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Editorial

The decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I marks a new stage in the development of the Court. For the first time in the history of international courts, charges have been confirmed following public adversarial proceedings. This edition of the ICC Newsletter offers a few pointers to enable you to follow the proceedings as they move forward.

This period is marked not only by the development of judicial procedures, but also by the Court's determination to strengthen its co-operation with States, inter-governmental organisations, and other international courts.

Also, as we have stated on a number of occasions, the Court is committed to ensuring that all those concerned can better understand this system of international justice which still seems far removed from them. To this end, the Court wants to reinforce the dialogue with them in order to better share our common values.

Finally, in implementing its Strategic Plan, the Court continues to structure itself and to improve its internal governance, particularly with respect to the Court's permanent premises, and defence counsel disciplinary boards.

Bruno Cathala, Registrar

Pre-Trial Chamber I commits Thomas Lubanga Dyilo for trial

Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court has confirmed the charges against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo for the period from September 2002, when the *Forces Patriotiques pour la Libération du Congo* (FPLC) was founded, until 13 August 2003. Pre-Trial Chamber I therefore referred the case for trial before a Trial Chamber, whose bench will be announced by the Presidency of the Court.

The Presiding Judge of Pre-Trial Chamber I, Judge Claude Jorda, gave a summary of the decision at a public hearing held in The Hague. The Chamber decided that there is sufficient evidence to establish substantial grounds to believe that Thomas Lubanga Dyilo is criminally responsible as co-perpetrator for the war crimes of enlisting and conscripting children under the age of fifteen years into the FPLC, the military wing of the *Union des Patriotes Congolais* (UPC) and using them to participate actively in hostilities in Ituri (Democratic Republic of the Congo) in accordance with Article 8(2)(b)(xxvi) of the Rome Statute, from September 2002 until 13 August 2003.

There are also substantial grounds to believe that after its creation, the FPLC allegedly systematically recruited a large number of children of Hema ethnicity and that after training them militarily, sent them to the frontline to fight. Furthermore, when the FPLC was created in early September 2002, there was an agreement or common plan between Lubanga Dyilo and other high-ranking FPLC commanders, the purpose of which was allegedly to further the war effort by voluntarily or forcibly recruiting minors into the ranks of the FPLC; subjecting them to military training; causing them to participate actively in military operations; and using them as bodyguards. The Chamber also decided that there were substantial grounds to believe that Lubanga Dyilo assumed an essential general co-ordinating role in the implementation of the common plan and that he personally exercised other

To be continued on page 2.

Key dates in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*



Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo in Court © ANP

3 March 2004 The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was referred to the Prosecutor by the government of the DRC.

23 June 2004 The Prosecutor, Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo announced his decision to open an investigation into the situation in the DRC. Following which, the Presidency of the ICC issued its decision on the composition of the Pre-Trial Chamber I (PTC I) to look at the situation in the DRC. The Chamber is constituted by Judge Akua Kuenyehia (Ghana), Judge Claude Jorda (France), presiding and Judge Sylvia Steiner (Brazil).

12 January 2006 The Prosecutor submitted an application to the Chamber for the issuance of a warrant of arrest against Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo.

17 January 2006 PTC I granted participant status to six victims in the proceedings at the stage of investigation of the situation in the DRC.

10 February 2006 PTC I issued a sealed warrant of arrest against the suspect.

17 March 2006 The arrest warrant was made public. Mr Lubanga Dyilo was transferred to the Court's detention centre in The Hague.

20 March 2006 The suspect made his first appearance before PTC I. Mr Jean Flamme was appointed as duty counsel by the

Registrar for Mr Lubanga Dyilo's initial appearance in Court.

13 April 2006 Mr Lubanga Dyilo retained Mr Flamme as his permanent counsel. Other members of the Counsel for the Defence include: Mr Geoff Roberts and Ms Véronique Pandanzyla.

28 July 2006 PTC I granted participant status to three victims in the proceedings in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*. They are represented by: Mr Luc Walley and Mr Frank Mulenda.

28 August 2006 PTC I received documents containing the charges and list of evidence against the suspect by the OTP. He is charged of the war crime of: conscripting and enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into armed forces or groups and using them to participate actively in hostilities, under Article 8(2)(e)(vii) Rome Statute, during armed conflicts not of an international character. The OTP in this case includes: Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Ms Fatou Bensouda and Mr Ekkehard Withopf.

18 October 2006 PTC I decided to reject the Defence application for the interim release of Mr Lubanga Dyilo.

20 October 2006 PTC I granted another individual applicant victim status in the proceedings. The victim is represented by Ms Carine Bapita Buyangandu.

9 - 28 November 2006 The confirmation of charges hearing: PTC I heard the arguments and evidence of the Prosecutor and the Defence. The legal representatives of the four victims also presented their observations during the opening and closing statements. It is the first time in the history of international law that victims have been able to assert their rights in Court through their legal representatives.

29 January 2007 PTC I concludes that there is sufficient evidence to establish substantial grounds to believe that, from September 2002 to 13 August 2003, Mr Lubanga Dyilo is criminally responsible as co-perpetrator for the war crimes of enlisting and conscripting children under the age of fifteen years into the *Forces patriotiques pour la libération du Congo* and using them to participate actively in hostilities under Article 8(2)(b)(xxvi), within the context of

an international armed conflict. PTC I commits Mr Lubanga Dyilo for trial.

30 January 2007 The Counsel for Defence filed an appeal to the Appeals Chamber against the PTC I decision confirming the charges.

31 January 2007 The Appeal Chamber appointed Judge Georghios M Piki (Cyprus) as the presiding judge in the Defence's appeal.

5 February 2007 The Prosecution and the Defence submitted to the PTC I an application for leave to appeal its decision on the confirmation of charges. The Defence request was filed as a confidential document; a public redacted version has been requested by PTC I.

All documents related to the dates above can be found at: www.icc-cpi.int/cases/RDC/C0106.html

Latest Public Legal Filings

For an update of all public legal filings relating to situations and cases before the Court, please consult the ICC website at: www.icc-cpi.int/cases.html.

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functions in the implementation of this plan. However, he was aware of the importance of his role.

According to the PTC I, although this plan did not specifically target children under the age of fifteen, but young recruits in general, in the normal course of events, its implementation would entail the objective risk that it would involve children under this age. There was also sufficient evidence to believe that Lubanga Dyilo and other high-ranking FPLC commanders shared knowledge of this and that all of them accepted the result.

Both the Prosecution and the Defence have challenged the decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber I.

Decision: (Public version-French) www.icc-cpi.int/library/cases/ICC-01-04-01-06-803_French.pdf

Congolese media covering the hearing



Journalists and NGOs attending the screening in Bunia © ICC-CPI

Public Information and Documentation Section (PIDS) undertook a number of efforts to publicise the 29 January decision in an accessible and transparent manner, thus providing a better knowledge and understanding of the mandate of the Court. The Congolese media followed with interest the information given by the Court. The decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber I to commit Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo to trial was covered by a majority of the press, TV and local radio stations in Ituri and Kinshasa. In general, news stories were accurate and balanced.

To ensure that the judicial process would be understood, the DRC Outreach office gave a procedural briefing to journalists in advance of the hearing, offering assistance and information on possible decision outcomes. On 29 January, an interview with the Registrar, Mr Bruno Cathala was published in the main five DRC newspapers further explaining the background of the Lubanga Dyilo case; what decisions could be rendered by the Pre-Trial Chamber I; and what would be the next step in the proceedings. It is estimated that with a circulation of 2,500 each, the Court was able to reach at

least 12,500 people. The day after the decision was made public all the Congolese newspapers reproduced the press release issued by the Court. Some also published opinion articles on the decision.

The pronouncement of the decision and the following press conference given in The Hague by all participants to the proceedings was broadcast through Eurovision with a 30 minute delay. Re-transmission was available throughout Europe and Africa and was transmitted live in the DRC in co-operation with the state channel, *RTNC*.

In addition, five interviews were given by local ICC officers and aired by the major TV stations. On the 29th most of the TV stations opened their news with the decision of the Court, in some cases, followed by interviews with representatives of local NGOs'.

The decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber was also reported on by most of the radio stations in Kinshasa. Six interviews given by ICC local officers explaining the decision were broadcast by radio, two of them in Ituri.

Giving special attention to Ituri, local journalists as well as non-governmental organisations were invited by the Outreach office in Bunia to attend a screening of the re-transmission. Discussions on the decision led by an ICC representative took place following the broadcast. All the local radio stations in Ituri headlined their news with a confirmation of the charges.

Additionally, broadcasts were possible through the ICC website using video-streaming, again with a 30 minute delay. The website received 127,637 visitors in January representing an increase of 14.65% on December. 683,736 pages were viewed representing an increase of 27.21% compared to December. The peak day for website activity for this month was 29 January.

An update on the Prosecutor's activities

Since briefing the Security Council in December on the situation in Darfur, the Prosecutor has been working to advance the Office's investigations and prosecutions, including preparing to submit evidence to the judges in February concerning the first case in the Darfur situation.

Throughout the month, the Prosecutor has also met with States to discuss various issues, including a meeting with officials in Spain on 23 and 24 January. While in Spain, the Prosecutor also received the 2006 International Award on Human Rights from the Spanish Association for Human Rights.

Additionally, together with members of the Presidency, the Prosecutor met with the

Minister of Justice of the Republic of Korea on 18 January and the German Minister of State for European Affairs on 26 January.

The Prosecutor also met with Joaquim Chissano, the former President of Mozambique and Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General on Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) affected areas, on 22 January.

On 30 January 2007, the Prosecutor delivered an address at Stanford University after briefing the Semi-Annual Meeting of the International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG) in San Francisco on 29 January.



ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo © ICC-CPI / Reporters

Court establishes the Outreach Unit and intensifies activities



One of the seminars held in the DRCongo © ICC-CPI

After the approval of the budget for 2007, the Court is intensifying its outreach activities and reorganising the Public Information and Documentation Section (PIDS) which carries out the outreach programme. The Outreach Unit headed by the Outreach Co-ordinator has been established and the recruitment process of the positions approved by the Assembly of the States Parties (ASP) is currently on-going.

As an annex to the ICC Strategic Plan for Outreach, general action plans for 2007 in the three situations under investigation were submitted to the ASP. In line with this, the Court will update stakeholders on the progress made on a regular basis and action plans for each of the situations will be published every three months in the outreach segment of the ICC website, www.icc-cpi.int currently under construction. Unless confidentiality is required, a table of activities and reports will also be accessible. Due to security reasons, the majority of plans for Darfur, Sudan will continue to remain confidential.

In the coming three months, outreach activities will benefit from the presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the Registrar in March, and of the Heads of the Defence and Counsel Division and the Division of Court Services in Uganda, in February.

In the short term the Court's outreach programme will continue to use existing structures to communicate with those societies and communities affected by conflict. While these plans are intended to

provide a comprehensive vision, they will be evaluated and developed to reflect emerging needs. New activities will be included in due course.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Currently, the Court's outreach programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will continue to focus on explaining the concept of war crimes as defined by the Rome Statute; the rights of the defendant; and the highest international standards of a fair trial. Children in general, demobilised children and youths as well as church representatives and NGOs have

been invited to attend information meetings in Bunia and in Kinshasa.

The overall objective is to promote a better understanding of the current judicial status of the case of *The Prosecutor v. Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*, after the publication of the decision by Pre-Trial Chamber I to commit him to trial. In this context, 211 people participated in seven outreach activities organised by the Court in Bunia, Ituri and Kinshasa. Participants included NGO representatives working in the field of human rights, community leaders, journalists, demobilised children, students and teachers. Questions raised by audiences were generally related to basic facts about the Court and procedure, victim's issues and the relationship between national systems of justice and international criminal law. The establishment of mechanisms to continue communicating was considered a priority and as such focal points for each of the groups will be designated.

In the months of February and March outreach activities will target university students and journalists. Seminars will take place at the *Université protestante du Congo*, the *Université de Kinshasa*, and the *Institut Facultaire des Sciences de la Communication et de l'Information*. Aiming at developing accurate media reports, the Court will conduct workshops such as, 'Reporting on the ICC', in Bunia and Kinshasa. Journalists working for radio, television and newspapers have been invited to participate.

The Court will be participating in a weekly programme broadcast by *Radio Okapi*. The

programme will start with a report on topics related to justice, reconciliation and the International Criminal Court. Following this, questions raised by the public will be answered by special guests including Congolese professors, lawyers and ICC officials. The following topics will be discussed during the coming weeks: 'Crimes under the jurisdiction of the Court', 'Who is a victim before the Court and what are his/her rights?', 'What is a fair trial?', 'NGO co-operation with the ICC', 'The principle of complementarity', 'ICC jurisdiction in the DRC' and 'The differences between the ICC and other international judicial organisations'.

Uganda

In Uganda, during the first quarter of 2007 the Court's outreach activities will take place in the districts of Tesso and Langui, communities affected by the current conflict. The objective is to broaden the understanding of the ICC and bolster outreach networks amongst clan leaders, NGOs, local council officials, army officers and the legal community. Defence and witness related issues, and victim's rights will be given special attention.

Court officials will interact with the Ugandan general public through local media. Participation in ICC radio and television programmes has been scheduled. Topics such as the rights of the defence, the principle of complementarity and the rights of victims will be addressed.

Informal face-to-face meetings with key decision-makers and opinion leaders have been planned to target members of parliament heading relevant committees, heads of religious and NGO networks, media managers and senior editors. These activities aim to counter any misconceptions about the Court, its mandate and activities. Workshops in Soroti, Adjumani, Gulu and Lira have been planned to target stakeholders from the Amuria, Katakwi, Soroti, Adjumani and Moyo districts.

In addition, and in working with other partners, the Court will reinforce the understanding of its activities amongst journalists in Uganda. One 5-day investigative reporting workshop organised by the Uganda Coalition on the International Criminal Court (UCICC) and the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) is scheduled from 26 February to 2 March 2007.

Socorro Flores Liera Head of the Liaison Office to the UN



The new head of the ICC New York Liaison Office © ICC-CPI

Ms Socorro Flores Liera is the Head of the Court's New York Liaison Office. The new office, located at the United Nations Secretariat, was established following a decision by the Assembly of States Parties. The former Mexican diplomat is setting up the Unit to provide support for the Court's investigations, field operations and general functions by facilitating interaction between the organs of the Court and the Secretariat of the ASP, and the UN and its agencies. By enhancing communication with

the many international organisations and non-governmental entities based in New York it is also hoped that the Liaison Office will promote a better understanding of the role and commitments of the ICC.

Essentially, the permanent New York office will provide practical administrative, logistical and operational support. It will also help ensure the successful implementation of the Relationship Agreement between the Court and the UN. Assistance will also be available to the Bureau of the ASP and its working groups and, the President of the Bureau.

As head of the New York Liaison Office, Socorro Flores will provide the sustained and personal contact essential to cultivate the necessary networks needed for the Court to keep abreast of, and anticipate developments that may affect its operations. She will therefore liaise with and represent the Court before the UN as well as representatives of States Parties and international organisations, among other interested actors.

A biography

Ms Socorro Flores Liera is a Mexican lawyer specialised in international law. She joined Mexico's Foreign Service in 1992 and has held several legal positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs both at home and abroad. In 2002, she was the legal adviser for the United Nations Mexican delegation when the Rome Statute was adopted and the International Criminal Court established. Ms Flores Liera has also served at the UN Mexican Mission in Vienna, Austria and has represented Mexico before the International Court of Justice.

Among other positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ms Flores Liera was the Director for International Law in the Office of the Legal Counsel and Chief of Staff for the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights. She holds a law degree from *Universidad Iberoamericana* and a masters degree from the *Universidad Autonoma de México*.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone and the ICC finalising co-operation agreements on Taylor trial

The Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (Special Court) Mr Lovemore G Munlo, visited The Hague in January as part of a delegation working to finalise co-operation agreements with the International Criminal Court (ICC). Mr Munlo met with the ICC Registrar, Mr Bruno Cathala and other ICC section heads to review the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Under the terms of the MOU agreed by the ICC and the Special Court in April 2006, the Special Court will use ICC courtroom services and facilities, detention services and related assistance for the trial of Mr Charles Taylor which is scheduled to begin in The Hague on 4 June 2007.

A Status Conference for the Special Court was held on 26 January 2007 to review the progress the parties have made towards completing preparations to facilitate the commencement of trial. The two areas covered included disclosure of evidence under Rule 68 and agreeing upon non-contested facts in accordance with Rule 73 bis of the Rules of the Special Court.

Due to concerns regarding stability in the region, Mr Charles Taylor was transferred from Freetown, Sierra Leone, to the ICC detention centre on 20 June 2006. However, the ICC will not conduct his trial. The trial will be conducted by a Trial Chamber of the Special Court sitting in The Hague. All costs will be paid in advance by the Special Court, through a

Trust Fund established by the ICC Registrar.

The ICC and the Special Court are independent institutions. The ICC was established by an international treaty, the Rome Statute, to which 104 States are party. The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone.



The Special Court of Sierra Leone hold a hearing at the ICC premises © Jerry Lampen - Reuters

The Assembly of States Parties resumes its fifth session in New York



Delegates attending the resumed fifth session in New York © ICC-CPI

The Assembly of States Parties (ASP) held its resumed fifth session from 29 January to 1 February 2007, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The resumed fifth session was devoted to the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression, which was chaired by Ambassador Christian Wenaweser (Liechtenstein). The report of the session is available on the website of the Court: www.icc-cpi.int/asp/aspreCORDS/ASP_5th_session.html

Bureau

The Hague Working Group of the Bureau of the ASP, chaired by Ambassador Sandra Fuentes-Berain (Mexico), held its first 2007 meeting on 17 January and discussed, *inter alia*, the organisation of its work for the year as well as the issue of permanent premises. Representatives of the three organs of the Court also made presentations to the Working Group on the issue of co-operation.

Election of the ICC Disciplinary Board and Disciplinary Appeals Board members

The process of electing the permanent and alternate members of the disciplinary organs of the Court has been completed by the Registry. The Disciplinary Board is a peer review body created to investigate allegations and complaints of counsel misconduct in violation of the Code of Professional Conduct for counsel. A decision by the Disciplinary Board may be appealed to the Disciplinary Appeals Board. Marie-Pierre Poulain (France) and Aïcha Condé (France and Guinea) were elected the two permanent members of the Disciplinary Board and José María Davó Fernández (Spain) was chosen as an alternate member. Pascal Vanderveeren (Belgium) and John Wesley Hall (United States) were chosen as permanent members for the Disciplinary Appeals Board and Giuseppe Battista (Canada), the alternate member. Their appointment, on 8 December 2006, is the first of such elections organised by the Registry.

The Registry began the process of elections by informing national bar associations, independent representative bodies of counsel or legal associations as well as the

List of Counsel maintained by the Registry, that the elections would be taking place, and invited suitable candidates to submit their candidacy before 15 September 2006.

On 13 October 2006 the list of proposed candidates was sent to the members of the List of Counsel and 27 November 2006 was set as the deadline for which the results would be received by the Division of Victims and Counsel.

Once the ballot was closed, and in order to guarantee election transparency, the Registry appointed a panel to count the votes, which comprised Jeroen Brouwer from the Netherlands Bar Association, Fiona McKay, Head of the Victims Participation and Reparations Section of the ICC, Esteban Peralta-Losilla, Officer in Charge of the Defence Support Section and, Sam Shoamanesh, Associate Legal Officer in the Defence Support Section of the Division of Victims and Counsel of the Court.

Of the sixty-one votes received, fifteen were declared null and void due to irregularities.

CoCo discuss the next phase for Strategic Plan implementation

The Co-ordination Council (CoCo) met this month to discuss the next step of the implementation phase of the International Criminal Court's Strategic Plan. Currently strategies are being formulated for each of the strategic objectives.

Once the strategies have been devised, they will be presented to the CoCo for decision on the implementation. Issues related to their execution such as a proposed timeline and the prospect of managerial training as a tool for carrying out these proposals will also be considered. The CoCo will next meet at the end of February 2007.

Challenges in the field: a different perspective

On 18 January 2007 the Registry organised a one day informal brainstorming session seeking to enhance staff understanding particularly those working in the field, of the complex and multifaceted challenges of the remote environments in which it operates. Experts with anthropological, human rights and sociological backgrounds were invited as well as those with specific expertise in the area of truth and reconciliation, thus offering a broad perspective of ideas on such challenges. Representatives of the Court Services, Public Information, Victims Participation and Reparation Section of the Division of Victims and Counsel, as part of the Registry were amongst the participants.

Fundamental to the success of the Registry's teams in the various situations: Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur/Sudan, is the development of a thorough comprehension of the complexity of the local culture, traditions and justice

mechanisms. The discussions were therefore divided into two parts. Initial talks touched upon the theoretical aspects related to the intervention of the Registry's experts in the field, particularly those in charge of victims and witness protection, communication and outreach and, victims' participation and reparations. Questions such as "Should this intervention follow a pre-defined global approach or should it be culturally sensitive?" were scrutinised for advantages and disadvantages.

The afternoon session focused on the practical aspects of field work and aimed at offering a theory of action above and beyond the Rome Statute, one which the Registry's teams in the various situations can use to assist them when interacting with local realities. The debate concentrated on matters such as victim participation and reparation, legal representation, witness protection, security and safety, the perception of international criminal justice and, outreach

and communications. In the course of the discussions, these various areas were analysed in light of the particular experience of the experts and where possible concrete recommendations were made.

As the seminar concluded, many of those who had attended expressed their thanks to the Registry for the invitation to participate in the meeting. It was a commonly shared feeling that this exercise opened a new perspective on the Registry's work, one which needs to be further pursued.

The Registrar and other seminar attendees © ICC-CPI



The Court puts in place the Permanent Premises Committee

In line with the proposed internal governance arrangements, approved by the Assembly of States Parties during its fifth session, the Court has established the Permanent Premises Committee (PPC). The aim of the committee is to ensure that all important decisions within the Court concerning the future premises are taken in a timely and transparent manner, enabling the project to be correctly implemented and keeping stakeholders properly informed.

The committee comprises the senior representatives of the main user groups, including the Presidency, Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor, the Registry (also responsible for the interests of the defence, victims and witnesses), and the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties. The Registrar as the project co-ordinator will be assisted by the project director, a newly established position in 2007.

The Registrar noted that while a series of important decisions have yet to be taken by the ASP, tremendous progress with regard to the future of the Court's premises had been made during the last year. The States Parties requested that, without prejudice to the prerogative of the ASP to make a final decision on where to permanently house the Court,

the ICC should now focus on the proposal for the purpose-built premises on the *Alexanderkazerne* site. In addition to the functional brief, the Court is called upon to prepare, in consultation with the Host State, cost estimates and a provisional timetable for the project. Also under consideration is the governance structure specifying the roles of the ASP, the Court and the Host State. The ASP Bureau has been requested to prepare options for the overall governance structure in consultation with the ICC and the Host State.

Visit to the European Court of Justice (Luxembourg)

With a view to gaining insight into the experiences of other organisations that have embarked upon similar projects, a delegation from the International Criminal Court recently visited the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in Luxembourg.

The ECJ is expanding to adjust to the May 2004 enlargement of the European Unions as it requires increased office space for new members and staff and greater courtroom capacity. Total cost of the expansion and associated works is put at €343 million, financed by the European Investment Bank and Luxembourg's *Banque et Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat*.

The project has been designed by the French architect Dominique Perrault and the design has been developed in association with Luxembourg architects *Paczowski et Fritsch*. Mr Perrault is internationally known for his large-scale projects, including the much-discussed National Library of France. Work on the expanded four-building ECJ complex involves the refurbishment of the main building and construction of a ring-shaped structure encircling the main building as well as two adjacent 100m-high towers.

The project, which began in 2003 with the removal of asbestos from the existing buildings and initial excavation works, is scheduled for completion in 2007/8 and will double the existing size of the ECJ. The total gross floor area involved is 76,000m², of which about a third will be for the translators based in the towers. Some 10,500m² will be for the offices and premises of the ECJ President and court members and 23,000m² for the exterior public space. There will be 770 parking places.¹

¹ Read more at: www.designbuild-network.com/projects/ecj/

UN Secretary-General visits ICC

On Thursday 1 February 2007, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, H. E. Ban Ki-Moon paid an official visit to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Secretary-General and his delegation met with the President Judge Philippe Kirsch, the 1st Vice-President Judge Akua Kuenyehia, the 2nd Vice-President Judge René Blattmann, the Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo and the Deputy Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda.

The two delegations discussed issues pertaining to the relationship between the UN and the ICC. During the meeting, President Kirsch and Prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo informed the Secretary-General of the activities of the Court and of the Office of the Prosecutor respectively.

President Kirsch thanked the Secretary-General for the sustained support of the UN to the ICC and emphasised the importance of continued co-operation, stating that "Though the ICC is independent from the UN, the two institutions operate in a context of interdependence."

The Prosecutor of the Court, Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo, expressed his appreciation for the UN's co-operation and support. He



The two delegations discuss the relationship of the ICC and the UN © ICC-CPI / Hans Hordijk

also stressed the need to work together to promote the message that ending impunity will bring lasting peace and stability.

The ICC is an independent international organisation. The ICC was brought into relationship with the UN through an agreement concluded in October 2004. The ICC and the UN co-operate in many different areas

including the exchange of information and logistical support. The ICC reports annually on its activities to the UN General Assembly.

Information: the negotiated relationship agreement between the International Criminal Court and the United Nations, ICC-ASP/3/Res.1: www.icc-cpi.int/library/asp/ICC-ASP-3-Res_1_English.pdf

President Kirsch in Guatemala



ICC President Philippe Kirsch, Guatemalan Vice-President Eduardo Stein and Minister of Foreign Affairs Gert Rosenthal / © Parliamentarians for Global Action

President Philippe Kirsch visited Guatemala on 23 and 24 January at the invitation of the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During his trip, President Kirsch had the opportunity to meet the Vice-President of Guatemala, the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

the President of Congress, the President of the Constitutional Court, the Executive High Commission on Human Rights, as well as representatives of civil society and media. Guatemala is currently considering its accession to the Rome Statute and President

Other visits

The Minister of Justice for Korea, H E Kim Sung-Ho, made an official visit to the Court on 18 January 2007. The Minister met with 1st Vice-President (acting President) Judge Akua Kuenyehia, Judge Sang-Hyun Song and the Prosecutor, Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo.

On 23 January 2007 the Registrar of the International Criminal Court travelled to meet with Mr Antonio Guterres the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

Kirsch provided information about the Court's current activities and responded to questions regarding the Court's creation, purpose and procedures.