

July 2009

**Title:** Training Course on the Ratification and Implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Region

**Date:** 15-19 April 2007

**Location:** Nottingham

**Unit:** International Criminal Justice

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**Funders:** Government of Germany, Government of Netherlands, Government of United Kingdom

### **Project Summary**

The fourth in a series of training and capacity building programmes on ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court provided training to 20 government officials and lawyers from the Middle East and North African region. Held in Nottingham in April 2007, the training programme considered a range of legal issues that national practitioners will face in connection with the ratification and national implementation of the Rome Statute, including advanced introductions to the operations and functions of the ICC system.

### **Objectives**

The Seminar aimed to provide participants with:

- A general overview of the operation of the ICC regime, including the role of the Judges, the Prosecutor and the Assembly of States Parties;
- A detailed legal analysis of the key crimes, most notably war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, listed in the Rome Statute and this included a discussion of the background to the adoption of the various provisions;
- An informative examination of the complementarity regime and the role of national legal systems upon the ratification of the ICC Statute, including the effective exercise of jurisdiction;
- Discussions concerning the particular problems that individual states face when legislating for the implementation of the ICC Statute in national law and gave examples of successful strategies States could use in order to ensure successful ratification and implementation.

### **Participants**

The Seminar was attended by 20 participants, who were selected by senior members of the HRLC team based on their outstanding calibre and their ability to make meaningful contribution to ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute in their home countries. The participants were predominantly top government officials representing key countries from the Middle East and North African region.

### **Content**

*Method*

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The training course was a combination of lectures, discussions and Question and Answer Sessions. The participants were encouraged to engage with those responsible with the instruction so that all legal issues raised by the ICC Statute could be dealt with in an effective manner and that the technical needs of the participants could be met.

In order to supplement the instruction received during the training course, the participants were provided with extensive academic documents pertaining to all the subjects covered in the lectures

#### *Speakers/Trainers*

The training sessions were conducted by eleven academics and practitioners, all of whom are renowned experts in their respective fields and, most of whom, have had previous experience with ICC training courses. Trainers included academics with extensive experience with international criminal law and the ICC and national or regional legal experts.

Some of the trainers have been or are currently directly involved with the ICC:

- Hiram Abtahi, Legal Advisor to the Presidency of the ICC
- Morten Bergsmo, Senior Researcher, PRIO and former Senior Legal Advisor and Chief of the Legal Advisory Section, Office of the Prosecutor
- Shamim Razavi, Associate legal Officer, Registry, International Criminal Court

#### **Outcomes**

- The training course increased the accountability and capacity of governments that were represented by giving participants in-depth and detailed information on the obligations that arise from ratification and implementation of the ICC Statute.
- The training course Many States from the MENA region have yet to ratify or implement the ICC Statute so the training course should greatly assist in ensuring success at the national level.
- Through the dissemination of information the training course assisted in the promotion of a strong and effective ICC.