**Morgan Marguerite Sim**

August 5th, 2010

I cannot thank you enough for facilitating the incredible experience which I have had at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda these past two months. As you know, I arrived for my internship on Tuesday, 1 June 2010 and will enjoy my last day of work at the Tribunal on Friday, 6 August 2010. When I leave, I will have spent ten weeks as a Legal Intern in Trial Chamber II, assisting on the Ngirabatware case. The experience I have gained here has been invaluable and whatever expectations I had for my time in Arusha have been thoroughly exceeded.

I have to admit that I arrived at the Tribunal feeling a bit disappointed about my assignment. I was the only intern assigned to Ngirabatware, a case which is not particularly novel and which was neither sitting nor in the judgement-drafting phase when I arrived. I wouldn’t get to help determine anyone’s guilt nor would I get to wear one of those funny black robes! Due to all of these factors, my assignment did not seem particularly glamorous at first. Luckily, I could not have been more wrong.

The one thing which I knew I had going for me from the very beginning was my supervisor, Chris Lentz. Chris has been incredibly friendly and helpful ever since he first escorted me to my office on the 7th floor. His laugh is contagious and his door is (literally) always open. He has also proven to be an extraordinarily patient and caring teacher. Though he may be relatively new to the Tribunal, he is exceptionally hard-working, thoughtful, and (lucky for me) takes the time to make the most of those working under him.

Partially due to Chris’s efforts to give me interesting and challenging work, my internship at the ICTR has turned out to be absolutely wonderful. Because the Ngirabatware trial is currently between the scheduled end of the Prosecution’s case-in-chief and additional time granted to the Prosecution based on the piecemeal disclosure of specific information on the alibi, we have been inundated with procedural motions from both Parties since I arrived. While many interns spent the majority of their summer reading through witness testimony, I have actually spent most of my time here assisting in the preparation of decisions on motions for certification, reconsideration, judicial notice, and the varying of the witness list.

While this may not sound exhilarating, my work here has given me the opportunity to learn an enormous amount about the Rules of Procedure and Evidence as well as the Statute of the Tribunal. It has been fascinating to learn first hand about the difficulties which arise in international criminal law regarding the protection and movement of witnesses, issues of notice, hearsay evidence, etc. Chris has been unbelievably helpful and patient while teaching me what I need to know in order to assist in the drafting process and, because the Ngirabatware team is so small, I have actually had the chance to work alongside the Judges. I have sat in numerous deliberations and often provide ad hoc translations between English and French for the benefit of the team. This particular task has forced me to quickly expand my French legal vocabulary. I have also had the opportunity to draft two memoranda, one on a legal question which required significant research in the jurisprudence of the Tribunal.

Aside from my actual assignments, it has been fascinating to observe how this experiment in international criminal law works behind the scenes. Besides the obviously important mandate to ensure the perpetrators of the Rwandan Genocide do not enjoy impunity, there is a real sense at the Tribunal that the work here is laying a foundation for a broader system of international criminal law which will end impunity elsewhere. While the ICTY receives much more media attention than the ICTR, this Tribunal has already established a vital legacy. It has also been interesting to see what life is like working under the umbrella of a large IGO such as the United Nations.

Just the experience of living and working in Tanzania has been absolutely fascinating and has given me the opportunity to see a bit of the country. Local excursions have included trips to orphanages, an organic coffee shamba, a camel safari, and canoeing on Lake Duluti. I have also laboured all the way to the top of Mt. Meru, explored Stone Town, lounged on a beach in Zanzibar, and spent my birthday safari-ing through the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

Overall, my experience here has been unbelievable and one which I feel will shape significantly my future work as a lawyer. This summer, I have had the opportunity to live in Africa and to work for the United Nations; two dreams I could not have imagined being realized so soon when I began law school less than one year ago.

I could not have embarked on this adventure without the support of the IHRP. Thank you for everything.

 