



ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES ELECTS FIRST ICC BENCH

(February 10, 2003) The first 18 judges of the new International Criminal Court were elected last week in New York by the ICC's Assembly of States Parties. All 18 judges hail from countries rated as "Free" by the non-profit Freedom House. They represent every region of the world, include experts on both criminal law and international law, and consist of 7 women and 11 men.

Heather Hamilton, Coordinator of the WICC, said, "U.S. opponents of the ICC promote a boogeyman vision of an ICC bench composed of corrupt judges from rogue nations bringing politicized prosecutions against U.S. soldiers. These scare-tactics crumble in the face of the reality of the Court's newly elected judges: the ICC bench is composed of 18 highly-qualified judges from countries that respect the rule of law and are part of the U.S. global coalition against terrorism." The judges will be sworn in at a gala celebration in the Hague, the Netherlands, on March 11.

Diversity of Judges:

Regional Groups	List A (competence in criminal law)		List B (competence in international law)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Africa		Diarra (Mali)		Kuenyehia (Ghana) Pillay (South Africa)
Asia	Pikis (Cyprus) Slade (Samoa) Song (Republic of Korea)			
Eastern Europe				Usacka (Latvia)
Latin America and Caribbean	Hudson-Phillips (Trinidad & Tobago)	Odio Benito (Costa Rica) Steiner (Brazil)	Blattman (Bolivia)	
Western Europe and Other	Fulford (UK) Jorda (France)	Clark (Ireland)	Kaul (Germany) Kirsch (Canada) Kourula (Finland) Politi (Italy)	

Credentials of Judges:

- **Rene Blattmann (Bolivia):** Minister of Justice and Human Rights(1994-1997), professor of criminal law;
- **Maureen Harding Clark (Ireland):** ad litem judge for the UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, criminal prosecutor since 1985, criminal defense attorney 1976-1985, expertise in gender crimes and victims' rights;
- **Fatoumata Dembele Diarra (Mali):** ad litem judge for the UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, National Director of the Administration of Justice (1999-2001), President of the Criminal Chamber of the Bamako Court of Appeal (1996-1999);
- **Adrian Fulford (United Kingdom):** Judge in the Crown Court since 1996, senior prosecutor of criminal cases, co-author of leading legal textbooks;
- **Karl T. Hudson-Phillips (Trinidad and Tobago):** Attorney-General and Minister for Legal Affairs (1969-1973), Member of Parliament (1966-1976), private practice throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean countries since 1959;
- **Claude Jorda (France):** President of the UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Prosecutor-General in Appeals Courts (1985-1994);
- **Hans-Peter Kaul (Germany):** German negotiator of the ICC's Rome Statute, Director of the Office for Public International Law, diplomat;
- **Philippe Kirsch (Canada):** Chaired the Rome Conference establishing the ICC, Canadian ambassador and agent before the International Court of Justice, diplomat;
- **Erkki Kourula (Finland):** Director General for Legal Affairs within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finnish agent before the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice, professor and researcher of law;
- **Akua Kuenyehia (Ghana):** Acting Director and Dean of the Ghana School of Law, professor of law, expert on women's rights;
- **Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica):** Judge for the UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (1993-1998), Attorney-General, Minister of Justice, law professor for over 25 years;
- **Gheorghios M. Pikis (Cyprus):** President of the Supreme Court of Cyprus since 1996, ad hoc judge for the European Court of Human Rights (1993 and 1997), lawyer and judge since 1961;
- **Navanethem Pillay (South Africa):** President of the UN tribunal for Rwanda, acting judge of the High Court of South Africa, in practice since 1967;
- **Mauro Politi (Italy):** ad litem judge for the UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, professor of international law, Italian delegate to the Rome Conference;
- **Tuiloma Neroni Slade (Samoa):** Ambassador to the UN and the U.S., Attorney-General of Samoa, Samoan delegate to the Rome Conference, in practice since 1967;
- **Sang-hyun Song (Republic of Korea):** Professor of law, military prosecutor and judge (1964-1967), in practice since 1964;
- **Sylvia H. de Figueiredo Steiner (Brazil):** Appeals Court Judge since 1995, federal prosecutor since 1982, Brazilian delegate to ICC negotiations; and
- **Anita Usacka (Latvia):** Constitutional Court Judge since 1996, law professor.

The International Criminal Court will try cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, when national jurisdictions cannot or will not. Currently 89 countries have ratified the ICC's Rome Statute, which entered into force on July 1, 2002. The Assembly of States Parties is composed of one representative from every country that has ratified the ICC Statute, and each judge received votes from at least two-thirds of the voting members (currently 85 countries).

For more information about the elections of the judges or the International Criminal Court in general, see www.wfa.org/wicc and www.usaforicc.org, or contact Maggie Gardner (mgardner@wfa.org).