

Dear colleagues,

Today, the International Association of Prosecutors – the only global organization of more than 400,000 prosecutors from 172 different countries – honored our Office with a Special Achievement Award.

In presenting the award, IAP Secretary-General Han Moraal emphasized the ICTY OTP's successful prosecutions of many of the most senior political and military leaders responsible for the crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia, its important contributions to the development of international criminal law and international humanitarian law, and its contributions to ensuring national prosecutions of the crimes and the continuation of the accountability process.

This award is a tribute first and foremost to you, OTP staff past and present. The successful results our Office has achieved over its mandate are the result of your dedication and excellence. Coming from over sixty-five different countries, you left behind your homes and careers to fight for the victims and to bring the perpetrators of horrific atrocities to justice.

Our work has never been easy; whether it was struggling to get access to crime scenes and records, pursuing fugitives across the Balkans and beyond, or the years of ceaseless work that it took to present in the courtroom some of the most complex and extensive criminal cases in history. Yet you always persevered. And the result is a record of prosecutions that remains the gold standard for international criminal justice.

As we increasingly near the completion of our mandate by the end of the year, there will be many opportunities for reflection and remembrance. I hope this award, representing the professional respect and esteem of 172 prosecution services around the world, reminds you of the immensity of what you have accomplished, and the pride we can take in our service.

Congratulations, and on behalf of senior management, thank you again for all that you have done.

Yours,

Serge Brammertz