



UN Special Representative welcomes the conviction of Radovan Karadžić for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, involving rape

Press Release:

(New York, 24 March 2016) -- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Under-Secretary General Zainab Hawa Bangura, welcomes the conviction of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadžić for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The Trial Chamber's ruling recounts how Karadžić used rape and other forms of sexual violence, against both women and men, as a tactic of war and terror.

“This week has been an historic week for international justice. Perpetrators of the most heinous international crimes, which shock the conscience of humanity, must realize that justice will find them – even if it takes decades,” said Special Representative Bangura about the ruling. She also stressed the importance of international courts in helping to convert longstanding cultures of impunity for sexual violence into cultures of deterrence. “The United Nations and the entire international community must continue to use and support international courts to prosecute the gravest international criminal offences.”

Special Representative Bangura noted that twenty years after the close of the conflict perpetrators of sexual violence still must be brought to justice. “Bosnian women have told me that many of their perpetrators still walk amongst them. We must support these survivors in ensuring that all perpetrators are held to account.”

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