



Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

Official Transcript: Beth Lyons (Part 13 of 13)



Role:	Defense Counsel
Country of Origin:	United States
Interview Date:	3 November 2008
Location:	Arusha, Tanzania
Interviewers:	Batya Friedman Ronald Slye
Videographer:	Max Andrews
Interpreter:	None

Interview Summary

Beth Lyons highlights the importance of a fair trial for all. She discusses the politicization of ICTR prosecutions, particularly the failure to investigate war crimes committed by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). She states she has found no evidence of a plan to commit genocide by those accused by the Tribunal, which she views as a key difference between the events in Rwanda and the Holocaust. Lyons reflects on the inequity of resources between the prosecution and defense.

The transcript of Part 13 begins on the following page.

Part 13

- 00:00** **Ronald Slye: My last last question. What do you take away from this process, from working at the ICTR? How has it changed you?**
- 00:08 I think, personally I certainly want to do more international work although there's not much and it's hard, but I think that it's, you know, I think clearly, you know, I, I have learned so much.
- 00:21 It has opened up my perspectives, not just legally but also in terms of, you know, culturally, politically, et cetera. And I think it's been a great opportunity to meet people, to exchange with them.
- 00:37 But basically to work side by side with people which is very, very, it's a very different experience than just of going someplace, you know. And I think that in seeing things. And for me, that's, that's the most important and I certainly value the colleagues that I have met here and both the members of my current team and members of my last team as well as individuals I've met who are here and in various positions at the ICTR.
- 01:08 And, and to me, that's, that's what's most important. It's also given me a, a better, a better, more realistic sense of what the struggle for international justice is and, and where the issues need to be, need to be focused on, where the, where the battlegrounds are and also where the, you know, where the areas of compromise are, et cetera, et cetera.
- 01:36 And I think that it's, you know, it's important and I only wish that I would have the opportunity. I don't wish that there would be a – the problem is that these, these international tribunals all deal with situations that are, you know, horrendous for the people that I really believe – and not simply internal situations, but involve external interference as well by other countries.
- 02:05 And I certainly, you know, it would be great if there was no need to have, have these kinds of, of tribunals, the ICC. And I certainly feel with the ICC that they need to look at even since 2002 the kinds of crimes particularly, you know, when they, they settle on aggression and whether or not they're going to adopt 3314 [corrected by Beth Lyons via email on January 17, 2015] re-, GA resolution which I hope they do.
- 02:35 But when they settle the crime of aggression, the aggression particularly of my own country, you know, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, it will be unfortunately, I hope not, but I'm just saying it had and it can't be a, a, it can't be a court only for one continent because these crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC are being committed elsewhere in the world.
- 03:02 So I'm concerned that it not become as the, the, it – that it not become a, a court that, that does not deal with the crimes of the, of the major powers. It deals only with, with this continent because to me, that is wrong and not reflective of the situation in the world.

03:24 **RS: Great. Thanks Beth.**

03:26 You're welcome. Thank you.