

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES**

IAW website: <http://www.womenalliance.com>

**Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales**

IAW NEWS FLASH – June 2006, nr. 1



Dear IAW members,

*We received a message from Deirdre Exell Pirro about the result of the lobbying of women's groups throughout the world, about the **gender mainstreaming within the International Criminal Court**. This message will certainly be of interest for the IAW members of the "West African Center on Gender and Conflict", an organisation that was installed during the IAW Board Meeting in Burkina Faso in November 2006, so we are sending it out as a FLASH.*

On the first of June 2006, the ICC has also issued Red Notices for the arrest of five individuals for multiple counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes including murder, abduction, sexual crimes, rape and child conscription in Uganda, Sudan and Congo.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE ICC

This is a landmark year for the International Criminal Court (ICC), which was officially inaugurated in The Hague on 11 March 2003, as it has now begun to hear its first cases. On 17 March 2006, an arrest warrant was announced for Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, a reputed war-lord and the leader of a political and military movement, the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC). He was charged with conscripting and using child soldiers in hostilities within the Democratic Republic of Congo between 2002 and 2003. Mr. Lubanga was subsequently arrested and transferred to The Hague. On 20 March 2006, ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I held a public hearing during which Mr Lubanga appeared before the Chamber.

Apart from this case, the Prosecutor's Office of the ICC is currently investigating another two cases relating to the Republic of Uganda and Darfur in Sudan and is analysing several others.

Thanks to the lobbying of women's groups throughout the world, from its inception, attention has been paid to gender mainstreaming within the ICC. In fact, of the 18 judges appointed to the Court, 8 of them were women. According to the Rome Statute founding the ICC, there must also be fair representation between men and women in its staffing.

Recently, however, some criticism has been levelled against the Court's actual implementation of the gender mandates it is required to apply. For instance, in its first *Gender Report Card*, published on 29 November 2005, the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice found that only 17 of 109 appointees to the ICC List of Legal Counsel who will represent victims and defendants are women and almost 70% of those on the List come from only one region - Western European and Others Group (WEOG),

Furthermore, experience in representing victims of gender based crimes is not required. Women are said to be underrepresented in senior and decision-making positions within the Court and no one with legal expertise and expertise in trauma resulting from sexual or gender violence has been appointed despite the fact that the Rome Statute calls for it. There would also appear to be insufficient outreach by the ICC to victims/survivors to inform them about the Court and their rights to participation in proceedings and to claim reparations.

Nonetheless, the ICC is an historic institution in terms of women's rights. For the first time in international law, the Rome Treaty establishing the ICC recognised sexual and gender violence as crimes against humanity. Sexual and gender crimes are defined by the Treaty to include rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilisation, and other sexual violence.

How the ICC applies these specific rules will be put to the test, above all, when it comes to deal with the case of Darfur, the only situation directly referred to the Court so far by the United Nations Security Council. Amnesty International says that countless women and girls have been raped by the Janjaweed militia, operating in the Darfur region. The technique used by the Janjaweed is to kill all the men in a village and then rape the women. An estimated 140,000 people have died violently or gone missing as a direct result of these attacks.

The International Community will, therefore, be watching all the cases to be heard before the ICC very closely to ensure that independent and effective international criminal law is enforced fairly by this new permanent international court. The credibility and future of the Court itself depend upon it.

Because justice is essential to human rights, the ICC must live up to expectations. Justice for yesterday's crimes provides the legal foundation needed to deter tomorrow's atrocities. Without justice, there can be no peace and as the U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan, said the ICC must "bring nearer the day when no ruler, no State, no junta and no army anywhere will be able to abuse human rights with impunity".

More on: <http://www.icc-cpi.int>

IAW representative to the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)

Deirdre Exell Pirro, IAW Member, Italy

Editors note: thank you, Deirdre!

Interpol issues first ICC Red Notices

The Hague, 1 June 2006

Today, the International Criminal Police Organisation - Interpol - issued Red Notices for the arrest of the five Lords Resistance Army commanders named in ICC arrest warrants. These are the first wanted persons notices to be issued by Interpol following a request by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

The Red Notices, which include a request to arrest and detain named individuals if found, will be transmitted to National Central Bureaus in 184 countries. The Interpol Red Notice system is part of its global network of law enforcement agencies, created to assist in tracing and arresting internationally wanted fugitives.

The Red Notices are issued for the arrest of Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo, Raska Lukwiya and Dominic Ongwen. These individuals are wanted for trial at the International Criminal Court for multiple counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes including murder, abduction, sexual crimes, rape and child conscription.

The ICC publicly unsealed warrants of arrest against the five LRA commanders on 13 October 2005 and transmitted them to the Governments of Uganda, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On: <http://www.icc-cpi.int/press/pressreleases/151.html>

IAW Newsletter / News Flash	: Joke Sebus	<iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>
International Women's News	: Priscilla Todd	<iaw.iwnews@toddsec.com>
Membership Officer	: Pat Richardson	<iaw.membership@tsn.cc>
Treasurer	: Marieluise Weber	<marieluise.weber@web.de>