

# BULLETIN

of the  
Coalition for the International Criminal Court



## IN FOCUS: Bemba Granted Interim Release but Still to Face Trial

On 14 August 2009, ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II granted interim release to Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo who is awaiting his trial scheduled to start in 2010. The Chamber still has to determine to which state and under which conditions Bemba will be provisionally released. Bemba will not be released until a state agrees to host him. Several public hearings are scheduled between 7 and 14 September 2009 to hear the views of states that may host him, the prosecutor, victims and the suspect. States currently under consideration include Belgium, Portugal, France, Germany, South Africa, The Netherlands and Italy. Once Bemba's trial is set to open in The Hague, authorities of the state that will host him have the obligation to surrender him to the Court for trial. The ICC Prosecutor has **appealed** the decision. Former DRC Vice-President Bemba faces charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the **Central African Republic (CAR)**.

## ICC/ASP

### CICC Budget and Legal Representation Teams Present Recommendations

On 24 August 2009, the CICC Budget and Finance team and the CICC Legal Representation team respectively presented **recommendations** to the Committee on Budget and Finance (CBF) on the ICC's proposed budget

for 2010 and specific legal aid reports. The CBF is a subsidiary expert body of the **Assembly of States Parties**.

### States to Nominate Candidates to Trust Fund Board and Judges' Positions

States will hold **elections** during the eighth

session of the **ASP** to fill 2 judicial vacancies at the ICC and to select five new Directors for the Board of the **ICC Trust Fund for Victims**. States have until 16 September 2009 to nominate candidates for the **judges' positions** and until 25 August 2009 to submit candidatures for the Trust Fund Board.

## CASES AND SITUATIONS

### DRC

#### Lubanga Trial: Prosecution Case Closed; Defense Opens Case in October

On 14 July 2009, the **prosecution** finished the presentation of its case in the **Lubanga trial**. The defense is expected to begin presenting its evidence in October 2009. The prosecution called 28 witnesses to testify including former child soldiers and their relatives, military commanders, NGO representatives and UN officials.

#### Lubanga Trial: Decision on Legal Re-classification

On 14 July 2009, Trial Chamber 1 issued a decision giving notice that the **legal characterization** of the facts in the Lubanga case

may be subject to change in accordance with Regulation 55 (2) of the Regulations of the Court. On 22 May 2009, the legal representatives of victims requested judges to consider a legal re-characterization of the facts as sexual slavery and inhuman and/or cruel treatment, in addition to the charges already made against Lubanga. The OTP sought leave to appeal the Chamber's decision.

#### Landmark Decisions on Victims' Participation in Upcoming Katanga/ Ngudjolo Trial

On 31 July 2009, ICC Trial Chamber II **granted victim status** to 288 applicants in the Katanga/ Ngudjolo case. Of the applications, 40 require additional clarification and five

were rejected. At this stage, a total of 345 victims have been allowed to participate in the trial scheduled for 24 September 2009. As a result of an **order** issued by judges on 22 July 2009, the ICC Registry will organize common legal representation for victims during the trial.

### CAR

#### Bemba Case: Women's Initiatives Files Amicus Curiae

On 31 July 2009, CICC member, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, filed **amicus curiae** observations on the issue of cumulative charges for gender-based crimes in the Bemba case.

## REGIONAL UPDATES

### 17 July 2009: Coalition Members Celebrate International Justice Day Worldwide

In July, members of the Coalition celebrated **International Justice Day** which this year marked the eleventh anniversary of the adoption of the **Rome Statute**, the founding treaty of the ICC, on 17 July 1998.

Here is an overview of key member events commemorating International Justice Day:

### AFRICA

#### DRC

The DRC Coalition for the ICC hosted a film

festival in Gbadolité, Mobaye and Yakoma. Film selections were aired on two Congolese TV stations. On 22 July 2009, the DRC Coalition also organized an ICC conference in Kinshasa.

The NGO Culture pour la Paix et la Justice organized a seminar on the death penalty and the Rome Statute at Kinshasa University with the participation of DRC Minister of Human Rights, Mutombo Nsenda and ICC Field Public Information and Outreach Coordinator, Paul Madidi.

On 23 July 2009, the Congolese Foundation for Human Rights and Peace (FOCDP) orga-

nized a conference-debate on "Opportunities and Effective Actions of the ICC in Africa" at the University of Kisangani.

#### Ivory Coast

The Ivorian Coalition for the ICC sponsored a two-day colloquium on international justice and complementarity in Abidjan. Guest speakers included CICC Africa Coordinator Francis Dako and Emeric Rogier of the ICC Office of the Prosecutor.

#### Kenya

On 27 July, the Genesis for Human Rights Commission organized a press conference on

the topics of impunity, post-election violence, the safety of human rights defenders and freedom of press.

### Republic of Congo

The Congolese Coalition for the ICC organized an information session on international justice for lawyers, NGOs and the media in Brazzaville in addition to a televised debate on the ICC, which aired on the program “Dites-le au téléphone” (“Say it by phone”).

### Sierra Leone

The Sierra Leone Coalition for the ICC called on President Ernest Bai Koroma to honor Sierra Leone’s treaty obligations by cooperating with the ICC regarding the Al-Bashir arrest warrant.

### Tanzania

The Tanzanian Coalition for the ICC publicly urged the government of Tanzania to support the ICC and expressed concern over the government’s ambiguous position on political support for the Court.

### Uganda

The Lira District NGO Forum organized a radio talk show to raise awareness of the role of the ICC among populations residing in the Lango sub-region of northern Uganda with a discussion of the ICC’s impact on the community and northern Uganda.

## EUROPE

### Georgia

The Human Rights Centre (HRC) of Georgia hosted a regional meeting in Bazaleti bringing together NGOs from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Approximately 30 organizations issued a joint declaration.

### Italy

No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) held a roundtable discussion in Rome with international criminal justice experts who addressed topics such as cooperation between the African Union and the ICC, child soldiers and implementing legislation with an emphasis on Italy. The event was broadcast live on Radio Radicale and the NPWJ website.

### Moldova

Amnesty International Moldova launched a three-day public information campaign on the ICC and universal jurisdiction which included a press release, an appeal to political parties in advance of parliamentary elections, a movie screening, distribution of information on the ICC and a petition.

### Netherlands

The CICC, the Grotius Centre and the T.M.C. Asser Institute organized a panel titled “International Justice Day: Celebrating the 11th Anniversary of the Rome Statute” in The Hague moderated by CICC Hague Director Cecilia Nilsson Kleffner. Opening remarks were delivered by ICC Second Vice-President Judge Hans-Peter Kaul, followed by comments by Chief of the ICC Victims’ Participation and Reparations Section Fiona McKay; University of Amsterdam Professor Goran Sluiter; Mariana Pena of FIDH; and Deborah Ruiz Verduzco of PGA. Topics ranged from victims and defense rights to the 2010 Review Conference.

## ASIA

### Nepal

The Human Rights and Democratic Forum (FOHRID) organized experts to brief members of the country’s Constituent Assembly on how to address impunity in the country’s new constitution. The Citizen’s Task Force to Combat Impunity organized a demonstration in Kathmandu to pressure the Nepalese government to ratify the Rome Statute.

### The Philippines

In Manila, the Philippine Coalition for the ICC (PCICC) publicly staged “Cafe Le Criminal” to evoke the possibility of war criminals and dictators seeking refuge in countries such as the Philippines that are not yet party to the ICC.

## MENA

### Egypt

The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession (ACIJLP) issued a media release urging Egypt to refrain from

## Rome Statute

Signatures: 139      Ratifications: 110  
Most Recent: Czech Republic (21 July 2009)  
and Chile (29 June 2009)

## APIC

Signatures: 62      Ratifications: 59  
Most Recent: Colombia (15 April 2009)

## Universal Ratification Campaign (URC) 2009 Targets

July: Indonesia      August: Bangladesh

inviting to its territory Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, for whom an ICC arrest warrant has been issued.

## LAC

### Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic Coalition for the ICC Coordinator Rommel Santos appeared on several television programs and in the newspaper *Diario Libre* to discuss the country’s status before the ICC.

### El Salvador

The Salvadoran Coalition for the ICC published a communiqué in a local newspaper urging the country to ratify.

### Nicaragua

The Centro Nicaraguense de Derechos Humanos sent President Daniel Ortega an open letter calling for ratification of the Statute notwithstanding the recent Nicaraguan reservation to the OAS resolution on the promotion of the ICC.

### Peru

A group of leading Peruvian NGOs issued a statement recalling the delays in implementing ICC crimes nationally and called on the government—especially the Justice and Human Rights Commission of Congress—to promptly take action.

## NORTH AMERICA

### New York

The Coalition for the ICC hosted a live chat on its *In Situ* blog with CICC Convenor William Pace.

### Washington, D.C.

Citizens for Global Solutions held a high-level briefing that was co-sponsored by Senator Christopher Dodd to discuss the Court’s achievements, its future and improving U.S. engagement with the ICC.

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Financial support from individuals, governments, foundations and other institutions is essential to the CICC’s effort to secure a future in which justice is accessible to all. If you would like to find out more information about how you can join in this effort and support our work, please visit our website at [www.iccnw.org](http://www.iccnw.org) or contact the CICC Development office by phone at +1.646.465.8527 or via email at [development@iccnw.org](mailto:development@iccnw.org).

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