

COLLOQUIUM ON VICTIMS' RIGHTS BEFORE THE ICC: THE CASE OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the occasion of the International Justice Day, the Ivorian Coalition for the ICC held a Colloquium on Victims' Rights before the ICC on 17-18 July 2012 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The event gathered more than 50 participants from NGOs, national and international organizations, ministries and victims' associations. Various panelists from London, The Hague, Benin and Abidjan, representing a large number of organizations including the ICC, the CICC, REDRESS, Amnesty International and the UNOCI, delivered statements followed by rounds of discussions during the event.

The participants to the colloquium made the following recommendations:

To the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire:

1. Ratify the Rome Statute that established the International Criminal Court so that crimes do not remain unpunished;
2. Ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court;
3. Ensure the protection of victims who want to participate in proceedings before the Court to ensure they are not subject to retaliation;
4. Provide psychological care and legal assistance for victims who need it;
5. Ensure the safety of victims and witnesses;
6. Publish the report of the national commission of inquiry;
7. Create a special fund for victims.

To the Commission of Reconciliation:

8. Publicize its mandate;
9. Be closer to the population;
10. Further involve organizations defending human rights in the work of the commission;
11. Rapidly deal with the cases of victims who bear serious sequelae that affect their health;
12. Put the victims' interests at the center of its action;
13. Inform victims about the scope of protection provided to them;
14. Involve administrative and traditional authorities.

To the ICC:

15. Ensure an effective dissemination and a thorough explanation of the new application form for collective participation to victims;
16. Explain the concept of "common representation" to victims;
17. Inform victims about the content of their rights and the proceedings before the Court;
18. Work with civil society organizations that have already implemented projects for

victims;

19. Strengthen its effective and permanent presence in the Côte d'Ivoire by accelerating the opening of a Section of victims' participation and reparations office;
20. Intensify and mainstream training sessions for all stakeholders: victims, witnesses, lawyers, intermediaries and judges;
21. Create a special fund for lawyers and intermediaries;
22. Make audio materials to broadcast via civil society stakeholders so they can convey accurate information;
23. Broadcast in the local media programs intended for training and raising awareness
24. Clarify the status of intermediaries.

To the International Community:

25. Give the necessary means to the Court in order to enable it to carry out its mandate successfully;
26. Financially support the Ivorian Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CI - CPI) and NGOs working in the field of national and international justice;
27. Establish a financial, technical and material assistance for victims.

To Victims:

28. Join forces for a common representation;
29. Keep their relationship with the court confidential;
30. Avoid self-redress;
31. Comply with the obligation of discretion and confidentiality.

To NGOs:

32. Continue raising awareness and providing training for victims as part of their participation in ICC proceedings.
33. Enhance and further coordinate activities of local stakeholders;
34. Work together;
35. Provide support for victims.

Done in Abidjan on the 17 and 18 July 2012

The Colloquium