

MINNA SCHRAG: Thank you very much, and I appreciate your indulgence in allowing me to speak again. Now I'm wearing a slightly different hat, the hat of a member of the board of the International Centre for Transitional Justice, and I would like to address my comments to the impact of your Office's work.

I suggest that as a beginning point you take a look at the sentencing hearing on the sentencing of Mrs. Plavsic earlier this year at the ICTY, and particularly, I'd point your attention to the testimony of Alex Boraine from the Transitional Justice Centre. He spoke at length about the central role of acknowledgement of guilt, acknowledgement of responsibility, as the first step towards reconciliation and ultimately towards peace.

One of the judges asked him repeatedly whether he had any concrete evidence to support that point, whether he had any statistical evidence to support the notion that acknowledgement of responsibility is an important step towards effectiveness. Of course he didn't have statistical evidence. He did have much anecdotal evidence and much eloquence on the subjects of the possibility of justice mechanisms, particularly when they are transparent, as your mechanisms will be, to have a transformative effect on societies and on individuals.

Just to point out one anecdote that comes immediately to my mind, you may recall that within days after the indictment of Milosevic by the ICTY, the decision was taken in Belgrade to end the conflict in Kosovo. Hard to know whether that's a cause and effect, but hard to imagine that that indictment didn't have some effect in itself.

So as you look for support for the notion that your Office is being effective, I'd suggest that you look hard at the anecdotal support, that you use your own great eloquence and what other ways your staff can imagine to demonstrate to the world that's watching that this justice

mechanism does make a difference.

Thank you.