



CHAMBERS

Judges Meron and Agius re-elected President and Vice-President of the ICTY

At a special plenary session on 1 October, the judges of the ICTY re-elected Judge Theodor Meron (United States of America) as President of the Tribunal and Judge Carmel Agius (Malta) as Vice-President for two year terms starting 17 November 2013.

In the vote for President, Judge Meron received twelve votes, while Judge O-Gon Kwon (Republic of Korea) received six votes. After Judge Meron was re-elected, he nominated Judge Agius as Vice-President, and Judge Agius was re-elected by general consensus.

Judge Theodor Meron is the Tribunal's current President, elected to this position by his fellow judges on 19 October 2011. He also served as President of the Tribunal between March 2003 and November 2005, and

was appointed the President of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals by the United Nations Secretary-General on 1 March 2012 for a period of four years.

Judge Carmel Agius was elected Vice-President by his peers on 19 October 2011. He is also an Appeals Chamber judge of both the Tribunal and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He was first elected to the Tribunal in 2001 and re-elected in 2004. Between 2003 and 2010, he was presiding judge of Trial Chamber II, during which time he presided over the Brđanin, the Orić and the multi-accused Popović et al. trials. He was also engaged in the initial appearance and pre-trial preparation and disposal of several other cases.



[Longer biographical notes](#) of Judges Meron and Agius can be found on the ICTY website.

ANNUAL REPORT



President Meron addresses the United Nations General Assembly

On 14 October, President Theodor Meron presented the Tribunal's twentieth annual report to the UN General Assembly. President Meron reported on measures taken to implement the Tribunal's Completion Strategy and to effect the institution's orderly and efficient closure.

Presenting the Member States with an update on the progress made in judicial proceedings, the President underscored that the Tribunal has "rendered more judgements in the year ending 1 August 2013 than in almost any previous reporting period". He noted that five Trial Chamber judgements had been delivered, along with three Appeals Chamber judgements, a judgement on appeal from an acquittal pursuant to Rule 98 bis of the ICTY's Rules of Procedure and Evidence and four judgements in contempt cases. President Meron added that four cases are currently at trial and seven cases are pending an appeal. He went on to note that any appeals in the Mladić, Karadžić, Hadžić and Šešelj cases, which are currently at trial, will fall under the jurisdiction of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals.

The President noted that work on the seven remaining appeals cases is anticipated to be completed in all but one case by early 2015. He added that appeal judgements in the Đorđević case and in the multi-accused Šainović et al. case are expected by the end of this year and a further four appeal judgements are expected by early 2015. The one remaining appeals case, that of Prlić et al., involving six accused, is forecast to be completed by mid-2017.

Turning to the implementation of the Completion Strategy and the handing over of relevant responsibilities to the Mechanism, President Meron explained that steps were being taken to ensure that the Tribunal's closure would be fast and efficient without affecting the institution's abilities to fulfil its responsibilities and mandate.

President Meron expressed his gratitude that "despite the many challenges they face, staff members continue to carry out their responsibilities with dedication and care, making it possible for the ICTY to fulfil the mandate with which it has been entrusted"

In closing, the President emphasised that as the Tribunal completes its remaining work, it 'will leave behind it a world transformed: a world in which—thanks to the new Mechanism and to the commitment and perseverance of members of the international community on matters of international justice—expectations of principled accountability for those who stand accused of atrocities will remain the norm, and the rule of law will continue to prevail.'

The full text of both the [President's speech](#) and the [Annual Report](#) can be found on the ICTY website.

OUTREACH



Winner of Outreach essay-writing competition announced

The Tribunal's Outreach Programme awarded first prize in a national essay-writing competition to student Maja Graca at an awards ceremony at her school 'Meša Selimović' Gymnasium in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 21 October.

Asking students in Bosnia and Herzegovina to share their thoughts on the topic 'Should we hold trials for war crimes committed during an armed conflict?', the competition was designed to encourage young people to voice their opinions about the work of the ICTY and its relevance to their communities. It formed part of the Tribunal's youth outreach initiative, which aims to reach out to young people across the region and stimulate their interest in the Tribunal's mandate and wider issues of transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction.

A total of 135 young people from across the country entered the competition. A Tribunal-wide jury chose the winners from a shortlist drawn up by Outreach field staff in Sarajevo. Second prize went to Viktor Nikolić from Mihajlo Pupin Technical School in Bijeljina and third prize to Sabina Poplata from 2nd Gymnasium in Sarajevo.

The winning essays won high praise from jury members. 'The essays demonstrate the maturity of the authors and carry a powerful message from the young people voicing their generation's longing for justice', said Magdalena Spalińska, ICTY spokesperson and member of the jury.

As the ICTY moves towards the completion of its mandate, the Outreach Programme is intensifying its efforts to ensure that young people across the region of the former Yugoslavia are able to access information about the Tribunal and its achievements. In doing so, the Outreach Programme seeks to foster a greater understanding of the Tribunal's work and legacy.

VISITS



Tribunal welcomes journalists from the former Yugoslavia on a study visit

A week-long study visit to the ICTY by a group of eight journalists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia concluded on 1 November.

A key element of the visit was a roundtable discussion on the challenges of reporting on war crimes trials, during which the regional journalists discussed different approaches to the subject with reporters from the BBC, the Institute for War and Peace Reporting and the Beta news agency. In spite of the many difficulties journalists who report on war crimes trials are faced with, the general conclusion was that the future of war crime reporting was 'not bleak', although all those assembled agreed with the BBC's Anna Holligan when she suggested that "journalists should continue to find new perspectives from which to view such tedious legal proceedings".

The highlights of the visit, according to many of the journalists, were the meetings with ICTY principals President Theodor Meron and Prosecutor Serge Brammertz.

'This visit was a very useful opportunity for reporters to get to know the work of the Tribunal and talk to its highest leadership, and could contribute towards clarification of misunderstandings which surrounds the Tribunal in the region,' said Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) journalist Erna Mačkić.

Over the course of the week, the journalists also had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Tribunal's Communications Service, Victims and Witnesses Section, the commanding officers of the ICTY Detention Unit, Prosecution and Defence lawyers, as well as a legal officer from the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals.

The visit was organised by the ICTY Outreach Programme in cooperation with BIRN, a longstanding Outreach partner in the region of the former Yugoslavia.

IN THE COURTROOMS



Popović *et al.* appeal hearing scheduled

A scheduling order issued on 3 October announced that the appeal hearing in the Popović *et al.* case will be heard from 2 - 13 December.

On 10 June 2010, Trial Chamber II handed down sentences ranging from 5 years to life imprisonment against seven former Bosnian Serb military leaders for crimes committed in 1995 in relation to the fall of the enclaves of Srebrenica and Žepa, eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina: Vujadin Popović, life imprisonment; Ljubiša Beara, life imprisonment; Drago Nikolić, 35 years; Radivoje Miletić, 19 years; Ljubomir Borovčanin, 17 years; Vinko Pandurević, 13 years; Milan Gvero, 5 years.

The judgement against Gvero was declared as final following his death in February this year. Neither the Prosecution nor the Defence appealed the judgement in respect of Borovčanin.



OUTREACH



Tribunal concludes successful 2012-13 Youth Outreach project

The Tribunal's Outreach Programme concluded its acclaimed Youth Outreach Project for the 2012/13 academic year with a university lecture at the Faculty of Law in Split, Croatia and a presentation at the high school in Rogova in Kosovo.

Nearly 2,400 students from 40 high schools and more than 1,100 students from 25 universities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo benefited from the project during 2012-13. Presentations took place in some of the communities most affected by the wars of the 1990s, including Bratunac, Sanski Most, Brčko, Stolac, Vukovar, Zadar, Knin, Peć/Peja and Podujevo/Podujeva. The presentations in high schools provided factual information on the Tribunal's work and achievements, while university lectures introduced the students to more complex topics related to the court's jurisprudence.

"We were encouraged to see that young people in the region have a strong desire to find out more about the Tribunal and to play substantive role in the processes of dealing with the past", said Nenad Golčevski who heads the Outreach Programme's office in The Hague.

IN THE COURTROOMS



Judge Niang nominated to the bench in the Šešelj case

On 31 October, Acting President of the Tribunal, Judge Carmel Agius, issued a decision assigning Judge Mandiaye Niang to join the bench in the case of Vojislav Šešelj.

The Acting President also expressed his view that the Trial Chamber should consult with the accused on whether to rehear the case or continue the proceedings with the newly appointed judge, as envisaged in Rule 15bis(D). The decision states moreover that it is ultimately up to the Trial Chamber to determine whether or not the trial will proceed.

On 9 July 2013, Šešelj filed a motion seeking the disqualification of Judge Harhoff from all further proceedings in his case. On 28 August, a Chamber appointed by Judge Agius as Acting President issued a decision in which the majority, Judge Liu dissenting, upheld Šešelj's motion and disqualified Judge Harhoff from the case.

Šešelj, the leader of the Serbian Radical Party, is on trial before the Tribunal for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed between 1991 and 1994 against the non-Serb population from large parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Vojvodina in Serbia. His trial commenced on 7 November 2007.



STATUS OF CASES

CASES AT TRIAL

Hadžić	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial commenced on 16 October 2012.
Karadžić	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Defence case commenced on 16 October 2012.
Mladić	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial commenced on 16 May 2012.
Šešelj	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parties presented their closing arguments between 5 and 20 March 2012.

CASES ON APPEAL

Dorđević	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trial judgement was pronounced on 23 February 2011 (sentence: 27 years' imprisonment). • The appeal hearing was held on 13 May 2013.
Prlić <i>et al.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judgement rendered on 29 May 2013. Accused given sentences ranging from 10 to 25 years' imprisonment.
Popović <i>et al.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trial judgement was pronounced on 10 June 2010 (sentences: Popović - life imprisonment; Beara - life imprisonment; Nikolić - 35 years' imprisonment; Borovčanin - 17 years' imprisonment; Miletić - 19 years' imprisonment; Gvero - 5 years' imprisonment; Pandurević - 13 years' imprisonment). • Both the Prosecution and the Defence have filed their appeal briefs in respect of all accused except Borovčanin, whose sentence is therefore final. • Following his death in February 2013, on 7 March 2013 the Appeals Chamber declared proceedings against Gvero closed.
Šainović <i>et al.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trial judgement was pronounced on 26 February 2009 (sentences: Šainović - 22 years' imprisonment; Ojdanić - 15 years' imprisonment; Pavković - 22 years' imprisonment; Lazarević - 15 years' imprisonment; Lukić - 22 years' imprisonment; Milutinović - acquitted). • Both the Prosecution and the Defence have filed their appeal briefs in respect of all accused except Milutinović, whose acquittal is therefore final, and Ojdanić, for whom briefs were filed and later withdrawn by both parties, and whose sentence is therefore final. • The appeal hearing was held between 11 and 15 March 2013.
Stanišić & Simatović	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judgement rendered on 30 May 2013. Both acquitted.
Stanišić & Župljanin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both sentenced to 22 years of imprisonment on 27 March 2013.
Tolimir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial judgement rendered on 12 December 2012. Sentenced to life imprisonment.

FACTS & FIGURES

<p>161 INDIVIDUALS INDICTED</p> <p>Since the very first hearing (a 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 136 of them.</p> <p>18 have been acquitted, 69 sentenced (19 have been transferred to serve their sentence, 1 is awaiting transfer, 46 have served their term, and 3 died while serving their sentence), and 13 have had their cases transferred to local courts.</p>	136	Total number of accused whose proceedings have been completed.
	36	Cases terminated (either because indictments were withdrawn or because the accused died, before or after transfer to the Tribunal).
	25	Proceedings are on-going with regard to 25 accused: 4 are currently on trial, and 21 are at the appeals stage.
	35	A further 35 individuals have been or are the subject of contempt proceedings.

Extracts of, and/or quotes from, legal documents are not authoritative; only the order, decision or judgement in its entirety reflects the opinion of the Trial Chamber and/or the Appeals Chamber.