



PRESS RELEASE: THE CHINA TRIBUNAL – the Hague – 8-12th July

The Court of the Citizens of the World is an International Tribunal championing universal human rights

The Court is an independent, international tribunal which considers cases over which official courts have no jurisdiction or are otherwise unable or unwilling to act. The Court bridges gaps in access to international justice by highlighting the impunity of leaders who perpetrate atrocities and creates a platform for justice by documenting and preserving evidence and recognising the victims and survivors of those atrocities.

The China Tribunal will be held in The Hague commencing on Monday 8th July with a Judgement scheduled for Friday 12th July. A Victims' Hearing will take place on Sunday 7th July.

The Tribunal will consider charges against Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China for evidence of the self determination of the Taiwanese people and the crime of aggression against Taiwan and neighbouring states; crimes against humanity in Tibet; and crimes against humanity and genocide against the Uyghur population in Xinjiang. The Tribunal proceedings will provide a platform for highlighting the plight of victims and will serve as a blueprint to prosecute the alleged crimes in an international court or national courts under the principles of universal jurisdiction.

The Court, inaugurated under the patronage of Nuremburg Prosecutor and Congressional Gold Medal recipient, the late Benjamin Ferencz and under the current patronage of Nobel peace prize laureate Oleksandra Matviichuk, addresses the growing global demand for international accountability for political and military leaders who flout human rights with impunity and evade timely and meaningful justice efforts.

The first session of The Court was convened in The Hague in February 2023, charging Russia's President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin with the crime of aggression against Ukraine. The panel of Judges delivered a judgment on February 24, 2023, confirming grounds for the issuance of an arrest warrant for President Putin prior to the issuance of the official ICC arrest warrant in March 2023: <https://www.the-court.eu/news>

The Court's Prosecutors will present an indictment for confirmation of the charges before trial in the Hague, where a panel of highly distinguished Judges will scrutinize evidence supporting the allegations. Witnesses and victims will testify during the proceedings. Global citizens following the trial via the Courts' website (<https://www.the-court.eu/>) can actively engage by voting on their opinions about the case at its conclusion. This inclusive approach will encourage greater public participation and transparency in the legal process.

During and after the Tribunal, the *Cinema for Peace Foundation* will undertake the production of a documentary about the trials and establish a victims' film library. This initiative, originally conceived in Bosnia and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office and the actress and humanitarian Angelina Jolie, aimed to construct the most extensive audio-visual historical documentation chronicling the attempted genocide in Srebrenica. *Cinema for Peace* has worked closely over the years with the ICC and its chief prosecutors Luis Moreno Ocampo and Fatou Bensouda. The first verdict of the ICC was based on documentary film footage, proving the recruitment of child soldiers.

ACCREDITATION

The Court invites NGOs and media outlets to actively participate in our proceedings. We welcome you to contribute and record valuable evidence, offer support to victims and witnesses, and establish collaborative partnerships with us. The Court recognizes the vital role media and NGOs can play in promoting justice and accountability. Additionally, we extend a special invitation to *victims and witnesses*, urging them to join and actively participate in the court proceedings. Furthermore, the *public* is invited to engage with us and provide input on how they wish to participate and contribute to the court process. For inquiries and collaboration, please contact: communication@the-court.eu.

The media interested may seek accreditation and interview opportunities by contacting media@the-court.eu. Your email should include the following information: name, position, type of media, and contact information. Additionally, please indicate whether you would like to request interviews with court participants, including judges, prosecutors, defense, individuals with experience in international courts, as well as victims and witnesses.

Please submit your application by email. Press badges will be issued and handed out to the journalists that have received accreditation upon presentation of a passport or a valid ID with photo.

China Tribunal Schedule - 8th July - 12th July 2024

Victims' Hearing – Sunday 7th July

Monday, July 8

Morning: Opening Statements by the Prosecution

Afternoon: Evidence re Crime of Aggression against Taiwan and neighbouring states, including the Philippines, Australia and Japan

Tuesday, July 9

Expert Testimony & Evidence re Crime of Aggression against Taiwan and neighbouring states, including the Philippines, Australia and Japan

Wednesday, July 10

Victim & Expert Testimony & Evidence re Crimes Against Humanity in Tibet

Thursday, July 11

Victim & Expert Testimony & Evidence re Crimes against Humanity and Genocide against Uyghur Population

Friday, July 12

Morning: Closing Submissions by Prosecution and Defense Team

Afternoon: Verdict and Conference Session

LEGAL TEAM PARTICIPANTS

JUDGES

Zac Yacoob

The Court's presiding Judge, Zac Yacoob is a (retired) South African Judge who served the maximum 15 year term in the constitutional court of South Africa appointed by Nelson Mandela. Before joining the Bench he was a practising advocate and anti apartheid activist.

The Hon. Amb. Stephen J. Rapp

The Hon. Amb. Rapp, is former US Ambassador-at-large for Global Criminal Justice, former Chief Prosecutor for the Special Court of Sierra Leone where he led the prosecution for the former Liberian President Charles Taylor, and has served as senior trial attorney and chief of Prosecutions at International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Bhavani Fonseka

Bhavani Fonseka is a prominent Sri Lankan constitutional and human rights lawyer and activist. She is a researcher and Attorney at Law in the Centre for Policy Alternative, a member of the policy committee of Human Rights Watch and counsel to the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

PROSECUTORS

Jonathan Rees KC

Jonathan Rees KC has a heavyweight practice in complex international crime. He is a member of the lists of counsel for the International Criminal Court and has defended in the Trial Chamber of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and appeared as first Appellant in proceedings before the Court of Appeals Panel for the same.

Lyma Nguyen

Lyma Nguyen is an internationally recognised barrister and expert in international criminal law and human rights. She is on the List of Counsel at the International Criminal Court, and served for more than a decade at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia playing a crucial role in representing victims of the Khmer Rouge regime. She is a member of the Legal Advisory Committee of the International Criminal Bar Association.

DEFENCE

Daniel Arshack

Dan Arshack is an American criminal defence attorney, co-founder of The Bronx Defenders, managing partner of the law firm Arshack, Hajek and Lehrman, PLLC and a founding member of the International Criminal Bar.

Steven Kelliher

Steven Kelliher has been a leading criminal and civil courtroom lawyer for the past 40 years. He is on the list of Counsel for the ICC, was a former Vice-President of the International Criminal Bar and served as Defence Counsel at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

THE FIRST TRIAL MEDIA COVERAGE **The prosecutor against Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin**

The Court garnered significant attention, with the proceedings and verdict being made accessible to the public through various channels. The trial was covered by various media outlets, further amplifying its reach and impact. These media reports highlighted the importance of the trial in addressing the global concerns surrounding the conflict in Ukraine and the potential implications of its outcome

AP NEWS

<https://apnews.com/article/putin-international-criminal-court-netherlands-crime-bb0a20256019057da42e887542676c7b>

<https://www.ictj.org/latest-news/%E2%80%98people%E2%80%99s-court%E2%80%99-tries-vladimir-putin-war-ukraine>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/peoples-court-tries-vladimir-putin-for-war-in-ukraine/articleshow/98094290.cms>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hague-peoples-court-seeks-accountability-from-putin-for-crimes-against-ukraine/>

In addition to the resources available on the official website (<https://www.the-court.eu/news>) videos of the trial were also published on YouTube, providing an even broader audience with the opportunity to witness this historic event - <https://youtube.com/@TheCourtTribunal?si=LLIYnoBnqloNf5uv>

These resources include videos of the trial proceedings, offering a firsthand look at the impassioned arguments and presentations made by participants -

<https://www.the-court.eu/testimonials>

<https://www.the-court.eu/indictment>

<https://www.the-court.eu/verdictofthecourt>