophone Campaign Advisor on the latest Africa-European Union Summit which occurred last December.

In this issue, you will also find an overview of the recent developments in the four situations (DRC, CAR, Northern Uganda and Darfur), including: information on the DRC cases before the ICC,

NGO opinion on the future Lubanga trial, and a survey on ICC outreach in DRC; the ICC Prosecutor's visit to CAR; NGO reaction to a possible Kony trial in Uganda; and NGO mobilization for a new campaign calling for arrests in the Darfur situation.

In addition, this issue features an interview with Wanda Hall, director of Interactive Radio for Justice, who discusses her radio outreach work in Ituri; a report on the sixth session of the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC which was held in the first two weeks of December 2007 at United Nations Headquarters in New York; and an update on ICC outreach activities as well as the various regional initiatives and activities in relation to the implementation and ratification of the Rome Statute.

We hope you enjoy this 8th issue and we encourage you to send questions and comments to: gueye@iccnw.org

Sincerely,

ICC-Africa Editorial Team

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) is a global network of over 2,500 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) advocating for a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court (ICC).

ICC-Africa Editorial Team

For more information on the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), please go to : www.iccnw.org

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Madagascar becomes the 106th State Party to join the ICC



Pictured above at the formal UN treaty deposit are Madagascar's UN Ambassador Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy and Annebeth Rosenboom, Chief of the UN Treaty Section. Credit: CICC

On 14 March 2008, the Republic of Madagascar formally joined the International Criminal Court (ICC) by depositing its instrument of ratifi-

cation to the Rome Statute at the United Nations. Madagascar is the 106th state party, and the 30th African state to join the Court.

Madagascar's ratification of the Rome Statute comes almost ten years after the state initially signed the treaty on 18 July 1998, one day after the historic adoption of the Rome Statute. A number of legal and constitutional hurdles delayed the process.

The CICC welcomed Madagascar's ratification of the Rome Statute. "Madagascar's ratification is not only in step with the growing international support for the Court, it is consistent with the African Union's stated priority that its member states ratify the Rome Statute," said Francis Dako, Francophone Africa Coordinator for the CICC. "We now call on all remaining African nations to join the Court without further delay."

Maria Raharinarivonirina, Chair of Action by Christians Against Torture (ACAT) in Madagascar, the organization coordinat-

ing the activities of the CICC, noted the following: "ACAT-Madagascar appreciates the efforts of the government in joining the international justice system. ACAT-Madagascar also appreciates the vital role played by civil society organizations and expects that Madagascar's ratification will encourage other Indian Ocean countries and southern African states who have yet to join the ICC."

Civil society organizations in Madagascar played a significant role in campaigning for the ratification of the Rome Statute and the adoption of the constitutional referendum allowing ratification.

The CICC calls on Madagascar to proceed quickly with the ratification of the Court's Agreement on Privileges and Immunities as well as implement the Rome Statute into domestic law. "Implementation of the Rome Statute will empower the Madagascar domestic courts to exercise their jurisdiction over international crimes included in the Rome Statute," stated Ms. Raharina-



Africa-EU Summit: Reinforcing the Commitment to Fight Impunity

By Fátima da Camara



In Lisbon, Portugal on 8 and 9 December 2007 the European Union (EU) hosted an Africa Summit at which a Joint EU-Africa Strategy and Action Plan were adopted. The Action Plan provides guidance on the implementation of the overarching Joint Strategy for EU-African relations between 2008 and 2010, the year when the next EU-Africa Summit will take place. According to the Lisbon Declaration, the partnership between Africa and the EU will be developed "to achieve significant results" in "the promotion of [...] democratic governance and human rights," among other issues. According to the document, the implementation results of the Joint Strategy and the Action Plan will be presented at the 2010 Summit.

According to Paragraph 30 of the Joint Strategy: "[...] Both sides also commit themselves to fight impunity in all its forms. The most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, especially crimes against humanity, war crimes

and genocide, should not go unpunished and their prosecution should be ensured by measures at both the domestic and international levels. In this context, the partners agree that the establishment and the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court constitutes an important development for peace and international justice." Paragraph 98 of the Joint Strategy states that "The African Union has emerged as a natural interlocutor for the EU on continental issues" and as its "most important institutional partner." In addition, in Paragraph 106, the partners recognise the "important role" that civil society can play in "taking forward the objectives of this new partnership."

This is an opportune time for the African Union (AU) and the EU to work closely together and in close consultation with civil society at all stages to ensure the effective implementation of Paragraph 30 of the Joint Strategy in the near future. This includes prompt ratification and effective implementation of two fundamental international treaties: the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Agreement on Privi-

leges and Immunities of the Court (APIC). The AU and the EU should also work together and with other inter-governmental organizations toward promoting the ratification and implementation of both agreements mentioned above to fight impunity for international crimes.

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) encourages the establishment of an effective reporting system that would facilitate information-gathering and dissemination regarding the Joint Strategy and the Action Plan. The Coalition also calls for regular information about the progress being made toward the gradual achievement of the stated goals before the next EU-Africa Summit.

Fátima da Camara is CICC Lusophone Campaign Advisor.

For more information, please read:

The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership: A Joint Africa-EU Strategy
http://www.eu2007.pt/NR/rdonlyres/D449546C-BF42-4CB3-B566-407591845C43/0/071206isapenlogos_f

ICC News in DRC

MATHIEU NGUDJOLO CHUI: THIRD ICC DETAINEE



Mr. Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui during his first appearance before the ICC. © ICC-CPI

Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, a Congolese national and alleged former leader of the National Integrationist Front (FNI) and currently a Colonel in the National Army of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), was arrested by Congolese authorities and transferred to the International Criminal Court (ICC), where he arrived on 7 February. Ngudjolo faces three counts of crimes against humanity and six counts of war crimes. He is suspected of playing an important role in the crimes committed during the joint FNI and FRPI attack on the village of Bogoro on or around 24 February 2003. Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui is the third person in the custody of the ICC following Thomas Lubanga and Germain Katanga, who is the presumed commander of the FRPI. During Ngudjolo's first Court appearance at an 11 February public hearing by Pre-Trial Chamber I, the Defense challenged the admissibility of the case and requested the release of their client. According to the Defense, Ngudjolo had been prosecuted on identical charges in 2003 in the DRC. The Chamber later decided to join the Katanga and Ngudjolo cases and

scheduled a joint confirmation of charges hearing for 21 May 2008.

Reactions:

"The DRC Coalition for the ICC welcomes the transfer of Mr. Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, alleged former leader of the National Integrationist Front (FNI), to the ICC. The Coalition thus congratulates the Congolese authorities for their full cooperation and their engagement in the fight against impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of genocide. However, the ICC announced that this arrest closes the ICC investigations in Ituri, meaning that the most atrocious crimes committed by many authors will remain unpunished and many victims will never see justice. It is therefore crucial that the DRC authorities adopt the implementation law of the Rome Statute so that they can exercise their primary competence and continue where the ICC left off."

- *Christian Hemedi, from the DRC Coalition for the ICC (CN-CPI)*

"The ICC's announcement of the arrest of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui marked the end of the ICC investigations in Ituri. Things have not been resolved. Lubanga has only been charged with recruiting and using child soldiers while Mathieu Ngudjolo and Germain Katanga are charged with a list of offences, including murder, sexual slavery, inhuman or cruel treatment, attacks against civilians, and pillaging. The Lendu community, from which Mathieu Ngudjolo and Germain Katanga are from, feel resentful and angry."

- *Eloi Uwodhi from the Congolese NGO League for Peace and Human Rights (LIPADHO)*

LUBANGA TRIAL

ICC-Africa asked CICC members to reflect on what is at stake for the Court as it approaches its first trial.

Following are a few highlights from our interviews:

"The Lubanga trial is a true test of credibility for the ICC. The ICC has now to regain its prestige after disappointing victims by charging Thomas Lubanga, who was already weakened because he was no longer holding an official post, with a limited number of crimes and by limiting the number of victims participating in this case. The Court must render its verdict in the Lubanga trial promptly, with impartiality and exemplarity and prosecute immediately a suspect holding a high official position in the DRC."

- *Association of Victims of the Ituri War (AVIGUITURI)*

"The Lubanga trial is the gauge of all the qualities that a jurisdiction such as the ICC must have: impartiality, objectivity, independence, seriousness and rigor. The success of this first trial is the guarantee that the ICC – created after much effort – gains the trust of all stakeholders (victims, witnesses, suspects, NGOs and governments)."

- *Descartes Mponge Malasi from the DRC Coalition for the ICC (CN-CPI) for the province of South Kivu*

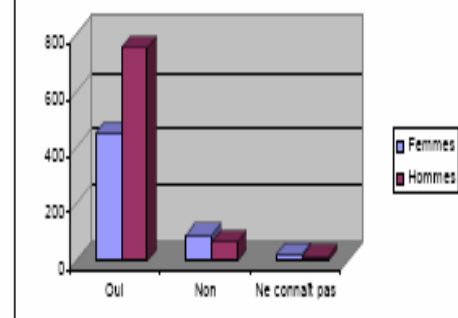
NOTE: The Lubanga trial, which was originally to commence on 31 March, has been postponed to 23 June 2008.

PUBLIC SURVEY: Evaluation of Awareness-Building on ICC Issues

From 19 October to 18 November 2007, the DRC Coalition for the ICC conducted a public survey on the ICC's outreach work in the DRC. The objective was to evaluate the outreach work of the ICC by surveying the Congolese population on its level of knowledge of the Court and the recent Katanga case. The survey covers the capital Kinshasa, the districts of Katanga and Ituri. According to the results of the survey, 86% of those surveyed (1205 people) claimed to have already heard of the ICC.

For a complete report on this survey, please see http://www.iccnw.org/documents/SONDAGE_CPI_2007_RESUME_FINAL.pdf

Statistiques des personnes sur la connaissance de la CPI



The above graph shows that 32% (451 individuals) of those claiming to have heard about the ICC are women, and 68% (754 individuals) are men. Source: CN-CPI

ICC News in Uganda, CAR and Sudan

LANDMARK DEAL PAVES THE WAY FOR KONY TRIAL IN UGANDA

On 19 February 2008, the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) signed an agreement that offers an alternative to the International Criminal Court (ICC) by enabling a special division of Uganda's High Court to prosecute individuals who are alleged to have committed serious crimes during the conflict in northern Uganda.

Joseph Kony and his top commanders who are indicted by the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity could therefore be tried in Uganda rather than in The Hague. Some NGOs acknowledge that this is a major step forward while others condemn the deal. Most expressed concern over the effective implementation of the agreement.

Human Rights Watch called the agreement "a major step toward peace and justice," but added that "the true test lies in how the agreement is put into practice."

The Uganda-based Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, an NGO member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), explained that "the agreement to try the perpetrators of the most serious crimes is a big step, provided that Uganda can demonstrate that it has the capacity to deal effectively and decisively with the perpetrators of heinous crimes and bring them to book [...]."

In contrast, Amnesty International believed that "at the moment, we have no evidence to suggest that even a new court established in Uganda to deal with these cases would be able and willing to do so in fair proceedings that are not a sham," and called for the handover of the suspects to the ICC.

In addition, the Ugandan government and the LRA signed a ceasefire agreement on 23 February 2008, the last step before a final peace deal that would reportedly occur by the end of March. In the meantime, Joseph Kony is still demanding that charges against him and his commanders be dropped by the ICC before a final peace agreement is signed.

The ICC Office of the Prosecutor reiterated that it is not involved in the peace process and that the arrest warrants for LRA top leaders remain in effect. "A challenge to the admissibility of the case [...] would be a matter for the judges of the court to decide upon," insisted ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo.

ICC PROSECUTOR VISITS BANGUI



ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo with Bangui citizens at IRFJ public meeting. Credit : Wanda E. Hall.

On 7 February, International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo traveled to the Central African Republic (CAR) where he recently opened an investigation into allegations of massive crimes. The Prosecutor visited the areas most affected by the 2002-2003 conflict where he met with victims, the local population and representatives of civil society. He participated in a public dialogue, widely broadcast through Interactive Radio for Justice. He answered questions and discussed the significance of the ICC with people throughout CAR. He concluded his mission by reiterating the ICC's commitment to ending impunity. The Prosecutor also met senior government officials, including the CAR President, the Minister of Justice and some judicial officials. Finally, he held a press conference with the CAR media and the CAR Coalition for the ICC before visiting the ICC local field office, which opened on October 18th.

Reaction:

"When meeting with the victims and the local population, the Prosecutor proved to be very compassionate and understanding and reassured them by insisting on the determination of the Court to prosecute the authors of the serious crimes committed during the conflicts. People were happy with the visit and victims expressed hope that justice would be served. Although the Prosecutor's visit is an encouraging initiative, the CAR Coalition hopes the ICC will do more in terms of outreach in CAR."

- CAR Coalition for the ICC

INTERNATIONAL NGOS JOIN NEW CAMPAIGN CALLING FOR DARFUR ARREST

"Wanted for War Crimes" is a new campaign launched by the UK-based NGO Aegis Trust, which calls on the UN to push for the immediate arrest of Sudanese Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Harun and militia leader Ali Kushayb, both accused of war crimes in Sudan's Darfur region. Some 45 organizations, including CICC members Human Rights Watch and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), have joined the Wanted for War Crimes campaign which has issued wanted posters and is calling on people to send protest emails to the United Nations. The campaign encourages everyone to ask the UN Security Council to visit Khartoum in May 2008 and ask the Sudanese government to hand over the ICC suspects and impose targeted sanctions (e.g., freezing assets) on the government ministers protecting the suspect. In reaction to this initiative, Sudan's UN Ambassador Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad reportedly said the campaign "means nothing for us, because we have always been saying that we will never hand over any of the Sudanese to be tried outside Sudan and we are not going to pay any attention to this call."

For more information please visit: <http://www.wantedforwarcrimes.org/index.php/English/>

Interview with Wanda Hall

ICC-Africa had the opportunity to meet with Wanda Hall, director of Interactive Radio for Justice (IRFJ), who visited New York at the end of 2007. Interactive Radio for Justice encourages dialogue between national and international authorities and local populations in regions where the International Criminal Court (ICC) is investigating the most serious crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes). The project started in Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where the first ICC investigation began in 2004. With four different program-series broadcast over community radio in French, Swahili and Lingala, ICC-Africa met with Ms. Hall to learn more about her project's extensive and groundbreaking reach.

1. Could you tell us about yourself and what motivated you to create Interactive Radio for Justice (IRFJ)?

I have been using media technology to foster education and civil society development since 1993, and I started to focus on justice issues and public outreach in the rule of law in 2000, when I worked on a project in Rwanda that produced videos on justice at the local, national and international levels in response to the 1994 genocide. Through my work with international organizations and with local media in the Great Lakes region of Africa, I am convinced that the media is a powerful tool to promote dialogue, understanding and participation on rule-of-law issues – the key is for the media to be interactive in nature, so that the target community in any project has the chance to voice their concerns and priorities, and guide the project the way they think is most important. I began my current project, *Interactive Radio for Justice*, in 2005 after the ICC announced their investigations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and I based my project in Bunia, the capital city of Ituri District.

2. What is the impact of your radio programs on the Ituri population? Do you think they have a better understanding of the ICC's work?

I do, I think that the *Interactive Radio for Justice* programming exposes citizens in Ituri to justice issues in a way that is consistent and diverse – we have four series of programming in

the project now, so listeners learn about justice through a variety of different kinds of conversation, or *genre* in media-speak, and since the programming is interactive it directly reflects the immediate justice concerns of the population – we are informing the listeners on what they are telling us they want to know.

3. Do you know if your program on former child soldiers encouraged more child soldiers to leave militia groups?

I honestly do not know that, but I certainly hope so. That series, which is called *A Child: Yesterday in the Bush, Today part of our Community*, was designed to encourage the community to understand that all children who have been fighters, regardless of what armed group they fought with, or what ethnic group they are part of, have suffered in very similar ways. With each program we tell the story of one child, a child who has not only fought, suffered and returned home, but also a child featured on the program offers hope and inspiration because each has found a path to their

future after fighting: they are studying, or working, or reunited with their families...they are telling a story of hope that everyone in the community can be inspired by, and they are fostering reconciliation in the community for that very reason – their stories resonate within all the groups in the community.

4. Do you have a follow-up system that determines whether those who asked questions understood the answers provided to them?

We have established three mechanisms to evaluate how listeners respond to our programming: We conducted a written survey in October 2006 after the project had been running for about a year and a half. We interviewed listeners in Bunia and in the neighborhoods outside Bunia to hear their thoughts about *IRfJ* programming in general, what they thought about the responses from justice authorities on our programming, and how they think we can improve the project. An English translation of the results of

this questionnaire is posted on our website, www.irfj.org. We also have established four listening groups in Bunia, where people gather together in their neighborhoods to listen to *IRfJ* programming together, and then discuss their questions afterwards. This gives us essentially four focus groups in Bunia, which we visit to record new questions for future programming and to gauge listener feedback on the project. Thirdly, we return to each village where we record questions at least once a year, so that we have a chance to visit this community again and re-



IRFJ Team meeting in Bunia (DRC) in October 2007. Crédit : Wanda E. Hall

Interview with Wanda Hall

cord new questions and respond to their ideas about the project. We also announce at the end of each broadcast how listeners can reach us with their questions or comments, either by telephone, text message, email or in person at our primary radio partner in Bunia.

5. Have you gauged the reaction of the Ituri population to Katanga's arrest?

We produced a special program in our *IRfJ* series; it's the 32nd program in that series, where we recorded questions during the 10 days following the arrest and transfer of Germain Katanga. We recorded questions from Aveba, the home town of Katanga, as well as Songolo which is a stronghold for Katanga, and Bunia. We then recorded the Chief Prosecutor for the ICC Luis Moreno-Ocampo and the Deputy Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, who answered these questions. This program was broadcast throughout Ituri in French, Swahili and Lingala throughout the month of November.

6. The ICC is examining the possibility of holding an in situ trial in DRC for the Lubanga trial which is set to start on 31 March 2008*. Many welcome the idea but expressed concerns in terms of security in eastern DRC. Do you share these concerns?

Personally, I think that the most important thing with regard to the trials is that they are conducted with the highest level of professionalism on the part of the ICC and that there is a comprehensive strategy on the part of the ICC to involve the population of the DRC in the process – and I'm not sure that holding partial, probably mostly symbolic, trial activity in the DRC is a real-

istic way to do that. Personally I think that the resources should be spent to make sure that there are comprehensive interactive mechanisms to involve the largest percentage of the DRC population with the process as possible: The court could rent halls around the country to screen proceedings, they could produce edited versions of the trial activity around the country on televi-



Wanda Hall and a team member during recording for 32nd program. Credit : Wanda E. Hall

sion, particularly in small communities that don't have access to television, they could edit audio files of the trial activity and give it to community and state radio around the country to broadcast, they could bring journalists from the DRC to cover the proceedings live, they could organize public séances where citizens view or hear trial activity and then pose their questions through video conferencing or by email to ICC officials in The Hague, or hold workshops in the national courts to study how trial activity in The Hague could influence trial activity at the national level. I think that all of these mechanisms would be more effective and cost much less to meet the goal of raising awareness, appreciation and participa-

tion in the international justice process in the DRC than holding one or two limited hearings in Kinshasa.

7. Do you work in collaboration with local NGOs and if so, how much do they contribute to your work?

The main stars of our programming are citizens, not NGOs, so most of the Congolese voices you hear on our programs are citizens. But we do of course go to local NGOs if we have questions concerning the local NGO expertise – for example we have interviewed the Director and Deputy Directors from local human rights organizations on our programming, and we have also interviewed Congolese who work for international NGOs based in the DRC, such as *Avocats sans Frontières* and *Reseau Citoyen Network*.

8. Do you plan on extending your program to other war-affected countries in Africa?

This year *IRfJ* is launching a pilot project in the Central African Republic. We will be producing pilot programming to be broadcast in Bangui and via provincial community radio, and this programming will be posted on our website (www.irfj.org) as well, probably in early 2008.

Wanda Hall is director of Interactive Radio for Justice.

For more information contact Wanda Hall: wandaelizabethhall@gmail.com or go to: <http://www.irfj.org/index.html>

* The ICC decided not to hold in situ hearings and postponed the Lubanga trial to 23 June 2008

The CICC will not take a position on potential or current situations before the Court. The Coalition, however, will continue to provide the most up-to-date information about the ICC.

Views expressed here are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the CICC Secretariat, its members or its funders.

Report on the 6th Assembly of States Parties

The sixth meeting of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute, the governing body of the International Criminal Court, was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 30 November to 14 December 2007. More than 250 individuals from civil society participated as observers from more than 100 NGOs. The **Sixth ASP** will resume in New York on 2-6 June 2008. The Seventh ASP will be held in The Hague from 14 to 22 November 2008. **To read a complete report on the Sixth Assembly of States Parties, please see the CICC Bulletin: http://www.iccnw.org/documents/Bulletin_no2_novdec_final.pdf**

CICC Members react to the ICC Prosecutor's report on the situations. In his address to the Assembly of States Parties on 30 November 2007, ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo provided an update of the current situations and cases. ICC-Africa asked CICC NGO members to react to his declarations.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Mr. Moreno-Ocampo reminded states parties that the ICC is preparing the trial in the case of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, the founder and leader of the Union des patriotes congolais (UPC), which is set to open on 31 March 2008. He also indicated that the ICC opened a second case against Germain Katanga, alleged commander of the Force de résistance patriotique en Ituri (FRPI), who was arrested and transferred to the Court on 17 October 2007. Mr. Moreno-Ocampo concluded by announcing a forthcoming investigation in 2008 into a third case. He stressed that crimes allegedly committed in the Kivus by regular soldiers, by the Rwandan Liberation Democratic Forces (FDLR) and by Laurent Nkunda's forces, or the case of high official involvement in financing and organizing militia in DRC are being considered.

DRC National Coalition for the ICC (CN-CPI): *"The ICC's decision to open an investigation on the crimes committed in the Kivu responds to the request of many Congolese NGOs. This is great news, especially considering how widespread rape is in eastern DRC."*

Central Africa Republic (CAR)

The ICC Prosecutor explained that his investigation team has already started its activities, adding that he would personally visit CAR in January 2008. His Office continues to monitor acts of violence committed more recently in the northern part of the country.

CAR National Coalition for the ICC: *"We welcome the announcement of the Prosecutor's visit to the Central African Republic. We hope his visit helps him take note of the alarming situation that prevails here."*

Côte d'Ivoire

According to Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the situation in Côte d'Ivoire remains under analysis. However, a planned mission for a preliminary examination has not yet been possible.

Ivorian Coalition for the ICC (CI-CPI): *"We are disappointed to hear that there is no sign of advancement in the ICC mission in Côte d'Ivoire. We would like to know what is really blocking the process. The population has great hope to see the ICC bring justice."*

Darfur (Sudan)

The ICC Prosecutor indicated that the arrest warrants issued for Ahmad Harun, former Minister for the Interior and Ali Kushayb, a Janjaweed leader, have yet to be executed and that the Sudanese government is unwilling to enforce them. Despite Mr. Moreno-Ocampo's efforts to urge the international community to ask Sudan to comply with its legal obligations, the enforcement of the arrest warrants was not included in the agenda of relevant international meetings. The ICC Prosecutor announced that investigations into a second and third case in Darfur will start in 2008, with the objective to identify individuals who bear the greatest responsibility for ongoing crimes committed against displaced persons, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel.

International Refugee rights Initiative and the INSAF Center for Justice and Peace: *"The lack of movement on the enforcement of the warrants is deeply disappointing. [...] We regret both the lack of cooperation by the government of Sudan with the Court and the reticence of member states in the face of this inaction. [...] We are pleased that the Prosecutor has now announced that his Office will start an investigation into a second and third case in Darfur in 2008."*

Northern Uganda

Mr. Moreno-Ocampo stressed that the enforcement of arrest warrants for Joseph Kony and senior leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is a priority. One way to achieve such an objective, he said, is to start cutting off any support the wanted persons might receive. Mr. Moreno-Ocampo added that his Office is continuing to monitor the situation of the LRA, including reports of internal strife and the execution of Vincent Otti. He also said he is seeking information from the Ugandan government on alleged crimes by the Ugandan army (UPDF).

Ugandan Coalition for the ICC (UCICC): *"The decision to seek information from the UPDF about their alleged involvement in committing crimes within the jurisdiction of the court is welcome as many NGOs and victims groups have for a long time requested the OTP to investigate both the LRA and UPDF. It is also important that state parties in the Great Lakes region fulfill their obligation to cooperate with the ICC in executing the arrest warrants."*

The CICC will not take a position on potential or current situations before the Court. The Coalition, however, will continue to provide the most up-to-date information about the ICC.



ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo before the UN Security Council. Credit: UN.

On 5 December 2007, ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo briefed the United Nations Security Council on progress in his investigation in Darfur, Sudan. He focused on the non-cooperation by the Sudanese government and called for the Security Council to “break the silence” by sending “a strong and unanimous message” to the Sudanese government, requesting compliance with Resolution 1593 and the execution of the arrest warrants. The majority of the 15 Security Council members made a strong show of support for the ICC, but were unable to agree on the adoption of a presidential statement. In the end, the Italian ambassador on behalf of the Council presidency, called for cooperation in a statement to the UN press corps. The prosecutor also announced the opening of two new cases in Darfur: one investigating ongoing attacks against civilians in camps for internally displaced persons and another focusing on recent attacks against humanitarian personnel.

Photo Gallery



Group photo of CICC African members with Benson Olugbuo, CICC Anglophone Africa Coordinator (far left) and Richard Nsanzabaganwa, CICC Africa Outreach Liaison (far right). Credit : CICC.



CICC press conference on the Darfur situation: (l-r) William Pace (CICC), Osman Hummada, (SOAT), and Richard Dicker (HRW) Credit : CICC.



H.E. Ambassador Mirjam Blaak, representative of Uganda, making a speech during a situation meeting hosted by the CICC. Credit: CICC.



Officials of the ICC Registry during a meeting on ICC Outreach. Credit: CICC.



M. Zenon Mukongo, legal adviser at the DRC Mission to the UN. Credit: CICC.

Ms. Marie Edith Douzima, Coordinator of the CAR Coalition for the ICC, giving a speech before the ASP. Credit : CICC.



Regional Updates

By CICC Africa Section

Comoros

Members of Parliament have requested that the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) collaborate with them in the drafting of an implementation bill. Upon the bill's completion and using the bill as a starting point, a conference will be organized to stimulate discussion on implementation. The conference will bring together representatives from government, civil society and NGOs as well as experts in the legal and humanitarian fields.

Côte d'Ivoire

The Coordinator of the Ivorian Coalition for the ICC (CI-CPI) has been actively engaging civil society and members of the judiciary, executive and legislative branches of government to ratify the Rome Statute. Benin, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Madagascar - countries with a similar legal structure to that of Côte d'Ivoire - have all ratified the Rome Statute. Using these examples as case studies, the CICC in Cote d'Ivoire is launching an ambitious ratification campaign that includes, among other activities, the production of a documentary film entitled "Lady ICC." The goal of this project is to inform the public about the ICC and to remind all stakeholders of the importance of ratification.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) completed a draft implementation bill that now requires parliamentary approval. The DRC National Coalition for the ICC has increased pressure on government officials to approve the bill.

Ethiopia

The CICC is intensifying its campaign to secure Ethiopia's ratification of the Rome Statute. The CICC will aim to collaborate with Action Professionals Association for the People (APAP) and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to organize a stakeholders' meeting in May of 2008. This meeting will bring together government officials and civil society representatives to discuss why Ethiopia should ratify the Rome Statute. The meeting will attempt to identify the reasons for Ethiopia's refusal to join the Court and develop strategies to counteract an anti-ICC perception among the local population.

Tanzania

The Tanzanian chapter of the Southern African Human Rights NGOs Network (SAHRINGON) is currently involved in the translation of the Rome Statute as well as the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC) into Swahili, a language spoken in most of East and Central Africa. The project is supported by the CICC. The translation will be an advocacy tool that will help inform and educate people on the Rome Statute of the ICC in a way that is accessible and widely understandable. It will also serve as a regional tool for the domestic implementation of the Rome Statute in East and Central Africa.

Lusophone Countries

The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) has already, on several occasions, encouraged its member states to ratify the Rome Statute and implement international human rights norms in their constitutions and national legislation. Their encouragement to ratify and implement the Rome Statute was reiterated in November 2007 in the final declaration of the 12th CPLP Council of Ministers meeting. In November 2005, the CPLP established a network of judiciary cooperation that includes cooperation with the ICC and reinforces the need to implement Rome Statute obligations into the national laws of member states.

In November 2007, the CPLP Executive Secretariat and the European Commission signed a memorandum of understanding to promote peace, democracy and development. Both partners will reinforce their dialogue and identify possibilities of joint cooperation in the area of democracy and human rights, among others. The signature of this agreement is an important opportunity for the CPLP and the European Union to coordinate efforts in developing a strategy to promote ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute and the Agreement of Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC) in all CPLP member states and associated states that have not yet done so.

Members of the CPLP include Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé e Príncipe and Timor-Leste. In July 2006, Equatorial Guinea and the Republic of Mauritius were granted the status of associated observer of the CPLP.

The CICC Africa Section include Francophone Africa Coordinator, Francis Dako; Anglophone Africa Coordinator, Benson Olugbuo; and Lusophone Campaign Advisor, Fatima da Camara. For more information, please contact Francis Dako: dako@iccnw.org ; Benson Olugbuo: Olugbuo@iccnw.org ; and Fatima da Camara: fcamara@amnesty.org

Transition

Richard Nsanzabaganwa, former CICC Outreach Liaison for Africa, left the Coalition early this year to join the Pearson Peacekeeping Center in Canada as the Project Officer for Central and South Africa. **Eleanor Thompson** has recently joined the CICC as Acting Outreach Liaison for Africa. While previously working as CICC Program Assistant, Ms. Thompson played an instrumental role in the recent expansion of the CICC Steering Committee. She later worked as a consultant for the Coalition while she was in Northern Uganda and Sierra Leone.

Signatures and Ratifications of the ICC Rome Statute in Africa

(As of 14 March 2008: 30 States Parties, 12 Signatory States and 25 Non-States Parties)

<u>States Parties / Date of Ratification</u>		<u>Signatory States / Date of Signature</u>		<u>Non-States Parties</u>	
Benin	22 Jan 2002	Namibia	25 Jun 2002	Zimbabwe	17 Jul 1998
Botswana	08 Sep 2000	Niger	11 Apr 2002		
Burkina Faso	16 Apr 2004	Nigeria	27 Sep 2001		
Burundi	21 Sep 2004	Senegal	02 Feb 1999		
Central Africa Rep	03 Oct 2001	Sierra Leone	15 Sep 2000		
Chad	1 Nov 2006	South Africa	27 Nov 2000		
Comoros	18 Aug 2006	Tanzania	20 Aug 2002		
Congo (Brazzaville)	03 May 2004	Uganda	14 Jun 2002		
Dem. Rep of Congo	11 Apr 2002	Zambia	13 Nov 2002		
Djibouti	05 Nov 2002				
Gabon	20 Sep 2000				
Gambia	28 Jun 2002				
Ghana	20 Dec 1999				
Guinea	14 Jul 2003				
Mauritius	05 Mar 2002				
Kenya	15 Mar 2005				
Lesotho	06 Sep 2000				
Liberia	22 Sep 2004				
Malawi	19 Sep 2002				
Madagascar	14 Mar 2008				
Mali	16 Aug 2000				

Rome Statute in the world	Signatures: 139	Ratifications: 106	Last Ratification: Madagascar
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Signatures and Ratifications of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities in Africa

(As of 3 October 2007: 8 States Parties, 7 Signatory States)

<u>States Parties / Date of Ratification</u>		<u>Signatory States / Date of Signature</u>	
Benin	24 Jan 2006	Liberia	16 Sep 2005
Burkina Faso	10 Oct 2005	Mali	8 Jul 2004
Central African Rep.	06 Oct 2006	Namibia	29 Jan 2004
Dem Rep of Congo	03 Jul 2007		
Lesotho	16 Sep 2005		

APIC in the world	Signatures: 62	Ratifications: 52	Last ratification: Portugal
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Status of the Rome Statute Implementation in Africa

State Parties that have enacted implementing Legislation: South Africa; Senegal.

State Parties that have draft implementing legislation: Benin, Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Central African Republic; Congo Brazzaville; Democratic Republic of Congo; Gabon; Gambia; Ghana; Kenya; Lesotho; Malawi; Mali; Niger; Nigeria; Tanzania; Uganda; Zambia.

State Parties that have neither draft nor enacted implementing legislation: Djibouti; Guinea; Liberia; Mauritius; Namibia; Sierra Leone.

ICC Developments on Situations

To read the unofficial summaries of ICC developments on the situations, visit the CICC's website:

For the Democratic Republic of Congo: <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=drctimeline> and <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=drctimelinelubanga>

For Darfur: <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=darfurtimeline>

For Northern Uganda: <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=northernuganda>

For Central African Republic: <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=cartimeline>

Calendar of Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

To see a list of upcoming events, please visit the calendar of events on the CICC's website:

<http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=currentevents>

REPORT OF PAST EVENTS

3 January 2008 – Launching of the Egyptian Alliance for the ICC – Cairo, Egypt

On 3 January 2008, the Egyptian Alliance for the ICC was formed at a meeting held in Cairo. The new alliance includes 31 Egyptian human rights organizations dedicated to ensuring the country's ratification of the Rome Statute. On 23 January 2008, the CICC's MENA (Middle East/North Africa) Regional Coordinator met with the Alliance to discuss its action plan regarding the campaign for Egypt's ratification of the Rome Statute. The Egyptian Alliance brings the total number of national ICC coalitions in MENA to 12, which includes the Arab and Egyptian Coalitions for the ICC, both of which are also based in Cairo.

18 January 2008 – Roundtable Discussion on the Implementation of the Rome Statute – Freetown, Sierra Leone

On 18 January 2008, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) organized a regional roundtable discussion on the implementation of The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in Sierra Leone's Parliament in Freetown. The roundtable brought together more than 100 participants including parliamentary delegations from Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone along with representatives of both Sierra Leonean government and civil society and experts from international organizations based in Freetown including the Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Head of the EU Delegation in Freetown. During the roundtable discussion legislators committed themselves to the implementation of the Rome Statute in each one's respective nation. The CICC will be following up with the parliamentarians involved that day to ensure they fulfill their pledges to ensure implementation of the Rome Statute in their various countries in the coming months.

22 January 2008 - Press Conference on the Ivorian Constitution and the ICC – Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

On 22 January 2008, the Ivorian Coalition for the ICC (CI-CPI) held a press conference in Abidjan to present an analytical comparison of the Ivorian Constitution with the Rome Statute of the ICC. Diplomatic and government representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, including officials from the Ministry of Justice, were among the participants. During this conference, the Ivorian Coalition advocated that although the Constitution is not in conformity with the Rome Statute, Côte d'Ivoire should amend it as France or Madagascar has done. Finally, the Ivorian Coalition called the government to ratify the ICC Treaty.

24-25 January 2008 – ICC Deputy Prosecutor visits in Ethiopia – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

On 24-25 January, International Criminal Court (ICC) Deputy Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, joined other African women for the 11th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on issues relating to women in the Darfur region of the Sudan. The event is annually organized by Femmes Africa Solidarité to engage prominent women in constructive dialogue on matters concerning women in conflict zones. Deputy Prosecutor Bensouda urged those assembled not to ignore the plight of women in conflict regions such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Darfur and the Central African Republic.

ICC Job Openings

Freelance Field Interpreters (Sudan – Fur, Masalit or Zaghawa) and Freelance Field Interpreters (Sango - Central African Republic)

[Deadline for Applications: Open](#)

Duties and Responsibilities

Field Interpreters work for the Court Interpretation and Translation Section of the Registry and/or the Language Services Unit of the Office of the Prosecutor. The successful candidates will be expected to:

- (a) provide consecutive interpretation on mission;
- (c) prepare thoroughly for the above assignments;
- (d) observe established terminology and in-house usage, and identify new terminology;
- (e) carry out basic translation duties whilst on mission, where necessary;
- (g) take part in refresher training sessions with a view to refining his/her interpreting skills; and
- (d) perform other language services as required by the heads of the two language services of the Court.

Qualifications and Experience

Successful candidates must:

- (a) possess the ability to work as part of a team, (b) demonstrate flexibility, initiative and willingness to learn new skills; (c) possess a knowledge of relevant computer software including word-processing programs; and (d) be available, at times, on short notice;

and would preferably though not necessarily:

- (a) possess a degree in interpretation, translation, linguistics or law or in any other relevant subject matter; and (b) have relevant experience in interpretation on a formal basis, potentially in an international organization.

For more information, please visit the ICC's website: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/recruitment/opportunities/vacancies.html>

Contact - Info



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What is the Coalition for the International Criminal Court ?

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) is a global network of more than 2,500 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 150 countries advocating for a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court (ICC).

Our objectives :

- Ensuring the universal ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC
- Ensuring the full implementation of the Rome Statute in the national legislations
- Monitoring ICC developments and supporting its work
- Strengthening CICC national and regional networks for our ICC campaigns

Join Our Information Lists !

In order to receive the latest ICC developments, join our email lists by sending an empty email to :

icc-africa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
For the regional list

icc-info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
For the English language list

reseau-cpi-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
For the French language list

tpi-port-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
For the Portuguese language list

noticias-cpi-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
For the Spanish language list

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