



**Statement by Luis Moreno-Ocampo,  
Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court**

**Press Conference in relation with the surrender to the Court of Mr Thomas  
Lubanga Dyilo**

**The Hague, 18 March 2006**

**Original:** English

Thomas Lubanga Dyilo was transferred to The Hague and is now in the custody of the Court.

He has been charged with the following war crimes:

- Conscripting and enlisting children under the age of 15 years; and
- using them to participate actively in hostilities.

These are extremely serious crimes.

**Forcing children to be killers jeopardises the future of mankind.**

We are committed to putting an end to these crimes – it's our special duty pursuant to the Rome Statute.

**Massive crimes spread across borders. It happened during the Second World War, in the Balkans, in Rwanda, in Sierra Leone, and it is happening now in Northern Uganda. National states need help, that is why we need international justice. Congo is another example.**

There was a war in Congo between 1998 and 2002. 11 African countries were involved. This conflict is said to have caused the highest number of deaths since World War Two.

Despite peace agreements, violence continued in Ituri. Since the Court's jurisdiction began in July 2002, 8,000 people were killed in the region, and 600,000 people displaced.

**Thomas Lubanga Dyilo was the founder and leader of one of the most dangerous militia in Ituri.**

We will present evidence in Court to show how Thomas Lubanga Dyilo designed policies to force the enlistment and conscription of children under 15 years. We will show pictures of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo inspecting the camps where children were trained. We will present evidence to show how Thomas Lubanga used the children to take part in hostilities.

**This is the first case, not the last.** The investigation is ongoing, we will continue to investigate more crimes committed by Thomas Lubanga Dyilo and we will also investigate other crimes committed by **other** groups. This is important, **it's a sequence.** We will investigate crimes committed by other militias and other persons– this is the first case, not the last.

**We are totally committed to staying in Congo – to make sure justice is done.**

Congo is moving from years of war to a stable peace. 16.000 militia members were demobilized by national authorities supported by MONUC and UN working with a coalition of NGO's. They also establish community reinsertion programs and they are preparing the country for a free election. Our investigation is our **contribution to building a stable democracy in Congo.**

As I have said, this is only the beginning. I am committed to continuing to work for the people in Ituri and in Congo as a whole. This arrest is a step forward in realising the Rome Statute vision – to end impunity and atrocities all over the world.

**For 100 years, a permanent international criminal court was a dream -  
This dream is becoming a reality.**