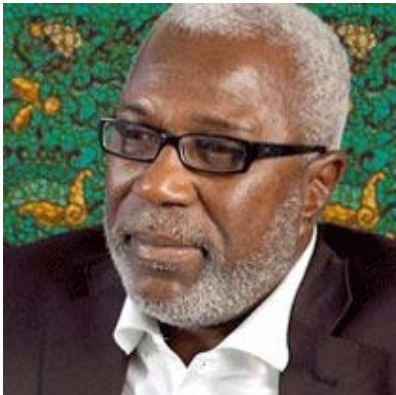




Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

Official Transcript: Bocar Sy (Full Interview)



Role:	Chief of Press and Public Affairs
Country of Origin:	Senegal
Interview Date:	30 October 2008
Location:	Arusha, Tanzania
Interviewers:	Lisa P. Nathan Donald J Horowitz
Videographer:	Nell Carden Grey
Interpreter:	None

Interview Summary

Bocar Sy discusses his responsibilities at the ICTR Press Office and the many obstacles he had to overcome to create an effective media program. Two key challenges included the fact that the ICTR initially saw no need for a press office and the severe limitations on communication posed by an inadequate technological infrastructure in Arusha. Sy speaks about the various methods used by the Press Office to disseminate information about the ICTR to the public.

The transcript of the interview begins on the following page.

Part 1

- 00:00 **Lisa P. Nathan: Well, thank you very much. My name is Lisa Nathan, I'm with the Information School at the University of Washington and I would like to begin by asking you to say your name, your home country and your role here, your job title.**
- 00:17 Thank you, Lisa. My name is Bocar Sy, I'm from Senegal originally, but I'm living in France for something like 40 years. I grew up there, I went to school, to university there and since something like now ten, maybe say more, 12 years here in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda working for the United Nation system we can say.
- 00:49 Yes and I'm the Chief of Press and Information or, if you want, the Chief of what is called communication cluster, dealing with information and public relations.
- 01:03 **LPN: Have you had other roles at the ICTR? Did you come here as Chief of Press or were there other things that you did? And what year did you start?**
- 01:13 I'm the one who set the Office of Information and relation with the public. When I was, when I joined the ICTR – it was in 1996, May 1996. It was just after the tribunal has been set here in Arusha. The judge were at that time, they were not based here, they were not here in a permanent basis.
- 01:42 They was going and coming, they were just coming to sit whenever they have to hear a case like the initial appearance, when somebody is arrested or when they have to confirm an indictment or something like that. That is why they, they, they used to come at that time. But they were not here in a regular basis.
- 02:03 We used to have one judge coming to confirm an indictment; another one can come a month later or something like that. At that time they were not – that is when I have been hired by the tribunal to set the office of the press and information. There was nothing here at that time, it was, it was not so easy, it was, it is not like this.
- 02:24 Now that, you know, you can sit in an office like this and have an interview with these cameras and whatever – at that time that was not the case, because for the people to, to, to reach this place, like I suppose coming from Nairobi, which is just here where you have a, a large number of journalists based there. You know that Nairobi is a very important base for the journalists covering this area.
- 02:48 It was really, really, really – I, I don't know how to say exactly but it was really a problem for them. First of all the roads were not very good. The roads from here to Nairobi which is something like less than 300 kilometers but they have to travel the whole day. And they had to leave in the morning in Nairobi and can join this place at the end of the afternoon, beginning of the night.
- 03:13 It was really, really a problem and there was no fixed road. Now that, if, if you, if you, if you go in town you will be so surprised. If – for someone who has been here like me for ten, 12 years, you will see they have – the roads are properly fixed.

- 03:31 The lights are working properly, they have, they have traffic lights. At the time we cannot imagine that we will have one day a traffic light in this town that was big, I mean, holes on the – what we used to call craters on the roads you know, they, they were, they were. You cannot imagine how it was so difficult to move in this town.
- 03:55 And that was really one, one of the things you know, which can surprise someone who has been here in 1996 and now you know, how things, things have been improved. That is, that is when I joined this place and everything has to be built. That was nothing and I was talking about Nairobi, but I can take the example of Dar es Salaam.
- 04:18 At that time to join Dar es Salaam through the telephone lines you have to try maybe during one hour or more just to have the line connected. That was really a problem. That is why if you, if you look at the roof of this building you'll have big satellite dishes. That is why the communication decided to put these satellite dishes to facilitate the communication, the telephone communication and also have these internet and website.
- 04:48 At that time there was no website, there was no internet. The only way to communicate with people was to send them fax and fax was working with the telephones, or telephone, or make a phone call or drive your car to go, to join them, which was not so easy. Dar es Salaam is at something like more than 500 kilometers. You imagine to go there and the roads were not so good at that time. That was really a problem.

Part 2

- 00:00 **LPN: Can you tell me about your responsibilities in your role that you've had for so many years? Some of your job responsibilities, the things that you do, even a typical day.**
- 00:11 Answer to the questions, to the queries of who else, it can be journalists calling from wherever, from the United States, from South Africa, from Senegal, from wherever to have an information about, about the tribunal. Find the information for them if it is available; send it to them. Because what you should know is that my office deals only with what we call public information.
- 00:36 It is not like you know, a freelance journalist coming here trying to gather some information, trying to find some information going by himself, try it – no. I deal with what is called public information. That should be something which comes from the registry, approved, let us say, by the parties like the chambers we can say or the Prosecutor or whatever and considered as being public.
- 01:01 Being public mean that can be sent to the public or disseminated to the public, that I'm not dealing with something confidential. What I deal is something, we can call it if you want, official. Anyway, that is how, how I deal.
- 01:18 And, and a normal day here for me is also follow, to follow what is going on in the courtrooms, to know what is going on, because you know that we have four

courtrooms here. And all these c-, courtrooms, when they're working on, when they work together, that means we have four cases going together and we have to report on these four cases.

01:37 Journalist are coming from outside or public are coming from outside to attend the courts. You have – my office have to welcome them, to direct them, to show them where to go, what to do and what, what, what they can attend because sometimes also we can have courtrooms which are "in camera" as we call. I don't know if this the proper word, but whatever. That mean that public is not admitted there, that means they are, they are, they are in the camera, you cannot be there.

02:08 Only when it is decided that this is public, that is where we can admit journalist and public to watch it. And at the end of the day, at the end of the day, not today, not, not every day I mean, but usually we write a press release. A press release is just a summary of what have happened in the court. If we deem it interested, interesting, to be disseminated to the public, to be sent out to the public, we write a press release and we send it out for the public to know.

02:39 We send it through the mail, we send it through the fax. Sometimes what happen is that to – if let us () take a case of an initial appearance, which is the first time that an accused person appeared before the court, or a judgment which we, we deem very, very important for people following the cases, we, we also record it.

03:01 Videotape it and send it through our satellite because we have, we have a – we don't have satellite, but let us say, we have, we have what we call a transponder. We have a part in a satellite, which is, which the – () which is very, very important covering from this part to the east part of the United Nations, let us say. That is, that is something that we, we can do also.

03:25 (), we receive people every day here, we have school boys coming. Sh-, people showing, showing up at, at, at the gates just, they don't have to have an appointment to be, to be authorized to come and see what is going on.

03:39 It is a public place and we're calling people to come and to watch or to be informed on what is going on here, because the first mission of, in the overall mission of (), first, the first mission of this is to inform people of what is going on and how justice is rendered.

04:02 LPN: Can you describe the, the people that work with you in the press office? Something about your team?

04:09 We are, we are journalists; because we, we're dealing with, with press. They call them sometime, you know, public relations officers, but it's the same because dealing with publics and press and information whatever. They are journalists; they are very competent people. I can say with a background of more than 15 years ().

- 04:32 They are bilingual; some of them are trilingual if I can say, because some of them speak Swahili and also Kinyarwanda, because, because you know that my department deal with these two official languages which are French and English.
- 04:50 But it is, it is also important for us to have someone who can deal with Swahili which is the language of the country where we are and also Kinyarwanda which is the language of Rwanda which is you know, the country which we are dealing with, where the, the witnesses are from and the country that we want to, as much as possible – which (____) the population, the Rwandese population should be informed about what is going on here.
- 05:23 And the best way for us maybe to reach them is to talk to them in the language that they understand you know, which is the Kinyarwanda usually.
- 05:35 And the people working with me are, as I told you, journalists. We are, here in, in my office in Arusha, we are not too many. Let us say that, we are myself and two colleagues also, journalists who are here. One is a Tanzanian, the other one is a Rwandese speaking, speaking Kinyarwanda, leading this project. Whatever is called project because we have to take a lot of projects when we have money.
- 06:10 That is very important because you cannot just take projects just like that without money, but as I say whenever we have money, we undertake some projects that we have because we have a lot of project dealing with what we call outreach program, trying, you know, to build something important for the Rwandese population and also for the people of the Great Lake region.
- 06:31 (____). And we have assistants, two assistants, dealing, working with me. One is dealing with the website, very important, very important job and she's also what we call an additional assistant because you know that we issue also – in my department, (____) the fact that we issue whatever is public, whatever is brochures, whatever is leaflets that should be sent out and things like that.
- 06:56 We also have a newspaper, a newsletter. I could say it's a newsletter, a monthly news-, newsletter, where we publish important informations for the public, for lawyers or who else is interested by the job that we are doing. This is just to summarize what my department is doing. But as you know information is large aspect. It's, it's, it's very large.

Part 3

00:00 LPN: Do you also have staff in Kigali?

- 00:04 Yes, we have staff in Kigali, colleagues in Kigali dealing with the, the outreach programs, specifically. We have an office there called Umusanzu, Umusanzu which mean, I think, reconciliation or something like that. Because you know that part of our mission, part of the mission of the tribunal is to render justice and through rendering justice, try to make reconciliation to those people.

- 00:29 Because you can make justice fine, but if there is no reconciliation that means these things can blow up tomorrow. People can wake up and say, “Okay fine, but it is now my time,” maybe you know to, whatever. It is, is so sad.
- 00:43 That’s why part of our mission is to render justice. The job of the judges and the lawyers, work on reconciliation, part of them also. And (___) see a very important part of us, the press information because people should know that justice is done and justice is rendered in a fair way, and from that maybe they can sit together, build something new and start something new, yes (_____).
- 01:12 **LPN: So you just touched on a few different ways that your office has dealings within Rwanda and you’re reflecting some on the, the sadness, the tragedy that happened there. Can you tell me, reflect back for a minute, what you were doing in 1994 and when you heard about the events going on in Rwanda?**
- 01:39 1994, the tragedy started in April 1994. I was in Paris, at that time I was working for private channel TV called Canal Plus. I think that I was – the first day that I saw what is going on, I was sitting in my living room with my daughter who was at that time four years old, and I was, I was shocked, shocked. I was, I cannot describe what, what I felt, felt the first time that I saw these images coming from – I don’t know how to describe it but it was, it was, I was, I was so shocked, so sad.
- 02:29 I couldn’t imagine that these kinds of things can happen you know, in the, in this 20 centuries. I was, I was, I was not, I was not prepared for that and I think that nobody was prepared for that and especially when you are sitting with your daughter. She was, she was four years old but I think that she, she was – she understood what – yes, what was going on really seeing these people you know, killed with machetes, killed with stones, you know, babies, old people, woman.
- 03:07 And really – that was, that was, that was something, shock. And at that time I didn’t think that I will one day apply to come to work for the tribunal which would have, which mission will be to try these “génocidaires” quote, unquote, if you can call them that.
- 03:24 **LPN: Can you share that story of how it, how you came to apply here?**
- 03:29 Well, as I told you this, when these things happen I was, I was, I was sitting on my, on my, on my living room. That was where I was, where I was watching this news and also when I, when I was also in the office I, I, I used to share, you know, I would say the feelings with some colleagues asking me, “What is, what is happening there? Is, is, is the world crazy, now? How come these things can happen and nothing, nothing is, is, is done?”
- 03:58 And, I think that was just by chance because some few years after that in, the year after I think I went to New York. I went to New York for a mission. I went to the headquarter because I had some, some, some colleagues and some friends working there that, that I, that I approached or who, who approached me, yes, saying that, “Oh, it, it could

- (____) interesting if you, if y-, if you, if you want to join the department of information,” which is called DPI, Department of Public Information, that.
- 04:41 “Why don’t (____) – it can make a change for you because you know, you used to work for a, for a national TV.” Because before that I used to work for my national TV in Senegal, that from there that I went in Paris to work for this private channel which is Canal Plus. “That can be, as we say, a place for you because you have worked for the national TV, you have worked for a private TV. It will be interesting for you maybe to work for an international group, group, like you know, Uni-, United Nations.”
- 05:08 And that’s how I went there, I approached them. But at that time they didn’t have nothing for, for, for me because I think that – when they set this place they didn’t think first of all about information or communication. That was maybe just a, a small part for, for them.
- 05:24 The most important for them was to set the place with lawyers, with judges, with who else is involved in, in law, but not exactly press people because at that time I think that they were not – they were a little reluctant, you know, about press people.
- 05:43 They, they, they want to keep them as-, aside because they, they were not very confident with them because they’re not used – I mean, the lawyers are not used really to work with the, with press people.
- 05:56 That’s why at that time I think that they didn’t think that it will be important for them to improve or to develop an important office of communication here, which, which is, which is now the case. And I approached them and I went to the DPI and met some people there.
- 06:14 I, I filled a, a form for that, but it took a long times. And in 1996 they informed me that they have a position here for an Information Officer who can, who was willing, if I was willing to join the place.
- 06:32 I didn’t know where Arusha was. Yes, I, I knew Arusha because it is – as a journalist I know that Nyerere the former president of this country, yes, had a very important speech here, (____) called “Déclaration d’Arusha.”
- 06:47 And also I, I was following also this peace process for the Rwanda peace process, you know, remember that. And no, but, but, but I couldn’t imagine that it was so far and it was – how tough. Whatever you know, it, it, it was, it was so difficult to, to, to join this place because at that time coming from, from Europe, coming from Paris you have to travel, which is the case until now, the whole day, I mean you have to travel the whole day.
- 07:17 You leave there at 6 o’clock and join this place at ten in the night and it was not so, so, so easy. And (____) and I, when I came here, my first day I think it was not so easy; there was no office for me. They were not expecting me maybe. I had to sit in the, somewhere in the corridor. The whole day I spent in there, nobody looked at me. We

were, we were not so many, maybe at that time we were something like less than fifty people, we were.

07:48 And, and at the end of the day I went to see the Chief of Administration who was there. And I asked him, yes, and I told to him, "You know that I'm here, I'm coming from Paris. I'm the new Information Officer, but nobody has welcomed me. Nobody has given me, shown me an office whatever, what is, what is, what is the problem?"

08:12 Well, he said he was so busy. "Okay, okay, we will solve the problem there," () whatever. The day after that was the (), and which is very funny is that I, I saw an office which was closed, yeah, the door was closed. Okay, I knocked at the door, there was nobody there and I opened the office, it was an empty office and entered it and I sit. But the problem is that it was not, it was not an office for the press; it was an office for the judge.

08:39 (), when, when the, when the, when the Chief Administra-, Administration at that time saw that, he quickly run in the office, ask me, "Please, please, come, come. Could y-, could you come, could you come out?" I said, "No, no, no, I'm fine, I'm fine here. Don't worry, I'm fine, I have found my way here." He said, "No this is the office . . ." It was not only the office of the, of the judge, it was the office of the President at that time.

09:04 Okay, then they find me, at the end of that day they find me an office somewhere and I started working but it was not, it was not really easy. And as I told you, they're not used to press people. The judges deals with confidential, let us say something very, you know, sensitive which is law and which is, which something deal with, you know, the future of people and things like that.

09:35 Usually they, they keep the press aside and that was really the case. To have a little information for them, from them at the time, it was a mess – I had to, I had to fight to have the information. Yes, and I remember saying, "Now, listen, I'm here to do a job. If you don't want me to do the job, I can move now. I can just pack my things and go back to Paris, I can do that. You just have to tell me what you expect from me. I mean, everything is secret here. I'm not, I don't know what is going on."

10:07 But after, things, things has improved. Yes, (), yes, things has improved enough to, they become you know, more – not friendly but you know, more used, you know, to see me, you know, hanging around, or you know, asking questions because as I said, that's part of my job. If you don't give me the information I can ask also.

10:29 And slowly, slowly we have set that office. The people have joined the team and, and now as you see we have an office here and an office also in Kigali which, which works very, very well, which goes to the field, which goes to the countryside to inform people, on what is going on. They organize, you know, exhibitions there, they organize workshops. They do whatever should be done to reach maximum of people.

Part 4

- 00:00** LPN: Can you tell me – as you reflect back on your time here I imagine you have some surprises, like the first day when you came and there was no office, but I’m sure that there are some others. Can you ref-, think back for a few moments and share with me some other surprises that you have experienced in your time here?
- 00:23 Surprises, oh, I would say that on my day here, everyday I’m surprised at what’s going on or how the things has, has moved, has improved, yes. Well it's, in any case it, it is related to the, to my work and to the, to the perception that people had about the press, you know. What, what is press, what means press, what is the work of the, what is the job of the press? Yes, that is, that is, that is something that . . .
- 01:00 One of the most – yes, that was, that was – one, one of this experience was that for the first judgment, the first case which has been tried in this tribunal, I mean tried, I, I did-, didn’t talk about the sentence or whatever, tried you know (_____) the process tribunal was the one of Jean Paul Akayesu.
- 01:27 At that time it was so difficult, as we say, you know, for the press people to join Arusha, to reach Arusha, to come to Arusha. But because it was the first judgment by this tribunal, I have contacted all my network and I, I meant my network worked, I contacted colleagues in Dar es Salaam, Paris, wherever, in Nairobi, and a lot of press people came down. They came down from these various countries, from South Africa, and from whatever.
- 02:08 But the problem was where to house them? At that time we did not have the pressroom, which was also one of the big fight – I can call it "big fight" quote unquote – that I had to, to deliver with the, with the administration. We didn’t have, we didn’t have nothing, and as I told you it was so difficult.
- 02:31 The telephone lines were not very good. We didn’t have at that time these big dishes, satellite which facilitate our communication now. And people has come down here. But people has to work, to write their papers, or to record their voice for the radio or whatever and to send it also because they, they just cannot keep it but they have also to send it as we see, (_____).
- 02:56 What, what can we do? (___), I was, I was thinking of, of a way maybe where to house these colleagues coming from outside and coming to report on our work. And we had a meeting with the colleagues at that time, here the colleagues, the Chief of the Administration, the Registrar at that time. I say, anyway in any case we will have to find a way to share with them what we have; telephones, offices or somewhere.
- 03:29 And someone am-, among the colleagues had a brilliant idea and say, “Oh, yes I know what we can do. We can set a tent.” A tent like when you go to the bush for the safari, in the, in the car park for them, for the press people, you know. Can you imagine, “We can, we can just put them in a tent, in the car park, that’s not a problem. They don’t need all these whatever, Bocar, (_____) these facilities, they don’t need it. Let us just put them there.”

- 04:02 I was, I was – yes, it was, it was, it was amazing (_____). And also I was just surprised how, how someone can think that you know, just because they are press people they don't need all these things you know, facilities or they don't need you know, you just have to leave them there. They just need a piece of paper and, and their pen and just they'll just do, do the, whatever, job.
- 04:28 And I get, I got a little upset about that and I had to argue, to argue with this, to let them know that anyway the job they are doing is maybe the lawyers are doing a very good job but they should know that without the press the job will not be done and that will be just, maybe I can say zero.
- 04:51 Yes, because they can do the best job they, they, they think they are doing that if it is not known by the, the public, by the, by the, by the press, if it's not known by the international community, if it is not known, it is nothing, it is just peanuts.
- 05:04 They should know that. First of all they should consider the press as part of the mission. Without the press they should forget about it and that is, that was one of the, you know, this experience that I had, (_____) that it's not easy for them to deal with the press.

Part 5

- 00:00 **LPN: So I just have, myself, two more questions; the first one is as you look back on your time here, is there something that you are proud of in your work here? Maybe many things . . .**
- 00:11 Ah yes.
- 00:11 **LPN: . . . but can you think of one thing that you are willing . . .**
- 00:16 Proud of one thing so, no, no, one thing, one thing's (____) difficult.
- 00:19 **LPN: Well . . .**
- 00:21 Let's say that during these 12 years now, yes, that I have spent, that I spent here, I think that I can, I can, I can be proud yes, of, of what has been done by my unit, by my department, by I mean myself and my colleagues who (__) working with me is, as you say I was mentioning to you, to convince people that our job, our, our part, that we have also part in the mission, was not so easy.
- 00:59 And that the most difficult things in this house is maybe to have the information on time, to get it on time. The job can be done, it is done by the judge in the court, they have, they, they can take decisions, they can take whatever sign the paper, but they never think about forwarding or giving it to the press. For the press to be able to write on time, to disseminate it on time, to do whatever should be done. That is, that was what from the beginning I'm, I'm dealing with that you know.
- 01:34 Every time I have to, to try to convince people that, fine, what, what you think that is maybe a confidential for you, maybe it is not, you know, for the, for the press people.

Confidential meaning for you that it, it shouldn't be, go out or if, if it goes out it can create problems, which is true that, that we respect. But sometimes it is just from your perspectives, you know, that this is confidential, this is not so.

02:04 And as I told you, and as, as I told them sometimes, they can hide an information from me and, and I (_____) information from outside. I mean from outside, I say, s-, something is wrong in these things. I'm an inside, inside the house, I am, I don't have access to the information and some of my colleagues who are freelance going around in the corridors or whatever can get it, this information and disseminate it before I get the information.

02:39 And sometimes what happens is they come to me and (___), "Can you confirm the information?" I say, "How can I confirm information that I don't have? Where did you get that information? (____)." And they say, "Okay, we have you know, our, our networks," which, which is very good. I don't have any problem about that.

02:55 But now things has really improved yes, a lot, yes, because I think that they know exactly what the press has done for them. I think that we have done an important job. It is not enough for sure because you know, you see where we are. You, you came from Washington, you see, the time it cost you to, to join this place what I can say is, is out of, it took hours and hours to get here.

03:32 But it is – we have, we have done what, what was, what was in our – yes, possibility. It, it could have been improved if at the beginning, as I tell, if tomorrow they have to set a tribunal and I don't know, that they consult me or they consult whatever journalist. First thing that I will tell them is put in place a communication team.

03:57 Put in place an of-, a, an information teams and around that maybe you can build your system, you can build your, whatever you want but without the information part of the, of the job will not be really done. That's on my view.

04:18 LPN: So I began that question asking you if there's something that you're proud of and my understanding of that is how things have turned around here and how now there is the recognition of the important role that the press plays in order for the world, for the Rwandese to know what's going on here.

04:35 LPN: Is there – the flip side to that question I'm also going to ask – so is there something that you're not so proud from the press point of view? Something that you wish either you could go back and change or you would recommend for the future from the, the press perspective?

04:51 Yes, yes, whi-, which is – as you say which is the, the, the opposite of what I'm proud of but it is, it is included in that yes, because I'm proud of the change of perspectives that, that I hope that have occurred here you know, since I'm here, since I'm dealing with the colleagues from the, they, they can be Office of the Registrar, Prosecutor, or the chambers, for them now to, to, to know or now to feel that we are also part of the missions.

- 05:27 The, the, the press is – part, part of the mission is – that also the, the, the – but the whole thing, I’m not proud, I’m not proud, I’m not proud. But let us say that I could, I could, I could have been more – I could, I could, I could, I could have convi- them, convinced them, you know. I don’t know, better convince them, you know, for them, for the administration because I depend, I’m, I’m part of the registry; whatever I can do should be supported by the registrar, should be supported by the administration.
- 06:12 But, but as I, I could, I could have been more diplomat or more – I, I don’t to, I don’t know the, which word to use but I could have, I could have been – I could have convinced them more for them, you know, to put in place whatever is needed because up to now we don’t, we don’t, we are, we are, as I say, we are short of, we are short of staff and whatever things like that.
- 06:43 And, and try to, to respond to, to, to your question is that, we have a press office downstairs but it took me many, many years to convince them that we need a place to house journalists who come you know, to visit us. They can be journalists coming for one day or three, or two days, or one week or whatever or being here in a permanent basis but we should have what is called a press office.
- 07:16 Where we can put facilities like telephone lines, you know, electricity, tables for them, put the TV for them to screen what is going on. They don’t need to go to the courtroom; they can sit there and watch in the screen what is going on, (_____). But it took me a lot of, a lot of, a lot of, a lot of – not fight but you know, arguing with people, you know, exchange of whatever.
- 07:44 And I remember when, that at that time the Chief of Administration at the time, told me one day, “Can you imagine how you want to treat your journalists, you are treating them like your babies. You want to give them whatever they need.” I say, “That, that’s my job, I have to treat them well, if you want them to report on our work.” Well, anyway, yes, I could have been more convi-, convincing yes, (_____) “convaincre,” we’ll say in French, yes.
- 08:17 LPN: Thank you.

Part 6

- 00:00 **Donald J Horowitz: I’m Judge Donald Horowitz of Washington state and I’m going to be conducting the, the last half of, of the interview. I had a few questions, some of which follow on the questions that Lisa asked you. You talked about sometimes the court pro-, proceedings are pub-, available to the public and the public can go and watch.**
- 00:22 **DJH: And other times they are what you called “in camera,” which means that they are off limits, private (__) to the public and I wanted to clarify why that would be? Do you know the answer to why they would close off a hearing or a portion of a hearing?**
- 00:44 You want me to answer to that question now?

- 00:46** DJH: Yeah.
- 00:47 Okay, first of all I'm not a lawyer.
- 00:50** DJH: I know that.
- 00:51 Okay.
- 00:52** DJH: I, I mean, I have my ideas as to why they would do it . . . okay, well . . .
- 00:54 Yes, I'm sure that you are the best person who can, who can answer to that question, but what I know is that usually what happens is that they can, they can be in a public proceeding, you know, public, public sitting, journalists are there in the public gallery, the proceeding is going on and you hear one of the parties – it can be the, the lawyers in the defense counsel or the Prosecutor, asking for closed session. What they call closed session.
- 01:24** DJH: What are the general reasons if you hear them asking for that (_____)?
- 01:28 Because, because, because sometimes it is when they have a witness that, that, I would say that they don't control properly because one, they have what is called protected witness. This guy is protected as it is say, we don't, we don't see his face, we don't hear his voice and he don't give confidential information which can identify him like where he lives, where he went in school, who is his brother, things like that which can help people to identify him.
- 02:02 And sometimes it happen that when someone is testifying, a protected witness, the witness can forget about this recommendation and he can talk about where he went to school, who was his friend and what is the name of his wife if he's a, if he's a man, or what is the name of his husband if it is, if she is a lady, things like that.
- 02:25 I mean that is to respect the confidentiality of the witness, yes. I think that is one of the reason. But the other reasons belong to the chamber. It's the President who decides yes or no; they can go in closed session.
- 02:44** DJH: Well you did a very good job of what I would call, have called a witness security or witness safety or witness protection, which is the same thing. Your, you gave a good, good reasons and of course that would be my answer, that there are certain witnesses who endanger themselves or could put themselves in danger because they're giving sensitive information and if they go back to some other place and are identified, they could be harmed and the court needs to protect them to get the information.
- 03:15** DJH: And there are other times when for court security, one reason or another, they have to close, and, and also sometimes the privacy for example of a victim.
- 03:24 Yes, also.
- 03:26** DJH: Particularly in a sexual, in a case involving sexual infor-, information . . .

- 03:28 Sex, s-, yes, yes.
- 03:31 DJH: . . . and they don't want to embarrass or you know, somebody, and so forth. I, I just wanted that for the record so . . .**
- 03:37 Yes.
- 03:39 DJH: . . . one of the things I'm interested in, there, there are sometimes that things go on with the court that have more nationa-, international implic-, significant international implications. Do you coordinate with New York, with the headquarters, from time to time on releases or on stories, responses and so forth?**
- 04:00 With New York, we are, we are, as we say, permanent contact.
- 04:06 DJH: Permanent contact?**
- 04:07 Yes. I call it permanent contact. It is not, it is not, it is not a daily, in a daily basis but if necessary it can be it. I mean, at any time I can take my phone and call the headquarters, specially the Office of the Spokesperson or the Office of the DPI if I need any support, or any help, or any answer to an information.
- 04:29 And they do also the same when we release, because I can tell you that in our mailing list you know, that we have a mailing list, which we have the name of people to whom we send the information.
- 04:43 At the top of this mailing list you have the Office of the Secretary General first of all, the first in the list, followed by the Office of the Spokesperson in New York. They are the first people informed about what is going on. They are the first person who receives whatever information we send out from here. They are the first who receive it first of all.
- 05:05 And, and it happen that sometimes the Spokesperson or one of the, his colleagues or one of the staff take his phone, telephone here to have more detail in the information that we have released and they do also the same when we have very important information we first inform them, like we will have a judgment.
- 05:30 I'm thinking of an example of a judgment because judgment for a court, you, you would judge you know, that the most important thing for a court is a judgment. I don't know if, if I'm right or not anyway.
- 05:40 When we have something like that here, we inform the, the Office of the Spokesperson and the Office of DPI to approach the journalists because they have very important team you know, of journalist at the headquarters, to inform them about this event which will come and they help us organize sometimes telephone interviews with the journalists who are there, to, to talk to them or for them also to talk to someone here. We are, we are in a . . .
- 06:14 DJH: You're capable of being in, in, in very, in consistent contact.**

- 06:19 Yes.
- 06:19 DJH: If you, if you wish it and they wish it, at any given time.**
- 06:21 Yes, absolutely and then, and what's happened is that whenever we have our officials going there in New York, we organize with the DPI and the Office of the Spokesperson, what we call noon briefing. You know that every day, at every time – except maybe on Sunday, I think they don't have it but I'm not very sure, we'll have to check – they have what they call the noon briefing. At every noon in New York, the Office of the Spokesperson briefs the journalists on the last development on the, the organization.
- 06:56 Then what's happened is that whenever we have our officials going there, the President, the Prosecutor, the Registrar, I try to organize with the Office of the Spokesperson for them to be invited once for this briefing. I mean for them to meet the journalists, to be in contact with them, to approach them, and also they, as I told you they, they, they help us organize because we're not there, I'm not present there.
- 07:22 DJH: Of course.**
- 07:23 They, they will help (____) organize interview with CNN, it has happened, and then, then, then also with the UNTV. You know that the United Nations has a TV, which is called UNTV which broadcasts in Manhattan I think. And yes, these kind of things happen . . .
- 07:39 DJH: You mentioned, you used the letters DPI, that's Department of Public Information?**
- 07:43 Yes.
- 07:44 DJH: Okay.**
- 07:45 I, sorry, yes, DPI, yes.
- 07:45 DJH: Yeah, yeah, yeah, in, in, in New York. Okay.**
- 07:48 In New York, yes.

Part 7

- 00:00 DJH: And you, you mentioned a number of ways of, of communicating, one of which is satellite transmission, another of which is a website, a third of which are newsletters. Now, can any member of the public subscribe to the newsletter pretty much or is it an internal newsletter?**
- 00:22 No, it is, it is a . . .
- 00:24 DJH: It is a public newsletter?**
- 00:26 Yes. I don't know if, if you are in our, in our mailing list but if you are not in the mailing list you will be there very soon.

- 00:30 DJH: Okay.**
- 00:31 Whenever . . .
- 00:32 DJH: Anybody can get on your mailing list?**
- 00:34 Yes.
- 00:35 DJH: It's a public . . .**
- 00:36 Wha-, what's happened is that this is, this is a monthly newsletter.
- 00:40 DJH: It's a monthly newsletter?**
- 00:41 Yes, with nice articles.
- 00:44 DJH: Okay.**
- 00:45 It is not because I, I, I wrote there, but, but it is nice articles, my colleagues . . .
- 00:49 DJH: In, in what language-, in what languages is it published? Does it come through New York or does it come directly from here?**
- 00:56 From here. It is, it is written in English, but, but we used to have one or two shared in French and English.
- 01:02 DJH: Okay.**
- 01:02 After that we will go back to that one you know. Whatever is, is available French or English, we will publish it out, (____), but now the people are so used to, to the English that everybody's publishing in English.
- 01:13 DJH: Okay.**
- 01:14 And what has happened is that our mailing list which has – I don't know how many, how many people are there. Let me, let me, let me try a figure, maybe, maybe 6,000 people are in, in, in just the mailing list because we have this mailing list which is the email addresses, the other one is for the faxes, the other one is something like that. We used to send the newsletter to, yes . . .
- 01:42 DJH: Hard copy.**
- 01:43 Yes, but the problem is that they are too heavy because they have pictures in and some people are, I remember, used to com-, complain, not exactly but saying that it take them too long to download the newsletter, that's why now, what we do is we put it in the website.
- 02:05 DJH: Yes.**
- 02:05 Whenever you go to the website you will have the, the, the different issues of the newsletter there.

02:10 DJH: Okay, you can link to the newsletters?

02:11 You can link to the newsletter, but we continue also sending it to people, but if, if you complain saying that it takes you too long to download it and when you start downloading you cannot do anything because you know it takes the – the computer is you know, busy (___), yes . . .

02:29 DJH: It depends on how, how big your pipes are.

02:32 Yes, how big your pipes are, but . . .

02:33 DJH: Intern-, or, or how quickly . . .

02:35 But it is a, it is a public one which everybody can, can have access and it is available for everyone.

02:40 DJH: Okay. But it's in English?

02:42 It is in English yes.

02:43 DJH: Do you have any special newsletter that goes over to Rwanda? Or a bulletin, or something?

02:50 But this one I can say, this one is, is, is also made for – yeah, I see what you mean. We used at, at the beginning, at the beginning you see how, how things can change. At the beginning we used to publish in three languages: English, French and Kinyarwanda. We used to do it. But at that time one of, one of my colleagues, the staff working with me, a very, very – was, was, was a journalist first of all, but also a translator. I mean, he used to (___), whatever, translator, a paper in English, in, in Kinyarwanda.

03:41 That, that, that gave us at that time the opportunity to publish in two languages. We used to do that but now that, that person is no longer with us. It is a little difficult for us to publish in Kinyarwanda. And for the French, we're not publishing in French because everybody's speaking English first of all here, that's, that's one of, of the main reason. And people prefer to explain themselves in English, I don't know why.

04:15 I was, I was maybe one, one, one of the rare people you know, writing in, in French and maybe some of my colleagues at the chambers, but all the people they used to, to write in English, that's why maybe we have put aside these, these two languages, but, but we have some publications in, in, in Kinyarwanda. We have a leaflet publishing in, in Kinyarwanda which . . .

04:40 DJH: Does it come out of your Kigali office or come out of here?

04:43 Come out from here, yes. It is something that we prepare here, we release from here and we send it to, send it to Kigali. We have, we have posters; we have brochures in, in Kinyarwanda that we publish also.

- 04:58** DJH: And when an important judgment comes out or something like that, do you put, put it on a bulletin or something like that for the people in . . .
- 05:06 When, when, when a, when a, when a very important, very important – all the judgments are important here, first of all.
- 05:11** DJH: Yes.
- 05:12 What we do is that we inform our office . . .
- 05:15** DJH: In Kigali.
- 05:16 . . . in Kigali because we have this satellite link. What we do is that we inform them, we issue a media alert informing not only them but all, all the world about what is coming – what will come.
- 05:32 And we request the translation section to be ready to transmit or to broadcast the Kinyarwanda version because you know that at the courtroom we're working with, in three languages, French, English and Kinyarwanda. Because most of our witnesses are from Rwanda and they speak Kinyarwanda.
- 06:01 That, that is what we do. All our judgment, if, if I'm not wrong, that have been broadcast or transmitted to Rwanda are transmitted in Kinyarwanda. We send the Kin-, the signal with the Kinyarwanda version to Rwanda for them to be able to follow it, to listen to it.
- 06:20 And also they have the possibility to have the other languages but we, we give the privilege you know, we, we, we give the lead to the, to the, to the Kinyarwanda version. That is what we usually do. And I remember that we used to go to the, to the field to the, to the, to the countryside to broadcast the judgment when it concern an accused person coming from that part.
- 06:50** DJH: Or an event that co-, happened in that part.
- 06:52 Yes.
- 06:53** DJH: Like in, for example, Butare.
- 06:55 Buta-, like, like in Butare, the day, the day we will have the judgment of Butare we would broadcast it in Butare for sure. We'll broadcast it, we, we will send the signal to Kigali, but we will transmit it to Butare. We will, we'll do it in the, the, the central place of the village or whatever but it will be done in, in, in Butare.
- 07:18** DJH: Yeah, I think you would, I think you would agree as a journalist that it's not only important that justice be done but it's also important that justice be seen.
- 07:27 Be seen, yes. Known and seen, yes.
- 07:30** DJH: Yes. And that, that help, may help in reconciliation to have justice be seen . . .

07:36 Yes.

Part 8

00:00 DJH: Have you as part, and I not only mean you but your staff as well, as part of learning the context, have you actually you gone to Rwanda and visited some of the sites of the terrible events there?

00:17 Yes. My first contact with, with Rwanda was, was, was amazing, if I can use this word.

00:29 DJH: I think understand.

00:30 You understand.

00:31 DJH: Go ahead.

00:34 I went to – yeah, that was my first mission, I was coming from here and I was very, very, very reluctant. I, I didn't know what I, what I will see there. I didn't know how I will feel. I didn't know what, what, what was, you know, the, the feeling, how, how people will, will, will behave. I don't know, I didn't know, I didn't know it. What I, what I, what I knew was just what I, what I, what I have seen on the TV when these things have happened and what I have heard here and that was just the beginning.

01:05 It was, it was, the court was not working in a, in a daily basis. We didn't have – the, the, the trial didn't start really and I was, I was just really, really, really scared. I don't know. But I was not so comfortable because I did not know what I will find there. And I went there, I was surprised first of all. (___), we were in 19', end of 1996, I think or beginning of 1997.

01:36 I went, I saw people very, I don't know, the, the, the towns of Kigali seems to be a town where – I mean, after these years it is, it's like nothing has hap-, have, have, have happened, have happened there like that.

01:53 But anyway I was, I was still not really comfortable. I, I was sure that I will see at the, at the corner of a street, maybe you know – I don't know, a body laying down there, forgotten or wha-, whatever, something which can remind me about the genocide, because one million people or something like that died in . . .

02:19 It should be some – how to say? Something – yes, anyway, you will in any case find something, which will remind you what have happened there, but that was not the case, (___). And I went to see the, the, the Director of the Information at that time (___) for . . .

02:41 Someone called Major, Major Wilson and we are talking together and I told him, "Listen Major I have a problem because we are in 1997. I think, three years ago or two years and a half ago genocide have happened in your country, million of, something like

between 800 and one 1,000,000 people have been killed here and I don't see anything which, which, which reminds me that, that these things has happened."

03:10 I told him I was, "I saw, okay, I saw bullets on the, on the, on the walls, on the buildings you know, this is of the, of, of the, of the bullets on the building but something like, you know, people how, how, how they have suffered and things like that." He told me, "Okay, yes, I understand what you mean but let me organize for you a visit of a sites of genocide." That was maybe the – anyway, the day after he organized for me. I visited the first site and I went to . . .

03:46 DJH: Do you remember the, which site it was?

03:49 Miyami-, (_____), oh, Mi-, Mi-, oh. Miyamirambo, Mi-, Miyami-, Miyamirambo, Miya-, something like that.

04:02 DJH: Murambi?

04:03 Murambi, sorry. Murambi.

04:04 DJH: Yes, near Butare?

04:06 Near Butare, the site of Murambi on that small hill on, on the, on the city wall.

04:09 DJH: Yes, yes, yes.

04:13 And I went there, that day it was raining. It was raining as (____) say, you say in Eng-, cats and dogs. It was raining, that was my first contact with that site. It was sad, it was sad. Until now I have these, these images, I have these pictures on my, on my mind. That was, I was, I was really shocked. I get in that, in that school you know, because it was, it, it has been the (____) . . .

04:43 DJH: I have been there.

04:44 . . . in the school in that, in that, in that small hill, I visited that place. I saw the bodies, some bodies were lying there, the clothes weren't there. And because it was raining you know, it was also a smell coming from – I was, until now when I think about that I'm, I'm really shocked. Yes, that was my, my, my first contact with, with, with the site of genocide and what I saw there, I mean, I cannot describe it. I cannot.

05:20 DJH: I won't ask you to. Did that make a difference to you in your approach to your job, if you will? Having seen a place like that, how, how did it . . .

05:36 (____), as I say (____) it, it is – yes. If I can – but whatever, whatever I have to do to, to do my job I have – spec-, specially in, in this, in this, in this area now reporting on the, on the work of the tribunal, I have, I tried to, to, to do the best I can because, because I, I think that is part of what I can you know, bring on this – for these Rwandese. To help them understand what have happened and help them also to build a new society. Yes, I think that it have, it have, it have changed my, my, my view yes, of . . .

06:39 DJH: I'm going to go to a different place now for a little bit. Thank you for sharing this with us.

Part 9

00:00 DJH: There have been criticisms at various times of the work, or what people perceived as the work, of the tr-, various parts of the tribunal. And you're the press guy and you have to some, sometimes respond to it or get information out so that people know more, or respond to the criticism, or whatever.

00:26 DJH: One example of that, that I-, we've become familiar with here, is we've, we've heard the dete-, the detention facility referred to as 'the Hilton.' Well, I've been in a lot of Hiltons and I don't ever . . .

00:42 Oh yes, oh no, (___) just, yes.

00:42 DJH: . . . (_____) like that. Is, is that part of your job that you need to, from time to time, make clear what, what the si-, situation or the, or the reasons for certain things are? In other words, I, perhaps I'm saying are you not just a purveyor of other information but also something of an educator?

01:05 Yeah, but you know that, you know that at the beginning we were facing as you say some, some problems. Some misinformation coming from various part of, we don't know, part was coming from Rwanda, part was coming from journalists, "western journalists," quote, unquote, if I can say that.

01:26 Because they didn't get the proper information. As I told you it was not so easy to reach this place. It was not so easy to call or to fax, whatever. Because at that time we didn't have, there was no website, there was no internet you know, which facilitate the things now and that was no dishes for, to facilitate you know our communications links.

01:51 And people were not receiving the proper information and I think that they start building information. Instead of trying to gather the information from, from the proper sources people were just catching you know, a small part of – and from that building the, the information, that is how we had this information, regarding the, the, the Hilton, (_____) . . .

02:19 DJH: Sure, and how (_____), I guess my question is how, how did you deal, how did you try to deal with such kinds of criticism?

02:30 The, dif-, ve-, very difficult first of all to deal with that, because as I say, usually unless, unless, unless you have real confidence with the people you're talking to like you know, your correspondent or your part of your network, don't try, you know, to, to do what, what usually people think that is easy to do, is to publish what we call a droit de réponse. Like you know, you have written this on me, I have the right too.

03:09 DJH: Yes.

- 03:10 That is maybe the worst thing sometimes that I see usually to do because you focus all the attention of people on that. Because some people maybe were not aware about that but they publish what we call the droit de réponse. People will try to know what was you know, what, what justified this droit de réponse and they have to go to the, from the beginning and whatever.
- 03:32 It, it can blow, it can go further than that, that you can imagine but usually what we do is to try to publish wherever is possible information on that work of the tribunal. We don't have – unless it is confidential, but we don't hide anything, whatever, whatever happens here. If the chamber don't decide that it is confidential as we say, it is public for us.
- 04:02 DJH: Of course.**
- 04:03 Yes. We should, we should, we should put it on the public record. People should know about that. There is nothing to hide here. It is . . .
- 04:11 DJH: And then you can just refer people to those facts.**
- 04:13 Yes, to those facts, yes. The fact the, the fact, yeah, because we are dealing with facts.
- 04:17 DJH: Mm-hmm.**
- 04:19 Note: Gap in Interview (Approx. 16 seconds in duration) Gaps occurred due to interruptions during the interview, technical issues, or corrupted data files.**
- 04:29 DJH: I guess, Mist-, Bocar, the, the only thing I would ask you now is, you are (___), you have the opportunity now to talk to your grandchildren, to the future, 20, five years, ten years, 15, 25 years.**
- 04:49 DJH: So I'm going to give you the opportunity to say whatever you would like, if you will, about this experience, your job, and what you would like the future to know and may, that may hopefully give them some ability to do better or just to have some hope or, or not, as you wish. So what would you like to say?**
- 05:15 But that anyway, I have, I have, I have seen these, these, these things which have happened in Rwanda. I have been a witness of what is going on the court. I don't wish my daughter or my granddaughter or my, you know, relatives, whatever, to experience these kind of things. I hope that, my hope and my wish is that that will be the last genocide or the last mass killing that the world would experience but today we are talking about that, but DRC Congo . . .
- 06:04 DJH: Yes. We're right now facing possibilities . . .**
- 06:05 . . . is, is, is going yes, something like that and the international communities seems to be expecting, waiting for – nobody knows what they're waiting to, to do. But anyway I hope, I hope that, that, I hope that the – my wish will be that, that the, the, the Rwanda genocide will be the last genocide and the people will be, I don't know, friends or whatever.

- 06:36 And, and things may change if, if, if as we, we hope and we wish. Things are changing in the United States, you will have a new president who will stop all this war around the world. I don't know. Anyway . . .
- 06:57 DJH: In any event, I think we can count on you to do the best you can in your job to make the, the better things happen.**
- 07:03 Yes, we'll, we'll try to do our best like you are doing your best. Merci beaucoup.
- 07:08 DJH: Thank you.**
- 07:09 Merci beaucoup. Thank you.