



Newsletter

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Editorial

The latest decision of the PTC I in relation to the situation on Darfur has underlined yet again the need for States co-operation. States and other relevant actors have to join efforts in order to ensure that the suspects named in the arrest warrants are brought before the Court expeditiously. Following the decision, the Registry has transmitted requests for co-operation to all States Parties to the Rome Statute as well as all United Nations Security Council members that are not States Parties to the Rome Statute; and Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Libya.

Victims of crimes committed during the conflict in Darfur were informed of the content of this important decision during a recent trip to a number of refugee camps in Chad. The discussions with these affected communities fostered a better understanding of the Court's judicial work and in particular of their rights under the Statute.

In the same vein, Court officials have maintained a dialogue with target groups in an effort to afford those concerned a chance to ask questions directly, particularly with regard to the status of investigations, victim participation and fair trial. The Court will continue explaining its judicial work. However, the implementation of the judicial decisions lies also with States and other relevant stakeholders.

Bruno Cathala, Registrar

PTC I issues warrants of arrest for the situation in Sudan

Pre-Trial Chamber I issued on 2 May, the warrants of arrest for crimes against humanity and war crimes for Ahmad Muhammad Harun, former Minister of State for the Interior of the Government of Sudan and currently Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs, and Ali Muhammad Al Abd-Al-Rahman ("Ali Kushayb"), a leader of the *Janjaweed* militia.

Having examined the request and evidence submitted by the Prosecutor, the Chamber concluded that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that Ahmad Harun, by virtue of his position, had knowledge of the crimes committed against the civilian population and of the methods used by the *Janjaweed* militia; and that in his public speeches Ahmad Harun not only demonstrated that he knew that the *Janjaweed* militia were attacking civilians and pillaging towns and villages, but also personally encouraging the commission of such illegal acts."

The Chamber also concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Ali Kushayb, leader of the *Janjaweed* militia in the Wadi Salih, enlisted fighters, and armed, funded and provided supplies to the *Janjaweed* militia under his command, thereby intentionally contributing to the commission of the crimes. He also personally participated in some of the attacks against civilians.

The Chamber considers that there are reasonable grounds to believe that these persons will not voluntarily present themselves before the Court. Therefore, in order to meet the requirements of the Rome Statute the Chamber has decided to issue warrants of arrest instead of summons to appear.

The Chamber ordered the Registrar to prepare two requests for co-operation seeking the arrest and surrender of Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb and containing the relevant information and documents; and to transmit such requests to the competent Sudanese authorities in accordance with rule 176(2) of the Rules

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of Procedure and Evidence. All States Parties to the Rome Statute will also receive the information as well as all United Nations Security Council members that are not States Parties to the Rome Statute; and to Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Libya.

Background

According to the findings of the Chamber, an armed conflict took place between the Government of Sudan including combatants from the Sudan People's Armed Forces ('the Sudanese Armed Forces') and the Popular Defence Force (the 'PDF') along with the *Janjaweed* militia against organised rebel groups, including the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in Darfur, Sudan.

It is alleged that the Sudanese Armed Forces and the *Janjaweed* militia, acting together as part of the counter-insurgency campaign, carried out several attacks on the towns of Kodoom, Bindisi, Mukjar, Arawala and surrounding areas in 2003 and 2004. In these towns, criminal acts were committed against civilians primarily from the Fur, Zaghawa and Masalit populations.

Ahmad Harun served from 2003 to 2005 as Minister of the State for the Interior of the Government of Sudan and was in charge of the management of the "Darfur Security desk", thereby co-ordinating the different bodies of the Government involved in the counter-insurgency, including the Police, the Armed Forces, the National Security and Intelligence Service and the *Janjaweed* militia.

Ali Kushayb was one of the most senior leaders in the *Janjaweed* militia and a member of the PDF. He was perceived as the "mediator" between the leaders of the *Janjaweed* militia and the Government of Sudan.

The Counts

The warrant of arrest for Ahmad Muhammad Harun lists 42 counts on the basis of his individual criminal responsibility (articles 25(3)(b) and 25(3)(d) of the Rome Statute) including:

- Twenty counts of crimes against humanity (murder - articles 7(1)(a) and 25(3)(d); persecution - articles 7(1)(h) and 25(3)(d); forcible transfer of population - articles 7(1)(d) and 25(3)(d); rape - articles 7(1)(g) and 25(3)(d); inhumane acts - articles 7(1)(k) and 25(3)(d); imprisonment or severe deprivation of liberty - articles 7(1)(e)

Q and A on warrant of arrest

What is a warrant of arrest?

A warrant of arrest is an order issued by the Pre-Trial Chamber. After examining the application and the evidence or other information submitted by the Prosecutor, the Pre-Trial Chamber shall issue a warrant of arrest if it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person has committed a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court, and that the arrest of the person appears necessary.

The warrant of arrest allows taking a suspect into custody and surrendering that person to the Court.

What is the purpose of a warrant of arrest?

The warrant of arrest ensures:

- the person's appearance at trial;
- that the person does not obstruct or endanger the investigation or the Court proceedings; or
- to prevent the person from continuing with the commission of the crime alleged within the jurisdiction of the Court or any other related crime.

When does the Prosecutor request a warrant of arrest?

The Prosecutor may request a warrant of arrest at any time after initiating the investigations.

What shall a warrant of arrest contain?

The warrant of arrest shall contain:

- the name of the person and any other relevant identifying information;
- a specific reference to the crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court for which the person's arrest is sought;
- a concise statement of the facts which are

and 25(3)(d); and torture - articles 7(1)(f) and 25(3)(d); and

- Twenty-two counts of war crimes (murder - articles 8(2)(c)(i) and 25(3)(d); attacks against the civilian population - articles 8(2)(e)(i) and 25(3)(d); destruction of property - articles 8(2)(e)(xii) and 25(3)(d); rape - articles 8(2)(e)(vi) and 25(3)(d); pillaging (articles 8(2)(e)(v) and 25(3)(d); and outrage upon personal dignity - articles 8(2)(c)(ii) and 25(3)(d)).

The warrant of arrest for Ali Kushayb lists 50 counts on the basis of his individual criminal responsibility (article 25(3)(a) and 25(3)(d) of the Rome Statute) including:

- Twenty-two counts of crimes against

alleged to constitute those crimes.

Who shall be notified of the warrant of arrest for Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb?

The Registrar shall transmit the requests for co-operation seeking the arrest and surrender of Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb to the competent Sudanese authorities and, to the following States:

- all States Parties to the Statute;
- all United Nations Security Council members that are not States Parties to the Statute; and
- Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Libya.

Once the person is arrested and the Court so informed, the Court shall ensure that the person receives a copy of the warrant of arrest in a language that he fully understands and speaks.

Sudan has not ratified the Rome Statute. Will it co-operate with the ICC?

The UN Security Council Resolution 1593 (<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/G/EN/N05/292/73/PDF>), which referred the situation in Darfur to the ICC, requires the Government of Sudan to co-operate with the Court even though it is not a State Party to the Rome Statute.

Can the warrant of arrest be modified?

The Prosecutor may request the Pre-Trial Chamber to amend the warrant of arrest by modifying or adding to the crimes specified therein. The Pre-Trial Chamber shall so amend the warrant if it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person committed the modified or additional crimes.

humanity (murder - article 7(1)(a); deportation or forcible transfer of the population - article 7(1)(d); imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law - article 7(1)(e); torture - article 7(1)(f); persecution - article 7(1)(h); inhumane acts of inflicting serious bodily injury and suffering - article 7(1)(k)).

- Twenty-eight counts of war crimes (violence to life and person - article 8(2)(c)(i); outrage upon personal dignity in particular humiliating and degrading treatment - article 8(2)(c)(ii); intentionally directing an attack against a civilian population - article 8(2)(e)(i); pillaging - article 8(2)(e)(v); rape - article 8(2)(e)(vi); destroying or seizing the property - article 8(2)(e)(xii)).

Registrar visits Chad as part of the Court's Outreach Strategy



The Registrar meets with refugees at the Farchana camp in Chad © ICC-CPI

As part of the Court's Outreach Strategy related to the situation of Darfur, the Registrar, Mr Bruno Cathala visited three camps housing Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad. The purpose of the mission was to explain the mandate and activities of the Court, especially the rights of victims to participate in Court proceedings, presenting their views and concerns at all stages. The Registrar also took the opportunity to address any concerns with regard to the arrest warrants issued for Ahmad Harun, a Sudanese government minister and Ali Kushayb, a leader of the *Janjaweed* militia, by Pre-Trial Chamber I.

Throughout the three-day visit, the Registrar together with the Head of the Division of Victims and Counsel, Mr Didier Preira and Ms Sonia Robla, Head of the Public Information and Documentation Section, met with refugee representatives in the Bredjing, Farchana and Treguine camps which host about 65,000 people. Participants in the face-to-face meetings welcomed the presence of the ICC team. Initial discussions on how to conduct sustainable outreach activities in the camps were held with camp leaders.

Camp leaders and ICC officials, Adjumani, Uganda © ICC-CPI

Court officials also met with NGO members of the Chadian chapter of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court in N'Djamena, the Chadian capital, to exchange views on co-operation to complement the Court's outreach activities in Chad in relation to the situation in Darfur, Sudan.

Arrangements finalised for the implementation of mass outreach in Uganda

In northern Uganda, the Outreach Team finalised all the necessary arrangements for the implementation of mass outreach in selected Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps in the region. It is envisaged that through the use of interactive radio programmes and face-to-face meetings the Court will expand its reach to communities directly affected by the conflict in northern Uganda, particularly the internally displaced. This comes following the commitment made by camp leaders at one-day workshops held in Adjumani, in the west Nile region and, Keberamaido and Amuria in the Teso region, to hold mass community meetings at the various district headquarters to provide information and explain the mandate and activities of the Court. Officials from the Registry and the Office of the Prosecutor attended these workshops and made presentations related to the investigations underway in Uganda and how victims participate in the ICC proceedings. They also distributed information materials and addressed concerns presented by the participants.

Initially, mass outreach will target the IDP camps in the Amuria and Kaberamaido districts along with selected camps in the Adjumani area. **(to be continued on page 4)**



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Bunia targeted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Throughout April, the DRC Outreach Field Office continued to organise a series of workshops aimed at explaining the Court's work particularly in relation to the latest judicial developments in the Lubanga case. Bunia, in the Ituri region, was specifically targeted as the Court sought to conduct mass outreach activities that aimed to include all social groups, including students and journalists, and which, for the first time, was supported by all twelve district heads. Five-hundred people from throughout the region participated in the workshops. Field officers took the opportunity to answer the specific questions raised regarding Court procedure and the rights of the victims before the Court, and on the particular role that the Court might provide for those displaced within the Ituri province.

Further to the workshops, the Outreach Unit also organised two conferences aimed at university students and academics of Bunia. Over 200 people participated and voiced interest in whether the rights of the defence were being adhered to in the light of the defence counsel's withdrawal from the case and in relation to 'equality of arms' for all parties. Court officials took time to explain to participants, the legal mechanisms in place to provide a fair trial.



Workshop participants in Bunia, DRC © ICC-CPI

As part of the effort to raise awareness and interest in the work of the Court, the Outreach team is using and participating in, local interactive radio programmes. The Outreach unit took part in nine programmes that were broadcast throughout the Ituri region. They also met with journalists from Bunia to discuss how the media might further involve themselves in outreach activities.

Strengthening dialogue with governmental, judicial and civil society representatives in the DRC

In line with the Registrar's commitment of maintaining a close and regular dialogue with those communities affected by crimes that fall under the jurisdiction of the Court, Mr Bruno Cathala also travelled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 7 until 13 March to meet with governmental, judicial and civil society representatives amongst others.

On the first leg of the journey, from 7 to 9 March, the Registrar held a number of meetings in Bunia, Ituri. Exchanges took place with the *President of the Tribunal de Grande Instance*, and the Prosecutor of the *Tribunal de Grande Instance, Commissaire de District a.i.*, regarding the latest developments at the International Criminal Court and in particular, in relation to the case of *The Prosecutor v. Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*. Additionally, meetings were held with various religious group representatives as well as those of civil society that conduct outreach activities in the region. The Registrar informed the participants of the current judicial activities at the Court and answered a number of questions regarding victim participation, defence and the Outreach Strategy of the Court particularly linked to the Lubanga case. Subsequent to this, he also held discussions with representatives of the various UN agencies operating in Bunia.

On 9 March, the Registrar and the Deputy Prosecutor, Mrs Fatou Bensouda, took part in a radio programme held at the town hall in Bunia, organised by Interactive Radio for Justice. This interactive debate benefited from the participation of approximately 250 people representing the different ethnic groups of the various provinces of the country. The Registrar and Deputy Prosecutor responded to questions including reparations to victims, the legal aid scheme, and the support provided by the Registry to the defence team of Mr Lubanga Dyilo. Queries related to the latest judicial developments in the case were also responded to.

On the second leg of the mission the Registrar met representatives of the judicial authorities in the capital, Kinshasa, including the Minister of Justice, the *Procureur General*, and the *Auditeur General*. During these meetings matters

Outreach launches webpage



The new Outreach section of the ICC website © ICC-CPI

The ICC's Outreach webpage was launched in April. This public platform will allow the Court to provide a clear and concise overview of strategy implementation, activities planned and an update on the most recent developments in the field, in each of the situations under investigation.

related to the ongoing judicial activities at the Court and various co-operation issues were pursued.

In the framework of a regular dialogue which has been developed over the past few years with Congolese civil society groups, the Registrar also met representatives of the Coalition of the International Criminal Court in Kinshasa. Co-operation issues were also discussed with the head of MONUC as well as the relevant UN agencies present on the ground. The Registrar took also the opportunity to provide them with a judicial update on the activities in The Hague.

Part of the mission was dedicated by the Registrar to an open dialogue with the ICC staff members working in the field offices in Bunia and Kinshasa on the ICC Strategic Plan. Following the workshops on the Strategic Plan organised at the Headquarters in October 2006, the Registrar and field-staff members discussed the strategic contribution of the field offices to the plan.

The Registry and the Office of the Prosecutor host annual meetings with NGOs

The ICC Registry and the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) independently hosted the first of their annual strategic meetings with leading international and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) at the seat of the Court in The Hague.

The roundtable meeting between the Registry and NGOs took place from 26 - 27 March, and is the seventh since the beginning of such institutionalised dialogue with NGO representatives. The Registry begun by providing an update on how the ICC Detailed Strategic Plan for Outreach in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur, Sudan is currently being implemented. Subsequent discussions focused on the necessity to continue improving co-ordination between the Court and the NGOs with a view to avoiding duplication in the implementation of outreach activities, thereby ensuring that the existing information gaps are filled and further synergy created.

During the second part of the day discussions centred on various matters related to counsel including the legal representation of victims, the legal aid scheme, and dealing with intermediaries on the ground. The Principal Counsel of the Office of Public Counsel for Victims, Ms Paolina Massida and the Principal Counsel of the Office of Public Counsel for Defence, Mr Xavier-Jean Keita addressed the participants and provided an update on the activities of their respective offices as well as possible challenges ahead. Additionally, Mr André Laperrière, Director of the Secretariat of the Trust Fund for Victims presented the work of the newly established Secretariat and the Fund's work plan for the future.

Informal exchanges took place around the current status of the Court's field activities in each country of situation. Other topics addressed during the meeting included co-operational matters and the contribution of the Registry to the ICC Strategic Plan particularly in areas related to victims, defence, outreach and communication. The Registrar also updated those present on the latest developments related to the ICC interim and permanent premises.

The President of the Court, Judge Philippe

Kirsch and the Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties, Mr Renan Villacis also addressed the participants during the afternoon.

In accordance with its prosecutorial strategy to regularly exchange views with its NGO partners, the OTP hosted the second roundtable on 28-29 March. In his opening remarks, the Prosecutor noted that as the Office and the Court are entering a more operational phase - with the issuance of arrest warrants and the first judicial proceedings - the challenges confronting the ICC are changing in nature. Internally, the Court is engaged in a process of stabilization: setting up regulations and protocols, promoting better career development for staff and strengthening the 'one-court' principle; externally, the Court continues to develop this framework, thus extending the relationship with other actors, including NGOs, states and international organisations.

Among the challenges facing the OTP, the Prosecutor highlighted that ensuring co-operation, in particular to execute arrests, was the most pressing issue. He emphasised the aim of the Rome Statute to establish a new framework whereby victims are entitled to both justice and peace and where impunity is not an acceptable option; in this regard, he recalled that "it is essential to ensure that any conflict resolution initiative be compatible with the Rome Statute, so that peace and justice work effectively together. Arrest warrants are not only meant to bring people to the negotiating table. Arrest warrants must be implemented. We must always be mindful of the mandate of the Court - and not compromise on legality and accountability... The different actors must respect this framework."

Following on, the Deputy Prosecutor Mrs Fatou Bensouda provided a briefing on the situations in Uganda, the DRC and Sudan, and the Acting Head of the Investigation

Division, Mr Michel De Smedt drew attention to investigation challenges for the Office and highlighted security concerns related to working in unstable areas. The Director of Jurisdiction, Co-operation and Complementarity Division (JCCD), Mrs Beatrice Le Fraper du Hellen, explained the OTP's proactive approach to co-operation, informing States and Organisations in advance, of areas where the OTP would need support in order for partners to make the necessary preparations and, to comply with requests in a timely way.

Interactive dialogue followed between the NGOs and staff members from all Divisions. Other presenters included Mr Essa Faal, OTT Team Leader (Darfur) and Mr Ekkehard Withopf, Senior Trial Attorney, both of whom presented information related to co-operation with NGOs. Mr Paul Seils, Head of the Analysis Section of the JCCD and Mr Fabricio Guariglia, Senior Appeals



The Registrar opens the first roundtable with NGOs © CICC

Counsel, spoke about the interests of victims. Ms Olivia Swaak-Goldman and Mr Pascal Turlan, International Co-operation Advisers, and Mr Matthew Brubacher, Associate Analyst, each discussed outreach activities in Uganda, DRC and other states, and the necessity of maximising the impact of judicial activities. Other OTP staff members also participated in follow-up discussions. Throughout the meeting, various NGO representatives provided comments on various aspects of the OTP's activities including ways to reinforce co-operation, communication and interaction with victims. The OTP agreed to follow up on the views and suggestions offered.

The Court holds its Seminar of Counsel in The Hague

As part of the Court's aim to maintain transparency in all areas of its mandate, the Registry organised its fifth annual Seminar of Counsel, held on 28 and 29 of March, at the World Forum Convention Center in The Hague. The Registrar, Mr Bruno Cathala, emphasised during his opening speech, that the seminar, as in previous years, was aimed at maintaining the existing constructive dialogue between the Court and the legal profession, in particular, representatives of lawyers' associations and members of the Court's List of Counsel. The list is created and maintained by the Registry and consists of lawyers who have met the requisite qualifications to practice as defence counsel or legal representative of victims before the Court. The event was attended by approximately 200 participants, of whom, over 115 were lawyers from the List of Counsel.

Major issues discussed were the Strategic Plan of the Court, the Proposed Adjustment to the Legal Aid System and the Offices of Public Counsel. At the commencement of the seminar Mr Didier Preira, Head of the

Division of Victims and Counsel (DVC), presented a report update on the activities of the Court from May 2006.

Strategic Plan of the Court

In an endeavour to achieve the goals outlined in the preamble of the Rome Statute, the Strategic Plan of the Court has set out a list of objectives to be achieved in the next ten years. Particular emphasis has been given to the first three years, during which priority has been given to achieving a well-recognised and adequately supported institution, capable of providing quality justice and acting as a model of public administration. During the presentation, it was highlighted that the current plan will provide the administrative framework necessary to foster the fair, expeditious and impartial conduct of proceedings.

Proposed Adjustment to the Legal Aid System

The Registrar has taken pro-active steps to adapt the current system of legal assistance paid by the Court, otherwise termed: 'legal aid'. In order to ensure the current scheme is responsive to the special needs of the

defence and victims as they arise, the Registry has carried out a comprehensive review of the existing scheme, by assessing its performance during the first proceedings before the Court in *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo* case, as well as a survey of other domestic legal aid systems and those of the *ad hoc* tribunals. Furthermore, pursuant to rule 20.3 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Registry carried out an external consultation with the legal profession on 23 February 2007.

The Offices of Public Counsel

Following the presentation of update reports on the work of the Offices of Public Counsel for Victims and for the Defence, participants were encouraged to focus on the functions of the two Offices and how they might improve the fulfilment of their respective mandates, in particular, regarding their relations with counsel and their teams. The Registrar is determined to maintain this form of consultation, which he firmly believes strengthens the ties between the Court and listed counsel, and allows its partners to impart a meaningful input on the pertinent policies of the Court.

The new Principal Counsel for the OPCD



Mr Xavier-Jean Keïta © ICC-CPI

The Office of Public Counsel for the Defence (OPCD) was created in 2004, when the judges of the ICC adopted the Regulations of the Court. The Regulations stipulate that the Registrar shall establish and develop an Office, to represent and protect the rights of the defence during the initial stages of the investigation, and also to provide support and assistance to the defence counsel and to the person entitled to legal assistance. This support and assistance could include legal research and/or advice, or by appearing before a Chamber in respect of specific issues. In addition, the Chamber may in some

circumstances appoint counsel from the OPCD. The Registrar may also suggest the OPCD as mediator in litigation between a person entitled to legal assistance and his counsel.

The new Principal Counsel of the OPCD Mr Xavier-Jean Keïta (Mali), took up his position on 15 January 2007. Mr Keïta has worked as a lawyer for 22 years, first of all with the Senegal Bar, and then for more than 19 years as a member of the *Val de Marne Bar* at the Paris Appeals Court. Mr Keïta specialises in human rights law and the law of international relations and has been active in criminal and international criminal law. He was involved in the process to establish an international criminal bar (ICB) at the ICC.

As a member of his Bar Council for 10 years, Mr Keïta was responsible for international relations. He has also held senior positions in France, as president of the first lawyer's union in France (FNUJA) and as a member of the National Council of Bar Associations of

France, where he held the post of chairman of the admissions commission for foreign lawyers.

At an international level, Mr Keïta was chairman of the Human Rights and Defence Commission of the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) and was an active member of the International Conference of French-speaking Bar Associations and the International Centre for the Training of Lawyers in Africa (CIFAF). He has also been involved in *Afrique et Droit* as a lecturer on human rights and international criminal law. He is a member of the French Institute of International Legal Experts (IFEJI) and a mediator.

Mr Keïta has written many articles and has published papers in professional journals on the following subjects in particular: female circumcision, slavery as a crime against humanity, professional ethics for lawyers, genocide in Rwanda, *sati* in India and court appearances based on a prior finding of guilt.

The ninth diplomatic briefing takes place in The Hague

The Court's ninth briefing to the diplomatic community on 29 March focused on the issue of co-operation. The President, Prosecutor and Registrar provided indications of specific forms of co-operation required by the Court to carry out its activities, on efforts underway to obtain support for current cases, and on final preparations of a consolidated report articulating the Court's needs most effectively. The Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) also presented an overview of the activities of the ASP.

Diplomatic briefings form part of the Court's regular dialogue with the States through which it provides information on judicial, operational and administrative developments.



The ASP Director, Mr Renan Villacis, The Registrar, Mr Bruno Cathala, The President, Judge Philippe Kirsch and the Prosecutor, Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo attend the ninth briefing © ICC-CPI

The ICC represented at the Vrede exhibition



Vrede exhibition poster for 2007 © Carrie Zwarts

The Court took part in an exhibition at the City Hall in The Hague, organised by the *Haags VredesPlatform* and the *Haags Interkerkelijk Vredeswerk*, two Dutch non-governmental organisations. The overall purpose of the Vrede ('Peace' in Dutch) exhibition was to promote peace, justice and security.

The ICC was invited to take part in the week

Experts meeting on the future permanent premises of the Court, reviews progress

In connection with the ICC's future permanent premises, the Registrar, together with the external consultant of the Court, participated in a meeting of experts organised by The Hague Working Group (THWG) from 28 - 30 March. Seven experts from the States Parties (Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), and four experts from the host State, as well as representatives from the European Court of Justice, attended the meeting. The review comes following the request by the Assembly of States Parties to the Court to provide a timely and detailed functional brief, cost estimates and feasibility study. This was completed at the beginning of March 2007.

The meeting agenda encompassed a review of the documents submitted by the Court, as well as discussions on the issue of governance structures, architectural selection process and specific aspects of project management, timelines and key decision points. The experts

welcomed the Court's approach to involve its staff in the making of the functional brief and underlined that the document was an excellent basis for continued discussions. As a result of the meeting, both the Court and the host State were entrusted with further tasks. The informal work plan of the facilitator of THWG requests the Court, *inter alia*, to include a scenario with 900 staff into the functional brief and, to provide an image brief for the future premises. It was agreed that another experts meeting should be held in June 2007, during which, the validation exercise of the revised Court documents and further work on the architectural selection process would be undertaken.

After having been relayed to THWG, the findings of the experts were presented to the Committee on Budget and Finance at its eighth session which has also been mandated by the ASP to review the various documents prepared by the Court.

long event together with other Hague-based international organisations including, the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, the International Court of Justice, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The NGO, *De Haagse Vredesbeweging* was also included. Mayor Deetman of The Hague opened the event that allowed each organisation a platform

from which to explain their goals, achievements and *modus operandi*.

The ICC took the opportunity to explain the Court's mandate and gave Dutch citizens the possibility to ask questions related to the work of the Court. In doing so, the Court was able to make itself more accessible to the local population.

Update on the work of the Assembly of States Parties



Committee on Budget and Finance: Mr Peter Lovell (Rapporteur), Ms Elena Sopková (Vice-Chairperson) and Mr David Dutton (Chairperson) © ICC-CPI/ASP

Bureau of the Assembly

At its sixth meeting, on 17 April 2007, the Bureau approved the provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Assembly of States Parties, scheduled to be held in New York, from 30 November to 14 December 2007. The agenda includes, *inter alia*, the following items:

- the election to fill judicial vacancies;
- the election of the members of the Committee on Budget and Finance;
- the election of the President of the Assembly for the seventh to ninth sessions; and,
- the Review Conference.

On Monday, 16 April, the President of the Assembly, Mr Bruno Stagno Ugarte (Costa Rica) met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, and invited him to attend the Assembly's sixth session.

The Hague Working Group

From 28 to 30 March 2007, The Hague Working Group organised a meeting of experts on permanent premises, chaired by the facilitator Mr Masud Husain (Canada), at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The main objective of the meeting was to analyse, *inter alia*, the 'functional brief' prepared by the Court.

The Working Group held its third and fourth meetings on 18 April and 9 May. The discussions focused on, *inter alia*, the issues of geographical representation and gender balance in the recruitment of staff, the strategic planning process, co-operation and the programme budget for 2008, as well as a calendar of meetings for the coming months.

In addition, the Working Group considered the informal summary of the meeting of experts on permanent premises and a work plan which foresees, *inter alia*, the need for additional information to be submitted by the Court and the host State prior to the next expert meeting, scheduled for 21 and 22 June.

On 7 May 2007, the Municipality of The Hague held a meeting on the permanent premises focusing on the relationship between the identity of the Court and the architectural design.

At the fourth meeting of the Working Group, Ambassador Sandra Fuentes (Mexico) indicated that, although she would be leaving The Hague to assume the post of Ambassador of Mexico to the European Union in Brussels, she would continue as Co-ordinator of the Group and travel to The Hague regularly.

New York Working Group

The New York Working Group held its first and second meetings on 4 April and 2 May 2007, respectively. The facilitators for the Plan of Action for the universality of the Rome Statue (Mr Alejandro Alday), the Review Conference (Mr Sabelo Sivuyile Maqungo) and co-operation (Ms Brechje Schwachöfer), presented their programme of work. The Working Group agreed to meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

Furthermore, the Working Group heard a presentation by the Coalition for the International Criminal Court on the issue of geographical representation and gender balance in the recruitment of staff.

The Working Group also held informal consultations on 9 and 10 May on the issue of the Review Conference.

Committee on Budget and Finance

The Committee on Budget and Finance held its eighth session from 23 to 27 April 2007, in The Hague and discussed, *inter alia*, the programme performance of the 2006 budget, the legal aid scheme, human resources issues, as well as permanent premises and the pension scheme for judges.

The Committee welcomed the report submitted by the Court on the issue of legal aid and, noting that it proposed a sound structure for the legal aid system, recommended the adoption of the proposed amendments.

As regards the issue of the pension scheme for judges, the Committee recommended the adoption of a formula that would allow for the level of pension for future judges to be commensurate with the proportion of an individual's working life spent at the Court and equivalent to fifty percent of their final remuneration.

As regards the issue of permanent premises, the Committee decided to focus its work on areas where its expertise could contribute to the overall progress of the project, and agreed to consider the issue again at its next session.

The Committee also agreed to extend its ninth session to last eight days, from 10 to 18 September 2007.