

JUDGES SHARE EXPERIENCE IN ZAGREB

ICTY Judges Pocar and Agius meet counterparts in the region


Judges from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) held a peer-to-peer meeting in Zagreb, Croatia on 17 January with their colleagues from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo to share experiences in adjudicating war crimes cases.

Some 20 judges, mainly from appellate courts in the region, participated in the meeting with Judge Fausto Pocar and Judge Carmel Agius from the ICTY.

The judges discussed several topics including the protection of witnesses and victims, the definition of "civilians" in war crimes cases and the role of appellate judges in reviewing cases.

Judge Pocar stated that sharing common experiences with judges in these courts not only strengthens the local judiciary but also enhances the work of the judges at all levels. "It is not just about the transfer of technical resources or knowledge, but it comes to sharing experiences, because we all have the same goal and we are faced with common problems in working on cases," concluded Judge Pocar.

ICTY judges had a similar session with their colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo in December 2010, while the first regional peer-to-peer meeting took place in Belgrade in September 2010.

More peer-to-peer meetings are planned to take place throughout the region in the coming months as part of the War Crimes Justice Project. 



ICTY Judge Fausto Pocar discusses relevant topics with his colleagues from the former Yugoslavia at the peer-to-peer meeting in Zagreb, on 17 January 2011. (Photo: OSCE/Curtis Budden)

"This project is essentially about strengthening the capacity of regional justice systems to conduct war crimes trials in an effective and fair manner, consistent with the highest international standards of due process. It is about your justice systems and meeting your needs, but it is also about a shared commitment to the rule of law which is tested on a daily basis in courtrooms across the OSCE region."

Douglas Wake, First Deputy Director at OSCE ODIHR, during the official opening of the peer-to-peer meeting.



Photo: OSCE/Curtis Budden

ON TARGET

Transcripts

→ 11 April 2011

transcripts delivered to BiH and Serbia

Upcoming Training Events

→ 17-18 March 2011

Judicial Academy Osijek, Croatia

→ 28-29 March 2011

Judicial Training Centre Banja Luka, BiH

Other project events

→ 17-19 March 2011

Joint Advocacy Training for judges, prosecutors and defence counsel, Sarajevo, BiH

Easy Access to ICTY Material

Training conducted for legal professionals in Montenegro and BiH

The Tribunal held two training sessions in February assisting legal professionals in Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina access ICTY information and materials related to war crimes cases being processed in the region.


Legal professionals from Podgorica and Bijelo Polje attended the training in Montenegro on 22 February.

Prosecutors and legal advisers from Sarajevo, Mostar, Orašje, Široki Brijeg, Tuzla,

Zenica and Bihać took part in a similar event held in Sarajevo on 24 and 25 February.

The training is intended to strengthen the ability of the Tribunal's local counterparts to seek and locate ICTY information and materials relevant to their work and will cover the use of the ICTY website, the ICTY Court Records Database and the Appeals Chambers Case Law Research Tool. It will also cover making requests to the ICTY for legal assistance and for

variation of protective measures under the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

"This training is an ideal opportunity for all Prosecutor offices from Bosnia and Herzegovina to enhance their capacities in handling complex war crimes cases," said Radoslav Marjanović, acting director of CEST. "The War Crimes Justice Project is very useful to us and we are delighted to work with OSCE/ODIHR, ICTY and UNICRI on this project." 

War Crimes Justice Project



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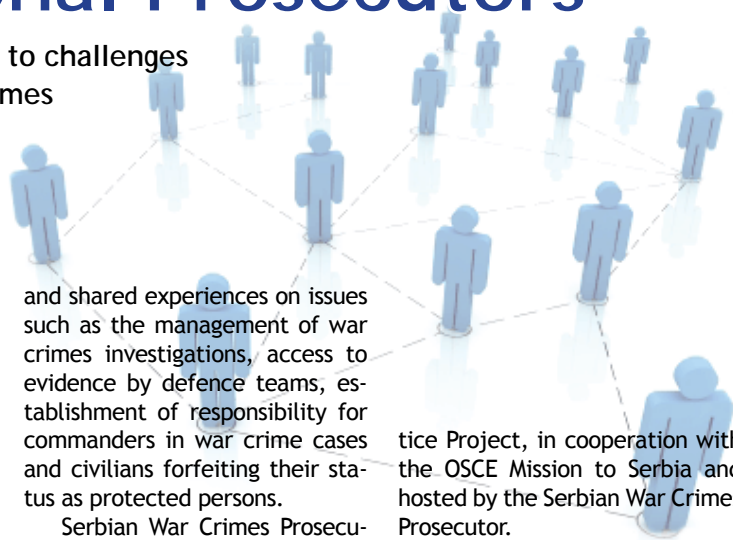
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building peace

Project Brings Together ICTY and National Prosecutors

Common solutions sought to challenges when prosecuting war crimes

ICTY Prosecutors and their national counterparts in the region exchanged experiences in prosecuting complex war crime cases during a peer-to-peer meeting in Belgrade on 20 January.

Approximately 20 prosecutors from Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia participated in the meeting with members of ICTY's Office of the Prosecutor. They discussed



and shared experiences on issues such as the management of war crimes investigations, access to evidence by defence teams, establishment of responsibility for commanders in war crime cases and civilians forfeiting their status as protected persons.

Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukčević said that prosecutors in the region face similar challenges when they prosecute war crimes cases but often use different solutions.

The meeting was organised as part of the War Crimes Jus-

tice Project, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia and hosted by the Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor.

It follows a meeting of prosecutors held at the national level in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in December 2010. Another regional peer-to-peer meeting for prosecutors is planned in the coming months.

“Ongoing dialogue and discussion of various experiences is essential. This professional exchange is timely as the latest changes in the criminal procedure codes will allow for a more proactive role of prosecutors during investigations. Regional and ICTY prosecutors share the goal of fighting impunity for war crimes and bringing to justice those responsible.”

Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor, Belgrade, Serbia

Serge Brammertz, the ICTY Prosecutor, sent a message underlining the importance of such interaction between prosecutors, which contributes to the successful investigation and prosecution of war crimes cases at the national level. He also said that his office would continue to actively support further development of this co-operation.



Photo: ICTY/Zoran Lesic

Transcripts Delivered to Zagreb and Sarajevo

Further 2,500 pages of ICTY transcripts in B/C/S sent to the region

Authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia on 4 March received approximately 2,500 pages of B/C/S transcripts produced by the Tribunal.

The provision of transcripts in the local languages is expected to improve the ability of legal practitioners in the region to access and utilise testimony given before the ICTY.

The transcripts are being produced in the local languages from the audio recordings of ICTY court hearings. Until October 2010, the trial transcripts were available only in English and French, the official languages of the ICTY.

B/C/S Transcripts Now Publicly Available

Over 4,000 pages of B/C/S transcripts already produced as part of the War Crimes Justice Project are now available on the Tribunal's Internet Court Records database (ICR).

Additional transcripts will be uploaded on the ICR in the coming months, with the aim of publishing the targeted 60,000 pages of transcripts by the end of 2011.

Transcripts can be accessed via the following link on the ICTY website:

<http://icr.icty.org>



Tribunal Case-Law at Your Fingertips

B/C/S version of comprehensive database soon available online

The Tribunal has completed the translation of approximately 200,000 words of the Appeals Chamber Case Law Research Tool (ACCLRT) database into B/C/S, as one of the activities funded by the War Crimes Justice Project.

In April the B/C/S version of the database will become publicly available on the Tribunal's website, alongside its English version. Once uploaded, it will enable the legal professionals and wider audiences in the region to access the most relevant information contained in the ACCLRT.

FACTS & FIGURES

22,000 Total number of pages of ICTY court hearing audio material transcribed into B/C/S as of 1 March 2011

7,000 Total number of transcript pages in B/C/S delivered to the regional judiciaries between October 2010 and March 2011

60 Total number of legal professionals from regional judiciaries who received training on searching and accessing publicly available ICTY material to date

200,000 Total number of words of the ACCLRT database translated into B/C/S to become available on the Tribunal's website in April

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Accessible through the ICTY website:

<http://www.icty.org/sid/9991>

The Appeals Chamber Case-Law Research Tool (ACCLRT) includes summaries of the most significant decisions and judgments rendered by the ICTY and ICTR Appeals Chamber since 2004.

The summarised judgments and decisions constitute a comprehensive research tool covering the core of ICTY/ICTR case-law.