



Press Release - 10.07.2012

ICC Lubanga verdict A major step in the global fight against impunity

Today, the International Criminal Court sentenced the Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga Diyalo to 14 years for the recruitment of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lubanga had forced up to 3,000 children into his troops, some of them not older than six years. Barbara Lochbihler, Chair of the Subcommittee for Human Rights in the European Parliament, states:

"Today's verdict against Thomas Lubanga is an important step in the international fight against impunity. It sends out a far-reaching signal to all those who continue to force children into warfare, underlining that the use of child soldiers is not a national issue but an international crime, which can and will be punished by the international community. Also, the sentence shows that no one can hide behind their political and economic power anymore, and that even the most brutal warlords can be brought to justice."


"In recent days, fighting has again intensified in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. In this context, the case against Lubanga must be understood as a first step towards bringing all those to court who are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in this conflict-stricken country."

Contact:

Satu HELIN

 foreign-press@europarl.europa.eu

 (32) 498 98 33 86

 (32-2) 28 41498 (BXL)

 (33-3) 881 73612 (STR)