



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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MEDIA ADVISORY
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In New York: Anaga Dalal,
(+) 1.646.465.8517,
dalal@iccnnow.org

In The Hague: Oriane Maillet
(+) 31 70 311 10 82,
maillet@iccnnow.org

ICC ANNOUNCES THIRD ARREST IN DRC SITUATION

Coalition for the ICC members react to the transfer of FNI leader Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui to The Hague for Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes

WHAT: On Thursday, 7 February at approximately 10 a.m. in The Hague, the International Criminal Court (ICC) announced the surrender and transfer of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui. This marks the ICC's third case in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Upon an application of the ICC Prosecutor on 25 June 2007, the ICC Pre-trial Chamber I issued a sealed warrant of arrest for Ngudjolo on 6 July 2007. The arrest warrant was unsealed on 7 February 2008, following the surrender and transfer of the suspect on the previous day. The arrest warrant focuses on the period between January and March 2003 and in particular on the attack of the village of Bogoro on 24 February 2003. It lists three counts of crimes against humanity and six counts of war crimes in Ituri, a territory in eastern DRC. The alleged acts include murder, inhumane acts, inhuman or cruel treatment, the use of child soldiers, sexual slavery, willful killing, intentional attacks against the civilian population and pillage.

“The arrest and transfer to the ICC of Colonel Ngudjolo has dealt another blow to impunity in one of the world's most brutal and extended conflicts,” said **CICC Convenor William Pace**. “The arrest by the DRC government of the former militia leader and current government military officer for war crimes and crimes against humanity is a clear example of how crucial state cooperation is to the effective functioning of the ICC and the new system of international criminal justice ratified by 105 governments.”

“This arrest has given hope to victims who feel honored by the arrest of a man who enjoyed impunity in his role in the national armed forces,” said **Eugène Bakama Bope, president of CICC member, Club des Amis du droit du Congo**. “For us, warlords like Peter Karim and Cobra Matata who still occupy positions of command within the Congolese military must also be prosecuted for their crimes.”

“This transfer confirms the determination of Congolese authorities to refuse amnesty for the commission of international crimes. This is what we were promised during the Peace Conference in Kivu last January,” said **Christian Hemedi, coordinator of the DRC National Coalition for the ICC**. “The Coalition calls on the Congolese

government to adopt implementing legislation for the Rome Statute of the ICC and reform the judicial system to be more complimentary with the Statute.”

WHO: Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, whose name is also written “Mathieu Cui Ngudjolo,” is a national of the DRC and the alleged leader of the National integrationist Front (FNI). He is currently a Colonel in the National Army of the Government of the DRC [Forces armées de la RDC/ Armed Forces of the DRC] (FARDC). Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui is the third ICC suspect transferred to the Scheveningen detention center in The Hague. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo was surrendered and transferred in March 2006 and Germain Katanga in October 2007. The first ICC trial, against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, is expected to commence on 31 March 2008 and a confirmation of charges hearing will be held in the first half of 2008 in the case against Germain Katanga.

COMMENT AND BACKGROUND: Experts from DRC human rights organizations and international NGOs are listed on the following pages for comment and background on this arrest.

***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.*

NGOs in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Alphabetical by last name

Bukeni W. Beck, WITNESS and former Director and Founder of Jeunes pour le Developpement Integre-Kalundu/Projet Enfants Soldats (AJEDI-Ka/PES – Youth Development and Integration/Child Soldiers Project)

Currently in New York, New York, but originally from Uvira, South Kivu:

Telephone: + 646-744-8064; +718-783-2000 ext.307

E-mail: bukenitw@hotmail.com; bukenibeck@yahoo.fr

(English, French)

Eugene Bakama Bope, President, Club des Amis du Droit du Congo

Kinshasa

Telephone: +243 81 6885717 and +243 9 98 18 6810

Email: clubdesamisdu droit@hotmail.com; cadcongo2@yahoo.fr

Alpha Fall, Senior Associate, Centre International pour la Justice Transitionnelle (International Center for Transitional Justice)

Kinshasa

Telephone: +243 810 155 080 and + 243 812 746 859

Email: afall@ictj.org

(English, French)

Christian Hemedi, Coordonnateur de la Coalition nationale pour la CPI (Head of the DRC National Coalition for the International Criminal Court)

Kinshasa

Telephone: + 243 99 99 166 96; + 243 81 700 5452

E-mail: coalition_cpi@yahoo.co.uk

Mpinga Tshibusu Michel Innocent, Président de l'Observatoire national des droits de l'homme (President of the Bar Association and of the National Council on Human Rights)

Kinshasa

Telephone: + 243 99 831 37 40; + 243 99 99 80 857

E-mail: batmpinga@yahoo.fr and tshilundu90@yahoo.fr

Roger Muchuba, Secrétaire Exécutif de Héritiers de la Justice (Secretary of the Inheritors of Justice)

Bukavu

Telephone: +243 99 86 76 6477

E-mail: rogermuchuba@yahoo.fr

Bisimwa Ntakobajira, Coordonnateur de l'Association de promotion et de défense des droits de l'homme (Head of the Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights)

Bukavu

Telephone: + 243 81 355 1835

E-mail: aedbukavu@yahoo.fr and matsobismwa@yahoo.fr

Anneke van Woudenberg, Senior Researcher on the DRC, Human Rights Watch

Kinshasa

Telephone: +243 81 085 2407

Email: woudena@hrw.org

(English, French)

International NGOs

Listed alphabetically by organization name

John Washburn, Convenor, American NGO Coalition for the ICC

New York, New York:

Office telephone: +1 212 907 1317

Mobile: +1 917 589 5988

Email: jwashburn@unausa.org

(English)

Christopher Hall, International Justice Project Senior Legal Adviser, Amnesty International

London, England:

Office telephone.: +44 207 413 5733 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)

Telephone.: +44 207 241 1728 (Monday and Thursday)

E-mail: chall@amnesty.org

(English)

Martien Schotsmans, Head of the International Justice Legal Department, Avocats Sans Frontières

Brussels, Belgium

Telephone: 0032 2 22 33 654

E-mail: 'mschotsmans@asf.be'
(English and French)

**Dr. Karine Bonneau, Director of the International Justice Desk, Fédération
Internationale des Ligues des Droits de L'Homme (FIDH - International Federation for
Human Rights)**

Paris, France:

Telephone: +33 1 43 55 25 18
Mobile telephone: +33 6 72 34 87 59
Email: kbonneau@fidh.org
(French, English, Spanish)

Richard Dicker, International Justice Program Director, Human Rights Watch

New York, New York:

Office telephone: +1 212 216 1248
Mobile number: +1 917 747 6731
Email: dickerr@hrw.org
(English, French)

Lorraine Smith, IBA Programme Manager, International Bar Association

The Hague, the Netherlands:

Office telephone: +31 (0)70 302 2859
Mobile number: + 30 (0)634266310
Email: lorraine.smith@int-bar.org
(English)

Alison Smith, Legal Counsel, No Peace Without Justice

Brussels, Belgium

Telephone: +32 2 548 3912
Mobile phone: +32 486 986 235
Email: alison@sensible.it
(English)

Mariana Goetz, ICC Outreach & Advocacy Adviser, REDRESS

London, England

Telephone : +44 20 7793 1777
Email: mariana@redress.org
(English, French, Spanish)

Brigid Inder, Executive Director, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

The Hague, Netherlands

Office telephone: +31 70 3 02 99 11
E-mail: brigid@iccwomen.org
(English)

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