



IN THE COURTROOMS

16 & 17 May 2012



Mladić trial opens

The long-awaited trial of former Bosnian Serb general Ratko Mladić commenced on 16 May at the seat of the Tribunal, with the opening statement from the Prosecution.

On 15 May, the President of the Tribunal, Judge Theodor Meron, had denied a Defence motion seeking disqualification of the presiding judge, Alphons Orie, and a stay of proceedings.

The President considered that, “after review of each of Mladić’s arguments for Judge Orie’s disqualification and Judge Orie’s responses thereto, I am not satisfied that Mladić has demonstrated that a reasonable observer, properly informed, would reasonably apprehend bias, and I accordingly find Mladić’s request for Judge Orie’s disqualification to be unmeritorious.”

On 24 May, the Trial Chamber scheduled the start of hearing of the Prosecution’s first witness for Monday, 25 June 2012.

The commencement of the presentation of evidence was originally scheduled for Tuesday, 29 May, but in the light of a disclosure failure by the Prosecution, the Trial Chamber found that a postponement was justified.

In rendering its decision, the Chamber found that “[t]he disclosure failures (...) have an impact on the Defence’s preparations for trial. Defence preparations to date have not been in

vain but may need to be supplemented by additional searches and further reviews. All of this requires additional time. On the other hand, the effect of the disclosure failures is sometimes very small or even non-existent.”

Video footage of the start of the trial can be found on the ICTY [website](#).

OUTREACH

14 & 22 May 2012



Outreach Programme launches series of high school presentations in Serbia and university lectures in Kosovo

On 14 May, the Tribunal’s Outreach Programme today launched a round of presentations at high schools in Serbia for this school year and held its first presentation at the Gymnasium Jovan Jovanović Zmaj in Novi Sad.

Through this region-wide project, launched on 14 December 2011 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Tribunal is seeking to support the process of reconciliation in the region by encouraging young people to take an active interest in the Tribunal’s work and achievements as well as wider issues of justice, transitional justice mechanisms and post-conflict social recovery.

On 22 May, Outreach also launched a series of university lectures in Kosovo, marking the final phase of its region-wide

project to reach out to students across the former Yugoslavia.

A total of four lectures were held over the course of the week at JURIDICA Kosova Law Faculty, the Faculties of Philosophy and Law of the University of Pristina, and the University of Prizren Law Faculty. The lectures were given by Wayde Pittman, a Senior Legal Officer within Chambers at the Tribunal.

This follows similar lecture series which have been completed in Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

RESIDUAL MECHANISM

18 May 2012



Final two Residual Mechanism judges sworn in

Judges Ivo Nelson de Caires Batista Rosa (Portugal) and Graciela Susana Gatti Santana (Uruguay) were sworn in remotely by the Mechanism’s Registrar, John Hocking.

“Now that all 25 judges have been sworn in, they will soon be called upon to devote their efforts and expertise to the

preparation of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which is a vital part of the legal foundation upon which the Residual Mechanism will be built and further developed,” said Judge Theodor Meron, President of the Mechanism.



SECURITY COUNCIL REPORTS

22 & 23 May 2012



Prosecutor in Belgrade

Prior to submitting his co- reports to the UN Security Council in June, Prosecutor Serge Brammertz recently undertook a two-day mission to Belgrade. The Prosecutor met with the authorities there to discuss co-operation with the ICTY.

Prosecutor Brammertz met with the Chairman of the National Council for the Co-operation with the ICTY, Rasim Ljajic,

and War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic, as well as with representatives of the security services. He also briefed the diplomatic corps.

The visit to Belgrade followed trips to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina earlier this month.