2015 training programme on core international crimes

Within the framework of enhanced cooperation between the Genocide Network and the EJTN, a comprehensive training programme on core international crimes and their effect on the European Union was held, for the first time in the EU judicial training context, from 30 November to 2 December 2015 in The Hague.

The training programme was a response to one of the recommendations of the Genocide Network Strategy, which sets out that the European Union should provide funding for training and capacity building in the area of core international crimes.

Designed for EU Member States’ prosecutors and judges, the training programme focused on judicial specifics of international criminal law cases and their application to domestic jurisdictions. It included modules on determination of crimes, modes of liability, evidentiary challenges, practical components of building up a case and of trials as well as aspects of judicial cooperation with non-EU States, the United Nations (UN) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The participants benefited from the presentations and expertise of many renowned speakers, such as Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms Helen Brady, Senior Appeals Counsel at the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC and Mr Cuno Jakob Tarfusser, Judge at the ICC.
PROSECUTING AND JUDGING CORE INTERNATIONAL CRIMES WITHIN THE EU
“Combating impunity”

30 November- 02 December 2015

Hosted by The Hague Institute for Global Justice,
Sophialaan 10, The Hague, The Netherlands

PROGRAMME

MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2015

09:00 – Arrival and registration of participants
Pilar CASADO GARCIA – HIRSCHFELD, European Judicial Training Network

09:15 – Welcome and introduction to the programme
Abiodun WILLIAMS, President of The Hague Institute for Global Justice
Wojciech POSTULSKI, Judge, Secretary General of the European Judicial Training Network
Matevz PEZDIRC, Head of the Genocide Network Secretariat

09:30 – Key Speech: From Nuremberg to The Hague
Silvia FERNANDEZ de GURMENDI, Judge, President of the International Criminal Court

Chair: Matevz PEZDIRC, Head of the Genocide Network Secretariat

10:00 – Plenary

Session 1 A - Substantive International Criminal Law – Rome Statute Crimes – Crime of Genocide
Helen BRADY, Senior Appeals Counsel, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court,
and former Senior Appeals Counsel at International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

Session 1 B
Substantive International Criminal Law – Rome Statute Crimes – Crimes against Humanity
Helen BRADY, Senior Appeals Counsel, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court

11:00 – Coffee break

11:30 – Plenary

Session 1 C - Substantive International Criminal Law – Rome Statute Crimes – War Crimes
Helen BRADY, Senior Appeals Counsel, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court

Introduction to the case-study and division of participants in 3 groups

12:15 – Workshop 1: Exchange of views about the case presented in 3 groups (in separate rooms)
Experts-Moderators:
1. Helen BRADY, Senior Appeals Counsel, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court
2. Aaron MATTA, Senior Researcher, The Hague Institute for Global Justice
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3. Christoph BARTHE, Public Prosecutor, German Federal Court of Justice

13:00 - Lunch

14:00 - Plenary

Session 2 A - Substantive Criminal Law – Modes of Liability – International and National Perspective
Dan Saxon, Assistant Professor of International Law at Leiden University College, former Senior Prosecuting Trial Attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

Session 2 B - Substantive Criminal Law – Circumstances excluding Liability – International and National Perspective
Dan Saxon, Assistant Professor of International Law at Leiden University College, former Senior Prosecuting Trial Attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

15:30 - Coffee Break

15:45 - Workshop 2: Exchange of views about the case presented in 3 groups (in separate rooms)
Experts-Moderators:
1. Dan SAXON, Assistant Professor of International Law at Leiden University College
2. Aaron MATTA, Senior Researcher, The Hague Institute for Global Justice
3. Martin WITTEVEEN, Prosecutor, Dutch Court of Appeal

17:00 - End of first day

19:00 – Social Event: Dinner

TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015

08:45 – Arrival and registration of participants
Pilar CASADO GARCIA – HIRSCHFELD, European Judicial Training Network

Chair: Matevz PEZDIRC, Head of the Genocide Network Secretariat

09:00 – Debriefing in plenary session: Presentations of the findings from Workshop 1 and 2
Representatives of the 3 groups
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09:30 – Plenary
  Session 3 A – Evidentiary Challenges in International Crime Cases
  Cuno Jakob TARFUSSER, Judge, International Criminal Court

10:30 – Coffee break

11:00 – Plenary
  Session 3 B – Evidentiary Challenges in International Crime Cases
  Martin WITTEVEEN, Prosecutor, Dutch Court of Appeal

12:00 - Workshop 3: Exchange of views about the case presented in 3 groups (in separate rooms)
  Experts-Moderators:
  1. Aaron MATTA, Senior Researcher, The Hague Institute for Global Justice
  2. Christoph BARTHE, Public Prosecutor, German Federal Court of Justice

13:00 – Lunch

14:00 – Plenary
  Session 3 C – Practical Issues in International Crime Cases
  Martin WITTEVEEN, Prosecutor, Dutch Court of Appeal, former investigative judge for international crimes at the District Court of The Hague, former Advisor for International Crimes to the NPPA in Rwanda

15:30 – Coffee break

16:00 – Plenary
  Session 3 D - Practical Issues in International Crime Cases
  Martin WITTEVEEN, Prosecutor, Dutch Court of Appeal

17:00 - End of second day

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2015

08:45 – Arrival and registration of participants
  Pilar CASADO GARCIA – HIRSCHFELD, European Judicial Training Network

  Chair: Matevz PEZDIRC, Head of the Genocide Network Secretariat

09:00 – Debriefing in plenary session: Presentations of the findings from Workshop 3
  Representatives of the 3 groups
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09:30 – Plenary
Session 4 A – International Cooperation – MLA and extradition within the EU, with non-EU States and international courts
Julie DE HULTS, Belgian Task-Force for International Criminal Justice, Belgian Central Authority for Cooperation
Matevz PEZDIRC, Head of the Genocide Network Secretariat

11:00 – Coffee break

11:30 – Plenary
Session 4 B – International Cooperation – Cooperation with other actors in the field (UN, ICRC, NGOs)
Julie DE HULTS, Belgian Task-Force for International Criminal Justice

12:15 - Evaluation and conclusions

12:30 - End of the programme

SOCIAL PROGRAM
14:00 – Optional: Visit to the ICC/ICTY (tbc)

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Event hosted by The Hague Institute for Global Justice