



Thursday 21 December 2006

Highlights of 04/12/2006 through 20/12/2006 - No. 04

1 December**Bosnian award
for ICTY staff
member**

Matias Hellman, ICTY Liaison Officer in the Sarajevo field office, is presented with an award of "recognition" from the BiH Union of Former Camp Detainees as a sign of gratitude for his engagement in the work of the Union and for having helped them to "preserve the truth from oblivion."

Matias' actions over the past two years included speaking at and providing working materials for a conference on reparations for victims; distributing ICTY documents and information materials to the Union and the associations within the Union; providing tailored excerpts from ICTY judgements for some local associations within the Union, and assisting with the donation of 23 used computers from the ICTY to associations within the Union.

4 December**New
spokesperson for
the OTP**

The Prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, announces that Olga Kavran, a native from Belgrade, is the new spokesperson for her Office.

Olga Kavran joined the Tribunal in November 1997 as a translator. In 2000, she joined the Outreach Programme as an Information Officer, and in 2004 she was appointed as the Deputy Coordinator.

5 December**Additional pleas
by Gotovina,
Čermak and
Markač**

Ante Gotovina, Ivan Čermak and Mladen Markač plead not guilty to the additional charges brought against them in the joint indictment.

The charges against the accused relate to the crimes committed against Serbs in 1995, during and in the aftermath of the Croatian military offensive known as Operation Storm, conducted in the Krajina region of Croatia.

8 December**Šešelj: hunger
strike ends after
Appeals Chamber
says trial will
restart when the
accused is fit to
represent himself**

The Appeals Chamber grants Vojislav Šešelj's appeal against the Trial Chamber's decision to impose stand by counsel. It also orders a restart of the trial, saying that the proceedings "should not open until such a time that he is fully able to participate as a self-represented accused."

Vojislav Šešelj informs the Tribunal that he will resume taking foodstuffs and receive medical attention, ending his refusal since 11 November 2006 to do so. The accused says that his decision was made in view of the Appeals Chamber's decision issued on the same day, as well as commitments from the Registry to facilitate many of his requests concerning arrangements for his defence.

11 December**ICTY as an
international
training center**

The ICTY hosts a three-day training for staff union representatives from various international organizations. One of the purposes of the training is to educate the participants on their role as elected staff union representatives.

Among those taking part in the training are staff union reps from ICTY, ICC, UNIFIL, ESCAP, UNOG, and UNHCR.

13 December**No Amicus Curiae
status for Croatia**

The Appeals Chamber issues two Decisions denying the request by Croatia for a review of two Trial Chamber decisions refusing the Zagreb authorities to appear as amicus curiae in the Prlić et al. and the Gotovina et al. cases.

14 December**Ukraine prepared
to assist ICTY in
enforcing
sentences**

The Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Justice, Lidiya Horbunova, and the ICTY Registrar, Hans Holthuis, discuss issues relating to the enforcement of prison sentences for persons sentenced by the Tribunal. Consultations focus on finalising the text of a draft agreement for the enforcement of sentences between the United Nations and Ukraine.

After the meeting, the following press release was issued: SF/MOW/1135e at <http://www.un.org/icty/latest-e/index.htm>

YET ONE MORE SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMATIC SEMINAR

In the afternoon of Tuesday 5 December, the President, the Prosecutor and the Registrar, briefed 60 representatives of the international community on the activities and achievements of the Tribunal.

Announcing that seven trials will be conducted simultaneously as of January 2007, the ICTY President, Judge Fausto Pocar, noted that the Tribunal is "realizing one of the most productive periods in [its] history," and ensured the audience that "the Tribunal remains absolutely committed to doing all within its power to meet its obligations under the Completion Strategy while upholding norms of due process."

Addressing the Seminar, the Prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, highlighted the steps taken by her Office to implement the Completion Strategy but said that "obstacles remained." Recalling that six accused were still at large, she also noted that "the international support for our activities is diminishing while thousands of victims are still waiting for the justice they were promised by the United Nations in 1993 (...) I met victims' groups in Sarajevo last Thursday. Their message was unequivocal: the Tribunal must remain open till all indictees, especially of course Karadžić and Mladić, are tried in The Hague. The victims have the right to know whether they must expect to be betrayed once more," she concluded.

Speaking to the diplomats, the Registrar, Hans Holthuis called upon UN Member States to enter agreements on the enforcement of sentences and relocation of witnesses. An additional 10 enforcement agreements are needed to cover what he called a "considerable gap: most of the ten States who have [already] signed an agreement would be prepared to enforce no more than three to five sentences at the same time. Based on these indications, it is expected that the enforcement of another 20 sentences is ensured by the concluded agreements. However ... my office estimates that another 70 sentences will probably have to be enforced. These figures reveal a considerable gap between the current enforcement capacity and the requirement forecast." With regard to the relocation agreements, the Registrar noted that the 13 existing agreements remain "sorely insufficient: ... we estimate that five (5) additional agreements will be needed to relocate all current and future witnesses," he stressed.

The text of the addresses delivered by the President, the Prosecutor and the Registrar are available in English and French, upon request: please contact Gea van der Werf (tel: +31.70.512 8599; e-mail: vanderwerf@un.org).

ICTY PROCEEDINGS COMPLETED WITH REGARD TO 100 ACCUSED

Since the very first hearing (referral request in the Tadić case) on 8 November 1994, the Tribunal has indicted a total of 161 individuals, and has already completed proceedings with regard to 100 of them: five have been acquitted, 48 sentenced (eight are awaiting transfer, 23 have been transferred, 16 have served their term, and one died while serving his sentence), 11 have had their cases transferred to local courts. Another 36 cases have been terminated (either because indictments were withdrawn or because the accused died, before or after transfer to the Tribunal).

Proceedings are on-going with regard to 61 accused: 13 are at the appeals stage, 24 are currently on trial, 18 are on pre-trial and six are still at large.

The figure of the accused at the appeals stage includes Sefer Halilović, Fatmir Limaj and Isak Musliu (who have been acquitted and released but against whom an appeal by the Office of the Prosecutor is running), as well as Amir Kubura and Naser Orić. These two accused have been sentenced and granted early release (Kubura) and release (Orić), but the OTP has appealed against the Trial Chamber's Judgements (Kubura and Orić).

THE COURT PROCEEDINGS ARE IN RECESS UNTIL MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2007. THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE ICTY DIGEST WILL BE PUBLISHED ON MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2007.

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