The Prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Mr. Hassan Bubacar Jallow on Friday 21 July 2006 held a meeting with the Rwandan President Paul Kagame at State House, Kiyovu in Kigali.

Mr. Jallow who was in the country on an official visit from 17-24 July 2006 paid a visit to the Rwandan Head of State to brief him on the progress of the work at the Tribunal and the preparations for the transfer of cases to Rwanda.

Speaking to the media, the ICTR Prosecutor pointed out that efforts were being made to see that those who committed crimes and are still at large are arrested before the Tribunal winds up its work in 2008.

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Registrar Meets Kigali Staff

Mr. Adama Dieng, the Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), on Thursday 17 August, 2006 held a general meeting with the Tribunal’s staff in Kigali in the Rotunda Main Hall. Mr. Dieng’s meeting with the staff was aimed at addressing issues concerning administrative and staff matters in Kigali and the future of the staff as the Tribunal nears the end of its mandate.

Prior to the meeting with the staff members, the Registrar, met with the OIC, ICTR Kigali who is also the OIC, OTP, Kigali, Mr Alfred Kwende, the President of the Staff Association, Ms. Ruci Nailati, Heads of Sections and Units and individual staff members.

The Registrar was in Rwanda on a 3-day official mission from 16-18, August, 2006.

Prisoner Joseph Serugendo Dies

The Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Mr. Adama Dieng, announced the death of Joseph Serugendo, a convicted person who was a former member of the governing board of the Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM) and of the National Committee of the Interahamwe za MRND. He passed away after a long illness on Tuesday, 22 August 2006 at 6:55 am at the Nairobi Hospital, Kenya. The Tribunal offers its deepest condolences to his family.

On 2 June 2006, Serugendo was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment by Trial Chamber I of the ICTR. In his guilty plea, Serugendo admitted to having provided technical assistance and moral support to the RTLM in order to ensure its ability to continuously disseminate an anti-Tutsi message both prior to and during the genocide.

He further acknowledged having used his influence within the MRND and Interahamwe to incite others to kill or cause serious harm to members of the Tutsi population, with the aim of destroying the Tutsi ethnic group.

In sentencing him, the Chamber took into account not only the gravity of these crimes, but also Serugendo’s guilty plea and his substantial cooperation with the Prosecution:

« Aussi comme votre enfant prodigue, je viens vers vous en toute humilité, le remords dans l’âme, et implore votre indulgence, en vous promettant de m’amender. Ainsi pour vous témoigner de ma bonne foi, en plus de reconnaître ma responsabilité personnelle et de plaider coupable des crimes retenus contre moi et que je regrette profondément, je me suis engagé à collaborer avec la justice et à propager la vérité partout où je me trouverais mais surtout auprès de mes concitoyens. »

The Chamber noted that he expressed genuine remorse and a desire to help establish the truth regarding the events in Rwanda. At his sentencing hearing Serugendo expressed “sincere and profound regrets” to the “victims of the genocide perpetrated in my country Rwanda in 1994” and accepted responsibility for “my role in this unspeakable tragedy:

« Je voudrais, au terme de mon procès, m’adresser tout spécialement à l’ensemble de la population rwandaise, mes compatriotes, à qui je renouvelle ma demande de pardon et implore encore une fois pour qu’elle accepte mes regrets, mes remords. Je suis profondément choqué et troublé par l’ampleur du drame et le sort réservé à ces femmes, ces enfants,

Prosecutor Meets with President Kagame

Rwandan Senate in charge of Political Affairs and Good Governance.

He met with representatives of the Civil Society, the Bar Association and Lawyers without Borders to get their opinion on the state of readiness of Rwanda to handle cases of referral.

Finally, Mr. Jallow met with Ambassadors of member states of the European Union in Kigali as well as with the Chargé d’Affaires of the American Embassy to brief them on progress of trials in Arusha, the tracking of fugitives and preparations for the referral of cases to other states, including Rwanda, under Rule 11bis of the ICTR Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

Before ending his mission, Mr. Jallow held a press conference with the Rwandan Media where he briefed them on the outcome of the meetings he held with the Rwandan President and other officials and the current status of the work at the Tribunal.

The Prosecutor was accompanied by Mr. Stephen Rapp, the Chief of the Prosecutions in Arusha and Senior Trial Attorney Richard Karegyesa.
ces hommes, ces vieilles personnes sans défense tués uniquement en raison de leur ethnie et je regrette d'avoir été un de ceux qui ont contribué à leur malheur. Ma conscience est bouleversée par ces enfants devenus dramatiquement orphelins et prématurément " responsables d'eux-mêmes " à cause de l'atroce disparition de leurs chers parents, tués pour le simple fait d'être nés tutsi ou d'avoir été opposants politiques modérés. » … « Je voudrais enfin joindre ma faible voix à tous ceux qui aujourd'hui comme hier clament haut et fort : “ Plus jamais ça” never again ».

A copy of his Expression of Profound Regrets and his Declaration Addressed to the Rwandan People were read in French by Chief of Prosecution, Mr. Stephen Rapp and admitted into evidence by the Trial Chamber.

Serugendo was suffering from a terminal illness which was significant among the mitigating factors in his sentencing. The Registry had been instructed to continue to ensure that he be provided with adequate medical attention, including hospitalization, to the extent necessary.

Serugendo was arrested in Gabon on 16 September 2005 and transferred to Arusha on 23 September 2005. He entered into a plea agreement with the Prosecution on 16 February 2006. On 15 March 2006, he pleaded guilty to two counts under an amended indictment, which plea was accepted by the Chamber.

ICTR Judicial Activities

• François Karera, former Prefect of Kigali-Rural, testifies in his own defence

François Karera, former Prefect of Kigali-Rural, testified in his own defence from 21 August to 23 August 2006, before Trial Chamber I composed of Judges Erik Mese, presiding, Sergei Alekseevich Egorov and Florence Rita Arney. He was led by his Counsel, Carmelle Marchessault, and cross-examined by the Prosecution. Karera was the 25th and last Defence witness. Following his testimony on 23 August 2006, the Defence closed its case.

During the testimony, Karera described his background as well as his political duties and social activities in Rwanda in the 1990’s. Various exhibits were tendered both by the Defence and Prosecution, including a newspaper article published in the New York Times on 15 August 1994. The article was allegedly based on an interview Karera gave when he was a refugee in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was used by the Prosecution during the cross-examination. Karera denied having made the remarks attributed to him in the article. The Defence objected to the Prosecution’s use of the article, recalling that the Chamber previously denied a Prosecution motion requesting to admit the article instead of oral testimony. The Chamber allowed the use of the article, in accordance with Rule 90 (G), and admitted the document, but only as an indication that it was used in cross-examination, rather than as proof of its content.

Karera’s trial began on 9 January 2006. He is charged with genocide and crimes against humanity. Hundreds of Tutsi are alleged to have been killed on the instructions or with the encouragement of the accused in April and May 1994 in Rushashi commune, Nyamirambo sector, and Ntarama Church, all within the Kigali area. The Chamber heard 18 Prosecution witnesses and 25 Defence witnesses, including Karera, over 33 trial days, 15 of which were half days. The closing arguments of the Prosecution and Defence will be heard later.

• Bizumungu et al.: Former Minister of Justice Testifies

Ms Agnes Ntamabyaliro, former Minister of Justice in the interim government of 1994 in Rwanda testified from 21 to 29 August 2006 in the defence of Justin Mugenzi before the Trial Chamber II composed of Judges Khalida Rachid Khan (Presiding) Lee Gacuiga Muthoga and Emile Francis Short. The Defence Counsel for Mugenzi requested to be granted permission from the Chamber to question the witness on her stay in Zambia. She was asked to testify on her kidnapping in Zambia, her incarceration and the treatment she experienced in Rwanda. The Prosecutor objected to this line of questioning, but the Chamber allowed the Defence Counsel to proceed.

During the testimony of Ms Ntamabyaliro, the Defence also raised issues related to disclosure of the Brugiere

Continued on p. 5
report by the Prosecutor. Brugiere is the French judge who has been appointed by the French authorities to investigate on the alleged role of France in 1994 in Rwanda.

• **Nchamihigo Trial to Begin on 25 September 2006**

The trial of Siméon Nchamihigo, 46, former Deputy Prosecutor in Cyangugu prefecture is to begin on 25 September 2006. The date was set during a status conference on 7 August 2006 presided by Judge Charles Michael Dennis Byron.

Nchamihigo had earlier pleaded not guilty to an amended indictment charging him with four counts of genocide, murder, extermination and other inhumane acts as crimes against humanity. In the new indictment the charge of crimes against humanity has been split into two counts, murder and extermination. The charge of violations of the Geneva Conventions has been redrawn and replaced by charges of other inhumane acts.

The accused, who was also Secretary for the Coalition pour la Défense de la République (CDR) in Cyangugu prefecture in 1994, is alleged to have been responsible for planning, instigating, ordering, committing, or otherwise aiding and abetting the killings of Tutsi in his prefecture.

In the new indictment read before Judge Byron Nchamihigo is alleged to have ordered or instigated one Interahamwe to kill one Tutsi by covering him with a mattress, pouring fuel onto the mattress and burning him. Nchamihigo is also said to have ordered or instigated Interahamwe to kill members of one Tutsi family by burning them in their own car.

The accused first appeared on 29 June 2001. He was charged with three counts of genocide, alternatively complicity in genocide, extermination or alternatively murder as a crime against humanity, and violations of the Geneva Conventions.

Nchamihigo was arrested in Arusha, Tanzania on 19 May 2001 and transferred to the Tribunal’s Detention Facility on 25 May 2001. The accused was represented by Denis Turcotte from Canada while the Prosecution was represented by Alphonse Van, Senior Trial Attorney and Adama Niane, Trial Attorney.

The main purpose of the awareness workshops was to explain the work of the ICTR to the Rwanda public and collect their feedback.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the workshop in Gicumbi District, Innocent Kamanzi, the Associate Information Officer and Head of Umusanzu Information Centre told the residents that the workshops were aimed to help the people of Rwanda to understand the work of the Tribunal that was set up to bring to justice to those who were responsible for the 1994 genocide.

The participants asked questions ranging from the trials in progress, why the trials were delayed, what happens after the Tribunal winds up its mandate, witness protection procedures and transfer of convicts.

The workshops also consisted of an exhibition of the Tribunal’s publications, posters, photos and films on case proceedings at the ICTR.

The workshops attracted about 1500 participants. The awareness raising workshops programme will continue in other Rwandan regions and schools.

• **Outreach Programme: Capacity Building of the Rwandan Judiciary System**

Mr. Ahmed Iyane Sow, Legal Adviser to the Registrar lectured two groups of 750 Law students at the Université Libre de Kigali (ULK) from 11-18 August 2006 as part of the ICTR’s Capacity Building programme of the Rwandan Judiciary System. Mr. Sow taught International law to students in the Masters programme (Sources of law; personality and recognition: recognition of States and governments;
 territorial sovereignty: the creation and transfer of territorial sovereignty; the protection of individuals and groups; international organizations and tribunals, etc.

Seminar for Rwandan Case Managers and Registrars in Arusha

As part of the ICTR Outreach Program, a capacity building seminar was organized from 29 August to 31 August 2006 for 13 Rwandan Case Managers and Registrars. The training was aimed at strengthening the knowledge of Rwandan registrars and case managers in the management of information and evidence. This seminar was organized by the Office of the Prosecutor and was opened by the Deputy Prosecutor, Mr. Bongani Majola.

The seminar topics included: Archive Management, On-line Legal Research Sources; aimed at increasing the participant's knowledge in accessing electronic resources, on-line legal databases and free journals, Case Management Procedures, Lessons Learnt and Best Practice in Trial Management from the Prosecutor's perspective and a practical demonstration of legal information management tools currently in use for management of trials. The training is part of a series of seminars aimed at strengthening the capacity of Rwandan judges, registrars, prosecutors, university professors and law students in areas such as on-line legal research and utilization of information management software.

ICTR at The Hague

• Activity of the Appeals Chamber

The Appeals Chamber rendered decisions on the Prosecution’s appeal from a decision denying referral in the Bagaragaza case and on the Prosecution’s motion to withdraw an interlocutory appeal in the Karemera et al. case, disposed of an appeal from the Rutaganira case, and issued eleven pre-appeal orders and decisions, including a decision on a motion for leave to submit additional grounds of appeal in the Nahimana et al. case and a decision on a motion for variation of the notice of appeal in the Simba case.

The Appeals Chamber is presently deliberating on the Ndindabahizi appeal, the merits of which were heard in July, and is preparing the Media case and Muhimana case appeals for hearings. Further, the Appeals Chamber is seized of eight interlocutory appeals as well as requests for reconsideration and/or review in the Rutaganda and Niyitegeka cases.

• Hearing of Witness testimony by Video-Link from Brussels, Belgium to Arusha

Following the Order issued on 29 June 2006 by Trial Chamber I, composed of Judges Erik Mose (Presiding), Sergei Alekseevich Egorov and Florence Rita Arrey, the Other Registry Services Sub-Unit (ORSS-U) within the ICTR Appeals Chamber Support Unit in The Hague organised and covered, in coordination with the relevant Sections/Units of the ICTR and the ICTY, a hearing of witnesses which took place on Tuesday, 15 August 2006.

Rwandan Lawyer Delegates Attend Workshop at the ICTR

The Rwanda Bar Association attended a workshop at the ICTR from 21 to 25 August 2006. This workshop was a follow-up to a meeting they had with the Registrar at the beginning of this year where they discussed ways to strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations.

At the end of the workshop, the President of the Rwandese Bar Association, Mr. Gatara Gashabana thanked the ICTR and said that this workshop was already a concrete sign of real collaboration. He requested that ICTR conduct trainings to help prepare Rwandese lawyers to deal with cases transferred from the ICTR to the Rwandan national jurisdiction. Two training sessions could take place in September and December 2006.

The Rwandese Delegation of Lawyers pledged to submit to the Registrar a detailed project and to liaise with the magistrate in Rwanda so as to finalize this project as soon as possible.

Talking Point

“Anyone with specific and relevant information on and/or knowledge of the matter brought before the Tribunal. Such specific information or knowledge which qualifies an individual to appear as an expert witness may have been acquired through training or actual studies, special aptitudes, experience or some reputation in the field or through any other means
considered by the party calling the witness to give testimony as being necessary and sufficient to qualify him as an expert witness.”

The element of possessing a specific knowledge appears to be essential to the qualification as an expert witness.

The above definition leads us to another question: who is entitled to assess the fulfillment of the criteria of the qualification?

Article 2 of the same text is plainly responsive in this regard: “It is the right of the Trial Chamber to allow the witness to make deposition as an expert on issues referred to it or to hear the witness’s testimony and, where necessary, to assess its value.”

The reference made to the Trial Chamber gives us the opportunity to analyze two Decisions of the Tribunal in order to have more light shed on this issue.

The first Decision we have chosen for our purpose is issued by Trial Chamber I, dated 28 September 2004, entitled “DECISION ON MOTION FOR EXCLUSION OF EXPERT WITNESS STATEMENT OF FILIP REYNTJENS,” in the matter the Prosecutor v. Theoneste BAGOSORA et al.

The Trial Chamber I had to rule upon the Defence motion requesting that the statement of the Prosecution expert witness Filip Reyntjens be excluded.

In response to this, the Chamber denied the Defence motion and admitted the testimony of the Prosecution expert witness. Why?

Before getting into the grounds provided by the Chamber we should carefully bear in mind our initial query: what is an expert witness?

In view of this query we will put the stress on the parts of the decision which are directly relevant to the admission by the Chamber of the Prosecution expert witness testimony.

The Chamber based its decision on the following reasons: The standard for admission of expert testimony is whether the specialized knowledge possessed by the expert, applied to the evidence which is the foundation of the opinion, may assist the Chamber in understanding the evidence. Having reviewed the witness’s statement, the Chamber is of the view that, his testimony may assist in understanding the evidence referred to therein.

As the Trial Chamber has underlined above, an expert testimony is admissible if it is based on a specialized knowledge which (applied to the evidence) may assist in understanding the evidence. In admitting the testimony the triers consequently admit the witness as an expert witness in the specific relevant field and in relation to the specific evidence.

The second Decision we have chosen for our purpose is issued by Trial Chamber II, dated 25 April 2006, entitled “ORAL DECISION ON QUALIFICATION OF BARRIE COLLINS AS AN EXPERT WITNESS”, in the matter the Prosecutor v. Casimir BIZIMUNGU et Al, The Trial Chamber II had to rule upon the Prosecutor motion for the exclusion of the Defence proposed expert report of Barrie Collins.

The Trial Chamber II decided as follows: “…Barrie Collins is not qualified to testify as an expert witness before this Chamber.”

The Chamber provided the followings reasons:

“The Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Tribunal are silent on the role and utility of an expert witness. However, it is widely accepted that the role of an expert is to provide opinions and inferences to assist the finders of fact in understanding a fact at issue. Before being permitted to submit opinion testimony, the Chamber must find that the expert is competent in his proposed field or field of expertise. The expert must possess some special knowledge acquired through education, experience, or training in a field that may assist the fact finders to understand the evidence or to assess a fact at issue.”

Once again, we have underlined the portion of the Decision which is most relevant to our query.

Having stated the standard of qualification as an expert witness the Trial Chamber explained in details why Barrie Collins does not qualify as an expert witness. For example, the Chamber indicated that Barrie Collins does not show evidence of having undertaken field research on the subject-matter in Rwanda.

The Trial Chamber II has clearly indicated the requirement regarding the competence of the expert in the proposed field of expertise and the specificity of the knowledge he or she must possess.

Now let’s sum up the achievement we have got in relation with the issue from the Basic Documents of the Tribunal and the Jurisprudence.

We have been provided with some important clues and guidance as how to define an expert witness: field of expertise, possession of knowledge, specificity or specialization of the knowledge, its applicability to the evidence, the means by which it has been acquired, its utility or helpfulness in assisting the triers.

In view of the above considerations, an expert witness is anyone who possesses a specialized knowledge acquired through education, experience, or training in a field that may assist the Triers to understand the evidence or to assess a fact at issue.”
Visitors to the ICTR during the month of August 2006

8: Abdulquwi Yusuf, UNESCO Legal Adviser
9: John Blazeby and Leonard James, ICRC Senior Officials; 8 senior officers from the African Union
10-26: 4 Journalist Gabriela Preda
16: 16 Visitors from MS-TCDC; 15 students from the USA and Europe
18: 9 European Commission Stagiaries; 26 Zimbabwe officials from the Tanzania Defence Forces
21-25: 7 lawyers from the Rwandan Bar Association
22: Mr. Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada
23: The Dean of Arab Ambassadors in Tanzania, H.E. Ambassador Sabry Sabry, together with H.E. Yousef Habbab, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Palestine
28-31: 13 Participants in the Case Management Training)
30: Mr. Karna Soro, ICRC Head of Mission

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