



Congo: The UN Mapping Report and the Responsibility to Justice

Thursday, December 2, 2010, 9:30 to 11:30 am

Forum Details:

On October 1, 2010, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights published a report mapping the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo between March 1993 and June 2003. Already ahead of its official publication, the report produced diplomatic tensions between some States in the region and the United Nations. The report implicates Congolese and foreign parties responsible for abuses – including state or non-state armed groups from Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, and Angola. According to the report, attacks against the civilian population in the Democratic Republic of Congo “reveal a number of inculpatory elements that, if proven before a competent court, could be characterized as crimes of genocide.” The December 2, 2010 Great Lakes Policy Forum will bring together scholars and researchers to discuss ramifications of the UN Mapping Report as well as suggestions for justice mechanisms to address past and ongoing crimes. How should these crimes be addressed? Which would be a competent court to address the crimes? What are the next steps for bringing about justice for the victims in the Congo? What is the impact of the report for peacebuilding? What are the implications for U.S. foreign policy in the region?

Next steps toward justice:

Mvemba Dizolele, SAIS Visiting Scholar, Independent journalist

Carina Tertsakian, Senior Researcher at Human Rights Watch, Africa Division

Peter Rosenblum, Lief, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein Clinical Professorship of Human Rights Law, Columbia Law School

Implications for regional and U.S. foreign policy:

Anthony Gambino, Independent Consultant, former USAID Mission Director for the DRC

Laura Seay, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Morehouse College

Moderator:

Peter Lewis, Director of the African Studies Program at SAIS

Bios

Mvemba Dizolele

Mvemba Phezo Dizolele is a writer, foreign policy analyst and independent journalist. Dizolele is the Peter J. Duignan Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Stanford University Hoover Institution. He is the author of a forthcoming biography: *Mobutu: the Rise and Fall of the Leopard King* (Random House UK). His analyses have been published in the *Journal of Democracy*, *New York Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The New Republic*, *Forbes*, *St Louis Post-Dispatch* and other outlets. A frequent commentator on African affairs, he has been a guest analyst on PBS' *NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer and *Foreign Exchange* with Fareed Zakaria, NPR's *On Point* and the Diane Rehm Show, the *BBC World News*, *Al Jazeera* and the *Voice of America*. Dizolele was a grantee of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and covered the 2006 historic elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With the Pulitzer Center, he produced *Congo's Bloody Coltan*, a documentary report on the relation between the Congo conflict and the scramble for mineral resources. He served as an election monitor with the Carter Center in the run-off between Joseph Kabila and Jean-Pierre Bemba. He was also

embedded with United Nations peacekeepers in Congo's war-torn Ituri and South Kivu provinces as a reporter. He holds an International Master of Business Administration and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and French from Southern Utah University. Dizolele served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve for eight years. He is fluent in French, Norwegian, Spanish, Swahili, Kikongo and Lingala, and is proficient in Danish and Swedish.

Anthony Gambino

Anthony W. Gambino served for two and half years as USAID mission director for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, receiving USAID's Superior Honor Award. He first went to Congo (then called Zaïre) in 1979, where he served for three years as a Peace Corps volunteer. From 1997 to 2004, he worked for USAID on the Congo and other countries in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. He returned to the Congo in 2006 to monitor presidential and National Assembly elections. He has worked on international development issues for the House of Representatives, the State Department, and nonprofit organizations. He presently works as an independent consultant on international development and foreign policy issues.

Peter Lewis

Peter Lewis is the Director of the African Studies Program and Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies. Central areas of interest include states, governance and development, African politics, Nigerian politics, democratization, civil society, and economic reform. Dr. Lewis earned his Ph.D. in politics from Princeton University. His publications include several books: *Growing Apart: Oil, Politics and Economic Change in Indonesia and Nigeria* (2006); *Deregulation and the Banking Crisis in Nigeria: A Comparative Study*, co-editor (2002); *Down to Earth: Changes in Attitudes Toward Democracy and Markets in Nigeria*, co-author (2001); *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa*, co-author (1999); *Stabilizing Nigeria: Sanctions, Incentives and Support for Civil Society*, co-author (1998); *Africa: Dilemmas of Development and Change*, editor (1998). He has published articles in *World Politics*, *World Development*, the *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *African Affairs*, and the *Journal of Democracy* in addition to numerous book chapters and other shorter pieces. Dr. Lewis formerly taught at Michigan State University and American University. He has consulted for the Ford Foundation, the Carter Center, the World Bank, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. He is a senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Peter Rosenblum

Peter Rosenblum is the holder of the newly created Lief, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein Clinical Professorship of Human Rights Law at Columbia Law School. Professor Rosenblum has had a wide range of experience outside academia. He was a human rights officer with the Geneva-based precursor to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, a program director of the International Human Rights Law Group, and a researcher for both Human Rights Watch and the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights. Through these postings, he has served in more than a dozen countries, though he continues to maintain a strong interest in Africa, particularly the Democratic Republic of Congo. His work in that nation has given him a unique perspective on a country that is often held up as a failure of diplomatic and humanitarian efforts. For example, in the summer of 2003, while the United Nations was negotiating entry to the war-ravaged town of Bunia, Prof. Rosenblum visited a nearby town where, he says, "self-reliance and local initiatives are thriving. Sometimes I feel like a 'harvester of hope,' collecting tales of resistance amid the chronicles of devastation in the Congo.

Laura Seay

Laura Seay is an assistant professor of political science at Morehouse College. Her research addresses community responses to state fragility in central and eastern Africa. Professor Seay has conducted extensive fieldwork in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and is currently writing a book on the differences in the ways that civil society organizations respond to the state's absence in social service provision. Professor Seay earned a PhD in Government from the University of Texas at Austin, an M.A. in African Studies from Yale University, and a B.A. in International Studies cum laude from Baylor University. She also blogs about African politics at Texas in Africa and is a contributor to the Christian Science Monitor's Africa Monitor blog.

Carina Tertsakian

Carina Tertsakian is Human Rights Watch's Senior Researcher on Rwanda, previously based in Kigali, and currently based in London. Since 1987, she has worked for several international NGOs. From 1995 to 2000, she was Amnesty International's researcher on Rwanda. From 2001 to 2005, she was the Nigeria researcher for Human Rights Watch, and also carried out research in the Democratic Republic of Congo. From 2005 to 2009, she was team leader on the Democratic Republic of Congo at Global Witness, an NGO campaigning to break the links between the exploitation of natural resources and armed conflict. Carina is the author of a book on Rwandan prisons, "Le Château: the lives of prisoners in Rwanda" (Arves Books, 2008). In 1999, she translated, updated and wrote a postscript for André Sibomana's book "*Gardons espoir pour le Rwanda*" (Hope for Rwanda), published by Pluto Press.

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