

17. July 1988

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In Rome, UN delegates from more than 100 countries overwhelmingly approved (120-7) a historic treaty, the Statute of Rome, creating the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, with jurisdiction over individuals, ignoring strenuous U.S. objections over certain provisions. It was to be located in The Hague with 18 judges from 18 countries serving 9-year terms. It still required ratification by 60 countries to become effective. The vote passed 120 to 7 with 21 abstentions. The US, China, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Qatar and Yemen voted against the International Criminal Court Treaty (ICC). In 2002, the US moved to withdraw its signature.

30. November 1988

Britain along with Lesotho, Burkino Faso, the Ivory Coast and Tajikistan signed a global treaty for an International Criminal Court to prosecute war crimes. The accord was approved in July at conference in Rome and 61 countries had signed on. The court required 60 countries to pass legislation for ratification.

11. April 2002

The UN sponsored International Criminal Court was ratified without US approval. Temporary headquarters will be in the Hague, Netherlands.

3. August 2002

The American Service-Members' Protection Act (ASPA), a United States federal law introduced by US Senator Jesse Helms as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, was passed by Congress. The stated purpose of the amendment was "to protect United States military personnel and other elected and appointed officials of the United States government against criminal prosecution by an international criminal court to which the United States is not party." It became known as the "Hague invasion act."

10. August 2002

It was reported that the George Bush administration had begun warning foreign diplomats that they could lose US military assistance if they join the International Criminal Court without pledging to protect Americans from its reach. Article 98 allowed nations to negotiate immunity on a bilateral basis.

2003

6

In eastern Congo, Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo led militias including child soldiers who attacked the village of Bogoro, killing over 200 people including women and children. Many of the victims were hacked to death with machetes. In 2008, Katanga and Ngudjolo stood for trial at the ICC.

23. March 2005

France presented a UN resolution allowing prosecution of Sudanese war crimes suspects at the International Criminal Court, forcing the US to choose between accepting a body it opposes or casting a politically damaging veto.

31. March 2005

After weeks of often bitter negotiations, the UN Security Council approved a resolution to refer Sudanese war crimes suspects to the International Criminal Court, agreeing to major concessions demanded by United States.

05. April 2005

Tens of thousands of Sudanese marched through the capital Khartoum against a UN resolution referring war crime suspects to the International Criminal Court.

05. April 2005

The UN handed prosecutors from the International Criminal Court thousands of documents and a list of 51 people to be investigated for alleged war crimes in Sudan's conflict-wracked Darfur region.

18. *May* 2005

Cambodia's legislature ratified a pact with the US exempting each country's citizens from extradition for prosecution by the International Criminal Court, an agreement sought by Washington to avoid political trials of its citizens.

06. June 2005

The International Criminal Court at the Hague formally announced the opening of a war crimes investigation in Sudan's Darfur region after receiving a list of 51 potential suspects from UN.

02. July 2005

Australia and New Zealand agreed on tough new measures to pressure Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe to respect human rights, including a sports ban and action against him in the International Criminal Court.

30. August 2005

Australia and New Zealand lobbied the United Nations Security Council to indict Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and his government in the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity.

08. January 2006

Jordan's parliament approved a law that prevents Amman handing over US citizens accused of war crimes to the international criminal court (ICC).

14. June 2006

Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, a Congolese militia leader accused of conscripting and enlisting children aged under 15 for warfare (1998-2002), became the first suspect sent for trial at the ICC.

14. June 2006

The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said his office had documented massacres with hundreds of victims in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region as well as hundreds of rape cases.

15. June 2006

Sudan said the International Criminal Court did not have jurisdiction over crimes in the violent Darfur region and no officials would be interrogated by the court.

28. August 2006

In the Netherlands prosecutors at the International Criminal Court filed their first indictment, charging Thomas Lubanga, a former Congolese warlord, for allegedly abducting and recruiting children as young as 10 to fight in Congo's brutal civil war.

02. October 2006

Foreign Minister Ruben Ramirez said that Paraguay and Washington would not renew a defense-cooperation agreement for 2007 over the South American country's refusal to grant US troops inside Paraguay immunity from prosecution by the International Criminal Court.

2006

Bosco Ntaganda, a former Congolese warlord, was first indicted on war crimes charges by the ICC. The court accused Ntaganda of using child soldiers for fighting in Ituri, in northeastern Congo, from 2002 to 2003.

29. January 2007

The International Criminal Court ruled there was enough evidence against Thomas Lubanga, a Congolese militiaman accused of recruiting child soldiers, to launch the new court's first trial.

26. February 2007

Sudan rejected the legitimacy of the International Criminal Court in pressing charges over the conflict in Darfur, still ravaged by war and famine four years after the violence erupted.

27. February 2007

The International Criminal Court's prosecutor named Ahmed Muhammed Harun, a former Sudanese junior minister, and Ali Mohammed Ali Abd-al-Rahmann, a Janjaweed leader, as suspects in war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Darfur region. Sudan rejected the legitimacy of the ICC, insisting it would try Darfur war criminals.

02. May 2007

The International Criminal Court said it has issued arrest warrants for the Sudanese government's humanitarian affairs minister and a Janjaweed militia leader suspected of committing war crimes in Darfur.

22. May 2007

The International Criminal Court prosecutor announced a war crimes investigation into hundreds of rapes and other violations in the Central African Republic in 2002 and 2003. The UN condemned the capture of two aid workers in the north-west of the CAR, saying the worsening security was hampering its humanitarian work in the country.

29. September 2007

In Sudan a large force of rebels stormed an African Union peacekeeping base in Haskanita, Darfur, killing 12 soldiers and wounding 8 others in the biggest attack on the mission so far. More than 50 AU peacekeepers and support personnel were missing in action. In 2009 the International Criminal Court (ICC) said fighters commanded by Darfur rebel chief Bahar Idriss Abu Garda brutally murdered 12 African peacekeepers before looting their camp. In 2010 Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain and Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus, suspected in the deadly attack, voluntarily surrendered in the Netherlands to the International Criminal Court to face war crimes charges.

22. October 2007

Congolese militia leader Germain Katanga became only the second war crimes suspect to appear before the International Criminal Court.

2007 - 2011

The prosecutors at ICC said Kenya's Deputy PM Uhuru Kenyatta organized deadly attacks on the opposition after disputed 2007 polls to keep the ruling party's power by "any means necessary." Some 1,400 lives were lost in the politically stoked fighting following the flawed elections.

06. February 2008

Congo arrested and turned over for trial Mathieu Ngudjolo, an army colonel and former rebel leader accused of leading a deadly 2003 attack on a village in the country's lawless east.

29. April 2008

The International Criminal Court published an arrest warrant for Bosco Ntaganda (35), known as “the Terminator,” a Congo militia leader wanted for allegedly using child soldiers.

03. July 2008

Former Congolese rebel leader Jean-Pierre Bemba arrived in the Netherlands to face war crimes charges before the International Criminal Court.

12. July 2008

The Arab League said it will hold crisis talks on Sudan after reports the International Criminal Court may seek Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir's arrest, amid fears for peace efforts in Darfur. It would mark the first-ever bid by the ICC, to charge a sitting head of state. The African Union said that plans by the ICC could jeopardize peace efforts in Darfur.

13. July 2008

In Sudan thousands of protesters chanting “Down, Down USA!” rallied in Khartoum after reports that the ICC may seek the arrest of Sudan’s president for alleged war crimes. A stampede among crowds of people attending a military graduation ceremony killed 17 people at the al-Merriekh Stadium in Omdurman, the twin city of Khartoum. The dead were mostly women and children with 3 dozen others injured.

14. July 2008

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court filed genocide charges against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, accusing him of masterminding attempts to wipe out African tribes in Darfur with a campaign of murder, rape and deportation. The filing marked the first time prosecutors at the world's first permanent, global war crimes court have issued charges against a sitting head of state.

19. July 2008

The Arab League criticized the International Criminal Court's prosecutor for seeking the arrest of Sudan's president on genocide charges, saying diplomacy should be given a priority to solve the conflict in Darfur.

25. July 2008

Sudan threatened to expel peacekeepers from Darfur if President Omar al-Beshir is indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

13. October 2008

Sudanese officials disclosed the arrest of Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-al-Rahman, a Janjaweed militia leader who was charged by the ICC in 2007 for crimes against humanity.

12. November 2008

Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, facing a possible indictment by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes in Darfur, announced a ceasefire in the region.

20. November 2008

The International Criminal Court prosecutor requested arrest warrants for rebels in Sudan's Darfur region, accusing them of storming an African Union camp and killing 12 peacekeepers in Sep, 2007.

2008

The ICC issued an arrest warrant for Ahmed Haroun, Sudan's Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, on 51 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Sudan's western Darfur region in 2003 and 2004.

26. January 2009

In the Netherlands the first-ever trial of the International Criminal Court began at The Hague with Thomas Lubanga, a Congolese militia commander, denying he committed war crimes by recruiting hundreds of child soldiers to kill and rape.

28. January 2009

A Sudanese man, Mohammed el-Sari, was jailed for 17 years on charges of trying to help the International Criminal Court investigate a minister suspected of war crimes in Darfur. He was arrested in June accused of trying to solicit information about special police in Darfur, men trained and paid by the government and supervised by current Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun.

14. February 2009

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit held talks with Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir amid reports that the International Criminal Court has decided to issue a warrant for his arrest..

04. March 2009

The ICC issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. He is the first sitting head of state the court has ordered arrested. The French medical aid organization Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said it was pulling staff out of Darfur after the Sudanese government ordered them to leave. Sudan ordered at least 10 humanitarian groups expelled from Darfur.

16. March 2009

Amr Moussa, former Egyptian Foreign Minister and head of the Arab League, said AL countries will not carry out an International Criminal Court request to arrest Sudan's president on charges of war crimes in Darfur.

17. *May* 2009

The International Criminal Court said Bahr Idriss Abu Garda, a Sudanese rebel leader, has turned himself in to face war crimes charges for an attack that killed 12 African Union peacekeepers in Darfur in September 2007.

15. June 2009

The ICC ordered former Congolese rebel warlord Jean-Pierre Bemba to stand trial on charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including murder, rape and pillaging.

06. November 2009

Turkey rebuffed an EU call to reconsider its decision to allow Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir, who is accused of war crimes in Darfur, to attend a summit in Istanbul. Turkey has not signed the Rome Statute which set up the ICC and has said previously the ICC arrest warrant for Beshir could hurt moves to end the conflict in Darfur.

18. November 2009

The United States attended a meeting of the International Criminal Court's management board at The Hague for the first time in a sign it has stopped shunning the world's only permanent war crimes tribunal.

03. February 2010

At The Hague appeals judges said the International Criminal Court was wrong when it decided that Sudan's Pres. Omar al-Bashir can't be charged with genocide in Darfur. The unprecedented ruling could lead al-Bashir's indictment with humanity's worst crime.

01. April 2010

The International Criminal Court announced that it will investigate members of Kenya's two ruling parties on charges that they instigated violence that killed more than 1,000 people after the disputed 2007 presidential election.

26. *May* 2010

The ICC reported Sudan to the UN Security Council for refusing to arrest a government minister and a militia leader suspected of war crimes in Darfur. Judges at the court say that Khartoum has refused to hand over Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Harun and Janjaweed militia leader Ali Kushayb. The court ordered the men arrested in 2007 on 51 charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

31. *May* 2010

UN chief Ban Ki-moon called for African nations to cooperate with the International Criminal Court by arresting fugitive Ugandan rebel Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, and some of his commanders.

08. July 2010

The International Criminal Court suspended Congolese militia chief Thomas Lubanga's trial and rapped prosecutors for abusing court processes and ignoring judges' orders.

12. July 2010

The International Criminal Court charged Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir with three counts of genocide in Darfur, a move that will pile further diplomatic pressure on his isolated regime.

21. September 2010

The International Criminal Court said it will launch cases against as many as six suspected instigators of postelection violence in Kenya that left more than 1,000 people dead in 2007-08.

15. December 2010

Kenya's police commissioner said authorities will act swiftly and firmly against any outbreaks of violence connected to the announcement of suspects by the ICC prosecutor. ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo was expected to announce the names of six Kenyan leaders suspected of fanning the flames of violence after the country's December 2007 presidential election. Officials from the UK, Canada, World Bank and UNICEF demanded that the Kenyan government prosecute corrupt officials who stole money earmarked to help send poor children to school.

18. December 2010

Luis Moreno Ocampo, the prosecutor of the ICC, said he has evidence Sudanese Pres. Omar al-Bashir has stolen billions of dollars from his impoverished country. The embezzlement accusations were first reported by British newspaper The Guardian, based on a diplomatic cable provided by the Wikileaks website.

25. January 2011

Rwandan rebel Callixte Mbarushimana arrived in The Hague, after a Paris appeals court ruling in November approved the transfer to the ICC. He was charged with 11 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including murder, rape, persecution based on gender, and extensive destruction of property by the Hutu FDLR in 2009.

26. February 2011

Russia joined other UN Security Council members in ordering an arms embargo against Libya and other sanctions (Resolution 1970). Russia stood to lose a total of up to \$10 billion in arms sales, including almost \$4 billion with Libya, from the wave of unrest currently destabilizing regimes in North Africa and the Middle East. The UN Security Council agreed to tell the prosecutor of the ICC to probe the Libyan crisis.

2. March 2011

Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court said they will open a formal investigation into possible crimes against humanity in Libya.

16. May 2011

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, International Criminal Court prosecutor, sought an arrest warrant for Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi accusing him of committing crimes against humanity by killing protesters during an uprising against his 41-year rule.

27. June 2011

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Moammar Gadhafi, his son Seif, and his intelligence chief for crimes against humanity in the Libyan leader's four-month battle to cling to power.

22. November 2011

The ICC's prosecutor said that Libya can put Moammar Gadhafi's son and one-time heir apparent on trial at home, but that The Hague court's judges must be involved in the case. Libya's PM Abdurrahim el-Keib appointed Osama al-Juwali, head of the military council in Zintan.

25. November 2011

Mexican activists lodged a war-crimes complaint against President Felipe Calderon at the International Criminal Court, claiming his offensive against drug cartels has involved about 470 cases of human rights violations by the army or police. Defense officials detained Ezequiel “El Junior” Cardenas Rivera (23). Rivera’s father was Antonio Ezequiel Cardenas Guillen, Gulf leader until he was killed by federal forces in November 2010.

30. November 2011

Former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo was taken into custody by the International Criminal Court at The Hague to face charges of murder, rape and other crimes allegedly committed by his supporters as he clung to power after last year's elections.

12. December 2011

The ICC member states, meeting at The Hague, unanimously elected Fatou Bensouda of Gambia as the new chief prosecutor for the main genocide and war crimes tribunal.

12. December 2011

The ICC said it was referring Malawi to the UN Security Council over its refusal to arrest Sudan's Pres. Omar al-Bashir, wanted by the court for genocide, during his October visit for a meeting of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

16. December 2011

Judges of the ICC decided not to charge Rwandan rebel leader Callixte Mbarushimana for crimes committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo and ordered his release. Mbarushimana faced 13 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in DR Congo's Kivu provinces in 2009.

23. December 2011

The ICC freed Rwandan rebel Callixte Mbarushimana and returned him to France after dismissing murder and rape charges against him. He spent 11 months in detention and was the first war crimes suspect to be arrested and freed without trial since the court began work in 2002.

23. January 2012

The ICC ruled that two leading presidential hopefuls are among four prominent Kenyans whom should face trial over deadly post-election violence four years ago. The ICC said charges of crimes against humanity had been confirmed against William Ruto and Uhuru Kenyatta, the son of the country's founding president. Radio host Joshua arap Sang and Francis Muthaura, the head of Kenya's civil service, will also face trial.

1. March 2012

The ICC said it has issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese Defense Minister Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein for crimes against the civilian population in Darfur.

14. March 2012

The ICC convicted Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga of using child soldiers, a verdict hailed as a legal landmark in the fight against impunity for the world's most serious crimes.

26. April 2012

The ICC convicted former Liberian President Charles Taylor of aiding and abetting war crimes and crimes against humanity for supporting notoriously brutal rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone in return for “blood diamonds.” Taylor became the first head of state convicted by an international court since the post-World War II Nuremberg military tribunal.

07. June 2012

In Libya hundreds of armed men calling for Islamic law staged a demonstration in the eastern city of Benghazi. A counter rally, which included dozens of activists and several women in its ranks, emerged in protest over the presence of weapons. It succeeded in pushing the men out of the square after sunset without incident. Authorities in Zintan, southwest of Tripoli, detained Australian defense lawyer Melinda Taylor. She was one of two lawyers assigned by the ICC to help defend the legal interests of Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, who has been held by revolutionary fighters since his capture in November.

09. June 2012

The ICC demanded the release of four of its staffers it says are being detained in Libya, where they are part of an official mission sent to meet with the imprisoned son of deposed dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

11. June 2012

A Libyan judicial source said four International Criminal Court envoys have been put into “preventive” detention in prison for 45 days while investigating an alleged threat to national security.

15. June 2012

Gambia's Fatou Bensouda was sworn as the International Criminal Court's new chief prosecutor, saying she was ready to lead the fight against the world's worst war criminals.

2. July 2012

Libya released four envoys of the International Criminal Court, held since June 7, who were detained after visiting the son of slain leader Moamer Kadhafi.

10. July 2012

The ICC sentenced Congolese warlord Thomas Lubanga to 14 years in prison, a potential landmark in the struggle to protect children during wartime. Lubanga was found guilty in March of recruiting and using children in his Union of Congolese Patriots militia. An appeal in 2014 upheld his conviction.

13. July 2012

The ICC issued arrest warrants against Bosco Ntaganda, a rogue Tutsi Congolese general, and Sylvestre Mudacumura, a Rwandan Hutu rebel leader based in the Democratic Republic of Congo, who Kigali and Kinshasa accuse each other of using as proxies in DR Congo.

22. November 2012

The ICC unsealed an indictment against former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo's wife on charges including murder, rape and persecution. It was the first time in the court's 10-year history it has charged a woman. An arrest warrant was issued on Feb. 29 for former first lady Simone Gbagbo for crimes against humanity.

12. December 2012

The ICC acquitted Congolese militia leader Mathieu Ngudjolo of all charges of commanding fighters who destroyed a village in eastern Congo in 2003, raping and hacking to death some 200 people, including children.

11. March 2013

The ICC dropped charges of crimes against humanity against Francis Muthaura, Kenya's former public service chief, after a key witness recanted.

22. March 2013

Rwandan-born warlord Bosco Ntaganda was taken into custody by the International Criminal Court and was flown to The Hague to stand trial on charges of overseeing atrocities in eastern Congo a decade ago.

5. September 2013

Kenya's parliament voted to pull out of the ICC, after legislators staged what amounted to a parliamentary revolt against the trials of President Uhuru Kenyatta and Vice President William Ruto, scheduled to start next week.

23. September 2013

The International Criminal Court briefly excused Kenyan Vice President William Ruto from his crimes against humanity trial so he can deal with the bloody Nairobi shopping mall siege.

01. October 2013

The International Criminal Court unsealed a warrant for the arrest of Charles Ble Goude, ex-Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo's youth leader, accusing him of crimes against humanity amid a bloody election standoff some three years ago.

02. October 2013

The International Criminal Court said it has issued an arrest warrant for Walter Barasa, a Kenyan journalist in Deputy President William Ruto's political stronghold of Eldoret, for trying to bribe witnesses to withdraw testimony against Ruto.

20. November 2013

The International Criminal Court's vexed relationship with Africa took center stage on the opening day of the annual summit of its 122 member states at The Hague.

14. February 2014

It was reported that a UN Commission of Inquiry has found that crimes against humanity have been committed in North Korea and recommends that its findings be referred to the International Criminal Court.

26. February 2014

The International Criminal Court led calls for the government of Democratic Republic of Congo to arrest visiting Sudanese President Omar Bashir, who is wanted on charges of genocide in Darfur.

07. March 2014

Congolese warlord Germain Katanga was convicted of being an accessory to war crimes including murder and pillage - only the second conviction in the 12-year history of the ICC. Katanga was convicted as an accessory in the attack on Bogoro village in 2003 that left some 200 civilians dead and many women raped and turned into sex slaves.

22. March 2014

The ICC said Charles Ble Goude, wanted by the International Criminal Court in connection with a wave of violence after Ivory Coast's 2010 elections, is in its court's custody and is on his way to its jail in The Hague.

13. *May* 2014

The International Criminal Court's prosecutor said the Libyan government must surrender the son of slain dictator Moammar Gadhafi for trial on charges of crimes against humanity despite its appeal of the handover and legal proceedings in Libya.

23. May 2014

The ICC sentenced Germain Katanga, a Congolese militia leader, to 12 years in prison for his role in a 2003 attack where more than 200 civilians were killed.

12. June 2014

The ICC ruled that Laurent Gbagbo, former president of Ivory Coast, must stand trial on charges of crimes against humanity committed as he clung to power after losing the 2010 elections.

05. December 2014

Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court withdrew their crimes against humanity charges against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta. Kenyatta said he was “vindicated” after the ICC’s decision.

08. December 2014

The International Criminal Court's 122 member states opened their annual meeting at UN headquarters in NYC with Africa the focus.

11. December 2014

The International Criminal Court ordered a close ally of former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo, Charles Ble Goude, to stand trial for crimes against humanity linked to a 2010-11 post-election crisis.

12. December 2014

International Criminal Court prosecutor Fatou Bensouda told the UN Security Council that she has suspended investigations into alleged war crimes in Sudan's Darfur, criticizing the UN Security Council for inaction over the conflict-hit region.

31. December 2014

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas signed on to 20 international agreements, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as a new avenue for action against Israel after the UN Security Council rejected a resolution on ending the occupation.

03. January 2015

Israel said it will withhold critical tax revenue and seek ways to bring war crimes prosecutions against Palestinian leaders in retaliation for Palestinian moves to join the International Criminal Court.

06. January 2015

UN Sec. Gen. Ban Ki-moon said the Palestinians will join the ICC on April 1.

13. March 2015

The International Criminal Court formally halted proceedings against Kenya's Pres. Uhuru Kenyatta, three months after prosecutors dropped charges implicating him in fomenting postelection violence that left more than 1,000 people dead in 2007 and 2008.

01. April 2015

Palestine formally joined the International Criminal Court, a move the Palestinians hope could open the door to the possible prosecution of Israelis for alleged war crimes.

24. September 2015

The International Criminal Court unveiled at least 60 new war crimes charges against Dominic Ongwen, the deputy leader of Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army, including the use of child soldiers and keeping sex slaves.

26. September 2015

Ahmad Al Mahdi Al Faqi, known as Abu Tourab, an alleged Islamic extremist charged with involvement in the destruction of religious buildings in the historic city of Timbuktu in Mali in 2012, was sent to the International Criminal Court to face justice.

11. October 2015

South Africa said it plans to leave the ICC. The government faced criticism for ignoring a court order to arrest Sudan's president earlier this year.

13. November 2015

The International Criminal Court cut a 12-year prison term imposed on Congolese militia leader Germain Katanga for a brutal attack on a village, saying he would be freed in January after he had voiced regret for his actions.

27. January 2016

Judges at the International Criminal Court gave its prosecutor a green light to launch a new inquiry into allegations of war crimes during a brief but bloody 2008 war between Russia and Georgia.

21. March 2016

Congolese politician Jean-Pierre Bemba became the highest-ranking political leader to face a verdict from the International Criminal Court. He was found guilty of a 2002-2003 campaign of rape and murder in Central African Republic.

05. April 2016

The ICC terminated the case against Kenya's deputy president William Ruto saying there was insufficient evidence he was involved in violence following presidential elections in 2007.

08. June 2016

Eritrea's government rejected accusations of human rights abuses after a UN commission of inquiry said Eritrea's "systematic, widespread" human rights abuses should be referred to the International Criminal Court as crimes against humanity that include enslavement of up to 400,000 people.

21. June 2016

The ICC handed down its toughest sentence yet, ordering former Congolese vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba to serve 18 years in jail for “sadistic, cruel” rapes and murders by his troops in Central African Republic.

19. September 2016

A judge with the International Criminal Court in the case of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta ruled that Kenya has failed to comply with its obligations to cooperate, referring the country for non-compliance.

27. September 2016

Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi was sentenced to nine years imprisonment by judges of the International Criminal Court, after he pleaded guilty to a single war crimes charge of intentionally directing attacks in Mali against a religious and historic site in Timbuktu in 2012.

06. October 2016

Burundi's government said it has presented a draft law in parliament to debate how it can withdraw from the International Criminal Court. He accused the court of violating the rights of Africans.

12. October 2016

Burundi lawmakers overwhelmingly voted in support of a plan to withdraw from the International Criminal Court, something no country has ever done. A country wishing to withdraw from the ICC must write to the UN secretary-general stating its intention, and the withdrawal takes effect a year after the day the secretary-general receives the letter.

19. October 2016

The ICC convicted former Congolese vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba and four members of his legal team of interfering with witnesses, saying the case should send a clear message that attempting to corrupt trials will not go unpunished.

21. October 2016

South Africa announced that it would withdraw from the International Criminal Court, dealing a major blow to a troubled institution set up to try the world's worst crimes.

25. October 2016

Gambia became the third African nation to say it will leave the International Criminal Court, deepening fears of a mass pullout from the body that pursues some of the world's worst atrocities.

14. November 2016

The ICC chief prosecutor said in a report that US forces in Afghanistan may have committed the war crime of torture when interrogating detainees, opening the possibility of Americans being prosecuted even though their country is not a member of the court. The report added that CIA operatives may have subjected at least 27 detainees in Afghanistan, Poland, Romania and Lithuania to “torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity and/or rape” between December 2002 and March 2008.

16. November 2016

Russia dealt the International Criminal Court a fresh blow as the court's top officials urged nations to support the tribunal hit by a wave of unprecedented defections. Moscow has never ratified the world's only permanent war crimes court, but in a heavily symbolic move on the opening day of the ICC's annual meeting, it said it was formally withdrawing its signature to the tribunal's founding Rome Statute.

10. February 2017

The United Nations received a notice from Gambia's reversing its withdrawal from the International Criminal Court.

22. February 2017

A South African court ruled that the government's decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court without parliament's approval was unconstitutional.

07. March 2017

The United Nations said South Africa's withdrawal from the International Criminal Court has been revoked, stalling what would have been the first-ever departure from the tribunal that pursues the world's worst atrocities.

19. March 2017

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte welcomed the prospect of the International Criminal Court (ICC) putting him on trial over his bloody war on drugs, saying he would not be intimidated and his campaign would be unrelenting and brutal.

22. March 2017

The ICC judges sentenced former Congolese VP Jean-Pierre Bemba to a year in jail and fined him 300,000 euros for bribing witnesses during his war crimes trial in an unprecedented case before the ICC.

24. March 2017

The ICC awarded \$250 dollars as “symbolic” damages to each victim of former Congolese warlord Germain Katanga, a sum swiftly dismissed as meaningless by those who lost homes and loved ones in a militia attack on their village 14 years ago.

24. April 2017

A Philippine lawyer filed a complaint at the ICC against President Rodrigo Duterte, alleging his war on drugs has caused some 8,000 deaths.

14. June 2017

The ICC chief's prosecutor called for the "immediate arrest and surrender" of Moamer Kadhafi's son Saif al-Islam, who was reportedly set free by a militia in Libya. Fatou Bensouda said an arrest warrant issued by the Hague-based ICC against Saif in 2011 remains valid.

15. August 2017

The ICC issued an arrest warrant for Mahmoud al-Werfalli, a commander in the Special Forces of Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA), for allegedly executing dozens of prisoners earlier this year in the city of Benghazi. Victims' bodies were found in garbage dumps with bound hands and gunshots to the head.

17. August 2017

ICC judge said that a Malian jihadist was liable for 2.7 million euros in personal damages for destroying Timbuktu's fabled shrines in 2012, as they ordered reparations in a landmark ruling.

04. September 2017

UN investigators accused Burundi's government of crimes against humanity, including executions and torture, and urged the International Criminal Court to open a case "as soon as possible". Burundi formally announced it was withdrawing from the court, with the move set to take effect on October 27.

27. October 2017

Burundi became the first country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court. Officials said the court's prosecutor will move ahead with an examination of the East African nation's deadly political turmoil.

03. November 2017

The chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court said she is seeking an investigation of alleged war crimes committed in the war in Afghanistan, an unprecedented probe that could involve US troops.

09. November 2017

The ICC approved a prosecution request to investigate war crimes allegedly committed in Burundi by the government and government-linked groups against political foes from April 2015 to October 2017.

16. November 2017

Venezuela's ousted chief prosecutor asked the International Criminal Court to open an investigation into President Nicolas Maduro and four other senior officials for alleged crimes against humanity.

11. December 2017

The ICC said it would refer Jordan to the UN Security Council for failing to arrest Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir when he visited Amman in March.

15. December 2017

The ICC ruled that former Congo DRC warlord Thomas Lubanga, convicted in 2012 of using child soldiers, is liable for \$10 million in reparations to victims in the African nation.

26. January 2018

The ICC prosecutor issued a renewed appeal to Libyan authorities to arrest Libyan commander Mahmoud al-Warfalli, wanted by the court for war crimes, after he was linked to a shocking video purported to show brutal killings.

08. February 2018

It was reported that ICC prosecutors have opened a preliminary examination into Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte's "war on drugs", which has led to the death of thousands since it began in July 2016.

13. March 2018

The Philippines said it is withdrawing from the International Criminal Court due to what President Rodrigo Duterte called “outrageous” attacks by UN officials and violations of due process by the ICC.

18. March 2018

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte called for other signatories of the Rome Statute that established the International Criminal Court to join his country in withdrawing from the treaty.

31. March 2018

Authorities in Mali handed over jihadist leader Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud to the International Criminal Court for prosecution on war crimes charges committed in Timbuktu while the town was under the control of extremists between April 2012 and January 2013.

22. *May* 2018

Palestinian foreign minister Riyad al-Maliki asked the International Criminal Court to open an “immediate investigation” into alleged Israeli crimes committed against the Palestinian people.

30. May 2018

At The Hague hundreds of Rohingya victims appealed to judges at the International Criminal Court to grant prosecutors jurisdiction to investigate deportations from Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh.

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