



TAKE A JOURNEY ACROSS THE GLOBE: FIFTEEN INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE HOT SPOTS

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1 Europe

The Growth of Universal Jurisdiction (UJ) Cases

Since the landmark case in 1998 in which former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet was arrested in London and held on a warrant issued by a Spanish court, a number of other universal jurisdiction-based cases have been initiated in Europe. In Spain, a judge has issued arrest warrants and extradition requests for ex-presidents and others involved in widespread atrocities in Guatemala, and another judge is investigating a case alleging genocide in Tibet. Cases have also been initiated

in the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Denmark. Universal jurisdiction has also faced some setbacks, however, including in Belgium, where the UJ law was narrowed as a result of pressure from the United States.

2 Japan

"Comfort Women"

At the end of World War II, the Military Tribunal for the Far East was established to prosecute Japanese military and governmental leaders. The Tribunal brought to justice 28 accused, but it failed to prosecute any of the cases in which women were abducted

by the Japanese Imperial Army and forced into sexual enslavement in military-controlled "comfort stations." To this day, the "comfort women" are still calling for full reparations.

3 Former Yugoslavia

International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

In 1993, the U.N. Security Council established the ICTY in response to reports of mass killings, the systematic detention and rape of women and "ethnic cleansing" within the territory of the former Yugoslavia. According to the "completion

strategy" set for the ICTY, all cases must close by 2010 even if the most senior accused have not been arrested and national courts are unable or unwilling to conduct effective criminal proceedings.

4 Rwanda

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

In an effort to hold accountable the perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide, the U.N. Security Council established the ICTR in 1994. The genocide in Rwanda was the first genocide since the Holocaust to be officially recognized as such.

5 The Hague, The Netherlands

International Criminal Court (ICC)

The Hague in the Netherlands is the base for the ICC, the world's first permanent, international body capable of bringing perpetrators of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity to justice, and providing redress to victims when states are unable or unwilling to do so.

6 Peru/Chile

Alberto Fujimori
In 2005, former Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori was detained upon his arrival in Chile on the request of Peruvian

authorities. Fujimori is wanted in Peru on charges that include first-degree murder and forced disappearance.

7 Democratic Republic Of Congo (DRC)

Thomas Lubanga

Thomas Lubanga, founder and leader of the Union of Congolese Patriots, an armed group responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the DRC, is the first person to be arrested on a warrant issued by the ICC. Lubanga was transferred to The Hague in March 2006, and his trial is expected to begin in the fall of 2007.

8 Senegal

Hissène Habré

During the 1980s, former president of Chad Hissène Habré oversaw a regime responsible for systematic torture and the deaths of some 40,000 people. After he fled Chad to live in exile in Senegal, the African Union asked Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade to bring Habré to trial in Senegal on behalf of Africa. The trial will be groundbreaking in that it will mark the first time the courts of one African country prosecute the former leader of another for crimes of this nature.

9 United States

The Alien Tort Claims Act

Survivors of human rights abuses who are not U.S. citizens have used the Aliens Tort Claims Act (ATCA) in U.S. federal court to sue those responsible for the abuses. Since 1980, the law has been used successfully in cases involving torture, crimes against humanity, war crimes, extrajudicial executions and arbitrary detention committed in countries such as El Salvador, Haiti, Paraguay, the Philippines and Chile. In recent years, the U.S. Department of State and

Department of Justice have urged U.S. courts to dismiss these lawsuits, arguing that the cases interfere with foreign investment and foreign policy. The Supreme Court has, however, rejected these attempts and affirmed the right of survivors to seek justice in U.S. courts.

10 Sudan

Historic Referral
In March 2005, the U.N. Security Council passed a historic resolution calling on the ICC to investigate crimes committed in the Darfur region of Sudan. In May 2007, the ICC issued arrest warrants

for Ahmad Harun, the state minister for Humanitarian Affairs, and Ali Kushayb, a renowned leader of the government-backed Janjaweed militia. The two face charges including murder, pillaging, rape, torture and other inhumane acts.

11 Uganda

Peace Through Justice

In 2003, Uganda asked the ICC to investigate and prosecute abuses committed during the civil war in Northern Uganda. In 2005, the ICC issued arrest warrants against leaders of the rebel group Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), who

are accused of widespread murder, sexual slavery and the recruitment and use of child soldiers. While the possibility of amnesties for LRA leaders has been raised in peace talks between the Ugandan government and the LRA, the ICC continues to pursue its case. International law prohibits amnesties for crimes of the magnitude of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

12 Guatemala

Efraín Ríos Montt

After facing severe delays in Guatemalan courts, a group of survivors seeking justice for crimes committed

by Guatemalan military forces in the early 1980s took their case to Spanish courts in 1999. They saw a breakthrough in their case in 2006, when Spain's National Court charged General Ríos Montt and other former senior officials with genocide, torture, terrorism and illegal detention, and issued international warrants for their arrest. Guatemalan authorities subsequently took some of the accused into custody to ensure that they would not flee the country. Ríos Montt, however, remains free.

13 Chile

The Legacy of Augusto Pinochet

Thousands of cases of human rights violations were reported during Augusto Pinochet's rule in Chile between 1973 and 1990. His arrest in London in 1998 served as a catalyst for renewed efforts in Chile to hold him accountable and set precedents that will have a long-lasting impact on the global struggle against impunity. Although Pinochet's death in December 2006 ended the campaign to bring him to justice, the cases pending against his co-defendants continue.

14 Cambodia

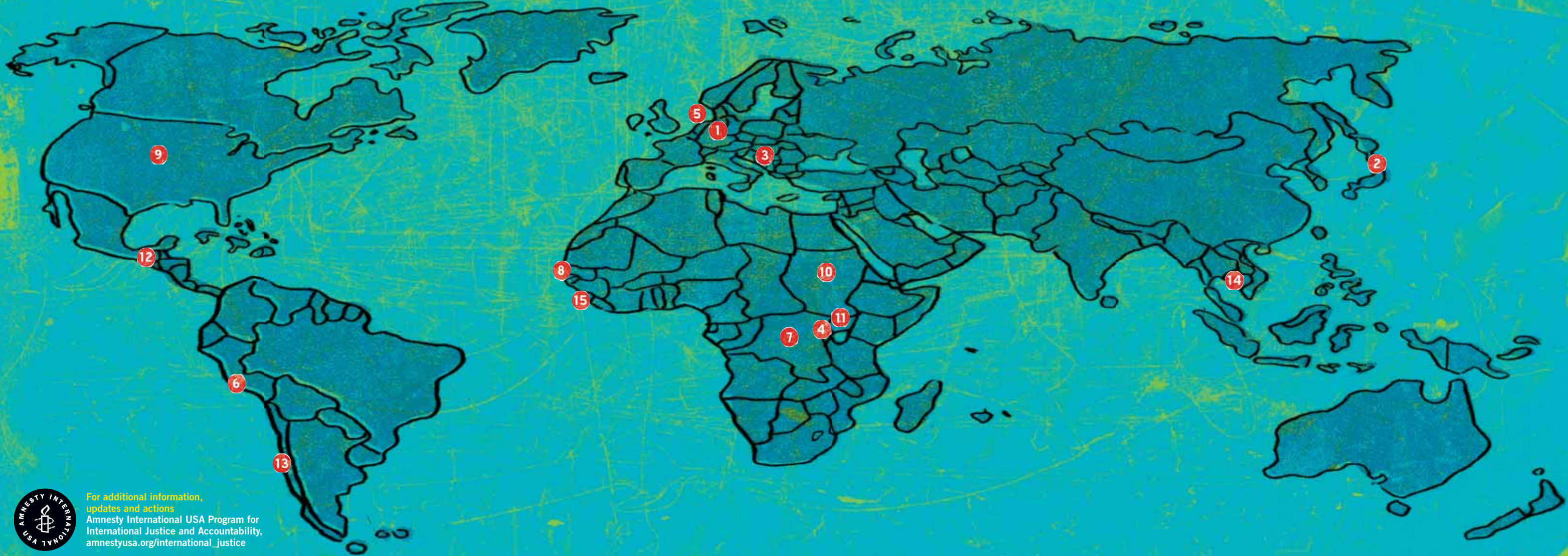
The Extraordinary Chambers

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia is an internationalized (or "mixed") tribunal, based both on international and national law, to investigate and prosecute senior Khmer Rouge leaders responsible for human rights violations committed between 1975 and 1979. It was established following years of negotiations between the U.N. and the government of Cambodia, some thirty years after the Khmer Rouge first took power.

15 Sierra Leone

Charles Taylor

Charles Taylor, former president of Liberia, was indicted in 2003 by the Special Court of Sierra Leone on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his involvement in Sierra Leone's civil war. During the decade-long war, children were recruited into combat and tens of thousands of civilians were killed. In 2006, Charles Taylor was surrendered to the court, and the trial will begin in early 2008.



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