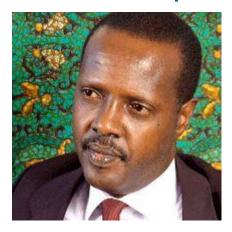


Official Transcript: Richard Karegyesa (Full Interview)



Role:	Acting Chief of Prosecutions
Country of Origin:	Uganda
Interview Date:	29 October 2008
Location:	Arusha, Tanzania
Interviewer:	Batya Friedman Ronald Slye
Videographer:	Nell Carden Grey
Interpreter:	None

Interview Summary

Richard Karegyesa reflects on the relationship between the ICTR and domestic justice systems, discussing transfer of cases and the capacity of Rwanda's judiciary. Karegyesa discusses best practices for the prosecution, the protection of witnesses and prosecuting rape as a crime of genocide. He draws attention to the differences between prosecuting rape as an international crime and a domestic crime and comments on the importance of creating a historical record to protect against revisionist histories.

The transcript of the interview begins on the following page.

1	Part 1	
2 3 4 5 6 7	00:00	Batya Friedman: So I'm Batya Freedman. I'm a Professor at the University of Washington. And I'm here with Ron Slye who's a Professor at the law school at Seattle University. He's another interviewer. And our cameraperson is Nell Carden Grey and we are here with Richard who's going to introduce himself. I'd like to ask you to say your name, your role here at the ICTR and your nationality. And today is October 29th
8	00:29	Yeah.
9	00:29	BF: 2008. Okay, please Richard.
10 11	00:31	Thank you. It's a pleasure meeting you. I'm Richard Karegyesa. I'm the Acting Chief of Prosecution in the Office of the Prosecutor and I'm Ugandan by nationality.
12 13	00:41	BF: Great, can you tell us a little bit – when you say that you're the Acting Chief of Prosecution, what is involved in your role here, what kinds of things do you do?
14 15 16 17 18	00:51	Well, the Office of the Prosecutor initially comprised the Prosecution Division and the Investigations Division, but now also has the Appeals and Legal Advisory Division. So I head the Prosecution Division that has about 100 attorneys in teams — in, in trial teams and, you know, I coordinate prosecution of cases at first instance, up to judgment, you know, before matters go to appeal.
19 20 21 22	01:31	The Investigations Division was downgraded as part of our downsizing and completion strategy, so it's now a section. So the Kigali office, you know, our investigations office is also under my division and we have maybe about 40 strong staff there, so, you know, I run that as well.
23 24	01:58	BF: So when a case is, a decision is made to pursue a case and a prosecution team is assembled for that, do you play a role in assembling that team?
25 26 27 28	02:11	Well, yes, I do. I mean all the trial staff, trial attorneys report to me and, you know, I'm, I'm responsible for assigning work, executing, you know, policy, and generally, you know, coordinating every aspect of commencement of investigation through prosecution.
29 30	02:35	BF: So what, what process would you go through to create a team, a prosecution team for a case?
31 32 33 34	02:48	The, the teams have actually already been assigned work. You know, in the formative years teams were created – put together as, you know, indictments were confirmed. But the, the profile of our cases is either regional or thematic, so you've got a team that is responsible for cases from specific regions.
35 36 37	03:22	If it's thematic it's like we've got the military cases, the government cases, the media, the clergy. So you have teams basically structured around those nodes and being responsible for the docket f-, falling under the theme, you know, or the region. © 2009-2015 University of Washington Downloaded from tribunalvoices.org
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38 39	03:41	BF: So if teams, say, involve the clergy in a certain region, would members from both come together or you would find one as primary and assign that or
40 41	03:53	If, if, if it's clergy it's clergy but, you know, regardless of which region the clergymen came from.
42	03:59	BF: Mm-hmm.
43	03:59	But because it, it is in a region
44	04:02	BF: Mm-hmm.
45 46 47	04:02	you know, my involvement is to coordinate and make sure, you know, that they're not at cross-purposes. You know, we hold weekly meetings just, you know, to compare notes and make sure that we're all singing from the same hymn sheet as it were.
48	Part 2	
49 50	00:00	BF: So I'd like to take you back now to the spring of 1994. And thinking back then, what, where were you in 1994 and, and what were you doing then?
5152535455	00:16	I was a practicing attorney in Uganda. I'd actually just returned from a three-year stint with the United Nations in, in Mombasa, Kenya, where I'd been a legal advisor on a regional project covering Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern Zaire. It had to do with international trade, transport freight and customs. So I'd gone back to my law firm in Kampala when the plane went down, as it were, on 6th of April 1994.
56	00:58	BF: So were, were you in Uganda at that point?
57	01:00	I was in Uganda.
58	01:01	BF: And how, had you settled back in to this firm and life in Uganda and Kampala?
59	01:04	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
60	01:07	BF: So what was your life like at that point?
61 62 63	01:11	Well I'd just settled back home. I, I, I'd returned, I believe, end of January and, you know, I was back at the law firm in a commercial corporate practice, yeah, yeah, yeah.
64 65	01:22	BF: Mm-hmm. And what were you thinking, at that point, what were you thinking your career trajectory was going to be?
66 67 68 69 70 71	01:28	Well I'd, prior to that I'd been a prosecutor for eight years, up to the time I left the government service in 1990. And my trajectory then was, you know, mainstream legal practice, commercial corporate and consulting. And what I'd been doing with the UN was part of my consulting practice, yeah. And I did continue consulting for international agencies, UN agencies, the European Union, British ODA, you know, before the creation of the DFID

72	02:14	BF: Mm-hmm.
73	02:15	yeah, i-, in, in Sub Saharan Africa.
74	02:17	BF: Mm-hmm. So you were mostly thinking about commercial law business
75	02:22	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
76 77	02:22	BF: yeah, in one way or another. Then when did you hear about the genocide in Rwanda?
78 79 80 81 82	02:28	Well I watched it unfold, you know, on CNN. You know, in about a couple of weeks, you know, bodies were floating down the Kagera into, into, into Lake Victoria and, you know, the price of fish collapsed. Nobody wanted to eat fish because, you know, it was just horrendous. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And, and we watched it unfold over the next three months. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
83	03:02	BF: What did you think at the time?
84 85 86 87 88	03:06	I mean, I mean no memory evokes such horror as – I guess it was the first time we were getting, you know, live coverage from, from an area of conflict. We'd probably had satellite TV for about a year or so, so you know we were getting real time broadcasts and it was just, you know, unbelievable. And then, you know, bodies started washing up on our shores.
89 90 91 92	03:35	You know, and I, I, I continued receiving these images. Even I traveled to, to West Africa in, in July round about the time that the U.S., I think it was the Defense Secretary at the time, flew into Kampala because of the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding then in, in Goma – not so much, you know, what had just happened in Rwanda.
93 94 95	04:11	You know so, so we, we actually got more footage from the refugee camps around Goma. And all the humanitarian effort you know was going to Goma, you know, to the refugees and rather than survivors of this mass murder.
96 97 98	04:33	BF: And what are some of your, your memories from that time? How did you react, what, what did you – I mean, was it just something happening around you or something, did you became engaged in some way with what was going on?
99 100 101 102	04:49	Not directly. I do remember going to, to Kigali most probably late August or early September and I just couldn't believe what I saw. I mean the, the smell of death hung in the air and, and, you know, walls were blood stained, you know, buildings were burnt out or pockmarked and y-, you've been to our Kigali office.
103 104 105 106 107	05:19	You know refugees were still in the stadium, you know, the Amahoro Stadium, you know, barbed wire and sand bags around it. And I remember the time the government was trying to clear the streets and drains, you know, you know, of rotting corpses and they had to shoot all the dogs in town because the dogs had gotten used to eating corpses.

108 109 110	05:48	And, you know, when those were cleaned out of town, you know, they actually wanted, you know, to, to eat people. You know, they'd gotten used to eating human flesh. Yeah. And, you know, I-, I've never quite managed to erase that memory from my mind, yeah.
111	Part 3	
112	00:00	BF: So at what point did you think about working for the ICTR?
113 114 115 116 117	00:07	It must have been – I actually thought of it much earlier but didn't join until much later, 'cause initially it was said at the time that they weren't recruiting people from within the region, you know, neighboring Rwanda. But I did subsequently in 19-, I believe 1996 or '97 respond to a vacancy announcement in one of our regional papers and didn't hear from them until about a year later.
118 119 120 121 122	00:50	Yes, but I did have a keen interest and, you know, I kept my feelers out there. But what blew me most was actually visiting Arusha. I was, I'd just concluded an assignment for the European Union in Zambia and got an offer from the Commonwealth Secretariat to come and work in Arusha at the East African Community as legal advisor trying to set up the regional trading block.
123 124 125 126	01:28	I hadn't been to Arusha in about ten years and I, I, I wanted to check it out so, you know, I came to Arusha to meet, you know, with officials of the East African Community and they were in the same building, this very same building, just on the 6th floor. And you know I, I, I had the opportunity for two days to sit in and watch two trials.
127 128 129	01:56	And I said, "This is what I want to do." You know, to hell with, with consulting and commercial practice. I said, "This is what I want to do." That was March of '98 and I got an offer I believe in August of '98, yeah, yeah.
130 131	02:16	BF: What, what was that feeling when you said, "This is what I want to do," what ?
132 133 134 135 136	02:19	Well, I, I, I watched, you know, two prosecutions going on. They had only two courtrooms and it was a trial of Georges Rutaganda, the head of the Interahamwe. And on the stand was Professor Bill Haglund, a forensic anthropologist, and he was being led in evidence by James Stewart, Senior Counsel then. You know and I sat; I sat in the public gallery and watched.
137 138 139 140 141	02:49	And my prosecutorial instincts just came (), I said, "This is what I want to do. I want to prosecute these people. You know, I can do it." There was also the trial of Kayishema and Ruzindana. Kayishema was Préfet of Kibuye, and Ruzindana was a businessman. And that trial too was going on. And I watched as Brenda Sue Thornton, she's in the DOJ back in Washington D.C., the Counter Terrorism () right now.
142 143 144	03:26	She was leading the evidence of another forensic expert, a handwriting expert. And you know I had been doing, you know, criminal prosecution for eight years and I said, "Hey, I'm, I want to take it to an international level." You know I quit the national level, but

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145 146		this is where I want to be. Yeah, and yeah I, I, I got an offer I believe it was August of '98.
147 148	03:54	BF: And then you've been a prosecutor here since or has your role changed during that time?
149	04:01	Well, work is largely the same.
150	04:03	BF: Mm-hmm.
151 152 153	04:04	I, I started off as a Legal Advisor for about two years and then was promoted to Senior Trial Attorney and since the beginning of this year I've been the Acting Chief of Prosecution Division.
154	Part 4	
155 156 157 158 159	00:00	BF: So one question maybe you could speak a little bit about is the nature of evidence. You know, when you have so many people who've been massacred and a situation in a country where pretty much everyone you encounter is either been, you know, has a family member who's been victimi-, a victim or was themselves a perpetrator or has a relative who's a perpetrator.
160 161 162 163	00:31	BF: It's very different than a situation where there's been a murder and maybe there are several people acting, maybe several people killed but it's, it's a much smaller group of people. From your time here, what's different about the nature of evidence when you are trying to establish something like genocide?
164 165 166	00:57	First, it's just the sheer intensity in scale. I mean where do you start? A million people, anywhere up to a million people killed in a hundred days, you know, works out to any-, you know, anywhere up to 10,000 people a day, you know.
167 168 169	01:15	And then, you know, you had the war, and parallel to that you had the genocide, in a country whose population then was about 8,000,000, you know. A million people is a lot of people.
170 171 172	01:31	But remember too that, you know, entire communities were uprooted and displaced; you know, about 3,000,000 in the refugee camps, either in the Congo, in northern Burundi or northern Tanzania.
173 174 175	01:49	So from a pre-war, pre-genocide population of 8,000,000, you know, you've got about 4,000,000 people in Rwanda. All severely traumatized whether they're perpetrators or, you know, or victim survivors. Y-, and in a highly polarized society.
176 177 178	02:13	So yes, I mean investigating such crimes is a big challenge, you know. Where do you start and, and, and how do you, how do you prioritize? Because it was country-wide, you know. You know, so yeah there, there were challenges.

179 180 181	02:31	We had investigators and prosecutors. Nobody had ever, you know, prosecuted or investigated genocide, you know, since Nuremburg. And even in Nuremburg it was crimes against humanity and war crimes rather than genocide.
182 183 184 185	02:48	So yes it, it, it was very difficult; there were challenges. There's linguistic, cultural – because we didn't have Rwandan investigators. You know, the judiciary, members of the judiciary, i.e., the judges, prosecutors and judicial police were either dead or in flight, you know. So, you know, we basically started from scratch.
186 187 188 189	03:16	Some areas were no-go because of, you know, rebel in-, incursions from the Congo – you know the, the Western, the Western part of Rwanda, you know, all the way from Goma, the northern tip of Lake Kivu down to Cyangugu the southernmost tip. There were rebel incursions from the Congo and it was sealed off.
190 191 192	03:48	You know, UN staff couldn't travel there. Able subsequently to travel there in '97 and about two or three got killed and then it was sealed off again. You know, investigators didn't know the elements of the crimes they were investigating.
193 194 195 196	04:12	You had to operate through interpreters with no system to check, you know, to have quality assurance of whether, you know, you're actually getting the right version. You, you had witnesses who would cringe at the sight of certain interpreters because of the ethnic polarization.
197	04:39	Yeah, I mean there were very many difficulties involved in investigating and putting a
198		case together.
198 199	Part 5	case together.
	Part 5 00:00	BF: So from where you sit now, if there was another genocide somewhere else
199		
199 200	00:00	BF: So from where you sit now, if there was another genocide somewhere else
199 200 201 202 203 204	00:00 00:06	BF: So from where you sit now, if there was another genocide somewhere else Mm. BF: and a tribunal being created, and they were trying to establish the prosecution there, what kinds of things would you want the person who is taking the lead there to know or think about so that they could, you know, more readily get an
199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209	00:00 00:06 00:07	BF: So from where you sit now, if there was another genocide somewhere else Mm. BF: and a tribunal being created, and they were trying to establish the prosecution there, what kinds of things would you want the person who is taking the lead there to know or think about so that they could, you know, more readily get an effective prosecution up and running? Well, fortunately that's one of the legacies well bequeathed to the international criminal justice system. Starting late 2004, we embarked on documenting best practices in conjunction with other international prosecutors. We, we held a prosecutors' colloquium here in November of 2004. It was the first international prosecutors'

215216217	01:26	Well, yeah, you've got best practices in investigations, best practices of pre-trial preparation, best practice trial, best practice in appeal, evidence collection, storage, retrieval systems, management systems.
218 219 220	01:43	But the primary thing if you're starting up you really need competent staff who know what they're doing. I mean w-, we started from scratch but now there's a, you know, not only is there a large body of jurisprudence, you know, but even expertise.
221	01:57	BF: Mm-hmm.
222	02:01	And just to give you an example, the prosecutor of the special court for Sierra Leone
223	02:07	BF: Mm-hmm.
224225226227	02:09	is ex-ICTR, he was Chief of Prosecution here, Prosecutor of the Cambodian Extraordinary Chamber was one of our colleagues here. The deputy prosecutor of the ICC, you know, is a former colleague here so, you know, our expertise has been exported in, in, in the establishment of, of these new tribunals.
228229230231232	02:37	And, you know, even in the Hariri Commission, the L-, Lebanon tribunal, Chief of Investigation was an investigator here. And actually before we seconded him there, he was involved in the Darfur investigation by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights. You know, and they all take with them best practice because they've been there done that, yeah.
233234235236	03:10	BF: Right. One of the things you mentioned, which actually affected you early on was that initially it sounds like there was some decision not to hire from the region and clearly a decision not to hire Rwandan prosecutors. What, what are your views on that?
237 238 239 240	03:29	BF: You know, clearly those decisions were made then and, and probably well thought out given the situation but now in hindsight as you look back, for tribunals going forward, if, if you could set the policy what, what do you think is, would be a good way to go?
241242243244	03:46	No, I think you have to consider it on a case-by-case basis. You know, Rwanda was peculiar, you know, extremely polarized. You know, so, if, if, you know, to, to, to give it a semblance of justice, you know, I think it was, in the initial stages an imperative that, you know, Rwandans be excluded from the decision making process.
245 246 247	04:21	I mean we had all the local staff were Rwandans, but none of the prosecutorial st-, staff were Rwandans. You know, you had support staff being Rwandans. Interpreters, you know, were a must. But you know, 14 years on, you know, it's opened up.
248	04:46	BF: Mm-hmm.
249250251	04:48	We have several Rwandan co-, colleagues as prosecutors, you know. We're even trying to get these cases transferred to Rwanda because we believe they've, you know, sort of stabilized in the last four-, 14 years.

252 253 254 255 256	05:01	At the establishment of the tribunal I mean R-, Rwanda was still relatively unstable and had no infrastructure nor human resources, you know, you know, to, to host and run the, the tribunal in, in Kigali. And that's why, you know, the tribunal was situated in, in, in Arusha. It works differently. There's a tug of war however, I believe, or I've heard, in, in the Cambodia hybrid sort of setup, the Extraordinary Chambers
257	05:48	BF: Mm-hmm.
258259260261	05:52	I-, largely again because of the internal dynamic of, of that country. I do know that in the special court for Sierra Leone, which isn't an international tribunal in the sense of the ICTR, ICTY, y-, you've got both foreign and local judges, and foreign and local prosecutors.
262	06:21	BF: Mm-hmm.
263 264	06:22	Yeah, yeah, yeah. So I think, yeah, it's, it's got to be approached on a case-by-case basis, yeah.
265	06:28	BF: Mm-hmm.
266	Part 6	
267 268 269 270	00:00	BF: Well, you've been working at the ICTR, right, gathering experiences here for quite a long time. So is there just something from your reflections of that time that you'd like to share with us before I ask other kinds of questions, the conversation goes another direction?
271272273274275	00:16	It's, it's, there, there's just so much over the last ten years you know. I-, nothing comes to mind. I actually personally haven't even had time to reflect and I intend to take a year off next year when I, you know, leave the tribunal to sit back and reflect, you know, over the ten years. So, you know, unless you ask something specific, it's been – I've been constantly in motion
276	00:44	BF: Mm-hmm.
277 278	00:45	hardly any time to reflect, you know. Because there's, you know, things always happening and you know I, I can't finger anything unless you, you target your question.
279 280 281 282 283	01:00	BF: Okay, well then I, I'll ask you about a few, few other things that I've been wondering about. Talking about prosecuting for rape as genocide, I think maybe from the outside when people look at the record, they see that there was the establishment of rape as genocide and its use in one case, and then sort of the appearance of it no longer being used as a tool by the tribunal.
284 285 286	01:31	BF: And I wonder if from the perspective of a prosecutor, how do, how do you both see that tool and how do you – what thoughts do you have on, you know, why it might look that way from the outside looking in?

287 288 289	01:46	I think we must acknowledge that we haven't been that successful. You know since Akayesu in, in successfully prosecuting rape either as genocide or as a crime against humanity, I, I think most probably only about four, four convictions after Akayesu.
290 291 292	02:11	You know, and given that we've, we've had now 36 convictions, you know, you know five convictions doesn't sound a big number. Yes there were problems, problems with pleading, but also problems with investigation.
293	02:34	BF: Mm-hmm. How so?
294 295 296 297	02:43	You know, c-, culturally, and I think this is across the board anywhere you know, you know ra-, rape in, in, in some societies is, is a taboo. I mean, you know so there's silence. There's silence and you initially didn't get, you know, victims coming forward to talk about it.
298 299 300	03:17	You probably had other survivors who'd watched it or knew about it coming forward, but we had difficulty even when we had statements, you know, convincing victims to come and testify.
301 302 303 304 305	03:33	You know I, I have a few instances where I, I, I recall during the prosecution of Gacumbitsi way back in 2003 I believe, yeah. We got a conviction for, for genocide and, you know, rape as a, both as genocide and rape as a crime against humanity. And it was largely on the basis of one victim who was believed and two or three survivors who had witnessed rape.
306 307 308	04:13	T-, two of the witnesses I believe had lost, lost their wives in the genocide but had seen them gang raped before they were brutally killed. A-, and we, we've been trying to encourage other teams, you know, to, to use that approach.
309 310 311	04:41	You don't need a rape victim to prove rape, like you don't need a murder victim to prove, you know, murder. I mean, the victim is dead. But if there's a body and, and you know people witnessed the, the killing, they can testify to the fact.
312 313 314	05:10	Likewise, you don't actually have to drag these heavily traumatized rape victims to court, you know, if you've got men, women, you know, who witnessed these rapes taking place, because they were actually taking place in broad daylight.
315 316 317 318	05:28	The other difficulty has been establishing a nexus between the acts of an accused and the rapes that were committed. But we do have, I believe, there about 20, 20 or 21 cases at different stages of defense. Nin-, nine of them have judgments pending where rape was charged, so we'll see how successful we are in that regard.
319 320 321 322	06:12	But starting round about 2004, we undertook a review of our indictments and, you know, the available evidence of rape to see if we could, for the indictments that hadn't gone to trial, to see if we could actually amend them, if it was supported by evidence, to include charges of rape.

323 324	06:42	But yes I, I, I, you know, must acknowledge that we haven't been to date very successful in securing rape convictions.
325 326 327	06:52	BF: Do the – have the prosecutors been talking among themselves about – I mean this is a brand new thing, right? To try for rape as genocide, so probably a lot of learning needs to go on as to how to do so, how to collect evidence, how to present it.
328 329 330	07:14	BF: And as you've already talked about, doing so in a way that is, well, as untraumatizing as possible to the women and their, and their families involved. So, and going back to this notion of better practices or things that you've learned
331 332 333	07:34	We, we've specifically got a protocol in our, in our best practices manual on investigating and prosecuting sexual offenses. W-, we had EU funding and held, held a workshop here in the spring of 2005
334	07:52	BF: Mm-hmm.
335 336 337 338	07:55	and we developed protocol on best practices. And it actually came in handy in the Darfur investigation because we lent them our, you know, expertise as our sexual assault team w-, went to Darfur and, you know, headed the, the investigations relating to, you know, sexual violence, you know, i-, in Darfur.
339	08:22	BF: Mm-hmm.
340	Part 7	
340 341 342 343 344 345	Part 7 00:00	BF: So what are some of the things that you think were learned in this tribunal about how to collect evidence here, how to argue with that evidence or make compelling arguments for the prosecution around rape as genocide, you know, that, that would really be important for others in the future to know about, and, and also perhaps things that were tried that you know really others don't need to try those things.
341 342 343 344		how to collect evidence here, how to argue with that evidence or make compelling arguments for the prosecution around rape as genocide, you know, that, that would really be important for others in the future to know about, and, and also perhaps
341 342 343 344 345 346 347	00:00	how to collect evidence here, how to argue with that evidence or make compelling arguments for the prosecution around rape as genocide, you know, that, that would really be important for others in the future to know about, and, and also perhaps things that were tried that you know really others don't need to try those things. Well, you see there's a tendency in, you know, where you have mass murder, mass killings or there was a tendency to sort of, you know, ignore rape and go, you know, for
341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350	00:00 00:30	how to collect evidence here, how to argue with that evidence or make compelling arguments for the prosecution around rape as genocide, you know, that, that would really be important for others in the future to know about, and, and also perhaps things that were tried that you know really others don't need to try those things. Well, you see there's a tendency in, you know, where you have mass murder, mass killings or there was a tendency to sort of, you know, ignore rape and go, you know, for the less complicated, you know, extermination, murder, genocide. But because we're all aware that, you know, rape is as old as war, you know, there can't be, you know, murder at such scale, you know, without corresponding rapes

358 359 360 361	01:51	As I said earlier, you don't actually need the rape victim to come and testify to secure a rape conviction, if you've got people who witnessed the rape. Because you see the, the, the threshold is much lower than, you know, in your domestic jurisdiction, you know, penetration and, you know, forensic evidence.
362 363 364	02:22	I think it was in the Akayesu case where, you know, they said that, you know, rape as an international crime isn't about body parts. Issues of consent, it's been a big debate. In the domestic jurisdiction, the prosecutor has to prove lack of consent.
365 366 367 368	02:51	Again the threshold in conflict situations is lower because of you've established that the circumstances were coercive. You know, any consent is negated. And we also have a provision in our rules; I think it's Rule 96 that suggests that, you know, consent isn't, you know, a defense.
369 370 371 372	03:20	Yeah, so, yeah, there's a need to establish coercive circumstances and if, as I said, if, if, if you have witnesses other than the rape victim who witnessed the rape – because most of these rapes are committed in broad daylight. In Rwanda none of these offenses were committed at night, by the way.
373 374 375	03:45	It was like civic duty; it'd start around eight in the morning and knock off around 4 o'clock, 5 o'clock, go and have a drink, sleep, and, and come back and continue from where they left off and you know.
376 377 378 379	03:58	And the rapes were being committed in broad daylight around public buildings; you know, churches, schools. Akayesu case just outside the, you know, bourgmestre's office where the refugees were. And in such circumstances, they're being committed in broad daylight.
380 381 382	04:18	Take for example where the, you know, the rape victim is killed subsequent to the rape, you know. You can't use that as an excuse for not charging or being unable to prove rape if you've got, you know, people who actually witnessed the rapes taking place.
383 384 385 386	04:38	The other thing of course is, is to establish a nexus between the acts of the accused and those rapes. My argument has always been that if, if, if an accused instigates or orders the mass killing or destruction of a group, he or she has undermined the law and public order.
387 388 389	05:08	And, you know, if, if, if the physical perpetrator in the process of that destruction, executing the instructions, you know, plunders property, pillages, rapes, you know, it's all done at the instigation of the accused.
390 391 392	05:29	And, and remember here we're targeting the leadership, not so much the foot soldiers, but the ideologues, you know, without whose evil architecture these crimes, you know, would never have being committed.
393 394 395	05:45	So yes, in the course of investigation you establish the coercive circumstances, or at first establish that there was rape. Establish the coercive circumstances and try to establish a link not only between the murders, you know, mass killing and the accused

396 397		but also the rapes so that, you know, you can attach liability; criminal liability. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
398	06:14	BF: Mm-hmm.
399	Part 8	
400 401	00:00	Ronald Slye: Okay, let me just pick up on the last conversation, talking about the rape prosecutions and the, the idea that you don't need the victim present.
402 403 404	00:15	RS: What, how do you – I mean I guess one of the things that that made me think of is that if I were defense counsel, I might want to call the victim. Is that something that is allowed or how would you respond to that?
405	00:29	Well what if the victim's dead?
406 407	00:30	RS: Okay, but let's assume the victim is alive. I mean, the advantage that you had raised was that the victim doesn't have to testify but ()
408 409	00:38	I think in all fairness, you know as a prosecutor you'd most probably would have taken the statement of the, of the victim and she may well, you know, decline to testify.
410 411 412 413	00:53	But in all fairness you offer – you know, if you're not calling the victim, you know, you offer the statement to the defense. And it would be – I mean ha-, we, we've offered statements. We do have, you know, disclosure obligations, you know, and, and indeed i-, in, in Gacumbitsi, you know, the defense didn't go down that line.
414 415 416 417	01:29	Because it's very difficult to subpoena a witness or, or to move, you know, to have the chamber subpoena. They haven't tried it before, but it would be very hard. Would be, even strategically, might play against the defense, you know, trying to subpoena; subpoena a witness, yes.
418	01:49	RS: And so they've never tried that.
419	01:51	No, no.
420 421	01:52	RS: And would you recommend that defense counsel do that or do you think the risks are too great?
422	01:57	The risks would probably be too great. Yeah, yeah.
423	02:00	RS: And what sort of risks?
424 425 426	02:10	W-, why would defense counsel want to subpoena, you know, a victim who was raped, you know, to just confirm, you know, the evidence of someone who witnessed the rape? It's a double-edged sword.
427	02:27	RS: Mm-hmm.
428	02:28	Mm, mm. What, have her say that, you know, "I wasn't raped?"

429 430	02:40	RS: Let me, you started – earlier you talked about, you were talking about investigations.
431	02:45	Mm-hmm.
432 433 434	02:46	RS: And how one investigates such a massive crime as occurred in Rwanda during the genocide. How do you, or how would you, start to think about setting the priorities in terms of both investigating such a large crime and deciding who to prosecute?
435 436 437	03:08	Well, normally you know this tribunal and others and even what's happening next door in Kenya, the establishment of the tribunal is preceded by some sort of commission of inquiry that does, you know, as it were, a, a crime base investigation.
438 439 440	03:34	And you've got indicators of who the potential suspects are. Now because the, you know, international tribunals can't really, you know, prosecute everyone, in the case of Rwanda, I mean, you've got over 100,000 potential suspects.
441 442 443 444	03:52	The, the priority was, as it was in Nuremburg, you know, to go after the leadership to the extent that there's evidence I mean, you don't create it. But, you know, once a tribunal is established, it builds on whatever work has been done by the commission of inquiry, by civil society, you know, these human rights NGOs.
445 446 447 448	04:23	And, and, and the, the evidence will generate, you know, who the targets should be de, depending on, on the strength of the evidence. And as I said, if you prioritize – we had, we had a list of well over 300, possibly more, you know, generated by the initial inquiries.
449 450 451 452	04:56	But there's no way, you know, an ad hoc tribunal with limited mandates and resources, you know, could pursue that number of people. So we settled down to the odd maybe hundred or so. And even then we haven't been that successful. I think probably around, you're talking about 94, 94 indictments in all.
453 454	05:21	But we have transferred files of cases we'd investigated but hadn't indicted. We've transferred files to Rwanda; we've transferred files to Belgium, yeah.
455	05:46	RS: And how did you decide which ones to transfer to Belgium or to Rwanda?
456 457 458 459 460	05:52	I think it was following the Security Council Res-, Resolution 1503 which asked us to go for the most senior, the most responsible. So we did a culling exercise here, you know, and, and took into consideration, you know, you know () of seniority but also notoriety, egregious nature of the crimes, the extent, intensity, and strength of evidence.
461 462 463 464 465	06:34	Yeah, and then, you know, ha-, having reviewed, you know, our docket, decided the ones which we could keep and hope to finish, you know, by December 2008. It's not been possible but – so yeah we're expecting, you know, an extension. An-, and I must draw a distinction between a transfer of files and a referral of an indictment under 11 bis.

466	07:04	RS: Right. Mm-hmm.
467 468 469	07:07	Transfer of files are files of those we hadn't indicted. And that's at the discretion of the prosecutor. Referral of indictment is on application, you know, to the chamber. And we haven't been successful with regard to Rwanda.
470 471 472	07:25	We were successful in respect of two transfers, two referrals to France. We had an aborted referral to the Netherlands that couldn't take off because the district courts in The Hague, you know, found they didn't have jurisdiction. Yeah.
473 474 475 476	07:48	RS: Do you – some, some look at both those sorts of referrals to Europe or the, you know, the Habré case and sort of the, a, a sort of tug of war between Senegal and Belgium, raising questions about where justice should appropriately be seen to be done.
477	08:10	Mm.
478	08:11	RS: What are your views on that?
479 480 481 482 483	08:13	Well, I believe it should be done where the crime was committed, period. But of course circumstances in Rwanda didn't permit, you know, in 1994. But 14 years later and we've put in, you know, some good work with the Rwandans, the prosecution service you know trying to ensure that their, you know, laws, you know, meet minimum international standards of due process.
484 485 486	08:40	You mentioned Article 14 of the ICCPR; our Article 20 was replicated in their legislation. All the guarantees are there. And the prosecutor you know was satisfied that Rwanda could take on these cases.
487 488 489 490 491	08:57	Let me perhaps also mention that there weren't any other takers. We visited several African countries a-, and European countries and there were limitations you know. They either didn't have the jurisdiction or if they did, you know, weren't willing or weren't able because, you know, they had their own backlogs or other resource constraints.
492 493 494 495	09:33	One or two African countries said they'd probably be able to provide resources if, if, if the cases were transferred to Rwanda. They didn't want the cases transferred to their countries, but () considered technical assistance to Rwanda if the cases are, you know, transferred to Rwanda.
496 497 498	09:52	So yeah, at the end of the day, Rwanda was and remains the only willing taker of these cases. Belgium, you know, has a large Rwandan diaspora and is dealing with its own, you know, prosecutions where they're exercising universal jurisdiction.
499 500 501	10:14	Britain has jurisdictional limitations and is trying to extradite. Extradition was granted a couple of months ago but it's on appeal and the appeal is being argued in, in December in respect to four Rwandan fugitives.

502 503 504 505 506	10:36	You know, a-, and we had transferred those files to Rwanda. Norway, we had an unsuccessful attempt to have an indictment referred there. They didn't have jurisdiction but they recently, I think early this year, amended their legislation and I believe they have an active investigation going on of a Rwandan who is resident there, thus giving rise to jurisdiction.
507 508 509	11:09	And who knows, now that we've been unsuccessful in our bid to refer cases to Rwanda, we may want to revisit Norway which had exhibited willingness at that time but didn't have jurisdiction, but now has jurisdiction so we might want to revisit it.
510 511	11:27	And the, the Special Prosecutor, you know, for international crimes is going to be here on a conference next month. We might take it up with her while she's here.
512	Part 9	
513 514 515	00:00	RS: So do you, do you see the role of your office and of the tribunal as building up the capacity of a country like Rwanda so you can transfer these cases, or is that something that ?
516 517 518	00:12	Yes, I mean you see, we did have EU funding for capacity building in Rwanda. We had European Union funding, you know, for outreach programs. We also got, you know, Rwanda requested it.
519520521522523	00:36	And over the last two years I've been running courses for prosecution service, you know, investigation, evidence management and handling, international criminal law, procedure and practice, and trial advocacy, you know. You know and it was at Rwandan request but funded by the European Union and we used to go there and run, you know, courses, anything from one week to two weeks.
524 525 526 527	01:08	So yes we do have a role, because we acknowledged and, well, Rwanda acknowledged its limitations, and was preparing itself, you know, for the reception of these cases and wasn't trying to say so. And said yeah, you know, "Y-, you guys have been there done that. Can you come and, you know, hone our skills?"
528 529 530	01:33	And, and, and we do have, you know, several Rwandans employed here in the Office of the Prosecutor, you know, who most probably after the closure might take their expertise back home.
531	01:53	RS: What's
532533534535	01:53	And one of the, one of the things we'll be looking at, at this conference is, is, is those countries, you know, in Sub-Saharan Africa that may want to take on these cases because of, you know, if they have jurisdiction, if, you know, we need to identify, you know, capacity limitations.
536 537 538	02:24	We may not be able to, to, to engage in capacity building but I'm sure we can mobilize resources and there are NGOs out there. There's International Criminal Services, there's an NGO that is actually focusing on capacity building.

539 540	02:50	The Open Society Justice Initiative in East Africa in particular with which I've worked closely, is – has an active program in capacity building.
541 542 543 544	03:00	We're trying to get the teaching of international criminal law on the core curricula of universities in the region. You know, and there, there are live issues like the Ugandan situation. I think the pretrial chamber is sitting this week or possibly next to consider whether the ICC should defer to, to Uganda to try the Joseph Kony case.
545 546 547	03:35	They have capacity issues and their Director of Public Prosecutions has engaged our Prosecutor here. So yes, there's a role we could play in terms of capacity building for those who, you know, acknowledge the need and ask for it.
548 549	03:52	RS: What do you think still needs to happen in order for a case to be successfully referred back to Rwanda?
550 551	04:01	We lost on two things, and one can be corrected legislatively or judi-, judicially. There's a question of, there's some ambiguity on sentencing regime. In Rwanda it wasn't clear.
552 553 554	04:23	Conflicting pieces of legislation you know and the, and the doubt was resolved in favor of the accused. There was a potential threat that if sentenced in Rwanda he may be held in solitary confinement.
555 556 557	04:38	We didn't buy that, but that was what the judges, both the trial chamber and the appeal chamber, thought. The more complex matter that seems incapable of resolution is this whole issue of witness availability.
558 559 560 561	04:57	I don't know whether you've read the appeals chamber decision in Munyakazi but basically it comes down to the appeals chamber saying the determinant for a fair trial is at the, you know, whims of an unidentified witness, you know, saying, "Hey, I'm afraid of going to Rwanda." You know. And that's what it comes down to. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
562	05:35	RS: And is there anything that can be done about that or the ?
563 564	05:37	Well no and I mean, you know, the, you know, the, neither the chamber, you know, the trial chamber nor appeals chamber really conducted sufficient inquiry.
565 566 567	05:58	Rwanda has facilitated witnesses, defense witnesses to come to the tribunal and safely return to Rwanda. I'm yet to hear of a defense witness who's been bumped off. It's our prosecution witnesses who get bumped off.
568 569 570 571	06:22	But Rwanda too has facilitated the travel of witnesses to Belgium, to Canada. You know for the trials Belgium has held to date, I think about four trials; the Butare four, the Kibungo two, Ntuyahaga, yeah – four, yeah about seven, seven, eight accused defendants.
572 573 574	06:59	And Rwanda has facilitated the travel of both prosecution and defense witnesses, who've safely returned home. We don't have any capacity for protecting witnesses in Rwanda. It's done by, you know, the, the Rwandans.

575 576 577	07:15	We protect witnesses when they're in Arusha by driving them around in bulletproof cars. But when they go back to Rwanda you know, the actual protection is a duty of the state.
578 579 580	07:30	You know, and when threats are reported we don't have the capacity to, you know, to do the policing, we refer the matter to the Rwandan authorities, you know, who take care of security of witnesses.
581 582 583 584 585 586	07:44	I was just looking for example at the, the, the Canadian statistics where the defense had seven witnesses fly in from Rwanda and took depositions of another seventeen, you know. So the, the, the judge, the single judge in the Munyaneza case in Quebec, you know, didn't get to meet the seventeen. They didn't have any video link testimony. No, it was, I don't know whether you're familiar with depositions taken on a commission rogatoire.
587 588 589 590 591	08:36	Basically prosecution and defense, you know, with an officer of court go to a country, in this case Rwanda, you know, and take, you know, record the testimony, you know. So the testimony of seventeen witnesses was paper testimony, I mean the judge didn't meet them. The same thing applies to the current trial against Joseph Mpambara in the Netherlands.
592 593 594 595	09:12	The investigating judge went to Rwanda, heard all the evidence by deposition. It's, it's like a mini-trial; you've got the prosecution, defense represented and the investigating judge, you know, asks all the questions and if, you know, if either party wants to intervene they're free to do so.
596 597	09:34	A-, and he's carried all this paperwork back home. No witnesses traveling to, to The Hague, you know, for the classical, you know, adversarial hearing as we know it here.
598 599	09:46	Now this is so, you know, the point I'm trying to drive home is that the judge or judges determining the matter don't actually have to have physical contact with the witness.
600 601 602	10:06	Same thing happens in France. They're most probably if, you know, the two cases they're prosecuting, they'll probably send, you know, an investigating judge down to, to Rwanda who, you know, will bring back the papers and
603 604 605 606	10:26	So if it's good for other countries, for other legal systems, why not for Rwanda, which is a hybrid between adversarial and inquisitorial? Assuming for a moment that not all defense witnesses would be willing to come to, to Rwanda they can have an investigating judge go, you know, with defense and prosecution to take depositions.
607 608 609	10:53	We have it here; I mean it's the exception to the rule. We have video link and so do they in Rwanda; they made provision for video link testimony which is becoming very common now. And they've got provisions for taking deposition evidence.
610 611 612	11:14	So yes, I think, I think the decision was very harsh on Rwanda and it's ridiculous to the extent that the determinant of a fair trial is, is left to the whims of, in this case, unidentified witnesses.

613 614 615 616	11:35	The-, there was no witness list, you know. There was no evidence that the witnesses, the purported defense witnesses would be reluctant to go. Nobody had interviewed them to find out, you know. I mean, at least no evidence was presented to, to the trial chamber.
617 618 619	11:56	So you know, h-, how do you correct that? There's, you know, we can't – there's no provision for appeal against, you know, appeals chamber's decision. It's final. S-, s-, so how, how do you correct that? It's, it's basically ruled out any transfers to Rwanda.
620 621 622 623	12:20	So even if — and this is what is happening right now, I think they're trying to get a judicial or legislative interpretation of the, of the applicable law with regard to sentencing. Even if that is sorted out and clarified, still you know you, you know, y-, you can't have a fair trial because some witnesses would be reluctant to go.
624 625 626	12:44	And yet, you know, there's no evidence, you know, from the witnesses. You know we'd, we'd applied in the alternative that, you know, this matter be remitted to the tr-, trial chamber for further inquiry, yeah.
627	13:01	RS: Not done.
628	13:02	Not done.
629	Part 10	
630 631 632 633	00:00	RS: Let me shift gears a bit. One of the purposes of the tribunal, or at least one of the stated purposes of the Security Council, was to foster reconciliation in Rwanda. There's a couple of questions related to that. How do you think – well, I guess the first question is do you think that's an appropriate goal of a tribunal like this?
634 635	00:23	I think it's – and I stand () – but I think it's to contribute, contribute to peace and reconciliational, reconciliation and peace.
636	00:37	RS: Mm-hmm.
637 638 639 640	00:39	I think it's a legitimate expectation because the primary objective, you know – and this isn't in the statute or the rules, it's in the resolution nine, nine, 955 – the dual objectives, you know, accountability and deterrence, reconciliation and peace, contributing.
641 642 643 644	01:01	Now the, the mistake is to look at the tribunal as the sole contributor, you know, you know, the sole dynamo for, for reconciliation and peace. No. This is just part of, you know, broader transitional justice measures, you know. This is re-, retributive justice. They've got – this conflict has been going on since 1959 for Christ sake; it's 50 years.
645 646 647 648 649	01:27	And, and, and, you know, prosecuting an odd handful, you know, 100 perpetrators, you know, isn't in itself going to bring around reconciliation and peace. There have to be other mechanisms to redress, you know. You know, what the current coinage is I think you know, restorative justice. We don't have any of that in our tribunal. It's beyond our remit.

650 651 652 653 654	02:03	Yes, and, and the whole host of, you know, decades of discrimination, victimization – so all we're doing is we're contributing by bringing perpetrators to account, ending the cycle of impunity. We're contributing to the restoration of the rule of law. Y-, y-, you know, it's a building block, you know, peace-building rather than peacemaking, you know, and hopefully reconciliation.
655 656 657	02:43	I have no empirical evidence of whether we've succeeded in that regard but what I do know and, i-, is that, you know, on the initial objectives, the primary objective of accountability and deterrence I think we've scored very highly.
658 659 660	03:01	RS: If you were starting this whole process over again with those objectives, would you structure the tribunal differently or would you add or recommend adding something like a truth commission?
661	03:14	Yes.
662	03:14	RS: Like in Sierra Leone?
663 664	03:15	Yes. Truth commission hand in glove with the tribunal, you know, and, and other restorative mechanisms, yeah.
665	03:29	RS: And how would ()
666 667	03:29	I mean it worked quite well in South Africa without – or s-, so we believe. Maybe tell me, you know, has
668	03:38	RS: You can interview me later.
668 669 670 671 672 673 674	03:38 03:39	RS: You can interview me later. Okay, yes, no, no, but I, I, I, I – you know given the sheer numbers we're dealing with here and, you know, with 20/20 hindsight, yeah, a truth and reconciliation commission may have complemented, you know, the, the, the core role of the, the criminal tribunal which is – first of all it's, it's away from Rwanda. This would have had to be situated in Rwanda. Easily accessible, you know, a-, and dealing with a larger mass, you know, of victims and perpetrators alike.
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669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677	03:39 04:30	Okay, yes, no, no, but I, I, I – you know given the sheer numbers we're dealing with here and, you know, with 20/20 hindsight, yeah, a truth and reconciliation commission may have complemented, you know, the, the, the core role of the, the criminal tribunal which is – first of all it's, it's away from Rwanda. This would have had to be situated in Rwanda. Easily accessible, you know, a-, and dealing with a larger mass, you know, of victims and perpetrators alike. And in a sense – I'm no authority on this but you know – Ga-, Gacaca does have an element of truth and reconciliation. Not so much reconciliation but alone, it's truth, a bit of reconciliation and, and a bit of retribution. I, I think it provides an avenue for neighborhoods to come to grips with what happened. I remember being told that, you know, at the lo-, the local level the, what

686 687 688 689 690	05:46	I-, it's apparently the deniers I think who get heavy sentences but, you know, those who cooperate and tell the truth and ask for forgiveness are indeed forgiven. It's, there are reports of it being mismanaged. I, I can't comment. But I think yes, a truth and conci-, reconciliation commission would have worked very well with, with the, with the tribunal.
691 692 693 694 695	06:20	RS: If you had a commission like that, would that change how you would approach your decision about what cases to prosecute before a tribunal like this? I mean would you take into account issues of reconciliation in making that decision or the existence of these other processes, or would it be a similar sort of calculation that was used absent those institutions?
696 697 698 699 700	06:52	I think, I think – y-, you know you're dealing with mass murder here. You're dealing with the mass slaughter of a million people and, and I think, I think to end the culture – you see because the-, these crimes are largely, you know, state inspired and state driven, you know. And that's, that's, that's where you've got to nip it in the bud you know, a-, at the level of the state, you know.
701 702 703 704	07:22	You know, so if, if, if you've got, you know, senior leaders in the state apparatus clearly implicated you know in the, i-, i-, in the planning and execution of these egregious crimes, there should be no compromise. The, the, the truth and reconciliation, I think applies to the second tier of executioners.
705 706	07:57	I would still go for the leadership to the extent the evidence justified it, yeah. And of course there are resource limitations and things like that.
707	Part 11	
708	00:00	RS: We're, we're getting near the end of our time. Let me
709	00:02	Are we?
710 711 712	00:02	RS: Yes. Let me ask you, if you were speaking to a group of Rwandans today about the tribunal, what would you want them to take from the tribunal? What would you want to say to them about what the tribunal has accomplished?
713 714 715 716 717	00:24	We have brought to account leaders that would otherwise never have been brought to account. In the last 14 years Rwanda only got one rendition. Frodouald Karamira, leader of the Hutu power faction of the MDR party was renditioned or rendered from Ethiopia. I don't think there's an extradition treaty. Given a fair trial and shot in, you know, in a public square.
718 719 720 721 722	01:09	You know, so there haven't been any extraditions to Rwanda. You have an Interpol wanted list of 93 key, you know, fugitives, all in positions of leadership. In fact actually one was picked up yesterday in Réunion. Head of the military intelligence in the office of the President, Captain Pascal Simbikangwa, you know. And – but, but, you know, Rwanda hasn't been successful in getting, you know, its extraditions from France.

723 724 725 726 727	01:53	Or from anywhere for that matter. So to the extent that we've managed in the last 12 years or so to arrest 75-plus, you know, fugitives from about 36 countries, we-, we've been able to neutralize or incapacitate, you know, the extremist element you know, who'd be out there if there wasn't a tribunal, probably in the Congo trying to make a comeback, you know.
728 729 730 731 732	02:47	But more importantly we've documented judicially what actually happened. I'm sure you're aware of the denials of the Armenian genocide, you know. That's a result of the failure of the Constantinople prosecutions after the war. We still have revisionists and deniers of the Holocaust. It's been criminalized in several countries but deniers abound and it's the same thing.
733 734 735 736 737	03:18	We have puerile theories being peddled, you know, by defendants here. Denying the genocide or minimizing it. But yes, we've, we've, we've documented the horrors that took place. You know, even in the cases where we've had acquittals, it's not so much that the events didn't happen; it's just either a question of poor pleading or failure to prove that a particular individual was involved.
738 739 740	03:54	So there's, you know, there's an historical record of what happened. And you're contributing to this, you know, by, by capturing the heritage of the tribunal. It's hard of course to, you know, to say much more to the Rwandans on either side of the divide.
741 742 743	04:30	But I think, you know, I'm, I'm proud of the little we've accomplished a-, and the legacy we leave to, to international criminal justice; a large corpus of jurisprudence. Probably without us, the ICTR and ICTY, the ICC may never have come to life.
744 745 746 747 748	04:55	So it was a watershed moment, the establishment of these two tribunals, for international criminal justice. And they're not a fix-all but I think they've substantially contributed to the development of international criminal law. And, and y-, you have countries asserting universal jurisdiction, criminalizing these, you know, offenses and, yeah, yeah.
749 750	05:39	RS: Is there anything we haven't touched upon that you think would be useful for future generations to know about this process?
751 752 753	05:47	Well, I'm sure you've talked to many people and you've still got many more people to talk to. I must run but if you do think of something you can always give me a shout before you leave and, yeah, yeah.
754	06:01	RS: Okay, great, thank you very much.
755	06:03	Thank you very much, too, yeah.