

IN FOCUS: Nomination Period for Candidates for ICC Elections Extended

The nomination period for candidates for crucial upcoming International Criminal Court (ICC) elections, scheduled to take place at the tenth session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) in December 2011, was extended until 16 September 2011 to allow states parties to the Rome Statute (RS) to continue to put forward candidates for six judicial vacancies, the position of chief prosecutor, as well as for six members of the ASP's Committee on Budget and Finance (CBF). As part of its global Campaign on ICC Elections—which calls on states to nominate the most highly-qualified judicial candidates through a fair, transparent and merit-based election process to ensure the independence and effectiveness of the Court—the Coalition urged states parties to use the extension to ensure balanced geographic and gender representation among judges elected to the ICC. To promote the nomination of the most highly-qualified judicial candidates, the Coalition has asked judicial nominees to complete questionnaires concerning their backgrounds and qualifications. The Coalition as a whole does not endorse or oppose individual candidates but advocates for the integrity of the nomination and election procedures.

CASES AND SITUATIONS

DRC

Closing Statements Delivered in First ICC Trial

On 25 and 26 August 2011, the closing statements in the trial against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, the ICC's first, took place before Trial Chamber (TC) I. The Lubanga proceedings are noteworthy as the first example of formal victim participation in an international criminal trial, with a total of 123 victims authorized to participate. It is expected that TC I will deliver a judgment in the coming months.

Ngudjolo Chui Defense Begins

On 15 August 2011, the defense of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui began to present its evidence before TC II in the Katanga/Ngudjolo Chui case. It expects to call 10 witnesses, including Ngudjolo Chui himself.

Confirmation of Charges Hearing in Mbarushimana Case Postponed

For the second time, Pre-Trial Chamber (PTC) I postponed the confirmation of charges hearing in the Mbarushimana case due to a number of pending disclosure and translation issues. The hearing is now scheduled to begin on 16 September 2011. On 11 August 2011, PTC I granted participatory status to 130 victims.

CAR

307 Additional Victims Authorized to Appear in Bemba Case

On 8 July 2011, the ICC authorized 307 victims to participate in the case against Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo for crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the Central African Republic (CAR), bringing the total number of participating victims to 1,713.

KENYA

Key Hearing into Post-Election Violence Begins

On 1 September 2011, PTC II opened a key hearing to determine whether to send the case against Ruto, Kosgey and Sang to trial for their alleged roles in crimes against humanity committed during post-election violence in 2007-2008 in Kenya. Three hundred and twenty-seven victims have been authorized to participate. The confirmation of charges hearing in the case against Muthaura, Kenyatta and Ali is to begin on 21 September 2011. On 30 August 2011, the ICC Appeals Chamber confirmed the admissibility of the two cases, rejecting the challenges of the Kenyan government.

Rome Statute

Signatures: 139 Ratifications: 117
Most Recent: The Philippines
(30 August 2011)

APIC

Signatures: 62 Ratifications: 64
Most Recent: Tunisia (29 June 2011)

Universal Ratification Campaign (URC) 2011

September – Nicaragua and El Salvador
October – Thailand
November – Vietnam
December – Rwanda

CICC

On 23 August 2011, the Coalition's budget and finance team submitted its comments to the ASP's CBF on the proposed 2012 ICC budget, which recommended an overall increase in the Court's budget to fully implement its additional investigative and trial activities.

REGIONAL UPDATES

RATIFICATIONS

The Philippines—On 9 August 2011, after many years of Coalition advocacy, the Philippines deposited its instrument of ratification of the RS at the UN, officially becoming an ICC state party.

Vanuatu—On 26 August 2011, the parliament

of Vanuatu unanimously adopted a RS ratification bill. Vanuatu is expected to soon deposit its instrument of ratification at the UN.

International Justice Day: CICC Celebrates Worldwide

On 17 July the world celebrated International Justice Day (IJD), in honor of the anniversary of the adoption of the RS, the founding treaty

of the ICC. IJD is a reminder of the urgency for all states committed to justice to ensure continued support for the RS's international justice system. Coalition members celebrated this day in solidarity with victims of crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes through issuing press releases and holding events worldwide. The ICC and states parties

to the RS also held a number of events celebrating 17 July.

AFRICA

The Côte d'Ivoire Coalition for the ICC (CI-CPI) organized an informal debate with NGO leaders on national and international justice on national radio, screened a video of its theater play 'Lady ICC' on national television, and held its fourth edition of The Great Debates of the CI-CPI for Justice. The DRC National Coalition for the ICC (CN-CPI/RDC) urged the DRC government to expedite the adoption of the national law implementing the RS, which is currently being reviewed by a parliamentary sub-committee. The Ugandan Coalition for the ICC (UCICC) issued a press statement, held a press briefing and attended the war crimes trials in Gulu, Northern Uganda. Avocats Sans Frontières-Uganda (ASF-U) spoke about international justice and IJD on a popular radio talk show. The UCICC in partnership with ASF-U, the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP), the Kampala Field Outreach Unit of the ICC and HURINET-U successfully held a stakeholders' dialogue on the evolution of international criminal justice, which was followed by a procession and theatre performances. The Benin Coalition for the ICC issued a statement and was interviewed on national television. The Central African Coalition for the ICC also issued a press release in honor of IJD.

AMERICAS

The Dominican Coalition for the ICC (DCICC) called on the Dominican Republic's (DR) government to take the necessary measures to promptly implement the RS within its domestic legislation. The Salvadoran Coalition for the ICC launched a publication containing the final recommendations approved

during the Coalition's June 2011 Americas Regional Strategy Meeting. The Mexican Coalition for the ICC and the Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Penales-Inacipe organized a screening of *The Reckoning*, followed by a dialogue with students and the general public on the ICC and its impact in Mexico. The American NGO Coalition for the ICC (AMICC) asked people to sign its petition on Change.org to ask US President Barack Obama to help arrest ICC suspects in Libya. AMICC's Outreach Coordinator, Hannah Dunphy, spoke on the ICC at the summer meeting of AI-Maine, organized by the Maine Alliance for the ICC and AI USA-Maine. Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International-USA, the International Crisis Group and Open Society Foundations organized a screening and discussion around the documentary, *Sri Lanka's Killing Fields* at the Capitol Visitors' Center Congressional Auditorium and Atrium. In honor of IJD, Link TV aired a special educational presentation of excerpts from the film, *The Reckoning*. In New York, the Coalition held a live Q&A session with Coalition Convenor William R. Pace as well as a panel discussion on "The ICC and the Protection of Civilians." Mrs. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, gave the keynote address, followed by a discussion with panelists, including H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser, ASP President; Coalition Convenor William R. Pace; Ms. Charlotte Bunch, GEAR Campaign and Founding Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership; and Mr. Donald Deya, Executive Director of the Pan-African Lawyers Union.

ASIA

The China Branch of the International Association of Penal Law held a conference at Beijing Normal University, organized by the College for Criminal Law Science and the

ICC Project Office in China, on important issues related to international criminal law and discussed advocacy plans for 2012. The Indonesian Civil Society Network for the ICC held a media briefing urging Indonesia to expedite the process of acceding to the RS of the ICC. The Nepal Coalition for the ICC, in collaboration with the Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) launched National Preparation for the Implementation of the RS, a review of the national judicial system and existing criminal legislation, and submitted a memorandum on RS ratification to the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The Philippine Coalition for the ICC (PCICC) and Building Bridges for Peace hosted a public screening of *The Reckoning*. The PCICC, the Institute for International Studies and the UP College of Law of the University of Philippines held a forum on "Moving Forward with Philippine Ratification of the RS of the ICC." Afghanistan Watch, Odhikar, the Malaysian Bar and FOHRID Human Rights and Democratic Forum issued press releases commemorating IJD.

EUROPE

The Moldovan, Georgian and Turkish national coalitions for the ICC all issued statements on the merits of the RS system and international criminal justice. The Moldovan Coalition also held a training session on the ICC with the media.

MENA

The Iraqi National Commission for the ICC issued a statement calling for Iraq's accession to the RS. The Jordanian Coalition for the ICC hosted an event for its members and other civil society representatives and issued a statement calling for respect of the rule of law in celebration of IJD. The Algerian League of Human Rights (LADH) issued a press release celebrating IJD.

GLOBAL PARTNERS

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