



## Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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MEDIA ADVISORY  
27 June 2008

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### **ICC OPENS SECOND CONFIRMATION OF CHARGES HEARING IN DRC**

*Judges will consider charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes against alleged Congolese warlords Germain Katanga and Matthieu Ngudjolo Chui*

**WHAT:** On 27 June 2008, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court will commence a confirmation of charges hearing in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga and Matthieu Ngudjolo Chui*. This hearing—the second in the Court’s investigation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)—will enable the three judges of Pre-Trial Chamber I to assess whether the charges brought by ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo against the suspects can be confirmed.

**WHO:** Germain Katanga is the alleged commander of the Force de résistance patriotique en Ituri (FRPI). Matthieu Ngudjolo Chui is the alleged former leader of the National integrationist Front (FNI) and a colonel in the Forces armées de la RDC/ Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC). The two suspects are alleged to be responsible for three counts of crimes against humanity and six counts of war crimes in Ituri, a territory in eastern DRC, from January to March 2003. The two arrest warrants focus on an attack of the village of Bogoro on 24 February 2003. The alleged acts include murder, inhumane acts, inhuman or cruel treatment, the use of child soldiers, sexual slavery, wilful killing, intentional attacks against the civilian population and pillage.

**HOW:** The ICC Prosecutor will be required to support his charges with sufficient evidence in order to establish substantial grounds to argue that the suspects committed the crimes with which they are charged. Both Katanga and Ngudjolo will be given the chance to object to the charges and challenge evidence through their respective lawyers, David Hooper and Jean Pierre Kilenda Kakengi Basila. Lawyers representing fifty-six victims will be able to present the victims’ perspective on current charges and their concerns. If the three judges confirm the charges against the two suspects, the ICC will be able to move forward to trial.

### **COMMENT AND BACKGROUND:**

For more on this case, please see a related CICC factsheet at [http://www.iccnnow.org/documents/katanga\\_and\\_ngudjolo\\_26\\_June\\_2008.pdf](http://www.iccnnow.org/documents/katanga_and_ngudjolo_26_June_2008.pdf)

Experts from DRC human rights organizations and international NGOs are listed on the following pages for comment and background on this hearing.

### **NGOs in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

*Alphabetical by last name*

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***Important notice:*** *The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), an independent NGO movement, is dedicated to the establishment of the International Criminal Court as a fair, effective, and independent international organization. The Coalition as a whole, and its secretariat, does not endorse or promote specific investigations or prosecutions or take a position on situations before the ICC. However, individual CICC members may endorse referrals, provide legal and other support on investigations, or develop partnerships with local and other organizations in the course of their efforts*

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