



Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) ratified the Rome Statute on 11 April 2002. On 3 March 2004, the Government of the DRC referred the situation in its territory to the Court. After a preliminary analysis, the Prosecutor initiated an investigation on 21 June 2004. In this situation, six cases have been brought before the relevant Chambers: *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*; *The Prosecutor v. Bosco Ntaganda*; *The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga*; *The Prosecutor v. Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui*; *The Prosecutor v. Callixte Mbarushimana*; and *The Prosecutor v. Sylvestre Mudacumura*. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, Germain Katanga and Bosco Ntaganda are currently in the ICC's custody. Sylvestre Mudacumura remains at large. The trial in the case *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo* started on 26 January 2009. On 14 March 2012, Trial Chamber I **convicted** Mr Lubanga Dyilo and he was **sentenced** on 10 July 2012 to a total period of 14 years of imprisonment. On 1 December 2014, the Appeals Chamber confirmed, by majority, the verdict declaring Mr Lubanga guilty and the decision sentencing him to 14 years of imprisonment. On 7 August 2012, Trial Chamber I issued a **decision** on the principles and the process to be implemented for reparations to victims in the case. On 3 March 2015, the Appeals Chamber **amended** the Trial Chamber's order for reparations and instructed the Trust Fund for Victims to present a draft implementation plan for collective reparations to the newly constituted Trial Chamber I no later than six months from the 3 March 2015 judgment. The trial in the case against Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui started on 24 November 2009 and closing statements were heard from 15 to 23 May 2012. On 21 November 2012, Trial Chamber II decided to sever the charges against Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui and Germain Katanga. On 18 December 2012, Trial Chamber II **acquitted** Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui of the charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity and ordered his immediate release. On 21 December 2012, Mr Ngudjolo Chui was released from custody. The Office of the Prosecutor has appealed the verdict. On 27 February 2015, the Appeals Chamber **confirmed** by majority, Trial Chamber II's decision of 18 December 2012 acquitting Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui of charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes. On 7 March 2014, Trial Chamber II **convicted** Germain Katanga, as an accessory, of one count of crime against humanity and four counts of war crimes committed during the attack on the village of Bogoro, Ituri, on 24 February 2003. The Prosecutor and the Defence had appealed the judgment, but discontinued the appeals on 25 June 2014. The judgment is now final. On 23 May 2014, Trial Chamber II, ruling in the majority, sentenced Germain Katanga to a total of 12 years' imprisonment. The time spent in detention at the ICC – between 18 September 2007 and 23 May 2014 – will be deducted from the sentence. Decisions on possible reparations to victims will be rendered later. On 16 December 2011, Pre-Trial Chamber I declined to confirm the charges in the case *The Prosecutor v. Callixte Mbarushimana*. Mr Mbarushimana was released on 23 December 2011. On 22 March 2013, Bosco Ntaganda surrendered himself to the Court voluntarily and is now in the ICC's custody. On 9 June 2014, Pre-Trial Chamber II unanimously confirmed charges consisting in 13 counts of war crimes and 5 counts of crimes against humanity against Bosco Ntaganda and committed him for trial before a Trial Chamber. The trial in the case is scheduled to open on 2 September 2015 before Trial Chamber VI at the seat of the Court, in The Hague (the Netherlands).

Ntaganda Case

ICC Trial Chamber VI postpones opening of the trial in the Ntaganda case to 2 September 2015

On 3 July 2015, Trial Chamber VI of the International Criminal Court (ICC), postponed the opening statements in the Ntaganda case, initially scheduled from 7 to 9 July 2015 to 2 to 4 September 2015. In addition, the Chamber ruled that the testimony of the first witness would start on 15 September 2015, instead of 24 August 2015. This decision was announced at a status conference held at the Court to discuss trial preparations.

On 29 June 2015, the Defence Counsel for Mr Ntaganda filed a motion for the adjournment of the proceedings until the necessary conditions were in place to ensure a fair trial. The Defence raised various issues that prevented it, in the Defence's view, from being ready to start the trial proceedings. The Prosecution responded to the request on 30 June 2015 and did not oppose a reasonable adjournment to allow the Defence additional time.

In deciding on the Defence's motion, the Chamber took into account that the Prosecution did not oppose the Defence's request, and had regard to its obligations under the Rome Statute to ensure the fairness of the trial and the rights of the accused. The Chamber partially granted the Defence's request and postponed the trial, including the opening statements, for a limited period.

For more information on this case, click [here](#).

Trial opening statements will be held at the seat of the ICC, in the Netherlands

On 15 June 2015, the Presidency of the International Criminal Court (ICC) decided that the opening statements in the trial in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Bosco Ntaganda* shall take place at the seat of the Court, in The Hague (the Netherlands). The ICC Presidency decision was made in consultation with Trial Chamber VI which had, on 19 March 2015, **recommended** to the ICC Presidency that the opening statements in this trial be held in Bunia, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Trial Chamber VI had indicated its intention of bringing the Court's judicial work closer to the most affected communities, and had found that it was in the interests of justice for the opening statements to be held in Bunia. Subsequently, the

ICC Presidency consulted with the DRC authorities and with the Trial Chamber. The Presidency also received observations from the Prosecutor, the Defence and the Legal Representatives of Victims, as well as reports from the ICC's Registry.

The ICC Presidency, composed for this decision of Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi (President), Judge Joyce Aluoch (First Vice-President), and Judge Christine Van Den Wyngaert, noted that holding the proceedings in Bunia may, in principle, contribute to a better perception of the Court and bring the proceedings closer to the affected communities. The Presidency also noted the excellent co-operation and willingness of both the DRC and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) to facilitate the holding of the proceedings in Bunia.

In deciding whether it was desirable and in the interests of justice to sit in Bunia, the Presidency considered a number of factors. Most importantly, it considered concerns over the consequences of the in situ hearings on the witnesses and victims' safety and well-being, as well as the security of the local communities involved. Furthermore, the Presidency considered the concerns expressed by the victims that the accused's return would remind them of the suffering and trauma. The Presidency also considered the impact of the logistics required for the hearings, which may have resulted in the affected communities having limited access to them, given their length and nature. Finally, the Presidency noted the financial impact of the costs of hosting the opening statements in Bunia, which were estimated to be more than €600,000. The ICC Presidency concluded that the potential benefits of holding proceedings in Bunia are, in view of the Presidency, outweighed by these risks.

Decisions and orders

Public redacted version of Decision on the recommendation to the Presidency on holding part of the trial in the State concerned

Issued by the Presidency on 15 June 2015

Order scheduling the opening statements

Issued by Trial Chamber VI on 16 June 2015

Second decision on victims' participation in trial proceedings + Partly dissenting opinion of Judge Ozaki

Issued by Trial Chamber VI on 16 June 2015

Decision on witness preparation

Issued by Trial Chamber VI on 16 June 2015

Decision on the protocol on witness familiarisation

Issued by Trial Chamber VI on 17 June 2015

Public redacted version of Decision on Prosecution request to change the order of appearance of the first witnesses

Issued by Trial Chamber VI on 22 June 2015

Decision on Prosecution and Defence joint submission on agreed facts

Issued by Trial Chamber VI on 22 June 2015

Public redacted version of Sixth decision on Mr Ntaganda's interim release

Issued by Trial Chamber VI on 25 June 2015

Third decision on victims' participation in trial proceedings

Issued by Trial Chamber VI on 2 July 2015

Katanga Case

Decisions and orders

Décision relative à la 'Defence Request Relating to the Trust Fund for Victims'

Issued by Trial Chamber II on 22 June 2015

Lubanga Case

Decisions and orders

Decision on the Presiding Judge of the review concerning reduction of sentence of Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo

Issued by the Appeals Chamber on 15 June 2015

Scheduling order for the review concerning reduction of sentence of Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo

Issued by the Appeals Chamber on 15 June 2015

Decision appointing three judges of the Appeals Chamber for the review concerning reduction of sentence of Mr Thomas Lubanga Dyilo

Issued by the Appeals Chamber on 15 June 2015

Situation in Uganda

The cases *The Prosecutor v. Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo* and *The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen* are currently being heard before Pre-Trial Chamber II. Five warrants of arrest have been issued against five top members of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA). Following the confirmation of the death of Mr Lukwiya, the proceedings against him have been terminated. On 16 January 2015, Dominic Ongwen was surrendered to the ICC's custody and transferred to the ICC Detention Centre on 21 January 2015. His initial appearance before the single Judge of Pre-Trial Chamber II took place on 26 January 2015. The opening of the confirmation of charges hearing in respect of Dominic Ongwen is scheduled for 21 January 2016. On 6 February 2015, Pre-Trial Chamber II severed the proceedings against Dominic Ongwen from the Kony et al. case. The three remaining suspects are still at large.

Ongwen Case

Dominic Ongwen case: ICC Outreach launches new radio talk shows in Northern-Uganda prior to confirmation of charges hearing



ICC Outreach Coordinator Maria Mabinty Kamara speaks on *Gulu FM* for the launch of the "Justice Matters" radio talk shows series in Northern Uganda on 15 June 2015. ©ICC-CPI

proceedings and will be completed with other types of activities including meetings with concerned populations in town hall sessions, information campaigns organised with partners of civil society and community based organisations at universities, schools and legal associations.

Presented in local languages by members of the various communities, including lawyers, human rights activists and media practitioners, the radio programmes were launched simultaneously on 15 June 2015 at 20:00. Subsequent broadcasts will take place on Mondays from 20:00 to 21:00 on Mega FM 102; Saturday 19:00; and 20:00 on Gulu FM 102.7, both in the Acholi sub-region; Every Monday from 19:30 – 20:30 on Unity FM 97.7 in the Lango sub-region; Tuesdays at 19:00 – 20:00 on Radio Delta 97.0 in the Teso sub-region; and every first two Fridays of each month on *Voice of the Nile* on frequency 106.1 in the Madi sub-region.

The one-hour live radio programmes focus on the ICC mandate and activities as well as the judicial aspects of its work in Uganda, primarily related to the Ongwen case and covering also the Kony et al case. The radio series will also serve as a channel for the Outreach Unit to identify community information needs through specific questions asked by callers, promote relevant debates, and provide updates and explanations on the upcoming judicial developments in the cases of *The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen*.

Decisions and orders

Judgment on the appeal of the Prosecutor against the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber II entitled "Decision Setting the Regime for Evidence Disclosure and Other Related Matters"

Issued by the Appeals Chamber on 17 June 2015

Order to the Registrar on the registration of documents in the case record relating to the appeal phase of the proceedings

Issued by the Appeals Chamber on 15 June 2015

Decision on the "Prosecution application under regulation 24(5) for leave to reply"

Issued by Pre-Trial Chamber II on 17 June 2015

Decision on a request by the Prosecutor under article 57 of the Rome Statute and regulation 101(2) of the Regulations of the Court

Issued by Pre-Trial Chamber II on 24 June 2015

Order for submissions on the possibility of holding the confirmation of charges hearing in the Republic of Uganda

Issued by Pre-Trial Chamber II on 29 June 2015

Situation in Darfur, Sudan

There are five cases in the situation in Darfur, Sudan: *The Prosecutor v. Ahmad Muhammad Harun ("Ahmad Harun") and Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman ("Ali Kushayb")*; *The Prosecutor v. Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir*; *The Prosecutor v. Bahar Idriss Abu Garda*; *The Prosecutor v. Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain*; and *The Prosecutor v. Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein*. Five warrants of arrest have been issued by Pre-Trial Chamber I for Messrs Harun, Kushayb, Al Bashir and Hussein. The four suspects remain at large. A summons to appear was issued for Mr Abu Garda who appeared voluntarily before the Chamber on 18 May 2009. After the confirmation of charges hearing, in February 2010, Pre-Trial Chamber I declined to confirm the charges. Two other summonses to appear were issued against Mr Banda and Mr Jerbo who appeared voluntarily on 17 June 2010; the confirmation of charges hearing took place on 8 December 2010. On 7 March 2011, Pre-Trial Chamber I unanimously decided to confirm the charges of war crimes brought by the ICC Prosecutor against Mr Banda and Mr Jerbo, and committed them to trial. On 16 March 2011, the ICC Presidency constituted Trial Chamber IV and referred the case to it. On 4 October 2013, Trial Chamber IV terminated the proceedings against Saleh Jerbo after receiving evidence pointing towards the death of Mr Jerbo on 19 April 2013. On 11 September 2014, Trial Chamber IV issued an arrest warrant against Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain. The Chamber also vacated the trial date previously scheduled to open on 18 November 2014 and directed the ICC Registry to transmit the new requests for arrest and surrender to any State, including the Sudan, on whose territory Mr Banda may be found.

Hussein Case

ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II refers to the UNSC Sudan's non-cooperation and failure to arrest Mr Abdel Raheem Hussein

On 26 June 2015, the Pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court (ICC) found that the State of Sudan has failed to arrest Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein against whom the ICC has issued an arrest warrant on 1 March 2012 and to surrender him to the Court. The Chamber also found that Sudan failed to consult with the Court and to liaise with its relevant organs to execute the pending arrest warrant. The Chamber decided to refer the finding of Sudan's non-cooperation to the United Nations Security Council, which might decide to take the measures they deem appropriate.

The Chamber noted that Sudan has consistently refused to surrender any of his nationals to the ICC's jurisdiction and that Mr Hussein continues to hold public office in Sudan. The Chamber considered that Sudan's non-cooperation constitutes a failure to comply with resolution 1593 of the United Nations Security Council which created for Sudan, UN member since 1956, an obligation to cooperate fully with the ICC. The Chamber also stressed that the ICC relies mainly on the States' cooperation to fulfil its mandate, and that, when the Security Council refers the situation in Darfur to the Court as constituting a threat to the international peace and security, it might be expected that the Council might also consider deciding on a follow-up.

For more information on this case, click [here](#).

Decisions and orders

Decision on the Prosecutor's request for a finding of non-compliance against the Republic of the Sudan

Issued by Pre-Trial Chamber II on 26 June 2015

Situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire, which was not party to the Rome Statute at the time, had accepted the jurisdiction of the ICC on 18 April 2003; on 14 December 2010 and 3 May 2011, the Presidency of Côte d'Ivoire reconfirmed the country's acceptance of this jurisdiction. On 3 October 2011, the Pre-Trial Chamber authorised the Prosecutor to open an investigation into the situation in Côte d'Ivoire since 28 November 2010. On 22 February 2012, Pre-Trial Chamber III decided to expand its authorisation for the investigation in Côte d'Ivoire to include crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court allegedly committed between 19 September 2002 and 28 November 2010. Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé are accused of four counts of crimes against humanity (murder, rape, other inhumane acts or – in the alternative – attempted murder, and persecution) allegedly committed in the context of post-electoral violence in Côte d'Ivoire between 16 December 2010 and 12 April 2011. Charges were confirmed against them on 12 June 2014 and 11 December 2014 respectively, and their trial assigned to Trial Chamber I. On 11 March 2015, Trial Chamber I joined the two cases in order to ensure the efficacy and expeditiousness of the proceedings. The opening of the trial in this case is scheduled for 10 November 2015. Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé are in the Court's custody. On 22 November 2012, Pre-Trial Chamber I unsealed a warrant of arrest in the case *The Prosecutor v. Simone Gbagbo* for four charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the territory of Côte d'Ivoire between 16 December 2010 and 12 April 2011. On 11 December 2014, Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire's challenge to the admissibility of the case against Simone Gbagbo before the Court, and reminded Côte d'Ivoire of its obligation to surrender Simone Gbagbo to the Court without delay. Mrs. Gbagbo is not in the custody of the Court.

Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé Case

Decisions and orders

Decision on objections concerning access to confidential material on the case record

Issued by Trial Chamber I on 24 June 2015

Order for submissions by the defence for Mr Blé Goudé concerning potentially privileged material

Issued by Trial Chamber I on 25 June 2015

Decision on Defence requests for leave to appeal the 'Order setting the commencement date for trial'

Issued by Trial Chamber I on 2 July 2015

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. The trial in the case *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo* started before Trial Chamber III on 22 November 2010, for two charges of crimes against humanity and three charges of war crimes, and the closing oral statements took place on 12 and 13 November 2014. The judges have commenced their deliberations and the judgement will be pronounced in due course. On 11 November 2014, Pre-Trial Chamber II partially confirmed the charges for *Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, Aimé Kilolo Musamba, Jean-Jacques Mangenda Kabongo, Fidèle Babala Wandu, and Narcisse Arido* and committed the five suspects to trial for offences against the administration of justice allegedly committed in connection with the case of *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo*. On 30 January 2015, the Presidency of the ICC constituted Trial Chamber VII, which will be in charge of the trial in this case. On 21 October 2014, Pre-Trial Chamber II ordered the interim release of Aimé Kilolo Musamba, Jean-Jacques Mangenda Kabongo, Fidèle Babala Wandu and Narcisse Arido. On 29 May 2015, the Appeals Chamber reversed and remanded to Trial Chamber VII the decision ordering the interim release of Aimé Kilolo Musamba, Fidèle Babala Wandu, Jean Jacques Mangenda Kabongo and Narcisse Arido. However, the Chamber found that, taking into account the length of time that has passed since their release, it would not be in the interests of justice for the suspects to be re-arrested. The Appeals Chamber also reversed and remanded to Trial Chamber VII the decision ordering Mr Bemba's interim release in the context of this case.

Bemba et al. Case

Decisions and orders

Decision on 'Prosecution's Request pursuant to Regulation 35 to vary the Time Limit for Disclosure of an Expert Report'

Issued by Trial Chamber VII on 24 June 2015

Order Requesting Observations from Relevant States on Interim Release

Issued by Trial Chamber VII on 24 June 2015

Public-redacted version of Decision on Independent Counsel Report on Material transmitted by the Dutch Authorities

Issued by Trial Chamber VII on 30 June 2015

Relevant Links

Courtroom proceedings can be followed on the ICC website: www.icc-cpi.int, where you can also consult the [hearing schedule](#).



Other Events

ICC Judges agree on measures to improve efficiency of criminal process



ICC Judges in the historic Courtroom 600 of Nuremberg, Germany during a retreat held on 19 - 20 June 2015 ©ICC-CPI

The Judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC) have held a private retreat to consider ways of improving the efficiency of the Court's judicial work. Following intensive discussions, the Judges agreed on concrete measures aimed at harmonizing working methods and implementing best practices.

"I am delighted that we achieved so much progress in discussing questions of common concern in a collegial manner", said ICC President, Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi. "Expediting proceedings is a top priority for the Court, and the retreat was a great success as it allowed Judges to agree on measures to harmonize practices and improve efficiency."

The retreat was held on Friday 19 June and Saturday 20 June 2015 in the historic Courtroom 600 of Nuremberg, Germany, with the generous support of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy and the City of Nuremberg.

A large part of the retreat program was based on the extensive work conducted over the last two and a half years in the context of the Lessons Learned Working Group of the ICC Judges, particularly in relation to issues arising from pre-trial and trial proceedings.

The Judges also held a working session devoted to the Court's relationship with external stakeholders with the participation of Mr Adama Dieng, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and former Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

A summary of the results of the retreat will be provided to States Parties in the near future.

Resumed 13th session of the Assembly of States Parties

The Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (“the Assembly”) held its resumed thirteenth session at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands from 24 to 25 June 2015.

During the session, the Assembly authorized the increase in the obligations to be incurred by the construction project of the permanent premises by six million euros and decided that this increase would be financed through a reduction of the authorized level of the Employee Benefits Liabilities Fund and the Working Capital Fund.

The Assembly also waived the impediment of four members of the Advisory Committee on Nomination of Judges, who would otherwise not be eligible for re-election after their initial three year term ends in 2015. This one time waiver will allow continuity of the Committee’s work.



At its fourteenth plenary meeting the Assembly elected the following as a judge of the International Criminal Court:

Pangalangan, Raul Cano
Group of Asia-Pacific States
(Philippines), list B, male

Under the terms of article 37 of the Rome Statute, Mr. Pangalangan was elected to fill a judicial vacancy; his term of office will end on 10 March 2021.

A list B judge has competence in relevant areas of international law, such as international humanitarian law as well as human rights law and extensive experience in a professional legal capacity, which is of relevance to the judicial work of the Court.

Further information regarding the session may be found on the [website](#) of the Court.

Source: Assembly of States Parties

President of the Assembly and Hague Working Group facilitators visit New York



The President of the Assembly, Mr. Sidiki Kaba (Senegal) visited New York on 29 June 2015 where he, *inter alia*, chaired a meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly and also took part in a meeting of the New York Working Group of the Bureau, chaired by Vice-President Sebastiano Cardi (Italy).

A delegation of Hague Working Group facilitators, led by Vice-President Alvaro Moerzinger (Uruguay) also visited New York from 29 June – 1 July 2015 in order to exchange views with States Parties and civil society at UNHQ on issues of common interest. The delegation from The Hague also included Ambassador Werner Druml (Austria), Ambassador María Teresa de Jesús Infante Caffi (Chile), Ambassador Jan-Lucas van Hoorn (the Netherlands) and Ambassador Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé (Bolivia), as well as Mr. Klaus Keller (Germany) Mr. Nobuyuki Murai, legal adviser of the Japanese Embassy, representing Ambassador Masaru Tsuji (Japan) and Ms. Lourdes Suinaga (Mexico).

Source: Assembly of States Parties

Minister of Justice of the Central African Republic discusses cooperation during visit to ICC headquarters



Pictured here: Central African Minister of Justice H.E. Mr Aristide Sokambi and ICC President Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, at the ICC headquarters in The Hague (Netherlands) on 2 July 2015.
© ICC-CPI

On 2 July 2015, the Minister of Justice of the Central African Republic (CAR), H.E. Mr Aristide Sokambi, visited the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague (the Netherlands), where he held meetings with ICC President Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, the Deputy Prosecutor, Mr James Stewart, and the Registrar, Mr Herman von Hebel.

H.E. Mr Sokambi discussed various cooperation issues with regard to the ongoing ICC investigations in CAR and expressed that "the fight against impunity is a core priority for the authorities in CAR". "The population wants justice. We do our part, with national proceedings and the Special Criminal Court, but we also need the ICC to support us in bringing justice to the victims of crimes. A strong and joint signal is needed that impunity must and will be ended", he added.

President Fernández thanked the Minister for the Central African Republic's longstanding support and cooperation with the ICC, and stated: "The ICC stands together with the government and the people of CAR in their aspirations for lasting peace. The ICC is actively conducting its mandate in CAR and supports the creation of the Special Criminal Court. National and international justice have an important complementary role in breaking the cycle of violence in this country and in securing justice for the victims of atrocity crimes committed on its territory".

The ICC Prosecutor has opened two investigations with respect to atrocity crimes allegedly committed in the territory of CAR in May 2007 and September 2014, respectively. In September 2014, the Prosecutor decided to open a second investigation into the situation in CAR to look into the alleged crimes within the Court's jurisdiction committed since 1 August 2012. Both situations were referred to the Office of the Prosecutor by the CAR authorities.

Statement to the press by Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Conakry, 4 July 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for attending this afternoon's press conference.

At the outset, I would like to thank His Excellency the President and Head of State of the Republic of Guinea, Professor Alpha Condé, and the Minister of Justice Maître Cheick Sako, for their long standing invitation for me to conduct another official visit to the country.

I am grateful for their welcome, and also take this opportunity to underscore the quality of the cooperation provided to my Office by the Guinean authorities over the past six years. Since the opening of its preliminary examination in the weeks following the horrific events of 28 September 2009, my Office has conducted eleven visits to Guinea, the latest in May of this year. In this context, it is the fourth visit I have personally undertaken to Guinea.

Why are we here? Firstly, I am here to update myself on the judicial investigation concerning crimes committed on 28 September 2009, conducted by Guinean authorities in accordance with their primary responsibility to bring to justice those responsible for crimes under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court ("ICC"). I am also here to gauge the prospects of a trial starting within a reasonable time frame.

To this end, yesterday and today I have had a number of meetings with the Guinean authorities, the magistrates in charge of the domestic investigations, representatives of the diplomatic community, civil society as well as victims. Following these meetings, I note that significant and encouraging progress has been made in the investigation carried out by the panel of investigative judges. Numerous high ranking individuals have been indicted and hundreds of victims and key witnesses have been interviewed.

I would like to pay tribute to the enduring determination and dignity of the victims, and especially victims of sexual violence, for the decisive role they are playing in advancing these investigations. They have been waiting for six long years to see justice done.

In this process, it is important to recognise the support provided by the Guinean authorities and in particular the Minister of Justice to the investigative judges in their work. The judges have received extra resources to execute their mandate in full independence, despite significant challenges such as the Ebola crisis which the country has been facing.

The second goal of my visit is related to my Office's preventive mandate. It is absolutely crucial to prevent further crimes from being committed, no matter the situation or circumstance. We know that violence can erupt during elections. I reiterate my 2010 call to all Guinean political actors, to ensure that elections remain calm and that their supporters refrain from violence. I am confident that this message will be heard by all Guineans. I will continue to closely monitor this situation.

In the upcoming months, in accordance with its status as a State Party to the ICC, Guinea can and must demonstrate its will and ability to actively fight against impunity and put an end to violence.

Thank you.

Source: Office of the Prosecutor



Statement to the United Nations Security Council on the Situation in Darfur, pursuant to UNSCR 1593 (2005)

Madame President, Your Excellencies,

1. We are meeting once again pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1593, as I present my Office's twenty-first report on Darfur, Sudan.
2. Today's briefing also takes place over six years after the issuance of the first warrant of arrest against Mr Omar al-Bashir. To those who choose to forget the events that have brought us here and in particular those who have chosen to deliberately distort facts by alleging that the International Criminal Court ("ICC" or the "Court") imposed itself on Sudan, I would like to briefly recall some crucial facts.
3. Lest we forget, on 29 October 2009, the African Union ("AU") endorsed the report and recommendations of the African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur ("AUPD"), led by the former President of South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Thabo Mbeki.
4. This comprehensive 125-page report, entitled: "Darfur: the Quest for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation," recommended a range of steps the Sudanese government ought to take to advance these objectives. These included: the creation of a hybrid court composed of Sudanese and non-Sudanese judges and other officials to investigate and prosecute serious crimes committed in Darfur in violation of international law, as well as broad reforms to the country's criminal justice system.
5. In particular, the Mbeki Panel opined, and I quote:

Should Sudan make genuine efforts to address the crimes in Darfur, the judges of the ICC would be required to evaluate those steps to consider whether they meet the requirements of Article 17 [of the Rome Statute, which gives preference to national courts unless the state in question cannot or will not prosecute]. The final determination of this issue, however, is for the judges of the ICC alone. – end of quote.

Madame President, Your Excellencies,

6. The role of the ICC in efforts to end the atrocities committed in Darfur and to hold those most responsible accountable is crucial and has a well-

known history. Indeed, it is a role equally well recognised by the African Union at the genesis of the exercise of the Court's jurisdiction vis-à-vis Darfur, Sudan.

7. Notably, the Mbeki Panel went on to say:

Whilst the ICC action might be a catalyst for acts of accountability in Sudan, Darfurians deserve attention not because of the threat of international action, but principally because they have a right to justice, in their own country, on account of what they have suffered.

8. The question we need to ask of ourselves today is whether the people of Darfur, Sudan who continue to endure the suffering widely recognised by, amongst others, the Mbeki Panel and the African Union, will ever receive the justice they deserve? Will their plight be finally answered through independent and impartial justice, or will their cries continue to face silent inaction?

9. In my last briefing on Darfur, I stated that given the Council's failure to act decisively on numerous acts of defiance of its Resolutions by the Government of Sudan, and given the limited resources at my disposal, I was left with no choice but to limit active investigations.

10. My message was addressed to this Council to encourage the exercise of its powers to ensure justice for the long-suffering victims of atrocity crimes in Sudan. It was a clarion call to this august body that it is long overdue for you to heed the cries of the victims of rape and sexual abuse, torture, mass displacement and other inhumane suffering Darfurians continue to endure.

11. As always, detractors and their spin-doctors have deliberately distorted this call for Security Council action as a victory for Mr Bashir and other suspects in the Darfur situation.

12. Let me be clear: my Office's determination to bring independent and impartial justice to the people of Sudan remains unshaken. Efforts of detractors and naysayers only serve to strengthen our resolve and spur us to double our efforts in this regard.

13. Mr Bashir's recent rapid departure from South Africa proves that the warrants of arrest against him are as valid as they were when issued; that they remain in full force and effect, and that my Office is committed to ensure they are executed.

14. While Mr Bashir may have escaped the law in South Africa through an unanticipated and premature departure from the 24th AU Summit, the swift judicial action by South African courts we have witnessed is a shining precedent that must be emulated in other States.

15. More generally, the High Court's ruling in South Africa has also underlined a growing recognition by domestic courts of states' obligations to uphold their commitments under international law – in this case, the Rome Statute.

16. As the Court's own Presiding Judge of the Pre-Trial Chamber made clear on Saturday, 13 June, "there exist[ed] no ambiguity or uncertainty with respect to the obligation of the Republic of South Africa to immediately arrest and surrender Omar Al Bashir to the Court, and that the competent authorities of the Republic of South Africa [were] already aware of this obligation."

17. Mr Bashir's hasty retreats in Kenya, Nigeria and now South Africa are also largely due to the vigilance and tireless efforts of civil society. The courage and commitment of civil society are to be commended.

18. More importantly, such selfless efforts must humble us and remind us of the spirit of 1998, when the hopes and aspirations of humanity combined, in a rare historical moment, to create the International Criminal Court with the promise of "Never Again."

19. The international criminal justice project, with the ICC at its nucleus, demands sustained and robust support if it is to succeed and propel us forward towards a more just and peaceful world. We must not allow this virtuous undertaking of humanity to be chipped away or ultimately sacrificed at the altar of political expediency.

20. It is past time for this Council and States to join forces with the Court and civil society in devising concrete and effective strategies for the arrest of accused persons wanted by the Court, and to give the ICC the full support it requires and is entitled to, in order to implement the Rome Statute as intended.

21. My Office has encouraged States Parties to find innovative ways to support those amongst them who are most likely to receive visits from wanted individuals; to be proactive, and to make practical plans for the safe and effective arrest of persons against whom warrants of arrest have been issued by the Court.

22. I encourage States Parties to plan – ahead – for the arrest of each individual wanted by the Court in a targeted and efficient manner. The longer such persons remain at large, the greater the risk that further atrocities will be committed, contributing to instability and insecurity.

Madame President, Your Excellencies,

23. The deteriorating security situation in Darfur continues to be a matter of great concern, not only for my Office, but for the broader international community and undoubtedly, for this Council. Innocent civilians continue to bear the brunt of insecurity and instability, in particular as a result of what appears to be an on-going government campaign to target them.

24. The frequency and brutality of the targeting of civilians, women in particular, is especially troubling. The people alleged to be most responsible for

these ongoing atrocities are the same people against whom warrants of arrest have already been issued. Needless to say, arresting them and bringing them to face justice is the only way to stop these crimes.

25. In this context, I must emphasise that my Office's investigations into the alleged crimes committed in Darfur are continuing, albeit not at the pace or intensity we would have liked. The fact remains that my Office has finite resources and a heavy caseload, and is therefore struggling to commit to full, active investigations of the on-going crimes in Darfur. This, however, should not in any way be misconstrued or interpreted to mean that the investigations have been closed or that we have abandoned the victims of mass atrocities in Darfur. In fact, far from it. A team of lawyers and investigators dedicated to the Darfur investigations in my Office continues to carry out its work, albeit with limited capacity given resource constraints, lack of access to Sudan and inadequate support and follow-up from this Council. My Darfur Team's activities have had to be limited to monitoring and documenting incidents as they occur and to conducting witness interviews where possible and necessary.

26. I urge anyone with reliable information and potential evidence of on-going crimes in Darfur to contact my Office and to proactively support this on-going investigation.

Madame President, Your Excellencies,

27. On 26 June 2015, the Pre-Trial Chamber of the Court found that the Government of Sudan is in non-compliance for its failure to arrest and surrender Abdel Raheem Mohammed Hussein to the ICC. This is in addition to the 9 March 2015 finding of the Pre-Trial Chamber that Sudan has failed to cooperate with the ICC by not arresting and surrendering Mr Omar Al Bashir. The Judges have communicated these findings to this Council for action.

28. These latest judicial findings bring the number of such non-compliance communications to the Council to ten.

29. I urge this Council to give urgent attention to these communications.

30. Following an independent assessment of whether to open an investigation pursuant to a referral by the Security Council, if the decision by the Court is affirmative, then the Rome Statute legal framework foresees a clear role for the Council in the case of non-compliance of States.

31. It is imperative for the Council to recognise this crucial role vis-à-vis those States that have been found to be in non-compliance by the Court, and to assume its responsibilities to advance the objectives of the Rome Statute.

32. Therefore, I once again call on this Council to ensure Sudan's compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1593, and equally call on States Parties to the Rome Statute to promote cooperation and effect the arrest of individuals wanted by the ICC in the Darfur situation.

33. Similarly, I urge ICC States Parties to take the lead in assessing how best individuals for whom warrants have been issued by the Court can be arrested and surrendered to the ICC. That dialogue is past due and my Office encourages it to be given the urgency it deserves.

34. As the Judges of the Court have put it: "if there is no follow-up action on the part of the Security Council, any referral by the Council to the ICC under Chapter VII of the UN Charter would never achieve its ultimate goal, namely, to put an end to impunity. Accordingly, any such referral would become futile."

Madame President, Your Excellencies,

35. My Office welcomes the ongoing dialogue with ICC States Parties, in particular through the caucus of States Parties in this Council. The caucus is an important step towards building institutional memory on justice issues within the Council and ensuring that justice remains an integral part of the Council's discussions.

36. I encourage the leadership of the Assembly of States Parties ("ASP") to the ICC and their esteemed offices to continue to consider how interaction between the caucus and the ASP may strengthen the justice community's interactions at the UN.

37. In conclusion, let me restate that there is more that we can and must all do to achieve peace and justice in Darfur. I will continue to do my part in the exercise of my independent and impartial mandate. The support of partners including civil society from Sudan and elsewhere, States Parties in general and the United Nations remains crucial for my work. It must be stressed that this Council also has a vital role to play and must do its part.

38. I thank you, Madame President, Your Excellencies, for your attention.

Twenty-first report of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to the UN Security Council pursuant to UNSCR 1593 (2005)

English, Français عربي



ICC Prosecutor at the 2015 Oslo Forum (Norway) and the UN headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland)



ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda meets with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein at UNOG. ©ICC-CPI



ICC Prosecutor delivering a lecture on the link between peace and justice at the 2015 Oslo Forum

ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda meets Foreign Minister of Norway Børge Brende at the 2015 Oslo Forum. ©ICC-CPI



ICC Prosecutor giving executive briefing at UNOG



ICC President addresses HIA Conference

On 27 June 2015, ICC President Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi engaged with 200-plus Humanity in Action fellows at the 2015 International Conference entitled "Gateway to Justice: The Hague", in The Hague, The Netherlands. ©ICC-CPI

"Prevention of international crimes requires support of global community": ICC President commemorates International Criminal Justice Day

On 26 June 2015, the President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi emphasized the importance of global support for justice and accountability during a seminar to commemorate the Day of International Criminal Justice organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Embassy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in The Hague (Netherlands). The Day of International Criminal Justice marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the ICC, on 17 July 1998.

Calling on everyone to join in celebrations of International Criminal Justice Day, ICC President Fernández de Gurmendi also stressed that "the prevention and sanction of international crimes require not only the support and cooperation of governments but also of the global community". "The ICC is here to address atrocious crimes committed against our fellow human beings. And our job is to make sure that this is sound, meaningful justice that has a real impact in helping to restore and maintain a stable peace".



The seminar, opened by H.E. Ambassador of Poland Jan Borkowski, also featured discussions on preliminary examinations and investigations by the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor, moderated by H.E. Ambassador of Bolivia Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé.

17 July was designated as the Day of International Criminal Justice by the States Parties to the Rome Statute, and it unites all those who wish to support justice, promote victims' rights, and help prevent crimes that threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world. As of today, 123 States are parties to the Rome Statute, which seeks to end impunity for and help prevent genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

Keynote speech by ICC President Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi at Event marking Day of International Criminal Justice: [English](#)

The Trust Fund for Victims Launches New Assistance Projects in Northern Uganda



Photo: Representatives of TFV and partner organizations attending the annual and project launch workshop held in Lira from 29 June until 2 July 2015. © Marita Nadalutti, TFV

July 2, 2015, Lira, northern Uganda - Since 2008 the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) has been delivering assistance and rehabilitation to victims under the assistance mandate across 18 districts in Northern Uganda, providing services to victims of crimes against humanity and war crimes through a network of local and international non-governmental organizations. The assistance mandate of the TFV is distinct from reparations before the International Criminal Court or the payment of compensation to victims. The TFV assistance programme provides a broad range of medical and psychological rehabilitation services for injured and traumatized victims.

The Trust Fund launched its new projects with the Ministry of Health, local government officials at all levels across the districts of northern Uganda, civil society colleagues, local leaders, women grassroots organizations, and donors who were all invited to celebrate this occasion.

Even now several years after the conflict a large number of victims with physical injuries and psychological trauma sustained during the conflict in Northern Uganda remain to be treated and in need of assistance. The TFV selected the six new partners to provide the following rehabilitative services: medical services for victim survivors of sexual violence; trauma counseling and psychological support services; reconstructive plastic surgery to rehabilitate facial, head, and burn injuries; orthopedic surgical services; fitting and repair of prosthetic and orthotic devices; physiotherapy; corrective surgery to remove foreign objects (bullets and/or shrapnel); post-burn contracture surgery and physiotherapy; victim patient community mobilization initiatives; and referrals for post-operative care and follow-up.

In addition to the aims of expanding access to rehabilitative surgical and medical services as well as and enhancing access to psychological rehabilitation support, the TFV identified innovative projects which will support the reconciliation and healing at the community level through sensitization and awareness raising campaigns to reduce the added stigma and discrimination that victims of grave human rights abuses often endure. The Trust Fund for Victims has made a programmatic and financial commitment to support the following new partner organization over the next 3 years from 2015 until 2018:

- Amuria District Development Agency (ADDA);
- Ayira Health Services (AHS);
- Center for Children in Vulnerable Situations (CCVS);
- Gulu Women Economic Development & Globalization (GWED-G);
- North East Chili Producers Association (NECPA);
- Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO);

Through a competitive open procurement and review process that was completed this year in 2015, the TFV has selected 6 new partner organizations with the capacity to deliver integrated physical and psychological rehabilitation assistance services for victim in Northern Uganda.

Five of the six new projects will receive funding earmarked for activities that address the harm suffered by survivor of sexual and gender-based violence. The sixth new project is funded from the common basket of voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Victims.

The six new projects will be implemented in conjunction with the current and ongoing legacy projects of the Trust Fund for Victims that have been implemented since 2008 in partnership with AVSI and since 2009 with the Centre for Victims of Torture (CVT) to support victims through the provision of physical rehabilitation and psychosocial counseling. Both implementing partners are funded through the common basket of voluntary contributions.

The 2015 portfolio for TFV projects in Northern Uganda amounts to EUR 735,000 and in 2016 the TFV shall endeavor to improve on that figure.

Source: *Trust Fund for Victims*

ICC launches #justicematters Facebook campaign and Outreach blog to commemorate 17 July, the Day of International Criminal Justice



The International Criminal Court (ICC) is launching a new two-week #justicematters social media campaign on Facebook from 6 to 17 July, the Day of International Criminal Justice, inviting submissions on why #justicematters to you. At the same time, the ICC is launching a new Outreach blog to share stories from ICC staff working directly with communities affected by crimes.

Facebook campaign

The Court invites you to fill in a #justicematters poster, with a word or phrase to describe why #justicematters to you. Take selfies, or make vines or videos, and post it on our Facebook page

Remember to tell us where you are from and we will add you to our #justicematters world map.

Blog

Follow our new Outreach blog (<https://www.tumblr.com/search/iccoutreach>) launching in the lead-up to 17 July, and

hear stories from ICC staff working directly with communities affected by crimes under the Court's jurisdiction: genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Contributing writers engage grassroots communities to inform them about victims' rights, explain judicial proceedings, answer questions, address concerns, and foster realistic expectations about the Court's work.

Background

17 July is the Day of International Criminal Justice. It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the founding treaty of the ICC, which seeks to deter people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

17 July unites all those who wish to support justice, promote victims' rights, and help prevent crimes that threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the first permanent international criminal court established to try individuals for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. More information: www.icc-cpi.int

For more information: www.icc-cpi.int

[The Court Today](#), [Factsheets](#), [Situations under investigation](#), [Cases](#), and [News](#).

Follow the ICC on Twitter: [@IntlCrimCourt](https://twitter.com/IntlCrimCourt)



On 23 June 2015, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng visited the Court, meeting with ICC President Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi (pictured here). ©ICC-CPI



ICC President Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Artur Nowak-Far during his visit to the Court on 24 June 2015. ©ICC-CPI

Interacting with Communities



Outreach activity in Côte d'Ivoire

On 15 June 2015, ICC outreach staff in Côte d'Ivoire held a training about the ICC with members of Amnesty International's Côte d'Ivoire section, in Abidjan. ©ICC-CPI

Outreach activities in Uganda

During the week of 15 June 2015, the Registry led a joint mission in Northern Uganda with the participation of representatives from the Office of the Prosecutor and held a series of outreach sessions with religious and cultural leaders, civil society organisations, media representatives and affected populations from the Acholi sub-region, providing them with updates on the Dominic Ongwen case and responding to their questions and concerns. ©ICC-CPI



Meeting with Acholi religious and cultural leaders on 16 June. ©ICC-CPI



Media briefing in Gulu on 18 June. ©ICC-CPI



Outreach session in Odek village, Gulu district (Acholi sub-region), on 18 June. ©ICC-CPI

Outreach Coordinator responds to journalists' questions during a refresher training session on the judicial proceedings at the ICC, in Kampala on 22 June 2015. ©ICC-CPI





On 23 June 2015, Outreach staff in Kampala held a dialogue with Kampala-based civil society organisations and discussed updates on the Dominic Ongwen case and next procedural steps. ©ICC-CPI

Please note that the publication of the ICC Weekly Update will be discontinued after this issue and is scheduled to resume after the Court's Summer Recess in August 2015.

The latest news and highlights will continue to be available on the [ICC website homepage](#), and on [Twitter](#), [Flickr](#) and [YouTube](#).

Calendar

Judicial developments

- **2 September 2015**
Scheduled opening of the trial in the case *The Prosecutor v. Bosco Ntaganda*
- **29 September 2015**
Scheduled opening of the trial in the case *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, Aimé Kilolo Musamba, Jean-Jacques Mangenda Kabongo, Fidèle Babala Wandu and Narcisse Arido*
- **10 November 2015**
Scheduled opening of the trial in the case *The Prosecutor v. Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé*
- **21 January 2016**
Scheduled opening of the confirmation of charges hearing in the case *The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen*

View the online [ICC hearing schedule](#)

Forthcoming events

- **13 July 2015**
Swearing-in ceremony for newly-elected ICC Judge Raul Pangalangan

The calendar is subject to last-minute changes.