

THE COURT by the Citizens of the World

BRIEF

The Court by the Citizens of the World (The Court for short) is a global independent people's tribunal modeled on the Nuremberg Trials and serving universal human rights, as defined by the United Nations.

Six cases of grave crimes against humanity committed by authoritarian leaders and totalitarian regimes, which enjoy impunity in the current international legal environment, will be brought before The Court:

- 1) November 21-27, 2022: Russian Federation: Vladimir Putin & the Russian leadership
- 2) February 20-27, 2023: Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Kim Jong-un
- 3) May 22-27, 2023: People's Republic of China: Xi Jinping & the Chinese leadership
- 4) August 21-27, 2023: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Mohammed bin Salman
- 5) November 18-24, 2023: Syrian Arab Republic: Bashar al-Assad
- 6) February 19-24, 2024: Daesh/ISIS leadership in Iraq and Syria

Each of The Court's weekly hearings will be publicly broadcast and filmed into a 45- to 90-minute documentary chronicling the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of crimes against humanity. The documentaries will be made widely accessible for the education of the public and the encouragement of future generations to fight for justice and the rule of law.

The crucial evidence of culpability related to human rights abuses and crimes of aggression brought to light by The Court is intended to help refer cases to national and international courts and in motivating governments to step up their human rights protections.

The project is inspired by Ben Ferencz, whom the Cinema for Peace Foundation honoured along with former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon at the International Criminal Court Review Conference in Kampala, and with whom the Foundation launched its Harvard Film Screenings. Ben Ferencz brought the SS-Nazi Einsatzgruppen to justice in the Nuremberg trials and led the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

Background

Every murder, disappearance, enslavement, and torture that remains unpunished deals a severe blow to the pursuit of justice and the protection of human rights. This blow is even heavier when these crimes are employed tactically against political opponents, journalists, human rights defenders, women, or any type of dissident. Urgent demands for justice from victims, survivors and families grieving the loss of loved ones to such crimes have become a cornerstone in enabling different factions of society to improve the prospect of justice, when governments fail to do so.

The Court by the Citizens of the World follows a long civil society tradition of people's tribunals established to fill institutional and doctrinal gaps in international law that allow impunity for human rights offenses. These tribunals also offer a platform for individuals whose voices have been silenced to testify about how they have been harmed and affected, thus bringing an incredibly profound human element to issues that may seem distant. Taking human rights from the abstract level of treaty provisions to the reality of victim's needs, The Court will shed light on crucial evidence of culpability related to arbitrary detention, torture, execution, and sexual violence; the suppression of free speech, media, elections; as well as crimes of aggression, war crimes, and violations of the rights of nations and peoples; keeping the lived human experience at the forefront of any discussion on violations of human rights.

The Court Set-up

The Court will take place in Berlin and will include a panel of judges, jury, prosecutors, attorneys, witnesses present in person and via online video calls, and a restricted audience. The trial will be based on the presumption of innocence; prosecution and defense will be given an equal opportunity to present arguments in favor of their cases. The defense counsel will be appointed by The Court in the absence of cooperation from the accused regimes. To avoid excessively lengthy proceedings, only the most relevant evidence will be presented in court. The rest will be available online and via a dedicated mobile app for the general public. The hearings will be conducted in English.

The Court Participants

For the first case brought to The Court, the case against the Russian leadership, the following professionals have confirmed their participation in the roles of judge, prosecutor and defense counsel:

Judges

- Francois Tulkens (Belgium) - Lawyer and expert in criminal and penal law, Member of Judge's Panel at Turkey People's Tribunal
- Judge Sir Howard Andrew Clive Morrison KCMG, CBE, KC (U.K.) - Lawyer and Judge of the International Criminal Court from 2012 to 2021, assigned to the Appeals Division
- Giorgio Malinverni (Switzerland) - Law professor, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights
- Geoffrey Robertson KC (U.K.) - Human rights lawyer, judge in the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights, President of the UN War Crimes Court in Sierra Leone from 2002-2007
- Zak Yacoob - Anti-apartheid activist and former justice at the Constitutional Court of South Africa

Prosecutors

- Gary Shattuck (U.S.A.) - Assistant Attorney General for the State of Vermont, Assistant United States Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Legal Advisor in Kosovo and Iraq
- Ben Keith (U.K.) - Lawyer specialising in extradition and international crime, with expertise in human rights and extradition proceedings in post-Soviet states, as well as applications and appeals to the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations
- Gregory Townsend (U.S.A.) - Lawyer and academic, served as prosecutor for the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, as well as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the 2010 Special Tribunal for Lebanon.
- Tapas K. Baul (Bangladesh) - A barrister-at-law of the Bar Council of England and Wales, Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh (ICTBD)
- David M. Crane (U.S.A.) - Lawyer and academic, founding Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, member of the Advisory Council of the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative, founder of the Global Accountability Network investigating international crimes in Syria, Yemen, Venezuela and China, leading advocate for the creation of a Special Tribunal to try the Russian war crimes against Ukraine
- Joe Tan (AU) - Lawyer at Advocates for International Development, legal advisor to the pre-trial judge on terrorism matters at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, worked on the successful prosecution of the first case before the International Criminal Court for the recruitment of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Klaus Rackwitz (Germany) – Jurist and Director of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy, member of the Advance Team which set up the International Criminal Court in The Hague in 2002, served as the court Senior Administrative Manager of the Office of the Prosecutor
- Holger Hembach (Germany) – Lawyer and legal advisor, active in proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights, has worked for the United Nations, the European Union, the OSCE and the Council of Europe in the areas of human rights and justice reform

Defense Counsel

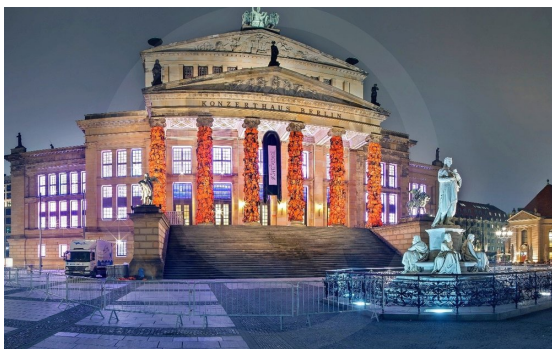
- Laurens van Puyenbroeck (Belgium) - Litigation and criminal lawyer, founder of “van Puyenbroeck advocaten”, academic at Ghent University, specialist counsel at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers
- David Young (U.K.) – Lawyer specialising in International Criminal Law and Human Rights Law, Lead Defence Counsel for Rexhep Selimi in the Hague's Specialist Kosovo Chambers, Lead Defence Counsel for Assad Hassan Sabra before The Special Tribunal for Lebanon 2011-2020.

Lawyers & Legal Advisors

- Fiana Gantheret (FR) - International Justice and Human Rights Expert - Legal Officer and Consultant, Executive Council member, Executive Council member ICCBA-ABCPI, Consultant Juge-Assesseur at the UNHCR, Legal Assistants to Counsels before the International Criminal Court, Founder and Director of “Creating Rights”
- Wayne Jordash KC (U.K.) – Lawyer specialising in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, with clients ranging from government to the UN and the Council of Europe, adviser to Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists, has stood as Defense Council before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra; Director of Applied Projects for the Organization for Intra-Cultural Development
- Nikos Alivizatos (Greece) – Lawyer specialising in public law litigation, pleading regularly before the European Court of Human Rights; Professor Emeritus of Constitutional Law at the University of Athens; board member of the Hellenic League of Human Rights; has served as Greek Minister for the Interior; has been visiting scholar at Stanford, Princeton, and Oxford Universities, and a member of the European Group of Ethics and of the Venice Commission
- Clara Burbano Herrera (Belgium) - Director of the Programme for Studies on Human Rights in Context at Ghent University, co-founder and Executive member of the Inter-American Human Rights Network and the Inter-American & European Human Rights Journal, visiting professor at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Fulbright Senior Researcher at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- Oliver Windridge (U.K.) - Legal Officer at the United Nations, working in the trial and appeals chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, independent legal consultant to numerous civil society organizations, bar associations, regional bodies, and individuals
- Mark Oettinger (U.S.A.) – International lawyer, academic and author, with extensive experience in judicial systems and rule of law, co-founder and director of the International Rule of Law Consortium, director of the World Court of Human Rights Development Project
- Michael C. Davis (U.S.A.) - Academic, Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC; affiliate research scholar at the US Asia Law Institute at New York University; Research Associate at Columbia University; Professor of Law and International Affairs at India's O.P. Jindal Global University; formerly Professor in the Law Faculty at the University of Hong Kong
- Mark Vlasic (U.S.A.) – Lawyer, Senior Fellow & Adjunct Professor of Law, Institute for Law, Science & Global Security, Georgetown University; USA; Former Prosecution Attorney, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; Former White House Fellow/Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Defence; former advisor to the Director-General of UNESCO

About the Cinema for Peace Foundation

Over the past two decades, the Berlin-based Cinema for Peace Foundation has reached over one billion people, initiated more than 20 films, and helped raise more than \$10 million for humanitarian efforts, involving over 100 Oscar-winning artists, more than 30 heads of state, 100 ministers and elected officials, as well as icons of humanity and a better future such as Nelson Mandela, The Dalai Lama, Muhammad Ali, and Mikhail Gorbachev. Cinema for Peace has helped protect the lives and freedoms of dissidents such as Alexei Navalny, Ai Weiwei, Pussy Riot, and lesser-known victims such as the Burmese comedian Zaganar, whose release from prison was sparked by a documentary initiated by Cinema for Peace. The foundation's project partners include Amnesty International, Greenpeace, Human Rights Watch, United Nations programs and the International Criminal Court.



Ai Weiwei's life vest installation "Safe Passage" at the Cinema for Peace Gala in Berlin. Columns wrapped with life jackets from the Island of Lesbos.

Honouring real life heroes during the Oscar weekend: Paul Webb meeting Amelia Boynton Robinson at "Heroes" 2015 by Cinema for Peace in Los Angeles



Celebrating diversity, civil rights and core values: Muhammad Ali's global farewell at the London Olympic Games with Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton, tennis legend Boris Becker and then- heavyweight world champion Wladimir Klitschko.



Creating *Help Haiti Home* for Sean Penn



Fighting genocide and supporting refugees



Saving lives for the sake of democracy:
Evacuating Alexei Navalny to Berlin for
treatment after poisoning



Leonardo DiCaprio and Mikhail Gorbachev
initiating the “Green Oscar”
at Cinema for Peace



Dustin Hoffman’s and George Clooney’s
remarks opposing the Iraq war, at Cinema for
Peace, resonated with a global audience in
international headlines.



UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman,
and then- ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda,
campaigning for women’s rights and an end to
violence against women at Cinema for Peace

<https://www.cinemaforpeace-foundation.org/>