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## WCL Bids Farewell to Rochus Pronk

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September 30 included military officials with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda.

### Other Defendants

Several other individuals have been indicted by the ICTR and are in custody, including Joseph Kanyabashi, former burgomaster of the commune Ngoma in Butare in southern Rwanda. Kanyabashi filed a motion on May 26, 1997, arguing that the ICTR had no jurisdiction to try him, in part on the basis that no international conflict existed in Rwanda to warrant the Tribunal's creation, and questioning the impartiality of the judges. On July 3, 1997, Tanzanian judge William Sekule rejected the motion, ruling that the UN Security Council had the authority to

determine whether the conflict in Rwanda constituted a threat to international peace and security warranting the establishment of the ICTR, and that the independence of the ICTR was assured by the integrity and experience of its judges.

Also charged and in custody are Elie Ndayambaje, a former mayor in Rwanda, Ferdinand Nahimana, former Director of *Radio Mille Collines*, Andre Ntagerura, former Rwandan Minister of Transport, Anatole Nsengiyumva, former Lieutenant Colonel in the Rwandan army, and Theoneste Bagosora, former Rwandan Minister of Defense.

### Administrative Matters

On September 27, 1997, a second courtroom for the ICTR was opened in Arusha, and is currently accommodating

the joint trial of Clement Kayishema and Obed Ruzindana.

Despite the investigation and report of the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services at the beginning of 1997 into the functioning of the ICTR, logistical problems have continued to burden the Tribunal. The Tribunal's facilities in Arusha and Kigali are not designed to accommodate the number of Tribunal staff, now estimated at over 400. In July of 1997, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights issued a report indicating that the ICTR required more financial, political, and moral support, along with such crucial facilities as additional vehicles, computers, and fax machines. ☐

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## WCL Bids Farewell to Rochus Pronk

by Brian D. Tittlemore

In June of 1997, Rochus Pronk, Legal Coordinator of the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO), Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, left WCL to assume a new position with the Foreign Ministry in The Netherlands. Rochus, an attorney from Holland, was instrumental in establishing the WCRO, following his graduation from the LL.M. Program at WCL in 1995.

Rochus, an attorney from Holland, attended the LL.M. Program at WCL in 1994 and 1995, and participated in many of WCL's extracurricular activities during his time as an LL.M. student. He was elected vice president of the LL.M. Student Board and was a member of the Editorial Board for the *The Brief*. Rochus' numerous other accomplishments included organizing an informative panel discussion on the International War Crimes Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, in which the Tribunals' former Chief Prosecutor Justice Richard Goldstone and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck participated.

Following his graduation from the LL.M. program in 1995, Rochus envisioned establishing an institutionalized research facility to which the Office of the Prosecutor for the International War Crimes Tribunals (OTP) could refer international humanitarian law research projects, for analysis by WCL faculty and students. Through Rochus'



Rochus Pronk at the Seat of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

efforts, and the support of Dean Claudio Grossman, Professors Herman Schwartz, Robert Goldman, and Diane Orentlicher, and the Center's Executive Director, Robert Guiteau, among others, the OTP agreed to submit research projects to the WCRO. The Soros Foundation's Open Society Institute (OSI) granted funding for the Project. Under Rochus' coordination, OSI funding was subsequently renewed and increased for the Project's second year of operation. The WCRO was expanded to include an additional attorney, administrative staff and the capacity to retain expert consultants and provide research assistance to additional inter-

national clients. Rochus' efforts in developing the WCRO have also played a significant role in attracting students from around the world to WCL's J.D. and LL.M. programs, by providing students with a unique opportunity to study international humanitarian law and at the same time to participate in practical humanitarian law projects.

In pursuing his vision of the WCRO, Rochus left WCL with a valuable legacy. During his time here he contributed significantly to the educational and social fabric of WCL, and made many lasting friendships along the way. We will miss his comradeship, and wish him the best of luck in his new career. ☐