

Archived Updates and Developments - 2008

December 2008

Bemba Case: Confirmation of Charges Hearing will be held from 12 to 15 January 2009

On 29 December 2008, ICC Pre-Trial Chamber III [decided](#) that the confirmation of charges hearing in the case of The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo will take place from [12 to 15 January 2009](#).

On 2 December 2008, the ICC [announced](#) that the confirmation of charges hearing in the [Bemba case](#) scheduled for 8 December 2008 would be postponed to January 2009 as one of the Judges of [ICC Pre-Trial Chamber III](#) had to be granted leave of absence until January 2009 due to grave family circumstances. The purpose of the hearing is for the Chamber to assess whether or not the [crimes against humanity and war crimes charges](#) on which the ICC Prosecutor intends to seek trial of Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo will be confirmed. The trial phase can only begin once the charges are confirmed.

November 2008

ICC prosecutor asks judges to open third case in Darfur: Moreno-Ocampo seeks to prosecute rebel attacks against African Union peacekeepers

On 20 November 2008, ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo [asked Judges of Pre-Trial Chamber I to issue arrest warrants](#) for war crimes allegedly committed against the African-Union peacekeeping forces in its Haskanita base (Darfur) on 29 September 2007.

In a [public summary of the application](#), the prosecutor did not reveal the names of the individuals against whom the arrest warrants were sought, but stated that these individuals were rebel commanders of the thousand soldiers carrying out these attacks. The prosecutor lists 3 counts of war crimes, including the murder of 12 peacekeepers, the severe injury caused to 8 others, and the pillaging of and intentionally direct attacks against peacekeeping personnel. In accordance with Article 58 of the Rome Statute, it is now up to the Pre-Trial Chamber I to decide whether to issue a warrant of arrest based on the prosecutor's application and any related evidence or information. "Attacks on international peacekeepers constitute a grave threat to the international community's ability to protect civilian populations and to maintain international peace and security," [said Convenor of the Coalition for the ICC William R. Pace](#). "While the judges reflect on this application, the Coalition calls on all the international community to support the Court's work in addressing the situation in Darfur and on the Court to increase its outreach and public information efforts by the Court to affected Sudanese communities and other stakeholders."

Lubanga trial to start on 26 January 2009: ICC announces decision to lift the stay of proceedings

On 18 November 2008, Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court announced its decision to [lift the stay of the proceedings in the Lubanga case](#) as the reasons for imposing the stay "have fallen away". The Judges announced the trial would start on 26 January 2009. Trial Chamber I also decided [not to grant the release nor provisional release of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo](#).

Seventh ASP meets in The Hague

From 14 to 22 November 2008, the [seventh session of the Assembly of States Parties \(ASP\)](#) to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is meeting in The Hague. Representatives from each of the now 108 ICC member states gather to adopt the Court's 2009 budget and discuss a number of issues central to the Court's functioning. Each year, the ASP is a pivotal event for the more than 200 NGOs attending as observers. The CICC has attended meetings of the ICC's Preparatory Committees, Commissions and Assembly of States Parties since 1996. In this 10th anniversary year of the adoption of the Rome Statute, NGOs again expect to contribute to the debate through advocacy meetings, thematic hearings, regional lunches, a press conference and the submission of [position papers](#) from 12 issue-based teams.

ICC premises: Three winners selected in international design competition
On 6 November 2008, the [prize-winners](#) of the architectural competition for the construction of the new permanent ICC facilities were [announced](#). Of the 19 architectural firms that submitted designs, three architectural firms were selected: 1) Ingenhoven Architects, Düsseldorf, Germany; 2) Schmidt Hammer Lassen / Bosch & Fjord, Århus, Denmark; and 3) Wiel Arets Architects & Associates, Maastricht, The Netherlands. All 19 designs will be on display in The Hague City Hall from 19 to 25 November 2008. The ICC may now enter into negotiations with one or more of the prize-winners to determine the winning design and the next steps in the building's construction, which will be overseen by Project Director Hans Heemrood of The Netherlands. The final winning design will be made public in early 2009. The selection was made by an international jury chaired by the Chief Government Architect of The Netherlands, Liesbeth van der Pol. The CICC participated on the jury as an observer, and has advocated for a building design that serves as an iconic symbol of international justice while remaining open and welcoming to victims, witnesses, and other participants in the Court's work.

October 2008

Bemba case: Confirmation of Charges Hearing to be held on 8 - 12 December 2008

On 31 October 2008, the International Criminal Court announced that the [confirmation of charges hearing in the Bemba case will take place from 8 December to 12 December 2008](#). The hearing was initially scheduled to open on 4 November 2008. Its purpose is for the Chamber to assess whether or not the crimes against humanity and war crimes charges on which the ICC Prosecutor intends to seek trial of Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo will be confirmed. The trial phase can only begin once the charges are confirmed.

Trial Chamber constituted in Katanga Ngudjolo case

On 24 October 2008, the ICC Presidency [referred the case against Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui to Trial Chamber II](#), which is composed of Judges Fatoumata Dembele Diarra (Mali), Fumiko Saiga (Japan) and Bruno Cotte (France). Katanga and Ngudjolo are accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Their trial could be expected to start in 2009.

ICC Appeals Chamber keeps first trial on hold but says Trial Chamber must rethink release of accused

On 21 October 2008, the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) [rejected the appeal by the ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo to revive the trial of the ICC's first accused](#), Thomas Lubanga Dyilo of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). However, the judges [ruled in favor of the Prosecutor's appeal to](#)

[reject the release of the accused](#) because the trial was on hold. The Appeals Chamber said the Trial Chamber was wrong to say that an inevitable consequence of a conditional stay of the trial proceedings is the unconditional and immediate release of the accused. Judges remanded the matter of the accused's release back to the Trial Chamber for a new determination regarding the release of [Lubanga](#), in light of their judgment and by taking into account all relevant factors, including the need for Lubanga to remain in detention according to the conditions set out in Articles 60 and 58 (1) of the Rome Statute.

On 22 October 2008 Trial Chamber I reacted to the Appeal's Chamber's decision, [requesting the Prosecution, Defence and Legal Representatives of victims to make submissions](#) on Lubanga's pre-trial detention before 31 October 2008.

Bemba case: ICC Pre-Trial Chamber III postpones confirmation of charges hearing; new date to be announced soon

On 17 October 2008 ICC Pre-Trial Chamber III issued [a decision postponing the confirmation of charges hearing](#) in the Bemba case. The hearing was originally scheduled to start on 4 November 2008. A new date will be decided upon at a status conference to be held in closed session on Wednesday 22 October 2008.

September 2008

ICC sends case against Katanga and Ngudjolo to trial

On 26 September 2008, ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I [confirmed all but three of the alleged charges in the case against Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui](#), sending the case against them to trial. Pre-trial judges found sufficient evidence to try Katanga and Ngudjolo for seven counts of war crimes and three counts of crimes against humanity. They found insufficient evidence to try Katanga and Ngudjolo for inhuman treatment, outrages upon personal dignity and inhumane acts. The alleged crimes were committed in the village of Bogoro in the Ituri district of eastern DRC from January to March 2003. The trial could be expected to start in 2009.

Trust Fund for Victims launches €10 million donor appeal to assist 1.7 million victims of sexual violence

On 10 September 2008, the Board of Directors of the [Trust Fund for Victims \(TFV\)](#) launched [an appeal](#) for €10 million to assist 1.7 million victims of sexual violence in the 4 countries currently investigated by the International Criminal Court. The [press conference](#) was held on the occasion of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. During one of the sessions of this meeting, the Board engaged in an open dialogue with Members of the Coalition for the ICC.

Didier Preira to become ICC's first Deputy Registrar

On 9 September 2008, [Didier Preira of Senegal](#) was elected by International Criminal Court Judges as the first Deputy Registrar of the Court for a term of five-years.

Trial Chamber I maintains stay of proceedings in Lubanga case

On 3 September 2008, ICC Trial chamber I decided to [maintain the stay of the proceedings](#) in the Lubanga case. On 11 July 2008, the Prosecution had [requested Trial Chamber I to resume trial proceedings](#) and to revoke the order of release of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo because of new UN procedures that would allow the Chamber to review potentially exculpatory evidence. "The proposals outlined in the application demonstrably fail to meet the prerequisites set out hitherto by the Chamber to enable it to lift the stay of proceedings, and they infringe fundamental

aspects of the accused's right to a fair trial" state the Judges [in their decision to uphold the stay](#). Thomas Lubanga Dyilo will however remain in custody until a final decision is taken by the ICC Appeals Chamber on the appeal of the order granting unconditional release to Thomas Lubanga Dyilo.

July 2008

Resignation of Judge Navanethem Pillay

On 30 July 2008, [Judge Navanethem Pillay submitted her resignation](#) to the President of the ICC. Ms. Navanethem Pillay was appointed as the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, approved by the UN General Assembly on 28 July. Originally from South Africa, Ms. Pillay has served as an ICC appeals chamber judge since 2003. Pillay is to take up her new post on 1 September for a four-year term and will resign from her judgeship on 31 August. In January 2009 in New York, the Assembly of States Parties will elect six new judges to fill the vacancies left by judges who were initially elected for a six-year, non-renewable term, which includes Judge Pillay who was serving a six-year term ending in March 2009. On 29 August 2008, the Presidency of the ICC announced that Judge Pillay would be [replaced in the Appeals Division by Judge Daniel Nsereko](#), as from 1 September 2008.

Tenth anniversary of the Rome Statute

To [commemorate the historic tenth anniversary](#) of the adoption of the Rome Statute and of the [emergence of this new system of international justice](#), the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) has been involved in three high-level events in the Hague (Netherlands), New York (USA) Johannesburg (South Africa). Around the world, members of the Coalition will be celebrating this day with citizens in their community, government officials and members of the legal community. "Today we celebrate a treaty that constitutes a milestone for peace and security. The [Rome Statute](#) is the advancement of a dream, a dream for human security. This day marks one of the most important achievements in international law since the adoption of the UN Charter in 1948," said the Convener of the Coalition for the ICC William R. Pace.

Prosecutor requests Pre-Trial Chamber to issue an arrest warrant for Omar al-Bashir

On 14 July 2008, the Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo, requested Pre-Trial Chamber I to issue an arrest warrant for Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir in the Darfur situation in Sudan. In his Application, the Prosecutor stated that there are reasonable grounds to believe that al-Bashir bears criminal responsibility for genocide, crimes and war crimes committed in Darfur in the past five years. The Application lists ten counts, and alleges among other things that al-Bashir "masterminded and implemented a plan to destroy in substantial part the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa groups, on account of their ethnicity."

[ICC Press release](#)

[Summary of the case](#)

[CICC Press release](#)

Appeals Chamber decision on victims' participation in the Lubanga case

On 11 July 2008, the Appeals Chamber of the ICC delivered an [important decision](#) on the appeal of the Prosecutor and the Defence against the [Trial Chamber I decision of 18 January 2008 on victims' participation](#) within the context of the trial against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo.

On three issues under appeal the Chamber decided:

"[...] 1.(i) is confirmed to the extent that the Trial Chamber decided that for the purposes of rule 85 (a) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the harm suffered by victims does not necessarily have to be direct.

(ii) is amended such that the Appeals Chamber also finds that the harm suffered under rule 85 (a) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, must necessarily be personal harm.

2. "is reversed to the extent that the Trial Chamber decided that neither rule 85 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence nor the Rome Statute framework has the effect of restricting the participation of victims to the crimes contained in the charges confirmed by the Pre-Trial Chamber".

3. "is confirmed to the extent that the Trial Chamber decided that participating victims may possibly lead evidence pertaining to the guilt or innocence of the accused when requested, and challenge the admissibility or relevance of evidence in the trial proceedings. [...]"

Former Vice-President of the DRC and Rebel Leader surrendered and transferred to the ICC in The Hague

On 3 July 2008, Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo alleged President and Commander in Chief of the "Mouvement de Libération du Congo" (MLC) was [transferred by Belgian authorities to the ICC](#) Detention Centre in The Hague, The Netherlands. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo was arrested in Belgium on 24 May 2008 on the basis of a warrant of arrest issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in the Central African Republic (CAR). On 4 July 2008, Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo [appeared for the first time](#) before Pre-Trial Chamber III.

ICC Trial Chamber I orders release of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo; Decision appealed granted suspensive effect

On [2 July 2008](#), Trial Chamber I issued [an order](#) granting unconditional release to the ICC's first accused, Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, because the Prosecution was unable to make available potentially exculpatory materials. The Prosecution subsequently appealed the order. On 7 July 2008, the Appeals Chamber of the ICC granted the suspensive effect of the Prosecution's appeal. The accused shall not leave detention until the Appeals Chamber has resolved the issue. The order to release follows the Chambers' [halting of Lubanga trial proceedings](#) on 13 June 2008. The Lubanga case was to be the first trial of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

June 2008

ICC opens Confirmation of charges hearing in Katanga - Ngudjolo Chui case

On 27 June 2008, Pre-Trial Chamber I opened a [confirmation of charges hearing](#) in the case against Germain Katanga and Matthieu Ngudjolo Chui to assess whether the case can proceed to trial. The hearing is expected to last until 16 July. [Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui](#) are charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity. Alleged acts include murder, inhumane acts, inhuman or cruel treatment, the use of child soldiers, sexual slavery, wilful killing, intentional attacks against the civilian population and pillage.

ICC Prosecutor Addresses UN Security Council on Darfur Situation

On 5 June 2008, ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo presented his seventh report on Darfur to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). In his statement to the Council Moreno-Ocampo stressed the non-compliance of the government of Sudan with UN Resolution 1593 one year after the first arrest warrants were issued by the ICC for Ahmed Harun and Ali Kushayb. The Prosecutor hence requested the Council

to act in a "decisive" way and issue a statement requesting full cooperation of the Sudanese with the Court. The Prosecutor also said he would publicly present a second Darfur case to ICC judges in July that will focus on the involvement of the state apparatus in the commission of atrocities. Following the Prosecutor's report, each of the Security Council countries made statements.

On 5 June, the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, issued a statement indicating the Secretary-General's "deep concern about the reported lack of cooperation of the Government of Sudan with the Prosecutor" and his conviction that there is no sustainable peace without justice: "Peace and justice go hand in hand. Impunity for the serious crimes committed in Darfur cannot be accepted."

[OTP Statement](#)

[OTP Report](#)

[ICC Press Release](#)

[UNSG Statement](#)

[Government Statements](#)

CICC and Justice for Darfur Organize Joint Press Briefing

On 4 June 2008, the CICC and Justice for Darfur co-sponsored a joint press briefing for UN journalists in New York by CICC Convenor William Pace, Human Rights Watch's International Justice Program Director Richard Dicker and Niemat Ahmadi of Save Darfur Coalition. Panel members called on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to push the Sudanese government to cooperate with the Court in compliance with UNSC Resolution 1593. The briefing coincided with a Security Council stop in Khartoum during a ten day mission to Africa.

[CICC Media Advisory](#)

[NGO Media Statements](#)

Sixth ASP Resumes in New York

From 2 to 6 June, Coalition for the ICC members from around the world gathered at UN Headquarters in New York for the resumed session of the [Sixth annual Assembly of States Parties](#). Discussions mainly focused on the crime of aggression but issues debated also included the Rome Statute Review Conference, some budgetary issues and the Oversight Committee. Aside from formal debates in the plenary, the CICC organised a series of meeting with States parties and observer NGOs, including on universality and implementation of the Rome Statute and on Cooperation.

[ICC press release](#)

[Official Documentation](#)

May 2008

European Parliament Adopts Resolution on Sudan and the ICC

On 23 May 2008, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on Sudan and the ICC, condemning Sudan's "persistent failure to cooperate with the ICC," and calling for the arrest and hand over to the ICC of Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb.

[EP resolution](#)

Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo arrested in Belgium for crimes allegedly committed in the CAR

On 24 May 2008, Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, alleged President and Commander in Chief of the "Mouvement de Libération du Congo" (MLC) was arrested by the Belgian authorities for crimes allegedly committed in the Central African Republic (CAR).

On 23 May 2008, ICC Pre-Trial Chamber III had issued a sealed warrant of arrest for Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, which was unsealed on 24 May 2008. The warrant of arrest contains two counts of crimes against humanity: rape and torture, as well as four counts of war crimes: rape; torture; outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment; and pillaging a town or place.

[ICC press release](#)

[OTP Press Release](#)

[Warrant of arrest](#)

April 2008

ICC unseals fourth arrest warrant in DRC situation

On 29 April 2008, Pre-Trial Chamber I unsealed a warrant of arrest against Mr. Bosco Ntaganda, alleged former Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Forces Patriotiques pour la Libération du Congo (FPLC), and alleged current Chief of Staff of the Congrès national pour la défense du peuple (CNDP) armed group, active in North Kivu in the DRC. The warrant of arrest lists three war crimes: 1) the enlistment of children under the age of fifteen; 2) the conscription of children under the age of fifteen; and 3) using children under the age of fifteen to participate actively in hostilities. This is the fourth arrest warrant unsealed within the context of the DRC situation.

[ICC Press Release](#)

[OTP Press Release](#)

[Arrest Warrant](#)

[CICC Media Advisory](#)

[NGO Media Statements](#)

ICC Registrar meets UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

On 28 April 2008, Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Children and Armed Conflict met with the ICC Registrar Ms Silvana Arbia at the premises of the Court in The Hague. The Registrar briefed Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy on the work of the Registry and latest judicial developments at the Court. The issue of family visits to indigent detainees was also discussed. Issues raised by Radhika Coomaraswamy during the meeting included the importance of international community's support to the Court, especially in terms of protection of witnesses including children witnesses; and issues relating to reparations to children in the context of recruitment and use.

Ms Coomaraswamy, upon invitation, had submitted an Amicus Curiae brief to the Trial Chamber I on 17 March 2008. At a press briefing following her meeting, Ms Coomaraswamy explained that her brief aimed at having the Court adopt "a broad interpretation of the terms conscripting, enlisting and using children in hostilities (...) to have a definition that allows to get the full experience of children in the DRC." "We are also arguing that using women as sex slaves or wives in the context of the DRC war can also be meant as to using them to 'participate actively in'", she added, urging the protection of the girl child.

[ICC Press Release](#)

[Amicus Curiae](#)

Katanga - Ngudjolo Chui Case: Confirmation of charges hearing postponed

On 25 April 2008, Pre-Trial Chamber I decided to postpone the confirmation of charges hearing in the case The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui to 27 June 2008. The hearing was initially set for 21 May 2008 but the Chamber decided to give more time to the parties to prepare for the hearing. The Chamber, among other things, took into account that there are currently five

interlocutory appeals pending before the Appeals Chamber in the case. The purpose of a confirmation of charges hearing is to assess whether or not to confirm the charges on which the ICC Prosecutor intends to seek trial of the suspect.

[ICC Press Release](#)

[PTCI Decision](#)

New ICC Registrar Silvana Arbia Sworn In

On 17 April 2008, Ms Silvana Arbia (Italy) was sworn-in as the new Registrar of the International Criminal Court at the seat of the Court in The Hague. In her speech, Ms. Arbia acknowledged "the ICC could not be imagined without the valuable assistance of civil society groups", hoping "that they will continue providing their contribution". Ms. Arbia was elected by ICC judges in February 2008 and succeeds Bruno Cathala (France).

[ICC Press Release](#)

[Statement by new Registrar](#)

[Office of the Registrar](#)

March 2008

Lubanga trial to start on 23 June 2008

On 12 and 13 March 2008 during a public hearing held at the ICC, Trial Chamber I decided that the trial in the case of The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo would start on 23 June 2008 in The Hague.

[ICC Press Release](#)

Katanga and Ngudjolo Chui cases joined

On 10 March 2008 Pre-Trial Chamber I issued a decision joining the cases of The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga and The Prosecutor v. Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui. The Chamber also set the confirmation of charges hearing to 21 May 2008 and confirmed Judge Sylvia Steiner would remain Single Judge for the joint case, including for disclosure issues.

[PTCI Decision](#)

[ICC Press Release](#)

February 2008

Silvana Arbia elected Registrar of the ICC

On 28 February 2008, ICC judges meeting in plenary session elected by an absolute majority Ms. Silvana Arbia of Italy as the next ICC Registrar for a five-year term. She will take up her functions at a date to be determined shortly. Ms. Arbia succeeds Bruno Cathala of France who was elected on 24 June 2003 as the first Registrar of the Court for a five-year term. On 13 February 2008, Mr. Bruno Cathala had submitted his resignation to ICC President Philippe Kirsch, to take effect on 9 April 2008. Mr. Bruno Cathala, whose term as registrar would end in July 2008, is to become the new President of the "Tribunal de Grande Instance" of Evry, France.

The Registrar, as head of the Registry, is the principal administrative officer of the Court and exercises his or her functions under the authority of the President.

[ICC Press Release on Ms. Arbia's Election](#)

[ICC Press Release on Mr. Cathala's Departure](#)

[CICC's campaign to promote fair and transparent elections](#)

[Election of ICC Registrar](#)

First Appearance of DRC suspect Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui before the ICC

On 11 February 2008, Mr. Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui appeared for the first time before the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I in a public hearing. After confirming his identity, date of birth and profession, Mr. Ngudjolo Chui was informed of the charges brought against him as well as his rights under the Rome Statute, including his right to request interim release and selecting a counsel of his choice. His duty counsel, Maitre Jean-Pierre Kilenda Kakengi Basila, requested the interim release of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui and submitted that the case brought against his client was inadmissible explaining that Mr. Ngudjolo has already been tried and acquitted by a national court in the DRC for the same facts as those described in the warrant of arrest. The date of the confirmation of charges hearing was provisionally set to 21 May 2008. Furthermore, Presiding Judge Akua Kuenyehia explained that considering that the Prosecution filed a joint application for warrants of arrests against Mr. Ngudjolo and Mr. Germain Katanga, a closed session would be held on 12 February 2008 to consider whether or not the proceedings against Mr. Ngudjolo and the proceedings against Mr. Katanga should be joined.

[ICC Press Release](#)
[DRC situation](#)

ICC Opens Third DRC Case

On 7 February 2008, the ICC issued a Press Release announcing that Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, a Congolese national and alleged former leader of the National integrationist Front (FNI) and a Colonel in the National Army of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo [Forces armées de la RDC/ Armed Forces of the DRC] (FARDC), had been arrested and transferred to the ICC. This is the third arrest warrant unsealed and executed within the context of the DRC situation. The Advisory also announced that Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui would be arriving on 7 February 2008 at the ICC detention center in The Hague.

[ICC Press Release](#)
[Warrant of Arrest](#)

ICC Prosecutor to travel to CAR

On 7 February 2008, ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo will visit Central African Republic (CAR). On 22 May 2007, ICC Prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo announced the opening of a fourth investigation into grave crimes allegedly committed in the Central African Republic (CAR), with the peak of violence occurring in 2002 and 2003.

[ICC-OTP Press Release](#)

January 2008

Katanga case: Confirmation of charges rescheduled

The Confirmation hearing in the Katanga case, which had been set to be held 28 February 2008, has been postponed to a later date. The Pre-Trial Chamber particularly considered that the Defence was not yet in possession of all the evidence the Prosecution intended to rely on at the hearing. Following the confirmation hearing, the Pre-Trial Chamber will decide whether or not to confirm the charges of crimes of war and crimes against humanity brought by the Prosecutor against Mr Germain Katanga.

[ICC Press release](#)
[PTC I Decision](#)

ICC Deputy Prosecutor meets with AU head

On 26 January 2008, ICC Deputy Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda met with the head of the African Union, H.E. Alpha Oumar Konaré. Mrs. Bensouda was in Ethiopia for a consultation on women in Darfur held on 24-25 January.

[ICC-OTP Press Release on AU meeting](#)

[ICC-OTP Press Release on Darfur consultation](#)

Three New ICC Judges Sworn In and Assigned to Divisions

On 17 January 2008 at 10:30 a.m., Judges Bruno Cotte (France), Fumiko Saiga (Japan) and Daniel David Ntanda Nsereko (Uganda), were sworn in at the seat of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. The Judges were elected at the sixth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC at the UN headquarters in New York, on 30 November and 3 December 2007. They are replacing three judges who have resigned prior to the end of their terms.

On 17 January 2008 afternoon, the ICC judges held a plenary session in which they decided upon the assignment of the new Judges to ICC divisions. Judge Daniel David Ntanda Nsereko and Judge Bruno Cotte were assigned to the ICC Trial Division. Judge Fumiko Saiga was assigned to the Pre-trial division.

[ICC Press Release on Judges Undertaking](#)

[ICC Press Release on Judges Assignment](#)

[Biographies of the three new judges](#)

[Statement of ASP President Bruno Stagno Ugarte](#)

[Solemn undertaking](#)

CICC's policy on the referral and prosecution of situations before the ICC:

The Coalition for the ICC is not an organ of the Court. The CICC is an independent NGO movement dedicated to the establishment of the International Criminal Court as a fair, effective, and independent international organization. The Coalition will continue to provide the most up-to-date information about the ICC and to help coordinate global action to effectively implement the Rome Statute of the ICC. The Coalition will also endeavor to respond to basic queries and to raise awareness about the ICC's trigger mechanisms and procedures, as they develop. The Coalition as a whole, and its secretariat, do not endorse or promote specific investigations or prosecutions or take a position on situations before the ICC. However, individual CICC members may endorse

referrals, provide legal and other support on investigations, or develop partnerships with local and other organizations in the course of their efforts.

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