



**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**

**International
Criminal
Court**

ICC-PIDS-WU-54/10_Eng

8 November 2010 #54 ICC Weekly Update



Situation in the Republic of Kenya

The Republic of Kenya ratified the Rome Statute on 15 March, 2005, becoming a State Party. On 6 November, 2009, upon receiving a letter from the Prosecutor indicating his intention to submit a request for the authorisation of an investigation *proprio motu*, the International Criminal Court's Presidency issued a decision assigning the situation in the Republic of Kenya to Pre-Trial Chamber II. On 26 November, 2009, the Prosecutor submitted a request to Pre-Trial Chamber II for the authorisation of an investigation into that situation in relation to the post-election violence of 2007-2008.

Situation in Kenya

Decisions taken between 1 - 5 November, 2010

Decision on Victims' Participation in Proceedings Related to the Situation in the Republic of Kenya
Issued by Pre-Trial Chamber II on 3 November, 2010

Situation in the Central African Republic

The situation was referred to the Court by the Government of the Central African Republic in December 2004. The Prosecutor opened an investigation in May, 2007. In the only case in this situation, *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo*, Pre-Trial Chamber II confirmed, on 15 June, 2009, two charges of crimes against humanity and three charges of war crimes, and committed the accused to trial before a Trial Chamber. The trial, initially scheduled to start on 14 July, 2010, is now scheduled to start on 22 November, 2010.

Decisions taken between 1 - 5 November, 2010

Bemba Case

Order on the "Prosecution's Revised Order of its Witnesses at Trial and Estimated Length of Questioning"

Issued by Trial Chamber III on 4 November, 2010



Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo ©
ICC-CPI/Ed Oudenaarden

Relevant Links

Courtroom proceedings can be followed on the ICC website: www.icc-cpi.int

You can also consult the **hearing schedule**

Video summaries can be found on our **YouTube channel**

The ICC's activities can also be followed through **Twitter**

Events

Opening of the Seminar on the role of the ICC Registry in providing support and assistance to victims

On 8 and 9 November, 2010, the Registrar of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms Silvana Arbia, is hosting a seminar on the Registry's role in providing support and assistance to victims.

During the seminar, ICC Registry staff members, particularly those working in field offices and in direct contact with victims, are meeting with eminent external experts, such as Justice Renate Winter, Judge of the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The seminar is also open to the other organs of the Court, the Office of Public Counsel and the Trust Fund for Victims, all of which have an important role to play in respect of victims. It is not open to the general public.

This initiative aims to assist the Registry in implementing the ICC Strategy in relation to Victims, a Court-wide instrument based on the ground-breaking framework provided for in the Rome Statute for the recognition of victims as actors within the international justice scheme.

Discussions will focus exclusively and fully elaborate on the objective of "Provid[ing] support and assistance to victims in order to safeguard their psychological and physical integrity and well-being, ensure respect for their dignity and privacy, and prevent them from suffering further harm as a result of their interaction with the Court." This is one of the six main policy objectives set out in the strategy concerning the provision of support and assistance to victims.

Accordingly, the seminar will allow for detailed discussions and expert recommendations on matters such as: explaining the role of and actions taken by the different sections dealing with victims within the Registry; looking at the legal background of the terms "support" and "assistance" as articulated within the ICC legal framework and other relevant documents; examining the needs and expectations of victims in terms of support and assistance; exploring the work of national or international services that provide support and assistance; and proposing a way forward for the Registry in strengthening the implementation of this objective.

Background

The Rome Statute establishes an unprecedented framework for recognizing victims as actors within the international justice scheme. Since the Court's establishment, this framework has been further developed to make these aspirations an operational reality. The relevant units of the Office of the Prosecutor and of the Registry, the Secretariat of the Trust Fund for Victims and the Offices of Public Counsel for Victims and for the Defence, with a representative of the Presidency as observer, have come together to set out the ICC Strategy in Relation to Victims, a common broad vision that will provide a common framework and serve as a guide for the development of specific objectives and work plans.

Within the Registry there are three sections that are directly in contact with victims: the Public Information and Documentation Section, the Victims Participation and Reparation Section, and the Victims and Witnesses Unit.

Report of the Court on the strategy in relation to victims

English | Español | Français | عربي

Event on complementarity

As a follow-up to the Review Conference discussions on the issue of complementarity, the President of the Assembly of States Parties, the President of the Court, the Prosecutor, the Registrar and the Director of the Secretariat attended a retreat on 28 and 29 October 2010. The event, which was organized by the International Center for Transitional Justice and the United Nations Rule of Law Unit at the Greentree Estate on Long Island, New York, brought together about 60 high-level officials from legal departments and development cooperation departments of States Parties and observer States, multilateral organizations, and civil society.



(left) Ms Asha-Rose Mtengeti Migiro, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General delivering opening remarks (right) Judge Sang-Hyun Song, President of the ICC, and Mr David Tolbert, President of the ICTJ © ICC-CPI

The main purpose of the event was to discuss ways in which domestic jurisdictions could be strengthened to deal with Rome Statute crimes, with a particular focus on the current situation countries.

The panelists addressed the special needs in prosecuting Rome Statute crimes, referred to relevant experiences from other international tribunals and courts from Africa, the Balkans and Latin America, spoke about how complementarity was being applied in Kenya and Uganda, as well as focused on how to utilize synergies between already existing activities in the field of rule-of-law.

A feature of the complementarity event may be found [here](#).

The Assembly of States Parties will discuss the follow-up to the topic of complementarity when it meets at UN Headquarters from 6 to 10 December as its ninth session.

ICC President's keynote remarks

Source: Assembly of States Parties



From left: Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo, ICC Prosecutor, Ambassador Christian Wenaweser, President of the Assembly, and Ms Silvana Arbia, ICC Registrar © ICC-CPI

Interacting with communities

Seminar on sexual violence

On 3 November, 2010, Outreach Unit staff members conducted a sexual violence seminar with women's groups in Kinshasa. The first part of the seminar focused on the Congolese law on crimes of sexual violence, adopted in 2006, and its application in the DRC. The second part explored relevant aspects of the legal texts of the Court, including an explanation of the elements of the crimes of rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, and enforced sterilization. As the session was limited to women only, it allowed for an environment in which the participants felt comfortable enough to ask sensitive questions and share their stories. At the end of the session, the handbook "Better Understanding the ICC" was handed out.



Women in Kinshasa participating in the Seminar on sexual violence © ICC-CPI

Calendar

NOVEMBER 2010						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
ICC Registry holds seminar on its role in providing support and assistance to victims						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Bemba trial scheduled to commence						
ICC launches Female Counsel Campaign in Dakar, Senegal						
29	30					
Future events: 8 December, 2010: The confirmation of charges hearing is scheduled to commence in the case of <i>The Prosecutor v. Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain (Banda) and Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus (Jerbo)</i>						

The calendar is subject to last minute changes.