



Statement by Phakiso Mochochoko, Head of the Legal Advisory Section on behalf of the Registrar, during the press conference regarding the arrest of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui

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The Hague, 7 February 2008

As you may already be aware, 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 yesterday arrested by the Congolese authorities and handed over to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for transfer to the Hague.

The warrant of arrest against Mr Ngudjolo was issued under seal by Pre-Trial Chamber 1 on 6 July 2007, after the Chamber examined the request and evidence submitted by the Prosecutor. The warrant was unsealed today following advice by the Prosecutor and the Registrar to the Chamber that there is no longer any reason to maintain the warrant under seal.

Mr Ngudjolo who is the third detainee for the ICC after Thomas Lubanga and Germain Katanga, is alleged to have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes as set out in Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute. The crimes are alleged to have been committed in the territory of the DRC since July 2002. His arrest and surrender were made possible through the cooperation of the Congolese authorities. The Registrar and the Court wish to express their appreciation and gratitude to the DRC government for its assistance and co-operation, and hope to count on the continuing support of the DRC government in apprehending anyone sought by the Court.

Mr Ngudjolo left Kinshasa at 11:40pm DRC time on a Belgian plane, accompanied by six Security officers, representatives of the Court including a doctor and crew members.

The plane landed at Eindhoven today at 11.30hrs, from where Mr Ngudjolo was transported to the Detention Centre of the Court, in The Hague where he arrived at 1:45pm.

We would like to express the Court's sincere thanks to the Belgian government for facilitating the transport of Mr Ngudjolo from the DRC to The Netherlands. We would

also like to thank the Dutch authorities for facilitating transport from the airport to the detention centre.

As soon as he arrived, Mr Ngudjolo underwent a medical examination. He was later briefed by Registry officers on his rights as stated in the Rome Statue, and on the nature of the counts listed in the warrant of arrest.

Mr Ngudjolo has also been visited by Registry officers from the Defence Support Section, who explained to him in detail his right to a fair trial, and provided him with the list of counsels and an explanation of the procedure for appointment of counsel for the initial appearance, and for the rest of the proceedings before the Court.

The initial appearance of Ngudjolo Chui will take place on a date yet to be determined. During this hearing, the Chamber shall satisfy itself that the Mr Ngudjolo has been properly informed of the crimes which he is alleged to have committed, and that his rights have been fully explained to him, including the right to apply for interim release pending trial.

The Chamber shall thereafter determine the date of the confirmation of charges. If the charges are confirmed, the judges will determine the date of the trial.

Phakiso Mochochoko
Head of the Legal Advisory Section