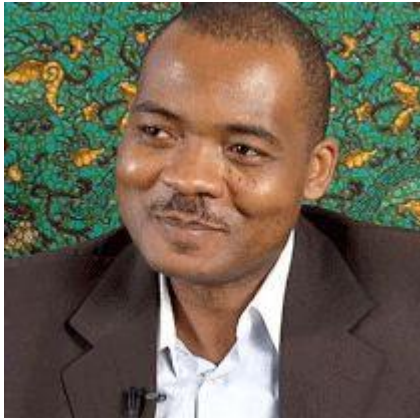




Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

Official Transcript: Jean-Pele Fomete (Part 1 of 15)



Role: Program Director

Country of Origin: Cameroon

Interview Date: 24 October 2008

Location: Arusha, Tanzania

Interviewers: Batya Friedman
John McKay
Robert Utter

Videographer: Max Andrews

Interpreter: None

Interview Summary

Jean-Pele Fomete speaks about his role in court management services, overseeing legal aid and capacity building for pan-African justice systems. He highlights the need for civil society support to make the Tribunal a success, which has been challenging in Rwanda. He also comments on the lack of infrastructure in Africa, and the difficulty in mobilizing resources and ensuring adequate access to information about the Tribunal's work. He discusses the positive and negative impacts of the ICTR and international human rights standards on Rwanda's justice system.

The transcript of Part 1 begins on the following page.

Part 1

- 00:00 **Batya Friedman: Hello, I'm Batya Friedman. I'm a professor at the University of Washington and it is October 24th, 2008. I'm here conducting an interview. The other interviewers are John McKay from Seattle University and Robert Utter, retired Chief Supreme Court Justice from the State of Washington.**
- 00:22 **BF: Our cameraperson is Max Andrews. And I'm speaking with Jean-Pele. So, Jean, c-, Pele, may I ask you to introduce yourself? Tell us your title here at the ICTR and also your nationality.**
- 00:38 Jean-Pele Fomete is my name, I'm from Cameroon. And at the ICTR I serve as a Program Director coordinating a few cross organizational project and I'm pleased to be with you.
- 00:55 **BF: Good. And so, can you tell us just some of the projects that you're coordinating. So you've done several things here.**
- 01:01 Okay. Currently, first of all, I'm in charge of the Court Management Services of the Tribunal. I also oversee the operations of the Legal Aid program of the Tribunal.
- 01:15 I also run the capacity building program that the tribunal has designed to strengthen the judicial sector of Rwanda. I'm also the chairperson of the tribunal's legacy committee, trying to anticipate on what future generations would remember about the tribunal.
- 01:43 **BF: Good. And c-, could you tell us just a little, what do you do in the, in your role as Court Management? What, what is involved with that?**
- 01:51 Okay. So, we provide support services to the judges and to the parties to the judicial process. And we are – from A to Z, we support the judicial process and if I may take an example, as soon as the Prosecutor is satisfied that he had to compile enough evidence to have an indictment r-, reviewed against somebody, he comes to us with a file.
- 02:22 So we take the file to the duty judge. We assist the judge in organizing the proceedings and if a warrant of arrest is issued, we serve the warrant on the authorities of the country where the accused person is supposed to be.
- 02:37 And we link up with the country, organizing the, the arrest with the support of national authorities and assuming the person is arrested, we organize the transfer of the person to the seat of the tribunal and we continue organizing the proceedings, beginning with the initial appearance so on and so forth.
- 02:59 So, throughout we're supporting the process through various services, organizing the court, you know, making sure translators, interpreters are available, you know, doing the calendaring of the, the proceedings and providing court reporting services.

- 03:23 And we do this at the trial level and at the appellate level, so we support the appeals chamber located at The Hague. And assuming somebody is convicted, we'll be linking up with countries who have signed agreements with the tribunal and facilitate the transfer of the person. And if the person wants to file an application for review of judgment, the person will be coming back to us.
- 03:53 So we're behind the scene, but we're providing the support required for the judges, the prosecutor, defense counsel to be in a position to, to do, to do their job. I-, in a nutshell, that-, that's what we, that's what we do. There are many, many other aspect related to that broad, broad topic, but in a nutshell that's what we do.