

Newsletter

July 2006 #08

Cour
Pénale
Internationale

International
Criminal
Court



Editorial p.1 | Message of the President p.1 | The Special Court for Sierra Leone to use ICC Facilities for Trial of Charles Taylor p.2 | ICRC pays first visit to the ICC Detention Centre p.2 | Retreat in Salzburg: the Future of the ICC. p.2 | Finalising the Strategic Plan for Outreach p.3 | NGOs meet with ICC Officials p.3 | Interpol Issues First Red Notices for ICC Suspects p.4 | Prosecutor Calls for International Cooperation in Darfur Investigation p.4 | OTP Staff Shape the Strategic Plan p.5 | OTP Hosts Expert Meeting on Gender Crimes p.5 | Information Campaign on the ICC in Kinshasa Schools p.6 | ICC Participates in Outreach Workshops in Northern Uganda p.6 | Registrar Visits Chad and Uganda p.7 | Fourth Seminar on Counsel Issues p.7 | Latest Recruitment Figures p.7 | New Coordinator for the Friends of the ICC in the Hague p.8 | A Modern Library for the 21st Century p.9 | Update on the Activities of the Assembly of States Parties p.10 | Trust Fund for Victims p.10 |

Editorial

Charles Taylor was recently transferred from the Special Court for Sierra Leone to the detention centre of the ICC. The Special Court will use the ICC's facilities during his trial. The assistance provided to the Special Court reflects one important aspect of the criminal justice system that the Court is part of: cooperation amongst the various players. The news of his transfer will no doubt raise many questions about the role of the Court in this matter. One of the challenges now facing the ICC is to explain clearly that despite the fact that the proceedings will take place on ICC premises, and that the Court will facilitate these proceedings, the case does not fall under its jurisdiction.

The Court's strategy on Outreach, which explains the ICC's role, mandate and ongoing proceedings to those most affected by its work, must also now prevent any misunderstanding concerning the Court's role in relation to the Special Court and other similar Tribunals.

In this edition of the ICC Newsletter, you will learn how the Court is currently implementing its strategic plan for outreach, which will help it tackle these and similar issues in its mission to deliver public and transparent justice, both of which are essential to a fair trial.

Bruno Cathala, Registrar

Message of the President

The Court recently adopted the first version of the ICC strategic plan. This plan will assist the Court in coordinating its many different activities, ensuring a longer-term perspective in our planning, and setting common priorities for our work.

The strategic plan sets out three interrelated strategic goals for the Court: to ensure the quality of justice, to be a well-recognized and adequately supported institution, and to be a model for public administration. To reach these goals, we have identified thirty strategic objectives over the coming ten years, with emphasis on objectives to be achieved in the next three years.

We are now turning the plan into action. We have begun a process of consultations with our staff. The staff will play an important role in implementing the plan, including the development of strategies for realising the objectives. We are also using the strategic goals and objectives to shape the Court's 2007 budget.

The Court presented the strategic plan to the Committee on Budget and Finance of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) in April. We have begun a dialogue with States, including a Working Group of the ASP in The Hague, and civil society organisations, to inform them about the plan and to receive their feedback. We look forward to a similar dialogue with the ASP this fall. The strategic plan is very important to the continued success of the Court.



We will regularly adapt it in light of our experiences so that it can guide the Court well into the future in our collective endeavour to advance the aims of the Rome Statute.

Philippe Kirsch, President

The Special Court for Sierra Leone to use ICC Facilities for Trial of Charles Taylor

On 20 June 2006, the Special Court for Sierra Leone (Special Court) transferred Mr Charles Taylor to the detention centre of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for the purpose of using the facilities of the ICC during his trial, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concluded by the ICC and the Special Court on 13 April 2006.

The trial will be conducted by a Trial Chamber of the Special Court sitting in The Hague. The ICC will not conduct the trial of Mr Taylor. Under the terms of the MOU, the ICC will provide courtroom services and facilities, detention services and facilities and related assistance. All costs will be paid in advance by the Special Court, through a Trust Fund established by the ICC Registrar.



Charles Taylor before a Trial Chamber of the SCSL / AP Photo

This arrangement will not affect the functioning of the ICC.

On 29 March, the then President of the Special Court, Justice A. Raja N. Fernando, sent a letter to the President of the ICC, Judge Philippe Kirsch, requesting the use of the ICC facilities in order to conduct the trial. In his letter, Justice Fernando, having consulted within the Special Court and with external parties, referred to concerns about the stability in the region should Mr Taylor be tried in Freetown.

The ICC sought the views of States Parties on this matter. The Assembly of States Parties subsequently conveyed to the ICC its acceptance of the request of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Thereafter, the MOU was signed by Judge Kirsch on behalf of the ICC and by Mr Lovemore Munlo, Registrar of the Special Court.

On 21 July 2006 a Status Conference was convened at the ICC.

The ICC and the Special Court are independent institutions. The ICC was established by an international treaty, the Rome Statute, to which 100 States are party. The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone.

ICRC Pays First Visit to the ICC Detention Centre

On 28 and 29 June 2006, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) paid its first visit to the ICC detention centre.

In accordance with Article 7 of the "Agreement between the International Criminal Court and the International Committee of the Red Cross on Visits to Persons Deprived of Liberty Pursuant to the Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court" the visit was classified as a 'complete visit' which included an initial meeting with the Registrar of the Court, Mr Bruno Cathala, a complete tour of the Detention centre and private interviews with persons detained at the ICC detention centre.

At the end of the two-day visit, the delegation held its final meeting with the Registrar, during

which the delegates submitted their findings and recommendations.

As the ICRC is an independent and neutral institution, its visit is humanitarian and aims at ensuring that all detained persons are treated humanely and in conformity with widely accepted international standards governing the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty.

Retreat in Salzburg: the Future of the ICC

Three senior officials of the ICC, President Philippe Kirsch, Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo and Registrar Bruno Cathala took part in a three-day "Working Retreat on the Future of the ICC" held at the University of Salzburg from 25 to 27 May 2006. The conference was organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the

Salzburg Law School on International Criminal Law, Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law.

The aims of the meeting were to enable discussions on possible issues likely to arise during the upcoming Review Conference of the Rome Statute in 2009, as well as matters affecting the current work of the ICC.

The President, the Prosecutor and the Registrar gave brief introductory presentations on the following subjects respectively: "The Court in 2006 and beyond", "Lessons from the first cases", and "Administrative issues and practical challenges in the field".

Also present at the conference were the former President of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP), Prince Zeid al Hussein, and the current president of the ASP Mr Bruno Stagno Ugarte. Prince Zeid al Hussein chaired the third session on Saturday 27 May on the theme "The way ahead".

Finalising the Strategic Plan for Outreach

In fulfilling its mandate, the role and activities of the Court must be understood, particularly in those communities most affected by its work. Committed to ensuring this, the Court must engage in a sustainable two-way communication with such communities, to make accessible judicial proceedings, provide accurate and comprehensive information regarding its work, counter misinformation and manage expectations. This is a view shared by the Assembly of States Parties (ASP), who in November 2005, requested the ICC to present a detailed strategic plan for outreach in order for the Court to have resonance with those communities.

In line with the ICC Strategic Plan, the Court is currently finalising its strategy for outreach. Regular consultations are taking place at various levels, with among others, civil society and representatives of the States Parties. The strategic plan for outreach will set out the broad outreach strategy for the Court, identify

the goals and core values underpinning the Court's outreach programme. It will also examine the main factors which influence the development and implementation of outreach activities such as the context in which the Court carries out its operations, the phase of judicial proceedings, and particular information requirements of target groups. Both staff and non-staff resources required to carry out the outreach strategy will also be outlined.

The plan will also include medium-term situation related strategies, and describe how they will be implemented in 2007. Details on activities will be developed in situation specific action plans for each country where the Court is currently conducting investigations (the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda and Darfur, Sudan). The action plans will identify specific objectives, concrete activities and performance indicators. Resources required to sustain the

implementation of these action plans throughout the year will also be identified.

The detailed strategic plan for outreach is based upon the Court's experience in conducting outreach activities since 2004, including many of the conclusions drawn from consultations with those most effected by its work. It will build upon the ICC Integrated Strategy for External Relations, Public Information and Outreach as well as its situation-related strategies for the DRC, Darfur, (Sudan) and Northern Uganda. The strategy takes into account the specific experience in conducting outreach of the *ad hoc* tribunals as well as that of non-governmental organisations.

The outreach plan is an evolving product, which will be re-evaluated regularly and refined in light of the Court's needs and the experience and lessons learned during its implementation, we will bring you more information as it progresses.

NGOs meet with ICC Officials

The sixth strategic meeting between the Registry and NGOs was held from 4 to 7 July at the seat of the Court in The Hague. The meeting commenced with NGO representatives being given the opportunity to comment on the ICC Strategic Plan, on which they had previously been consulted. The following sessions on the first day were devoted to discussing the Registry's contribution to the ICC Strategic Plan and the Court's Detailed Strategic Plan for Outreach. A substantial part of the Strategic Meeting was spent discussing how further to improve the practicalities of cooperation on the ground with NGOs in Uganda, the DRC and Darfur with a view to avoiding duplication and creating synergy. The dialogue covered issues such as victims' participation and reparations, the protection of victims and witnesses, defence, and outreach in the context of each situation.

The second day's sessions addressed two important projects for the Court: its interim and permanent premises. The Registrar updated the participants on the status of these projects and invited their input. Concrete recommendations were made to increase efficiency in coordinating efforts.

The Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) had the pleasure of hosting partners from the NGO community on 6 and 7 July 2006. The Office



Photo: CICC

began by providing an update on developments in Uganda, the DRC and Darfur. This was followed by an evaluation of the OTP's work over the past three years, and an assessment of how to improve cooperation with NGOs. Time was also devoted to significant OTP policy developments, including the prosecutorial strategy for the next three years, the draft policy paper on *Interest of Justice*, and the draft policy paper on *Criteria for Selection of Situation and Cases*. The policy papers created the groundwork for fruitful

discussions. As is tradition in these twice-yearly meetings, at the end of the first day NGO representatives were given the opportunity to select topics for further discussion on the second day of the meeting. This led to further discussions of victims' participation, communication and outreach, as well as the OTP's budget for the coming year. The Prosecutor welcomed the contributions and took the opportunity to encourage continued collaboration with the OTP.

Interpol Issues First Red Notices for ICC Suspects

On 1 June 2006, the International Criminal Police Organisation, Interpol, issued Red Notices for the arrest of the five Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) commanders named in ICC arrest warrants. The Red Notices, which include a request to arrest and detain named individuals if found, were transmitted to the national police bureaus in 184 countries. The Red Notice system is intended to assist national and international courts in tracing and arresting internationally wanted fugitives.

The issuance of Red Notices is only the latest manifestation of cooperation between Interpol and the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP). As a result of the cooperation agreement it signed with Interpol in December 2004, the ICC became the first international organisation to be linked directly into the I-24/7 global police communications system. The I-24/7 system is an international secure network where police can exchange data instantly. This system also interlinks the central database in the Interpol to other police databanks. The system allows the OTP to search and receive information collected by other investigations as well as share its own information for the benefit of other national police bureaus.

Background

On 13 October 2005, Pre-Trial Chamber II unsealed the warrants of arrest for five senior leaders of the LRA for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Uganda since July 2002. The Chamber concluded that "there are reasonable grounds to believe" that Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo, Dominic Ongwen and Raska Lukwiya "ordered the commission of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court".



Interpol Red Notice for Joseph Kony / Interpol

Prosecutor Calls for International Cooperation in Darfur Investigation

The need for cooperation was a lead theme in Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo's third report and address to the United Nations Security Council on the ICC investigation in Darfur, Sudan. The Prosecutor addressed the Council in an open session at UN headquarters on 14 June 2006.

The situation in Darfur was referred to the Prosecutor of the ICC by the Security Council under Resolution 1593 on 31 March 2005.

The Prosecutor reported that the Office of the Prosecutor is collecting all available information from outside Darfur and has managed to make progress despite serious obstacles. He emphasized, however, that the Office has now entered a new phase where unconditional cooperation will be essential to complete the investigation and identify those most responsible for crimes in Darfur. "Our speed will depend on the cooperation received," the Prosecutor said, calling for cooperation both from the Government of Sudan and other parties to the conflict, as

well as from organizations, such as the African Union and the United Nations.

In his report and address to the Council, Mr. Moreno-Ocampo said that the Office has gathered significant amounts of information to determine whether the Government of Sudan is dealing with cases that he would be likely to select for prosecution.

Mr. Moreno-Ocampo said that the Sudanese Special Courts appear to remain relatively inaccessible. Based on the current assessment it does not appear that the national authorities have investigated or prosecuted cases that will in the focus of OTP attention, he said.

The Chief Prosecutor concluded by emphasizing the complementary nature of the ICC: "The concern of the ICC is to see that effective justice is delivered to the victims of the crimes in Darfur. This can be achieved either on a national level, where the domestic authorities are genuinely willing and able to prosecute those most responsible for the most serious crimes, or by the ICC, or by both."

OTP Staff Shape the Strategic Plan

The first three years of the OTP's existence were dedicated to establishing the institution and opening cases. After the start of three investigations in 2005, involving about 130 missions and cooperation with many different actors, early 2006 was a time to learn lessons, plan ahead and review organisational and work processes.

Ten staff sessions, one plenary and several senior management meetings later, five objectives now shape the 2007-2009 Prosecutorial Strategy. These objectives will drive all divisional activity and set out how the OTP units will achieve their goals by the end of 2009.

No single division can achieve its objectives in isolation. Some of the OTP's three-year objectives contribute to the wider ICC

three-year objectives and others are interdependent.

The Prosecutorial Strategy, which will contribute to the implementation of the ICC Strategic Plan, is driven by the Court's mission of a future without crime and impunity and will be presented as such to the Assembly of States Parties in November.

In the meantime, the Chief Prosecutor and stakeholders will discuss the core policies which are integral to the Prosecutorial Strategy, including the selection of situations and cases, crime prevention and the interests of justice.

OTP objectives for 2007-2009:

1. Conduct four to six focused and impartial investigations of those who

bear the greatest responsibility in current or new situations.

2. Further improve the quality of the prosecution, with the aim of completing two expeditious trials.
3. In all situations, secure the necessary forms of cooperation to facilitate effective investigations and successful arrest operations.
4. Continuously improve the way in which the OTP interacts with victims and address their interests.
5. Establish forms of cooperation with States and organisations to maximise the OTP's contribution to the fight against impunity and the prevention of crimes.

OTP Hosts Expert Meeting on Gender Crimes

The Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) hosted an expert meeting on Wednesday 24 May to discuss the challenges involved and lessons learnt in investigating sexual and gender violence crimes. ICC lawyers, investigators, and gender and victim experts exchanged views with their counterparts from the ICTR, ICTY and the Sierra Leone Special Court, and specialists from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Harvard University. The event was chaired by Deputy Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda. Cherie Booth QC, a leading lawyer and the wife of the British Prime Minister, gave a keynote address.

In outlining the approach of the ICC investigation in Uganda, senior trial attorney Christine Chung said sexual and gender-based violence was at the heart of crimes allegedly committed by the LRA. The "gendered" violence victimises boys, who are abducted and forced to become fighters and porters, as well as girls, compelled to serve as sexual slaves. This characteristic of the LRA obliged the multi-disciplinary team to integrate gender considerations across the whole investigation. Andrew Cayley, senior trial attorney for Darfur, stressed that the available information showed that sexual and gender violence crimes against

women were allegedly being committed on a large scale in Darfur, mainly during attacks on villages, or as people were forced to



Copyright ICC/OTP Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo and Cherie Booth QC, at the OTP hosted expert meeting on gender crimes

move away. He warned that this would cause long-lasting damage to communities. Participants discussed the need for flexibility in interviewing traumatised victims, depending on their differing reactions and needs as well as their cultural context. Key issues included the need to establish trust, provide proper support and protection, and ensure sensitive treatment of witnesses in the courtroom. ICTY lawyer Patricia Sellers described the challenge of prosecuting this type of crime further up the chain of command and the possible modes of liability. Charity Kagwi of the ICTR called for sexual assaults to be properly charged, and maximum sentences applied.

Cherie Booth expressed high hopes for the ICC, as a "living symbol of international justice", to prosecute massive sexual violence as a priority, sending a strong signal worldwide that such actions are punishable by law. "International law should not be a pale copy of national law, but a chance to blend common and civil law in an exciting way, and build on existing jurisprudence. The ICC should not be afraid of prosecuting sexual violence: even if we fail, we can set down markers for the future."

Information Campaign on the ICC in Kinshasa Schools

In May 2006, the public information services of the International Criminal Court office in Kinshasa carried out an information campaign on the ICC in the major schools of the Democratic Republic of the Congo capital.

Launched at the initiative of the Motema Mpiko High School, a girls' school located in a working-class neighbourhood of Kinshasa, the campaign was subsequently taken to other schools of the city. Nearly 1300 pupils in the last year of high school took part in these meetings.

This campaign, which is also in line with the ICC Outreach program in the DRC, was aimed not only at disseminating information about the Court, but also at assessing what the young people expected of the Court.

For school authorities, the information campaign is "part of the fight against impunity. It is civic action".



Seminar on the ICC at Boboto College

In view of the interest it aroused, a similar campaign is planned for the beginning of the next school year. Remote areas, especially those in which the Prosecutor is conducting investigations, will also be targeted by these campaigns.

Latest Public Legal Filings

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

ICC Participates in Outreach Workshops in Northern Uganda



Photo: ICC staff with Langi cultural leaders in Lira during an informative workshop.

From 15 to 30 June 2006, the International Criminal Court held a series of workshops in Lira, Soroti, Gulu and Kampala with Ateso and Langi traditional leaders, local council members, the Ugandan Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR).

As part of the ICC Outreach Program in Uganda, the workshops were aimed at raising awareness about the Court and promoting a better understanding of how it works. Participants were briefed on the Court's establishment, structure and mandate, and the functions of the Office of the Prosecutor. The rights of victims to apply for participation and reparation before the Court were also explained.

During the workshops participants and ICC representatives explored the role they might play with regard to outreach and sensitising the population, including internally displaced persons, on Court proceedings, as well as providing information about the rights of victims and reparations.

In total, over 200 persons participated in the workshops.

Photo right: Ugandan local government leaders discuss plans to disseminate information about the ICC during a workshop in Gulu with ICC officials.

Background:

These workshops form part of the ICC outreach activities in Uganda which aim to provide those people most affected by the work of the Court with information about the ICC and listen to concerns expressed by representatives of local communities.

The ICC has previously held workshops in Northern Uganda organised in partnership with, among others, the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative (ARLPI), the Acholi cultural institution Ker Kwaro Acholi and the District NGO Forum with the Ugandan Coalition for the International Criminal Court (UCICC) for some 120 local NGOs and CSOs.



Photo's: Matthew Brubacher

Registrar visits Chad and Uganda

The Registrar of the ICC, Mr Bruno Cathala, visited Chad earlier this year (27-29 March) for talks with government officials, local government representatives, NGOs, journalists and UN agencies.



Registrar Bruno Cathala meets with UCICC representatives and ICC staff members in Kampala / UCICC

During what was his first official visit to the country, the Registrar also made a statement at a seminar, "Understanding the International Criminal Court", which was organised in N'Djamena on 29 March. The seminar was organised by the newly-established Chadian Coalition for the International Criminal Court and attended by representatives of national and international NGOs.

Following his visit to Chad, Mr Cathala travelled to Uganda where, between 4 and 7 April, he held meetings with traditional and religious leaders from the northern districts, members of civil society including members of the Ugandan coalition for the International Criminal Court, representatives of UN agencies based in the country, government representatives and local council members. He also met with representatives of the Ugandan media, giving interviews regarding the work of the Court to Ugandan national television, UBC, and Radio Mega FM, which broadcasts throughout the Gulu, Lira, Pader, Kitgum and Adjimani districts of Northern Uganda.

Fourth Seminar on Counsel Issues

On 31 May and 1 June 2006, the Fourth Seminar on Counsel Issues organized by the International Criminal Court (ICC) was held at the World Forum Convention Centre in The Hague.

The aim of the seminar was to cement the existing constructive dialogue on issues of common interest and concern between the ICC and the legal profession, as well as to provide participants with an update on the work of the Court vis-à-vis counsel. The issues discussed included the independence of counsel, the Office of Public Counsel, the practice in the countries under investigation and the right to self-representation. A presentation was also made on the technological support the Court provides to counsel.

In his opening remarks, the Registrar of the Court, Mr. Bruno Cathala observed: "this Seminar has an immediate importance for the Court. The ongoing dialogue between the Court and the legal profession is a priority for the Registry and other organs if

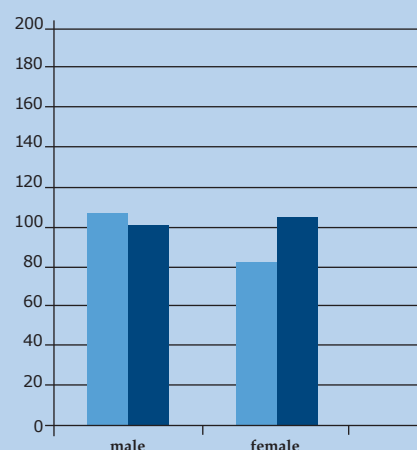
the Court". He underlined the fact that a high-quality defence was an integral part of ensuring a fair trial.

As in previous seminars, the fourth seminar brought together judges, experts and representatives of lawyers' associations, non-governmental organizations, ad hoc Tribunals and Special Courts as well as staff from the different organs of the Court. For the first time, the seminar was attended by one hundred of the counsel included on the list maintained by the Registrar. They participated actively and provided valuable input.



Fourth Seminar on Counsel Issues

Latest Recruitment Figures



Professionals

General Services

The ICC currently employs 409 staff members from 71 countries. Of these, 213 are male and 196 female. 199 hold professional positions and 210 are general service staff.

New Coordinator for the Friends of the ICC in the Hague

The Hague branch of the Friends of the International Criminal Court has a new coordinator: Mr Tomás López Vilariño, the First Secretary of the Spanish Embassy in The Hague. In June, he took over from his Mr Götz Reimann, Counsellor of the German Embassy. The Friends of the ICC works informally to support the goals of the ICC.

Why did you become involved in the work of the group?

On 21 October 2003, Counsellor Reimann informed embassies in the Netherlands of his intention to establish a branch of the Friends of the ICC in the Hague. He hoped it would act as an informal forum for resident embassies and those based in Brussels, to discuss ICC-related issues. Spain has been involved in the work of the Court from the start, so we were naturally very interested and willing to support such an initiative.

How did you become group coordinator?

One of the reasons I took over as group coordinator was as a personal tribute to Counsellor Reimann's great work which I hope to continue. I would like to stress that the forum will always be open to embassies and other stakeholders who should feel free to address any ICC issues. It is the informal nature of the group that makes it so interesting and effective.

What is the group's role in relation to the work of the Court?

The group's goals are to: provide and co-ordinate political support for the ICC, particularly through awareness raising and exchange of information; to support the work of the ICC, namely by promoting and facilitating States' co-operation with the Court; to facilitate communication between the ICC and States which support the Court's work; and to increase awareness and expertise on ICC-related issues among diplomatic representatives in the Netherlands.

How is this achieved?

The Group serves as a means for continuous dialogue between the States Parties via the diplomatic community in The Hague, and with the Court. The group has no mandate and makes no actual decisions, but serves as a useful tool for the exchange of views and

liaising with the Court. This is done in two ways. The group may directly invite the relevant players (e.g. representatives of the



Mr Lopez in front of the ICC building copyright ICC/CPI

Court, the Committee on Budget and Finance (CBF) or the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP)) to meetings. Alternatively, focal points appointed by the group may work on e.g. the ICC's relationship with the United Nations or the European Union, financial matters or issues relating to the host country, Registry, Office of the Prosecutor, Presidency, Chambers or Defence.

Are all States Parties members of the group?

All States Parties to the Rome Statute were invited to join, as well as other interested States which support the ICC's goals. From the very beginning Counsellor Reimann created a forum for informal communication not only with the Court, but also with its "family", institutional stakeholders, the CBF, the Secretariat of the

ASP and other stakeholders such as the Coalition for the ICC.

How will you proceed in the coming months?

I do not have a formal meeting plan since I am very conscious of the informal role of the group. I want to make the group a meeting point which all members are invited to take advantage of, if and when issues for discussion arise.

I will instigate meetings if I feel issues have been raised and, of course, respond to the members' needs. For example before the next CBF meeting, the President of the CBF will be invited to speak to the group or, for instance, if States are unclear about outreach issues, I will get in touch with the Registrar to see if someone can come and discuss the subject. The focal points are instrumental in identifying the wishes of members.

Following on from Counsellor Reimann's work, I want the group to remain flexible and informal but at the same time an active presence.

The Friends of the ICC: how it started

The Friends of the ICC was created in August 2003 as a successor to the Like-Minded Group which was set up to support the establishment of a strong, effective and independent International Criminal Court. After the Court was set up in 2002, a fresh approach by supportive States was required.

The Friends of the ICC was originally based in New York, but after the Hague was chosen as the seat of the Court, embassies in the Netherlands became more involved in ICC-related issues. The need to share information and consolidate expertise increased.

As a result, a Friends of the ICC group was also established in the Hague by Mr Götz Reimann, Counsellor of the German Embassy. The group's first meeting was held on 27 November 2003.

A Modern Library for the 21st Century



From left to right: Thijs Bouwknegt, Intern (Bibliographer), Elizabeth Naumczyk, Chief Librarian, Krystyna Kurpienik, (Library Clerk), Eamonn Lynch, Library Assistant (systems/Serials), Anna Lechowski, Piltz Library Assistant (Acquisitions), Norine Vicenti, Consultant Cataloguer, Fritz Herrick Intern (Reference Services), Beatrice Lukose, Intern (TRIM Specialist), Lucia Sconosciuto, Library Assistant (Cataloguing/Serials)

Since the establishment of the ICC Library in mid 2003, many milestones have been reached. The Library now possesses a substantial collection of 13,500 volumes relating to international criminal law, humanitarian law and the criminal law of States relevant to the work of the Court.

The Library plays an important role in facilitating the exchange of knowledge. It uses cutting-edge information technology to meet the increasing demand for the reliable information resources that are necessary to support the judicial and investigative activities of the Court. While the library is heavily reliant on technical systems, it maintains a customer-focused approach. It provides ICC staff members with timely circulation, document delivery, reference and legal research services. These services have now also been extended to members of victim and defence counsel teams.

In March 2005, the Library launched the new bilingual SirsiDynix Unicorn integrated library system (ILS). This system enables the management of acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation, interlibrary loans, serials and reference work. This has greatly improved the speed and efficiency of its operations by increasing choice, convenience and flexibility for users in accessing resources in all formats. The Library will continue to maximise its use of technology in order to streamline its work processes so as to offer staff members and legal teams access to more information by improving the services available to them.

Already, all persons registered in the library system are issued with a personal bar code and, using the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), can access their library accounts (for information regarding overdue books, place holds and to do renewals) from their desktops. In addition, they now have access to many electronic resources, that is, databases, and e-journals. This has been made possible through the Library's participation in the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisition Consortium (UNSEIAC). The Library aims to increase the number of training programmes and user guides on offer so as to assist users in retrieving information and using ever-changing technologies to their best advantage.

In addition to the above, the online library catalogue is now linked to the Court-wide documentation records storage system (TRIM), which catalogues and classifies documents by both French and English subject headings. Using TRIM as a digital repository has enabled the Library to begin selectively linking and cataloguing the basic ICC "preparatory works" as well as cataloguing and saving copyright-free electronic documents relevant to the work of the Court that are available on the internet.

Increasing the Collection:

In 2005, the Library invested 250,000 euros on materials in consultation with the ICC Library Committee (bringing the number in its collection to 10,700 processed volumes, which are bar-coded and tattle-taped for material

identification and security purposes, including over 400 serial titles). This included the purchase of "office copies". The Library now manages over 1,300 office copies held throughout the Court. These can be retrieved using the online catalogue. The book collection of the Division of Victims and Counsel has also been extended. The Library also regularly indexes articles on behalf of the Victims Reparations and Participation Unit. In addition to this:

- 1,000 items were checked out.
- Over 4,000 information queries and visits were processed (by e-mail, in person, by telephone).
- 1,500 titles were acquired, bringing the ICC online catalogue to a total of 4,100 titles.
- 500 office copies were processed.
- 500 tables of contents and summaries from Blackwells Book Services were added to bibliographic records already in the catalogue, allowing for improved information retrieval.

Ongoing Projects:

Key projects ongoing this year include:

- Implementing additional software (SirsiDynix Rooms, SingleSearch and Resolver).
 - SirsiDynix Rooms is a single environment that gathers information according to subject areas and allows users to access all relevant content in that area.
 - SingleSearch allows users to make a single, simultaneous search of all the electronic resources the library offers.
 - Resolver provides retrieval of information by linking related content among various e-resources, such as full-text articles, bibliographical information and reviews of related material by the same source.
- Improving cataloguing efficiency by configuring the ILS to import and upload records from and to the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a database containing millions of records based in Ohio in the United States.
- Providing access to electronic books from the online catalogue.
- Integrating the library system with the ICC's internal SAP administration system.
- Exploring further possibilities available for electronic ordering and exchanging information with vendors, including electronic invoicing.

Update on the Activities of the Assembly of States Parties

The Bureau

> Mr. Bruno Stagno Ugarte, the President of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP), became Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica on 8 May 2006. He will continue in his capacity as President of the Assembly concurrently with his new functions.

> Ambassador Colleen Swords (Canada) and Ambassador Allioaiga Feturi Elisaia (Samoa) were respectively appointed as Coordinators of the Bureau Working Groups in The Hague and New York.

> The Bureau also designated facilitators on different issues within its two Working Groups. For The Hague Working Group, these will include:

- Engaging with the Court on the initiation of its strategic planning process, facilitated by Ms. Michèle Dubrocard (France);
- Host State issues:
 - The interim premises, facilitated by the Vice-Presidents, Ambassador Erwin Kubesch (Austria) and Ms. Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize (South Africa);
 - The permanent premises, facilitated by Ambassador Gilberto Vergne Saboia (Brazil);
 - Political dialogue at ambassadorial level, facilitated by the Vice-Presidents.

> The New York Working Group will focus on:

- Participation in the Assembly, facilitated by Ms. Jennifer McIver (New Zealand)
 - Measures to increase the number of ratifications;
 - Increase, with a view to their playing a greater role, the participation of developing countries;
- Proposals for an independent oversight mechanism, facilitated by H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan);
- Assistance in setting up the New York Liaison Office, facilitated by Mr. Sabelo Sivuyile Maqungo (South Africa).

> The Hague Working Group has held a total of seven meetings this year, five of them on the issue of interim premises. The Working Group decided to hold meetings in the afternoon of the second Thursday of every month. Meanwhile, a subgroup on the Strategic Plan, chaired by Ms. Michèle Dubrocard (France), has held three

meetings to hear presentations from Court officials and non-governmental organizations.

> In light of the passing away on 3 April 2006 of Dr. Medard Rwelamira, first Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties, the Bureau appointed Mr. Renan Villacis as Director ad interim.

The Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims

> On 16 May 2006, the Bureau elected Mr. Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson (Trinidad and Tobago) by consensus to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims, which corresponds to the seat allocated to the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

> Furthermore, the Bureau fixed a 12-week nomination period, which began on 5 June 2006, for the second election of members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims, scheduled to take place during the fifth session of the Assembly. The Secretariat has sent a note verbale (ICC-ASP/5/S/10), dated 5 June 2006, to all States on the matter.

Committee on Budget and Finance

> The Committee on Budget and Finance held its sixth session from 24 to 26 April 2006 in The Hague (ICC-ASP/5/1). As regards the matter of the interim premises of the Court, the Committee concurred with the Bureau's preference for addressing the pressing need for additional office space by resorting to the use of prefabricated buildings in the vicinity of the building currently occupied by the Court. The Committee also welcomed the progress report on the Strategic Plan of the Court and expressed the view that, as a management tool, the Plan should remain within the ownership of the Court. Furthermore, the Committee requested the Court to prepare additional reports on the permanent premises of the Court, the pension scheme for judges, and on the conditions of service and compensation of the Prosecutor and Deputy Prosecutors. These reports would provide the Committee with the information required to formulate recommendations at its seventh session, scheduled for 9 to 13 October 2006.

Inter-sessional meeting on the crime of aggression

> The third inter-sessional meeting of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression took place from 8 to 11 June 2006 at the Liechtenstein Institute on Self Determination at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, USA. The meeting focused on the following items:

- 1) The act of aggression – defining the conduct of the State;
- 2) The conditions for the exercise of jurisdiction;
- 3) The Crime of Aggression – defining the individual's conduct; and
- 4) Future work of the Special Working Group¹.

¹ The report can be found at <http://www.icc-cpi.int> under Assembly of States Parties

Trust Fund for Victims

New Board Member

On 16 May 2006, the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties elected Mr Arthur N.R. Robinson to the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims. On the five-member board His Excellency Mr Robinson represents the Latin American and Caribbean Region. He is former Prime Minister and former President of Trinidad and Tobago. He succeeds Mr Oscar Arias Sanchez, who served on the Board until his election as President of Costa Rica.

Mr Robinson played a key role in the creation of the ICC. In 1989, as Prime Minister, he reintroduced the proposal to establish an International Criminal Court to the United Nations General Assembly. His initiation of this process led to the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998. The four other members of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims are Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan, His Excellency Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki of Poland, Madam Minister Simone Veil (Chairperson) of France, and His Eminence Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

