



United Nations
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International
Criminal Tribunal
for the former
Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal
International pour
l'ex-Yougoslavie

**Office of the
Prosecutor**

**Bureau du
Procureur**

Swearing-in Ceremony of the Deputy-Prosecutor

Mrs. Fatou Bensouda

International Criminal Court

Address by Ms. Carla Del Ponte

Prosecutor of the ICTY

The Hague, 1 November 2004

Dear Mr. President and Dear Judges,

Churchillplein 1, 2517 JW The Hague. P.O. Box 13888, 2501 EW The Hague. Netherlands
Churchillplein 1, 2517 JW La Haye. B.P. 13888, 2501 La Haye. Pays-Bas

Dear Mr. Prosecutor,

Dear Mr. Registrar,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

When my friend, Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo, invited me to deliver a speech on the occasion of the inauguration of his new Deputy Prosecutor, I was - of course – ready to accept, and then, realizing that the new Deputy-Prosecutor was Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, I absolutely had to attend and take this opportunity to welcome you, Fatou, to The Hague.

It was my privilege to get to know Fatou Bensouda at the ICTR, where I recruited her to come and assist us by providing legal guidance on the investigations. She brought to the ICTR a wealth of experience and practice. I quickly remarked her exceptional capacities and made sure that she was given adequate responsibilities matching her experience.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Bensouda has demonstrated professional qualities and a sense of leadership and vision. These qualities will certainly be a strong asset in facing the multiple challenges that she will no doubt encounter in her new functions.

I understand that Mrs. Bensouda will be responsible for leading the prosecutions before the ICC. In this position, Fatou, your responsibility will be nothing less than to ensure that all the lawyers representing Prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo play a major contribution to the furtherance of the rule of law at the international level: international criminal law needs to continue developing coherently and in accordance with all due legal rules and principles.

Although the level of continuing violence throughout the world is profoundly depressing, one thing is clear and has become clearer since the establishment of the *ad hoc* Tribunals and of the ICC: there is a growing sense that powerful and ruthless leaders must not be allowed to do whatever they wish in violation of international humanitarian law, either in their disputes with other powers or in the treatment of their own citizens.

The civilised world demands that these people be brought under control. It also demands that others be deterred from committing similar crimes in the future. And the civilised world also insists on a minimum level of protection for all innocent victims of these crimes.

That is the message that you will have to contribute to sending: nobody is immune from prosecution. Soldiers, generals, politicians, ministers, even Heads of State are accountable. Any person responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law can ultimately be brought to justice.

Fatou, you have what it takes to do this job. Throughout your career, you have amply demonstrated your commitment to justice and in particular to international justice.

You also have our full support.

Good luck to you in this important mission.

Thank you.