



Coalition Nationale pour la Cour Pénale Internationale (CN-CPI) – RDC

Press Release N° 002/2006

The DRC Coalition for the International Criminal Court welcomes the surrender of M. Thomas Lubanga, one of the warlords in Ituri, by the Congolese authorities to the International Criminal Court. (Kinshasa, 17 March 2006).

1. The National (DRC) Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CN-CPI) welcomes the arrest warrant issued by the ICC for Mr. Thomas Lubanga and his surrender by the Congolese authorities to the ICC on 17 March 2006.
2. This arrest of one of the warlords, whose groups continue to kill thousands of families in DRC, represents an important step forward by the ICC in the fight against impunity.
3. The CN-CPI encourages the ICC to continue its mission by issuing further arrest warrants for those who bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed on the entire Congolese territory since 1 July 2002, no matter the official position they may have in public institutions or their nationalities.
4. The CN-CPI calls on the Congolese authorities to strengthen their cooperation with the ICC, by (1) promulgating the Agreement for the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (APIC) and (2) by adopting the implementation law, currently under examination by the National Assembly.
5. The CN-CPI asks the population, given that some provisions of the Constitution are not in conformity with the ICC treaty, not to vote for those known for having participated in crimes committed during armed conflicts, so that the future actions of the ICC and the judiciary authorities seeking to prosecute those criminals will not be compromised.
6. As a reminder, the National Coalition for the ICC is a network of more than 150 NGOs working to promote the ICC across the whole country. The objective of the CN-CPI is to support and maintain the integrity of the ICC Rome Statute, to promote actively the implementation of the ICC treaty into the national legislation and working towards the promotion of a fair, independent and efficient Court.

Kinshasa, 17 March 2006

For the National Coalition for the International Criminal Court,
Christian Hemedi, National Coordinator.

[Unofficial Translation by the CICC]