

IHRP Fellowship – Final Report 2017

Summer at the MICT: A Report from The Hague

by Jeremy Greenberg

MSc Human Rights (London School of Economics),

2L (University of Toronto)



From April to July 2017, I interned in the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) at the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT), located in The Hague, Netherlands. Established in 2010, the MICT continues the work of the tribunals for the former

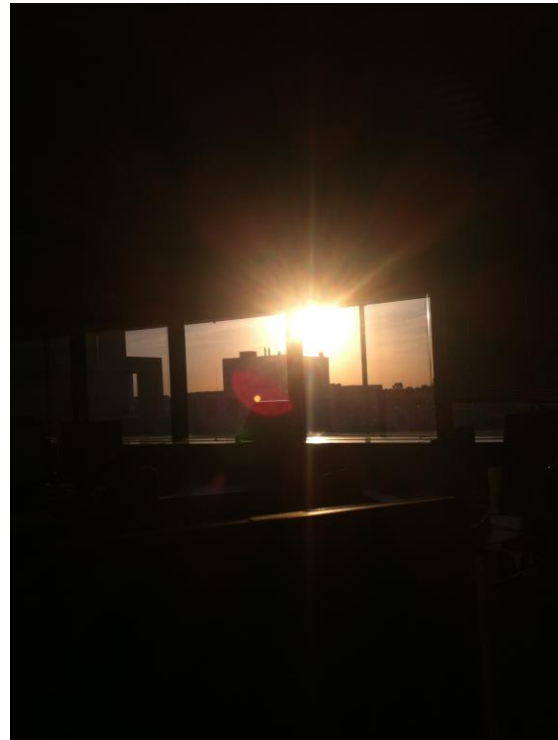
Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR). The MICT seeks to bring justice and hold those accountable for two of the worst human rights disasters of the 1990's: the 1994 Rwandan genocide, and the 1991-1995 Yugoslav Wars.

The internship was, in a word, incredible. I had the opportunity to work with some of the rock stars of the legal profession, alongside some of the best law students and young lawyers from around the world. They each inspired me, lawyer and intern alike, and I learned so much from everyone.

The work itself was almost always interesting. And when it wasn't interesting, my lawyer supervisors were sure to show their appreciation for the "grunt work" they'd

had to assign. Even when the assignments were difficult or complex, and time was short, I never felt anything but excitement at being involved in the MICT process.

Initially, I worked on an OTP-wide guide to the Rules and Regulations of the MICT. I would be assigned specific rulings to read and draw pertinent information from, then add to an ongoing “digest” of everything the Court had said about the relevant issue(s). Although some of this was redundant, I did learn a considerable amount about, for example, how the court varies the protective measures assigned to anonymous witnesses, i.e. pseudonyms, face-blurring, or voice-distortion.



Late nights at the office = beautiful sunsets

But very quickly, I moved to direct case work, in particular a couple of ICTY appeals. I worked the most on the case of Radovan Karadžić, the so-called “Butcher of Bosnia”. In 2016, Karadžić, a Bosnian Serb politician, was sentenced to 40 years’ imprisonment for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide during the Yugoslav Wars. Karadžić’s appeal is due to be heard in the near future, and I was honoured to make my small contribution to the OTP’s preparations in that case.

Interestingly, I also got to do a fair amount of research on the Rwandan genocide, as part of the MICT’s legacy work tied to the ICTR. Working with colleagues in both The Hague and Arusha, Tanzania, I undertook historical and case research on key figures and incidents in the genocide. Unfortunately, there are still a handful of fugitives

from the genocide, and the MICT remains in a state of readiness for any case that might yet be heard.

It should go without saying that I learned a great deal through this internship. Not only through my extensive engagement with the highly complex, tragic histories of Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia, but also through the many opportunities afforded by



being in The Hague. I attended a lecture given by ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda (pictured above). I met the lead victims' representative in the case of former Chadian dictator Hissène Habré. I attended lectures by experts on ISIS, fair trials, and many other subjects.



Sarajevo rose

At the end of my internship, I actually visited the Former Yugoslavia, with a brief stay in the beautiful countries of Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The capital of Bosnia, Sarajevo, still bears the scars of the war. It's nearly impossible to turn a street corner without coming across a damaged building or one of the famous

"Sarajevo roses", mortar damage painted red in homage to the victims of the Siege of Sarajevo.

Writing this now, just a few weeks from the coming school year, I am saddened at my pending departure. I have loved my time here in Europe. I made great memories and even greater friends this summer. For those considering applying for an IHRP Fellowship in future, I cannot recommend highly enough the MICT, the ICC, or any other international criminal tribunal. It is a remarkable experience.



During a courtroom tour, a brief stint as Presiding Judge