



Monday 28 September 2009

Highlights of 15/09/2009 through 25/09/2009 - Nr. 64

[15 September](#)

Biljana Plavšić to be released

President Robinson issued a Decision granting Biljana Plavšić early release "in accordance with her entitlement to be released under Swedish law."

A prominent former ideologist of the Bosnian Serb leadership, Plavšić surrendered to the Tribunal on 10 January 2001. She first pleaded not guilty but changed her mind on 2 October 2002, and pleaded guilty to her participation in the persecutions committed against Bosnian Muslim, Bosnian Croat and other non-Serb populations in 37 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 27 February 2003, she was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment and was subsequently transferred to Sweden.

On 25 May 2009, the Swedish authorities informed the Tribunal that Plavšić would be eligible for conditional release under Swedish law as of 27 October 2009, and sought the President's determination pursuant to Rule 124 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The President's subsequent decision is grounded on "substantial evidence of rehabilitation," on the fact that Plavšić will have served two-thirds of her sentence "as of 24 October 2009", and on a number of confidential "health and mental wellbeing" factors.

[15 September](#)

Trial in the Popović et al. case completed

Involving seven individuals (Vujadin Popović, Ljubiša Beara, Drago Nikolić, Ljubomir Borovčanin, Radivoje Miletić, Milan Gvero, and Vinko Pandurević) accused of crimes committed during the Srebrenica massacres, this trial is one of the largest ever held at the Tribunal. It commenced on 14 July 2006, and trial hearings were held on 425 days (100 weeks) over the past three years. The Parties called 315 witnesses, 182 for the Prosecution and 132 for all Defence teams. The Chamber recalled one Defence witness and called another one, Momir Nikolić (who pleaded guilty to exterminations committed at Srebrenica, was sentenced to 20 years, and is serving his sentence in Finland).

The Chamber (Judge Agius, Presiding, Judge Kwon, Judge Prost, and Reserve Judge Stole) will render its judgement in due course.

[18 September](#)

Prosecutor Brammertz in Brussels

Prosecutor Brammertz met with the new Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yves Leterme.

They discussed the Tribunal's completion strategy, the cooperation of states with the Office of the Prosecutor as well as other issues related to the Tribunal's mandate.

[20 September](#)

300 visitors at the ICTY

To celebrate the International Day of Peace, the ICTY, along with the ICJ, the ICC, the OPCW and the EPO, opened its doors to the public. Between 11am and 5pm, the ICTY played host to more than 300 visitors. In addition to receiving information materials about the Tribunal, the visitors could watch footage of the initial appearance of Radovan Karadžić and the judgement hearing in the Lukić & Lukić case, view a short documentary about the Detention Unit, and listen to presentations given in the public gallery of courtroom 1. The ICTY was also present at a "road show" of International Tribunals and Courts at the Theater De Spui.

[22 September](#)

Significant new report launched:

A ceremony was held to mark the launch of an important new report entitled "Supporting the Transition Process: Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Knowledge Transfer" which looks into the capacity building needs of the local judiciaries dealing with war crimes proceedings in the former Yugoslavia. The report is the outcome of a year-long collaboration between the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the ICTY.

“Partnerships with the national judiciaries are an integral part of the Completion Strategy,” says President Robinson at the launch of a Report on the needs of the judiciary in the former Yugoslavia

The joint research was set up to assess the outstanding needs of judiciaries in the former Yugoslavia with respect to war crimes proceedings as well as the effectiveness of the capacity building efforts conducted so far. The report provides concrete recommendations for further action to help secure and improve the capacity of the region to bring to justice those responsible for war crimes committed during the armed conflicts of the 1990s.

The President of the ICTY, Judge Patrick Robinson, the Director of ODIHR, Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, and the Director of UNICRI, Sandro Calvani, addressed the media on the occasion of the launch.

President Robinson said that "partnerships with the national judiciaries are an integral part of the Tribunal's completion strategy, as well as a key legacy goal." The President went on to say that the "ICTY is heading towards closure in mid-2013, and to fully discharge our mandate we want to be assured that we have shared with the jurisdictions in the former Yugoslavia our transferable expertise. We also want to make sure that they are sufficiently supported by the international community and provided with the resources necessary to access and make use of our proceedings and the evidence we have gathered." One of these resources is "the production of transcripts from the ICTY's trials in the languages of the region, primarily Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian," the President pointed out.

[23 September](#)

ICTY introduced in 15 Kosovo high schools

The Tribunal's Outreach Programme has launched a fresh round of its successful high school presentation programme in Kosovo for the 2009 – 2010 school year. The programme includes a series of presentations at 15 Gymnasium High Schools during the autumn and winter terms of the academic year. The multi-media presentations are designed to introduce Grade 12 students to the work of the Tribunal and its achievements in bringing to justice those most responsible for the war crimes committed in the Balkans during the 1990s. The students will also learn about the Tribunal's contribution to the establishment of facts and post-conflict justice in their region.

As the ICTY moves towards the completion of its mandate, the Outreach Programme is intensifying its efforts to increase the local communities' access to and understanding of the Tribunal's achievements. In doing so, the Outreach Programme seeks to cement the legacy of the Tribunal throughout the region of the former Yugoslavia.

COURTROOM SCHEDULE: 28 SEPTEMBER – 9 OCTOBER

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Courtroom I 09:00 – 13:45, **Gotovina et al**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Dordević**, Trial
Courtroom II 09:00 – 13:45, **Perišić**, Trial
Courtroom III 14:15 – 19:00, **Prlić**, Trial

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

Courtroom I 09:00 – 13:45, **Gotovina et al**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Dordević**, Trial
Courtroom II 09:00 – 13:45, **Perišić**, Trial
Courtroom III 09:00 – 13:45, **Prlić**, Trial

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Courtroom I 09:00 – 13:45, **Stanišić & Župljanin**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Dordević**, Trial
Courtroom III 09:00 – 13:45, **Prlić**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Gotovina et al**, Trial

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER

Courtroom I 09:00 – 13:45, **Stanišić & Župljanin**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Dordević**, Trial
Courtroom III 09:00 – 13:45, **Prlić**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Gotovina et al**, Trial

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

Courtroom I 09:00 – 13:45, **Stanišić & Župljanin**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Dordević**, Trial
Courtroom III 14:15 – 19:00, **Gotovina et al**, Trial

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER

Courtroom I 09:00 – 13:45, **Dordević**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Stanišić & Župljanin**, Trial
Courtroom II 09:00 – 13:45, **Perišić**, Trial
Courtroom III 09:00 – 13:45, **Gotovina et al**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Prlić**, Trial

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

Courtroom I 09:00 – 13:45, **Dordević**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Stanišić & Župljanin**, Trial
Courtroom II 09:00 – 13:45, **Perišić**, Trial
Courtroom III 09:00 – 13:45, **Gotovina et al**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Prlić**, Trial

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER

Courtroom I 09:00 – 13:45, **Dordević**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Stanišić & Župljanin**, Trial
Courtroom II 09:00 – 13:45, **Perišić**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Stanišić & Simatović**, Trial
Courtroom III 09:00 – 13:45, **Gotovina et al**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Prlić**, Trial

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER

Courtroom I 09:00 – 13:45, **Dorđević**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Stanišić & Župljanin**, Trial
Courtroom II 09:00 – 13:45, **Perišić**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Stanišić & Simatović**, Trial
Courtroom III 09:00 – 13:45, **Gotovina et al**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Prlić**, Trial

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

Courtroom I 09:00 – 13:45, **Dorđević**, Trial
14:15 – 19:00, **Stanišić & Župljanin**, Trial
Courtroom II 09:00 – 13:45, **Perišić**, Trial
Courtroom III 09:00 – 13:45, **Gotovina et al**, Trial

Public proceedings are broadcast with a 30-minute delay on the ICTY's website.

PROCEEDINGS COMPLETED WITH REGARD TO 120 ACCUSED

Since the very first hearing (deferral 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 120 of them: 11 have been acquitted, 60 sentenced (two are awaiting transfer, 29 have been transferred, 27 have served their term, and two died while serving their sentence), 13 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 41 accused: 14 are at the appeals stage, 23 are currently on trial, and two are at the pre-trial stage. Two fugitives are still at large.

A further 30 individuals have been or are the subject of contempt proceedings.

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Registrar: John Hocking. Chief LPTV: Christian Chartier

Queries and comments:

Christian Chartier, Editor: +31.70.512.52.40, chartier.icty@un.org
Nick Beston, Deputy Editor: +31.70.512. 89.43, beston@un.org

Nicolas Escot assisted in the production of this issue of ICTYDigest.

International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Churchillplein 1, 2517 JW The Hague, the Netherlands

www.icty.org

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