

The United Nations in partnership with One World Film Festival and the Goethe Institute invites you to the screening of

Carte Blanche

They don't wear uniforms or carry weapons; they have no bodyguards. Yet their missions take them to the most dangerous places on earth. As investigators of the International Criminal Court they painstakingly gather evidence against those responsible for some of the most serious crimes committed in our time: in Darfur, Uganda, the DRC and in the Central African Republic.

In 2002, a wave of violence shook the Central African Republic. Militant rebels from neighbouring Congo received carte blanche from their leader Jean-Pierre Bemba to kill, rape and pillage.

The film "Carte Blanche" follows the investigators of the first permanent international court into the heart of Africa. Eight years after the violence, justice shall be done. And Jean-Pierre Bemba - as one of the first commanders being prosecuted before an international tribunal for his command responsibility for systematic rape - is to be put on trial.



Gloria Atiba-Davies studied law at Holborn Law Tutors and was awarded the Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons) degree by the University of London. In 1980, she enrolled as a member of the Honourable Society of Grays Inn and was then called to the Bar of England and Wales. She joined the Law officers Department as Pupil barrister and rose to the position of Principal State Counsel. In the absence of a Director of Public Prosecutions, she supervised prosecutions in Sierra Leone and in this capacity, led the prosecution in several high profile cases. She was also the legal adviser to the Medical and Dental Council and a Member of the Task Force for Children. Gloria joined the Attorney General's Chambers in Gambia in 1999 as the Deputy Director of Public Prosecution; she was after a few months requested to act as Director of Public Prosecutions and did so till her resignation in 2000. She thereafter relocated to New York where she worked in Private Law Offices until her appointment in 2004 as Victims Expert and Head of the Gender and Children Unit at the International Criminal Court.



Luc Meissner is a specialist in conflict resolution and international justice programmes in post-conflict countries. After graduating in Humanitarian Assistance and International Humanitarian Law, he started working as an administrator and programme manager for various humanitarian NGOs in Haiti, Sudan and South Sudan in 2005. During his time in Bukavu, DRC (2007-2009), he developed a peacebuilding ground-based research programme based on local stakeholder accountability. He joined the Avocats Sans Frontieres team in 2011 in Brussels as coordinator of the International Justice Programme, responsible for the activities carried out in the DRC, Uganda, Burundi, Nepal, Colombia and in The Hague before the ICC.



Dima Yared is a human rights officer at the OHCHR Regional office for Europe (ROE) in Brussels. Prior to joining ROE, she worked in OHCHR headquarters in Geneva where she was assisting the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Previously, she worked on the Universal Periodical Review as well as within the Rule of Law section at OHCHR, and at an NGO engaging armed non-state actors on the involvement of children in armed conflict.



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THE ICC

The International Criminal Court (ICC), governed by the Rome Statute, is the first permanent, treaty-based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, and thereby prevent future occurrences of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

In the lead-up to the opening of the Court, on 17 July 1998, the Rome Statute was adopted by 120 States, thereby creating the international treaty that is the legal basis for establishing the ICC. On 1 July 2002, the Rome Statute entered into force, upon being ratified by 60 States, and the ICC officially opened its doors. As of the Court's 10th anniversary on 1 July 2012, there are 121 States Parties to the Rome Statute.

Over the past ten years, the ICC has become a fully functional institution, with 15 cases having been brought before the Court, 6 of which are at the trial stage. ICC judges have issued 20 arrest warrants and 6 arrests have been made; they also issued nine summonses to appear, all of which have been honoured. On 14 March 2012, the ICC rendered its first verdict in the case *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*; the accused was found guilty of the war crimes of enlisting and conscripting children under the age of 15 into military forces, and using them to participate actively in hostilities.

The Office of the Prosecutor is conducting investigations in seven situations, Uganda, the DRC, CAR, Darfur (Sudan), Kenya, Libya and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as seven preliminary examinations in Afghanistan, Colombia, Georgia, Honduras, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea and Guinea.

As 2012 is the ICC's 10-year anniversary, we invite you to mark this new beginning for international criminal justice, and encourage you to join the ICC in its fight against impunity.



Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on ICC verdict in the trial of Thomas Lubanga, New York, 14 March 2012

The Secretary-General welcomes the first verdict issued by the International Criminal Court, in the trial of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo. Mr. Lubanga's conviction for the war crimes of enlisting and conscripting children under the age of 15 is an important step forward in realising the international community's commitment to ensuring that perpetrators of crimes against children in situations of armed conflict are brought to justice.

The Secretary-General emphasizes the need for the international community to continue with its efforts to put an end to impunity and recalls the importance of holding accountable those who commit genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. In this connection, he reaffirms the strong commitment of the United Nations to support the independent work of the Court as the centrepiece of the international criminal justice system.

The Secretary-General welcomes the continued cooperation between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the International Criminal Court and urges the Congolese authorities to continue to strengthen their efforts to hold accountable all perpetrators of gross human rights violations.