

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

**Judge Sang-Hyun Song
President of the International Criminal Court**

Women's Court

Kampala, Uganda
1 June 2010

- I would like to thank the organisers of today's event, the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, for the invitation and allowing me the great pleasure to address the participants, contributors and observers of the Women's Court.
- I am especially pleased to see so many activists and NGOs from Uganda, the Congo, Central Africa, Sudan coming together for this important event.
- Women's rights organizations were very active in Rome, and it is therefore entirely appropriate and necessary that you are here in full force at the Review Conference.
- We can see the fruits of your efforts in Rome throughout the Statute.
 - The Rome Statute is the first statute of an international court to recognise a range of acts of sexual and gender violence as among the most serious crimes under international law.
 - These offences include rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilisation and other grave forms of sexual violence. They are classified as war crimes and crimes against humanity.
 - In addition, trafficking and gender-based persecution are also included as crimes against humanity. The Statute specifically stipulates, for the first time, the recognition of gender as a basis for persecution.
 - The Statute also specifically addresses the need for expertise in dealing with victims of sexual violence or violence against women and children.
- The Court and the ASP must continue to build on and live up to the legacy you have created.
 - I take particular pride that out of the 18 judges of the Court now, 11 are women. The men are in the minority for what is very probably the first time in an international court!
 - We continue to take care to listen to the voices and concerns of women and of organizations like the Women's Initiatives.
 - Nobody has suffered more as innocent victims of conflict, and your voices should be heard.
 - I hope that this Women's Court will add an important voice which will reverberate throughout the Review Conference.
 - I thank you again and I wish you good luck!