

APRIL 2011

## An Inspiring Time

Interview with David Tolbert, ICTJ President

**Q. We're coming up on ICTJ's 10th anniversary, which is a great time to reflect on the organization's trajectory over the last decade. First, please tell us a little bit about your personal trajectory and how it brought you here.**

A. I spent most of my career working in the international criminal justice sphere. I started with the International Tribunal for the Former



Yugoslavia back in 1996, and spent a total of nine years there, working at a senior level in all three parts of the court: as *chef de cabinet* to the president, as deputy registrar, and as deputy chief prosecutor. I was also in Rome representing the tribunal when the statute creating the International Criminal Court (ICC) was being negotiated.

Subsequently, I was the special representative for the UN Secretary-General to the Khmer

Rouge trials in Cambodia, and I later became the registrar at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. I also intersected with ICTJ a lot over the years. I always believed ICTJ was a critically important organization, because I saw criminal justice as a necessary but not sufficient response in addressing mass atrocities in transitional societies.

It's fundamentally clear that societies in transition need truth and a confrontation with the past. It is also essential to have recognition of victims' suffering through reparations programs and memorialization. Fundamental institutional reforms are important to a society in transition, in the security sector and elsewhere, to ensure that atrocities are not repeated.

I think ICTJ fills a very important niche in the international community's approach to transitional societies. I was inspired by ICTJ's work, so when the call came, I felt like it was a perfect match.

**Q. How have you seen ICTJ evolve over the past 10 years—from six people in a small office in New York in 2001 to a global organization working in more than 30 countries today?**

A. Back in late 2002 or early 2003, I attended a conference where [ICTJ founder] Alex Boraine spoke, and it was clear to me even then that ICTJ brought a unique and important perspective to international justice issues. Then in 2004, the UN Secretary-General's report on the rule of law and transitional justice came out. It was a very rich report and a groundbreaking one, and everyone knew that ICTJ had been quite influential in shaping it behind the scenes.

Then I started to see the impact on the ground. For example, ICTJ produced reports and did work on the ground for the Special Court for Sierra Leone and on the Sierra Leone Truth Commission that was innovative and important. There are a lot of NGOs that are doing advocacy work, but ICTJ was coming at these issues from a different angle, combining very high-level technical assistance on the ground with policy work that was having an impact at the UN, the EU, and in other places.

There was also the element of research. For example, ICTJ Research Unit's "The Handbook of Reparations" was a deeply researched study that conveyed extensive knowledge about a field that previously had not been properly researched and documented.

### INTERACTIVE TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| An Inspiring Time                   | 1  |
| World Report                        |    |
| <i>Africa</i>                       | 3  |
| <i>Americas</i>                     | 4  |
| <i>Asia</i>                         | 5  |
| <i>Middle East and North Africa</i> | 7  |
| Publications                        | 9  |
| Calendar                            | 10 |

---

**Q. Now that you're ICTJ's president, how are you thinking about focusing ICTJ's strengths to have the greatest possible impact?**

A. One of our great strengths is that we work on the ground in many of the countries that are facing the challenges of pursuing truth and accountability in post-authoritarian or post-conflict situations. For example, I saw this quite clearly in Kampala, where the ICC had its seven-year review conference last June. We were able to bring lessons from the ground to that conference and talk about them in a very real, concrete way.

The experience we have on the ground in these countries fits closely with the ICC's principle of complementarity, which holds that the primary responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes rest with individual states. ICTJ is in a position to really make a difference in countries that are coming to terms with these kinds of atrocities, because we are physically present and have excellent experts either in-country or readily available.

Another important role we can play is bringing together policy makers and other actors that need to be more closely connected. Last year, for example, we were able to bring policy makers together with senior ICC court officials and with what I would call rule of law development actors—people who work on building the capacity of domestic courts and legal experts—to try to create a joint strategy and some shared principles on how we make complementarity work in practice. We talked about approaching complementarity through a much broader lens than just investigations and prosecutions. It also means recognition of victims through reparations programs—the ICC's Victims Trust Fund reflects, in part, this approach—as well as promoting truth-telling processes and institutional reform.

**Q. We're seeing some truly dramatic events in the Middle East these days. What challenges and opportunities do they provide for ICTJ?**

A. Obviously we're living through a truly extraordinary moment in the Middle East. It's not something most experts would have predicted two or three months ago, and it opens enormous opportunities in terms of transitions. That's true in Tunisia and Egypt, and hopefully across the Middle East and North Africa more generally. We've sent missions to Tunisia and to Egypt, and we're gearing up to work in both of those countries. Places like Libya, Bahrain, and Yemen pose different challenges, and I think it's a little too early to say what will happen in those countries.

One of the challenges is that transitional justice is quite new in the Middle East. We've worked in Morocco, where there was an important truth commission and a groundbreaking reparations program, but there wasn't a transition in the sense of a change of government.

First of all, we have to remember that it's these societies that have to effect the change themselves. There's too much rhetoric sometimes by groups that talk as though *they're* going to effect the change. In reality, it's these societies themselves that will have to set their own agendas. We can be helpful in providing advice and providing technical assistance on transitional justice mechanisms. But we also have to be careful not to take a "one-size-fits-all" approach.

It's interesting to note that we spent much of the last decade working in a number of post-conflict transitions, while the situation in the Middle East harkens back, at least in some ways, more to the post-authoritarian regime transitions that took place in Latin America. I think a whole set of measures to ensure the non-repetition of human rights violations—institutional reforms, security sector reform, vetting programs, rule of law work, and anti-corruption efforts—are going to be very important in this regard. It will be a challenge to update some of our work and others' work to make sure that it's relevant to the countries that are entering transitions now.

Truth-telling processes are no doubt going to play a critical role. These countries have regimes that have been around for long, long periods of time. There are archives to be opened, and many difficult truths to be told.

At the same time, I think it will be important for groups like ICTJ and advocacy NGOs to keep a close eye on how things develop, to make sure that there's not a kind of superficial transition that turns into a masquerade. For every revolution there's a counterrevolution. We've seen some elements of that already.

A related issue is that in some contexts—in Bahrain and Libya, for example—there is serious violence taking place. ICTJ and others have been very strong on denouncing violence towards civilians. Moving forward, transitions are going to be further complicated by the need to address the violence that took place as the transitions themselves began. I don't think any of us should underestimate the challenges of the day-to-day work as these countries struggle to really turn the corner. But there are also tremendous opportunities. People are beginning to come to terms with their past and to build a new future. It's an exciting and inspiring time to be involved in this work, and we look forward to being deeply engaged in it. ♦

### AFRICA

#### Central African Republic

The week of March 18, two victims testified in the International Criminal Court (ICC) trial against Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, alleging they were raped by Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) soldiers. Bemba is charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity, including rape, murder, and pillaging, while in command of MLC soldiers during the 2002-2003 conflict in CAR. The majority of the witnesses who have testified so far in Bemba's trial are rape survivors. According to prosecutors, MLC soldiers infected Central African women with HIV while using rape as a weapon of war.

- "Witness recounts rape by MLC soldiers," *Bemba Trial* (<http://www.bembatrial.org/2011/03/witness-recounts-rape-by-mlc-soldiers/>)

#### Cote d'Ivoire

On March 5, ICC deputy prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said the court would "move fast" against those committing crimes against civilians in the country. Seven protesting women were shot March 3 by troops loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo. Since November, Gbagbo has refused to cede to the internationally recognized winner of the presidential elections, Alassane Ouattara. Bensouda said the country was "on the brink of civil war" and that the ICC was collecting and analyzing information. The UN estimates 400 people have been killed since the elections.

On March 11, the African Union announced it supports Ouattara over Gbagbo. The AU had previously supported a power-sharing arrangement between Ouattara and members of Gbagbo's party. The AU resolution called on Gbagbo to step down, but also encouraged an amnesty law to exempt the president and other officials from prosecution for post-election violence. Gbagbo refused to attend the AU meeting.

- "ICC ready to move fast on Ivory Coast," *Radio Netherlands* (<http://www.rnw.nl/international-justice/article/icc-ready-move-fast-ivory-coast>)
- "African Union backs Ouattara as president in Ivory Coast," *Christian Science Monitor* (<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2011/0311/African-Union-backs-Ouattara-as-president-in-Ivory-Coast>)

#### Democratic Republic of Congo

On Feb. 21, testimony began from victim participants in the trial of militia commanders Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui. The two are charged with seven counts of war crimes allegedly committed in the village of Bogoro in 2003. The victims' testimony marked the eighth anniversary of the attack. Victim participants are not parties to the trial, but their testimony is admissible and can impact sentencing and decisions about reparations to the victims. There are 363 participating victims in the Katanga and Ngudjolo trial.

- "Judges in Katanga and Ngudjolo trial hear testimony from participating victims," *Katanga Trial* (<http://www.katangatrial.org/2011/03/judges-in-katanga-and-ngudjolo-trial-hear-testimony-from-participating-victims/>)

#### Kenya

Six high-ranking Kenyan officials and public figures were due to appear at the ICC April 7 and 8 for crimes relating to post-election violence in 2007. The six, including Kenya's deputy prime minister Uhuru Kenyatta and former police chief Mohammed Hussein Ali, are charged with inciting the violence that followed the elections, including murder, rape, and forcible displacement. Nearly 3,500 people were injured and up to 600,000 forcibly displaced in late 2007 and early 2008. The ICC prosecutor decided to press charges after Kenya's parliament rejected legislation to set up a local tribunal to address the crimes. The Kenyan government has sent a letter to the UN Security Council asking it to intervene to stop the ICC prosecutions. The government says the trials will threaten the stability of the country ahead of 2012 elections.

- "Kenya's president & PM in disagreement over ICC deferral ahead of UNSC meeting," *Sudan Tribune* (<http://www.sudantribune.com/Kenya-s-president-PM-in,38276>)
- "ICC judges summon Ocampo Six," *AllAfrica.com* (<http://allafrica.com/stories/201103080766.html>)

#### Liberia

On March 11, arguments ended in the trial of Charles Taylor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The trial began in June 2007, and saw more than 120 witnesses and 1,000 pieces of evidence. Taylor pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his alleged support of a proxy army of Revolutionary Armed Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone during that country's civil war. More than 120,000 people were killed during the 10-year conflict. A verdict is expected later this year.

- “Charles Taylor war crimes trial ends,” *The Hague Justice Portal* (<http://haguejusticeportal.net/eCache/DEF/12/455.TGFuZz1FTg.html>)

### Sudan

On March 7, the ICC confirmed war crimes charges against two rebel leaders, Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain (Abdallah Banda) and Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus (Saleh Jerbo). The two are alleged to have led an attack that killed 12 African peacekeepers in an African Union compound in Haskanita in September 2007. They will stand trial for murder and pillaging, as well as charges of attacking a peacekeeping mission. This is the fourth case on Darfur to be taken up by the ICC.

- “Pre-Trial Chamber I commits Abdallah Banda and Saleh Jerbo to trial,” ICC (<http://www.icc-cpi.int/NR/exeres/C42D43BD-C39F-476E-918D-EBF48623CADC.htm>)

---

## AMERICAS

### Brazil

On March 17, Secretary for Human Rights Maria do Rosario appeared before the senate and urged lawmakers to support the establishment of a truth commission to investigate human rights violations that occurred during Brazil’s military regime. She said the Special Committee on Deaths and Disappearances, formed in 1995, “did not have the tools to offer the victims’ families knowledge of what really happened to their children, their grandchildren.” Rosario noted that more than 40 countries have established commissions of truth, and cited the example of South Africa’s investigation of crimes committed during the apartheid regime.

- “Ministra pede a parlamentares instalação da comissão da verdade,” *Globo* (<http://g1.globo.com/politica/noticia/2011/03/ministra-pede-parlamentares-instalacao-da-comissao-da-verdade.html>)

### Colombia

On March 8, International Women’s Day, the congressional women’s caucus demanded special compensation for women who have been sexually abused and battered by armed groups during the country’s civil conflict. Senator Dilian Francisco Toro said that 70 percent of the conflict’s victims were women, and that they should therefore receive special compensation.

On March 15 further provisions were added to the Victims’ Act. The original bill called for reparations for victims from 1986 onward, but several senators asked to amend it to include victims from 1984 onward. One called for symbolic reparation for the victims of the Palace of Justice massacre and the family of former minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. Another said that reparations should extend back to 1980. The Victims’ Act is still being debated in the senate’s first commission.

In an interview with *El Espectador*, ICTJ’s Michael Reed said that while the Victims’ Act was a start, it would not be the last law to address reparations for victims of Colombia’s conflict. He noted there was still confusion over land reform and whom the reparations would include. Reed also said prevention—in addition to restitution—should be a key focus of legislation.

- “Mujeres buscan reparación especial por abusos sexuales en medio del conflicto,” *El Espectador* (<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-255537-mujeres-buscan-reparacion-especial-abusos-sexuales-medio-del-con>)
- “Buscan que reparación a las víctimas sea desde 1984,” *El Espectador* (<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/articulo-257007-buscan-reparacion-victimas-sea-1984>)
- “Michael Reed: ‘No será la última ley de víctimas,’” *El Espectador* (<http://www.elespectador.com/impreso/politica/articulo-256365-michael-reed-no-sera-ultima-ley-de-victimas>)

### Guatemala

On March 17, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced a \$10 million contribution from the UN’s Peacebuilding Fund to support human rights efforts and strengthen the security and justice systems in Guatemala. The fund was set up in 2006 to foster peace and stability in countries emerging from conflict.

The Skylight Pictures short film *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* was awarded the Peace and Reconciliation Prize at the Geneva Human Rights Film Festival and the Grand Prix at the Paris International Human Rights Film Festival. The film explores the continuing effort to end impunity for mass human rights crimes in Guatemala. ICTJ served as a key outreach partner for the eight-minute film.

- “UN chief allocates funds to support peacebuilding efforts in Guatemala,” *United Nations News Service* (<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/JARD-8F33EV?OpenDocument&rc=2>)

- “Documenting 20 Years of Struggle Against Impunity—Granito: How to Nail a Dictator,” ICTJ (<http://ictj.org/en/news/features/4509.html>)

### Haiti

In a report released Mar. 31, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on the international community to work with the Haitian government and the UN to strengthen the rule of law in Haiti. In reference to the return of former president Jean-Claude Duvalier to the country, he stated, “It is of vital importance that the Haitian authorities pursue all legal and judicial avenues in this matter. The prosecution of those responsible for crimes against their own people will deliver a clear message to the people of Haiti that there can be no impunity.”

- “Enhancing rule of law vital for peace and security in Haiti, UN report says,” *UN News Centre* (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37954>)

### Honduras

In a March 6 interview, Commission of Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) president Eduardo Stein said the TRC would present its findings on the 2010 ouster of Honduran President Manuel Zelaya in mid-May. Stein said the TRC has not interviewed Zelaya, who has refused to cooperate. The report will include recommendations to the government for further action, but the TRC will be dissolved after the report is released.

- “Presidente de Comisión de la Verdad: hondureños y hasta ministros de Zelaya ignoraban qué se pretendía con la cuarta urna,” *Proceso Digital* (<http://proceso.hn/2011/03/06/Pol%C3%ADtica/Presidente.de.Comisi/34611.html>)

### Peru

On March 15, the Chilean Supreme Court announced it would appoint a judge to decide whether new charges can be brought against Peru’s former president Alberto Fujimori. In 2009, Fujimori was sentenced to 25 years in prison for human rights violations and corruption. That trial took place after Fujimori was extradited from Chile to Peru in 2006. The Chilean justice system must grant the Peruvian State the right to try Fujimori for other crimes not listed in the original extradition order.

The village of Santa Inés has yet to receive the collective reparations benefits promised by the Council of Ministers. In March 2010, the town was brought into the national reparations program and awarded \$35,000. The people of Santa Inés voted to use their reparations money to build a community center. But the district mayor has refused to transfer the funds, citing political differences with the lieutenant governor. The lieutenant governor announced on March 16 that he would seek the intervention of the federal government.

- “Chile: definen si Fujimori vuelve a juicio,” *La Nueva Provincia* (<http://www.lanueva.com/elmundo/nota/c93fda1c20/21/95748.html>)
- “Caserío de Santa Inés no recibiría beneficio por reparaciones colectivas,” *Voces* (<http://www.diariovoces.com.pe/?p=26708>)

### Uruguay

Friends and relatives of Communist Party (CP) militant Norma Cedrés de Ibarburu called on the Justice Department to investigate doctors and psychiatrists for torture during the dictatorship. Cedrés committed suicide in 1977 after being detained and tortured by Joint Forces in the “Operation Morgan” sweep of CP members. Cedrés was subjected to repeated physical and psychological torture during her detention, and was the only female political prisoner to die by suicide during the military dictatorship. The complaint asks that her death be considered a homicide, and that any civilian, military, and police actors responsible be brought to justice for her murder.

- “Médicos y psiquiatras indagados por torturas,” *La República* (<http://www.larepublica.com.uy/politica/442994-medicos-y-psiquiatras-indagados-por-torturas>)

---

## ASIA

### Burma

In a March 14 report to the UN Human Rights Council, The UN’s Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar (Burma), Tomás Ojea Quintana, reiterated his call for a commission of inquiry. Quintana urged Burmese authorities to free all political prisoners, and said “responsibility to take action falls to the international community” if the Burmese government refuses to conduct human rights investigations. Quintana’s report emphasized the importance of transitional justice and education to prevent further abuses in Burma.

On March 4, the opposition party National League for Democracy (NLD) criticized Burma's new budget, which supports militarization and lacks civilian oversight. Nearly a quarter of the budget is allocated to the military. The NLD said the budget should have been passed by parliament, not enacted by the ruling junta. A new law also allows the country's military commander-in-chief access to a special fund without any oversight from parliament.

- "UN expert calls for credible probes in Myanmar," *Democratic Voice of Burma* (<http://www.dvb.no/news/un-expert-calls-for-credible-probes-in-burma/14744>)
- "Myanmar democracy group slams military fund," *AP* ([http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110304/ap\\_on\\_re\\_as/as\\_myanmar\\_opposition](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110304/ap_on_re_as/as_myanmar_opposition))

### Indonesia

March 10 marked the 200th *Kamisan* vigil outside Jakarta's State Palace. The weekly silent demonstration gathers activists and families of human rights abuse victims, who voice their disappointment at the government's "politics of amnesia." *Kamisan* has become a symbol of the struggle to uphold human rights in Indonesia. Victims and families of the victims have long demanded that the government investigate past human rights violations, which include forced disappearances, riots in May, 1998, and the shooting of students at Trisakti University and Semanggi in 1998 and 1999.

- "Human rights abuses: 200 weeks on, victims remain steadfast in search for justice," *Jakarta Post* (<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/03/10/human-rights-abuses-200-weeks-victims-remain-steadfast-search-justice.html>)

### Philippines

On Feb. 28, President Benigno Aquino III signed the instrument of ratification for the Rome Statute, which brings the country under the purview of the ICC. Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Jr. said the treaty would complement a 2009 law that allows for the prosecution of international crimes in the Philippines.

On March 1, the first reparations checks went out to victims of human rights abuses in the Philippines under former president Ferdinand Marcos. The payments stem from 1994 and 1995 judgments from that found Marcos's liable for torture, summary executions and disappearances. A January decision by a U.S. Federal Judge took \$10 million from a settlement with the Marcos family to begin the first

reparations. The first of 7,000 eligible claimants received checks for \$1,000.

- "PH ratifies International Criminal Court Statute," *ABS-CBN News* (<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/03/06/11/ph-ratifies-international-criminal-court-statute>)
- "First Payments Are Made to Victims of Marcos Rule," *New York Times* ([http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/02/world/asia/02philippines.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/02/world/asia/02philippines.html?_r=2))

### Solomon Islands

On March 1, the Director of Public Prosecution voiced concern about Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) exhumations. The exhumations are part of the TRC's forensic investigation of cases of political and ethnic violence in the country. Ronald Talasasa said there were about 80 outstanding violence-related cases, and his office was concerned about the exhumation process tampering with possible evidence. However, the exhumations' director, Argentine forensic anthropologist Luis Fondebriber, said it was possible for the TRC and the DPP to work together on exhumations.

ICTJ assisted the TRC in a three-week training for thirteen statement takers from the Western, Central and Eastern regions in Honiara. The statement takers will be deployed to their respective regions in the coming weeks to collect statements from victims and witnesses of human rights violations that occurred from 1998 to 2003.

- "Prosecution office fears TRC exhumation process," *Island Sun* ([http://www.islandson.com.sb/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2211](http://www.islandson.com.sb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2211))

### Sri Lanka

On March 1, US Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake, a former ambassador to Sri Lanka, called on the government to apply international standards in its investigations into crimes committed during Sri Lanka's civil war. A domestic commission is currently looking into the UN's claim that thousands of civilians were killed during the final months of the war in 2009. Blake said the U.S. would call for an international body to look into these crimes if Sri Lanka's local commission failed to meet international standards.

- “US warns Sri Lanka over war investigation standards,” *BBC* (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-12607615>)

### Timor-Leste

On Feb. 24, the UN Security Council approved a 12-month extension of the UN Mission to Timor-Leste. The resolution reaffirmed the importance of an independent judiciary, and the need to establish accountability for serious criminal offenses, including the resolution of outstanding criminal charges against police officers in relation to the 2006 crisis. It also encouraged the Timor-Leste national parliament to debate draft laws on reparations and the creation of an Institute for Memory.

Indonesia and Thailand are supporting Timor-Leste’s application to join the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN). However, Singapore and other ASEAN nations are opposing the application. Singapore is prepared to veto Timor Leste’s inclusion, citing concern for the country’s political stability. In local news reports, Timorese President Ramos Horta suggested that Indonesia support was reciprocal action in response to Timor-Leste’s refusal to prosecute crimes committed by Indonesian security forces in Timor-Leste in 1999.

- “Timor-Leste: Security Council Extends UN Integrated Mission,” *Scoop* (<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1103/S00224/timor-leste-security-council-extends-un-integrated-mission.htm>)
- “Timor Leste’s Bid to Join Asean Faces Objections,” *Jakarta Globe* (<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/timor-lestes-bid-to-join-asean-faces-objections/427953>)

---

## MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

### Bahrain

On March 14, about 1,000 Saudi Arabian troops and 500 UAE police arrived in Bahrain at the request of the Bahraini government to help protect government facilities. Following the deployment of these troops, Bahraini security forces cracked down on demonstrators throughout Manama, finally pushing protestors from the Pearl Roundabout, the focal point of the past month’s protesting in Bahrain. Government forces blocked access to medical facilities, entirely taking over Salminiya Hospital, the country’s largest public hospital. The UN human rights chief condemned these actions as reports of arbitrary arrests, killings, and beatings continued to come to light.

- “Saudi soldiers sent to Bahrain,” *Al-Jazeera* (<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2011/03/2011314124928850647.html>)
- “Bahrain unrest: UN rights chief criticizes crackdown,” *BBC* (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12769168>)

### Egypt

Egypt’s Minister of Interior announced on March 15 that the State Security Investigation Service, blamed for decades of human rights abuses, had been dissolved. The body was replaced with a new National Security Force, which the minister said would assure national security and combat terrorism without interfering with the lives or rights of Egyptian citizens.

On March 19, Egyptians voted in a national referendum, approving a package of constitutional changes designed “to enable fairer elections.” Approximately 77 percent of voters supported the changes, according to official results.

- “Egypt dissolves notorious internal security agency,” *BBC* (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12751234>)
- “Overview of Egypt’s constitutional referendum,” Carnegie Endowment (<http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&cid=43095>)
- “Egypt approves constitutional changes,” *Al-Jazeera* (<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2011/03/2011320164119973176.html>)

### Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory

In mid-March, a follow-up report was issued by the UN Committee of Experts monitoring Israeli and Palestinian investigations into serious violations of international law during the 2008-09 Gaza Conflict. The report, ordered by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, raised a number of questions and concerns about the investigations conducted to date. Local human rights organizations have noted the lack of any initiative to prosecute international crimes committed during the conflict, and called for the matter to be referred to the ICC.

- “Report of the Committee of independent experts in international humanitarian and human rights law established pursuant to Council resolution 13/9,” OHCHR ([http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/16session/A.HRC.16.24\\_AUV.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/16session/A.HRC.16.24_AUV.pdf))
- “Justice and accountability in a new Middle East: A renewed call for victims of the Gaza Conflict,” *Al-Haq* (<http://www.alhaq.org/pdfs/Joint%20Oral%20Statement%20-%2016th%20Session%20Human%20Rights%20Council.pdf>)

### Morocco

On March 4, King Mohammed VI announced the establishment of the National Council for Human Rights to replace the former Advisory Council on Human Rights. He issued a decree aimed at consolidating the council's autonomy and expanding its prerogatives in the areas of protection and promotion of human rights. Driss El Yazami and Mohammed Sebbar were respectively appointed the new president and general secretary of the institution.

On March 9, King Mohammed announced his intention to undertake a comprehensive constitutional reform based on seven points, including increased rule of law, civil liberties, and human rights; increased separation of powers by strengthening the powers for the prime minister and parliament; an independent judiciary; and the enshrinement in the constitution of institutions that safeguard human rights, civil liberties, and good governance. The king set up an ad hoc committee for the revision of the constitution. The new draft constitution will be submitted to the people via referendum.

- “Morocco king vows sweeping reforms,” *Asharq Al-Awsat* (<http://www.asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=24447>)
- “HM the King addresses speech to the nation,” *Agence Maghreb Arabe Presse* ([http://www.map.ma/eng/sections/speeches/hm\\_the\\_king\\_adresse\\_6/view](http://www.map.ma/eng/sections/speeches/hm_the_king_adresse_6/view))

### Tunisia

Tunisia's secret police service, the Directorate of State Security—which is widely held responsible for suppressing and harassing the country's opposition—was dissolved on March 7. The Tunisian League for Human Rights, however, warned that additional structures within different branches of the Ministry of the Interior must also be dismantled for complete success.

- “Tunisia disbands state security,” *Al-Jazeera* (<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/africa/2011/03/2011382051641249.html>)

### Yemen

Plainclothes gunmen opened fire on an anti-government rally on March 18, killing at least 45. Despite President Ali Abdullah Saleh's denial that government forces were involved, the incident resulted in the resignation of many important officials and the dismissal of the cabinet.

- “Yemeni president fires government,” *BBC* (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12800887>)



---

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Awakening: Impact of Nepal's War on Women**

ICTJ, in partnership with UNIFEM, released “Awakening: Impact of Nepal’s Conflict on Women,” an illustrated book based on the 2010 report “Across the Lines: The Impact of Nepal’s Conflict on Women” by Advocacy Forum and ICTJ. The report reveals the violence suffered by women during the 1996–2006 armed conflict in Nepal, as well as the continuing effects of this violence. The report also documents the diverse roles that women played during the conflict, and provides recommendations as to how transitional justice processes can better address women’s needs and protect their rights.

- “Awakening: Impact of Nepal’s Conflict on Women,” ICTJ (<http://ictj.org/en/news/features/4481.html>)

### **Selecting Commissioners for Nepal's Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

ICTJ released a new briefing paper offering recommendations for the selection of commissioners for Nepal’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The paper underlines the importance of an independent, representative, and competent commission to guarantee victims’ rights to truth, justice, and reparations. Based on case studies of TRCs in South Africa, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste, ICTJ offers a number of key recommendations on how to ensure the TRC in Nepal meets these conditions.

- “Selecting Commissioners for Nepal’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission,” ICTJ (<http://ictj.org/en/news/features/4523.html>)

### **Breathing Life into the New Constitution**

ICTJ has released a new briefing paper examining what is involved in building a constitutional state in Kenya. It provides a comparison between the Kenyan and South African constitutions, highlighting how the constitution-making process unfolded in South Africa. The paper, “Breathing Life into the New Constitution”, then outlines the strategies and challenges facing those in Kenya who wish to use the Constitution to effect positive social change.

- “Breathing Life into the New Constitution,” ICTJ (<http://www.ictj.org/en/news/features/4526.html>)

### **Timor-Leste: Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council 12th Session: October 2011**

This ICTJ submission examines Timor-Leste’s progress in implementing human rights commitments relating to transitional justice. While the country has taken some steps to provide justice to victims of past,

it still needs to fully implement recommendations of its two truth commissions, including inquiries into the fate of disappeared persons, reparations and social support to victims, memorialization, and criminal prosecutions of perpetrators.

- “Timor-Leste: Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council 12th Session,” ICTJ (<http://www.ictj.org/en/news/features/4515.html>)

### **Uganda: Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council 12th Session: October 2011**

This submission by ICTJ considers Uganda’s progress in responding to the serious crimes and human rights violations committed during the recent conflict, and makes recommendations for further measures. Uganda has taken positive steps in ensuring justice and accountability for crimes committed during the conflict between the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the government of Uganda, but substantive concerns remain. The submission makes recommendations to the government and High Court of Uganda, and to the international community.

- “Uganda: Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council 12th Session,” ICTJ (<http://www.ictj.org/en/news/features/4501.html>)

---

## CALENDAR

apr

**April 11–12**

**AU-EU NGO Seminar Workshop**

Cape Town, South Africa

For more information, contact Caitlin Reiger at [creiger@ictj.org](mailto:creiger@ictj.org)

**April 13–14**

**TRC Public Hearing for Guadalcanal Ex-militants**

Solomon Islands

For more information, contact Ari Bassin at [abassin@ictj.org](mailto:abassin@ictj.org)

**April 15–16**

**ICTJ Documentation Training**

Nairobi, Kenya

For more information, contact Clare Garvie at [cgarvie@ictj.org](mailto:cgarvie@ictj.org)

**April 16–17**

**Launch of World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development**

Washington, DC

For more information, contact Caitlin Reiger at [creiger@ictj.org](mailto:creiger@ictj.org)

**April 19**

**Conflict Security and Development:  
A World Bank Briefing and Discussion  
with NGOs on the World Development  
Report 2011**

New York, NY

For more information, visit  
<http://ictj.org/en/news/event/4570.html>

may

**May 2**

**Impact of Transitional Justice on Women and Girls**

New York, NY

For more information, contact Caitlin Reiger at [creiger@ictj.org](mailto:creiger@ictj.org)

jun

**June 17–30**

**La Toma US Premiere at the Human Rights Watch Film Festival**

New York, NY

For more information, visit  
[http://ficcifestival.com/int\\_peli.php?id=154@a=Fuera%20de%20Concurso](http://ficcifestival.com/int_peli.php?id=154@a=Fuera%20de%20Concurso)

---

### About ICTJ

The International Center for Transitional Justice works to redress and prevent the most severe violations of human rights by confronting legacies of mass abuse. ICTJ seeks holistic solutions to promote accountability and create just and peaceful societies.

### Contact

ICTJ New York Headquarters  
5 Hanover Square, Floor 24  
New York, NY USA 10004

Tel: +1 917 637 3800  
Fax: +1 917 637 3901  
[www.ictj.org](http://www.ictj.org)