Sexual Violence as International Crime

Interdisciplinary Colloquia, The Hague

Organized by the Center on Law and Globalization: A partnership between the University of Illinois College of Law and the American Bar Foundation

Summer 2010

Image above: A Group of Displaced Refugees in Eastern Chad. Photo by Mia Farrow

Remembering Pioneers in Our Movement

by Dr. Kelly Dawn Askin, Senior Legal Officer, International Justice, Open Society Justice Initiative, New York.

It is fitting that a newsletter focused on Sexual Violence as an International Crime recognizes three of our colleagues who passed away within six weeks of each other earlier this year and who each made significant contributions to this field.

Nancy Paterson spent eight years as a prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). During her tenure at the Yugoslav Tribunal, Nancy played a leading role in indicting former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic for massacres, ethnic cleansing, and sexual violence committed in Kosovo, Croatia, and Bosnia...

On April 13, 2010, the international criminal law community lost a leading scholar in international humanitarian law. **Avril McDonald** began her career in the early 1990s. As a researcher and writer in these traditionally male fields, Avril wrote frequently on gender jurisprudence and she had a special interest in ensuring gender crimes were not ignored in legal developments and literature...

Rhonda Copelon, a feminist human rights lawyer and professor at City University of New York's School of Law where she directed the International Women's Human Rights law clinic, was a giant in women's human rights and she played an indispensable role in pressuring international justice mechanisms to take gender-based crimes as seriously as non-gender based crimes...

To read more about the lives and contributions of these 3 women please see the full version of these memorials on our website.

In This Issue

- Remembering Leaders
- Upcoming Colloquium, Hague II in February 2011
- The Docket; Reporting Updates on Cases Involving Systematic Sexual Violence

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Click Here to read Professors Hagan, Brooks and Haugh's most recent work:

"Reasonable Grounds" Evidence Involving Sexual Violence in Darfur

Upcoming Clloquium on International Sexual Violence: Hague II

Image Above: Participants listening to a Keynote Address by Navanthem Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, at Sexual Violence as International Crime, Interdisciplinary Approaches to Evidence (Hague I) in June 2009. Photo by Martijn van Dam.

Accountability under International Criminal Law for Systematic Sexual Violence in Domestic Political Repression

NEW DATE: February 2011, The Hague *

Provisional Topics

Topic I: Updates: What have been the notable developments in international tribunals between June, 2009, and February, 2010?

Topic II: New Evidentiary Standards for the International Criminal Court

Topic III: How Institutional Circumstances in National Politics Influence Forms of Systematic Sexual Violence in Domestic Politics

Topic IV: Do Different Types of International Courts Affect the Enforcement of International Criminal Law on Systematic Violence Against Women?

Topic V: Victims

For more information on our International Conference Series on Systematic Sexual Violence please visit the Hague Colloquia section of our website.

Quick Links

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Stay Connected to the Center:

The Center on Law and Globalization encourages you to contribute to and help advance our discussions regarding systematic sexual violence as an international crime.

We encourage you to share your suggestions of feature stories and ideas about organizations or individuals to be profiled in this forum. In addition, we welcome guest contributors and writers for future issues.

If you know of others who would like to be added to our mailing list, we would gladly take names and contact information.

Please send any and all comments or suggestions to Allison Lynch, Center Program Associate, at alynch@abfn.org.

The Docket

Reporting Updates on Cases Involving Systematic Sexual Violence

ICC: The Prosecutor v. Jean Pierre Bemba Gombo

Central African Republic (CAR)

- *Charges*: This is the International Criminal Court's third trial and second to include charges for sexual violence. As the alleged President and Commander-in-chief of the Mouvement de libèration du Congo (MLC), Mr. Memba is allegedly criminally responsible for **two counts of crimes against humanity** (murder and rape) and **three counts of war crimes** (murder, rape and pillaging) committed on the territory of the Central African Republic between October 2002 and March 2003.
- *Current Status of the Case:* As of 7 July, 2010, the commencement date, scheduled as 14 July, 2010 has been postponed. The Chamber will convene on 30 August, 2010 to hear submissions on re-fixing the trial date.

- View the ICC's Case Information Sheet

ICC: The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga and Methieu Ngudjolo Chu

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

- *Charges*: As the ICC's second trial and the court's first to include sexual violence charges, both Katanga and Ngudjolo allegedly committed, through other persons, **seven counts of war crimes** (including rape, sexual slavery and using children under the age of 15 to take active part in hostilities) and **three counts of crimes against humanity** (murder, rape and sexual slavery) committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Germain Katanga is the alleged commander of Patriotic Resistance Force in Ituri, FRPI and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui is the former leader of the National Integrationist Front, FNI and allegedly had ultimate control over FNI commanders
- *Current Status of the Case:* The judges have recognized 345 persons, including 10 child-soldiers, as victims for the purpose of participating in the present case, which commenced on 24 November, 2009.

- View the ICC's Case Information Sheet