



United Nations  
Nations Unies



International Criminal Tribunal  
for the former Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal International  
pour l'ex-Yougoslavie



Foreword  
Introduction to the Tribunal  
Testifying before the Tribunal  
Assistance and Support to Witnesses  
Special measures for confidentiality,  
security and protection  
Who can I ask for compensation?  
Basic information about the Tribunal

# Information booklet for ICTY witnesses

Victims and Witnesses Section  
2007





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Publication prepared by the Victims and Witnesses Section, Registry  
Produced by the Graphics and Reproduction Unit  
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia  
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**T**he aim of this booklet is to provide some guidance to witnesses coming to testify before the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The booklet is also intended to inform members of the public interested in learning about the role of witnesses at the International Tribunal.

The booklet is prepared with the financial assistance of the European Community, by the Victims and Witnesses Section of the Tribunal whose staff are available to provide the necessary support and protection to witnesses called to testify before the Tribunal. The booklet is intended to complement the information given to witnesses by officials of the Tribunal and lawyers.

The Tribunal has observed that many witnesses have questions about the Tribunal and are insufficiently informed about their involvement in the Tribunal's work. This booklet has been designed as a guide with the aim of answering some of the concerns expressed by witnesses and helping them understand their role in the proceedings before the Tribunal. It contains relevant information about the Statute and Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Tribunal relating to the giving of testimony and the rights of witnesses under those provisions. It also includes practical information related to travel arrangements. A table in a separate insert accompanying this booklet includes information pertaining to fees, entitlements and allowances.



The Victims and Witnesses Section hopes that this booklet will answer some of the questions witnesses may have and that it can provide some comfort and relief to their experience of giving testimony. It is important to know that this booklet contains general information only and is not intended as legal advice.



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# Introduction to the Tribunal

**T**he International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia was established by Resolution 827 of the United Nations Security Council on 25 May 1993 and is based in The Hague, The Netherlands. The ICTY is the first international criminal court ever established by the United Nations Security Council and is mandated to prosecute “persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991”.

The ICTY has jurisdiction over natural persons who allegedly committed grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, violations of the laws or customs of war, genocide or crimes against humanity on the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia since 1 January 1991.

By establishing the ICTY, the Security Council aimed to achieve four principal objectives, namely, to bring to justice those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law, to render justice to the victims, to put an end to the crimes being committed in the former Yugoslavia and to contribute to the restoration of peace by promoting reconciliation in the former Yugoslavia.

The Tribunal is an independent and impartial body. It consists of three separate organs: the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry.

**The Chambers**, consisting of three Trial Chambers and one Appeals Chamber, are composed of independent Judges of different nationalities, (none of them coming from the former Yugoslavia), representing the main legal systems in



the world. The Judges hear testimonies and legal arguments, decide on the innocence or the guilt of the accused and pass sentences or acquittals.

**The Office of the Prosecutor** conducts the investigations and the prosecution of persons falling within the ICTY's jurisdiction and acts independently as a separate organ of the ICTY.

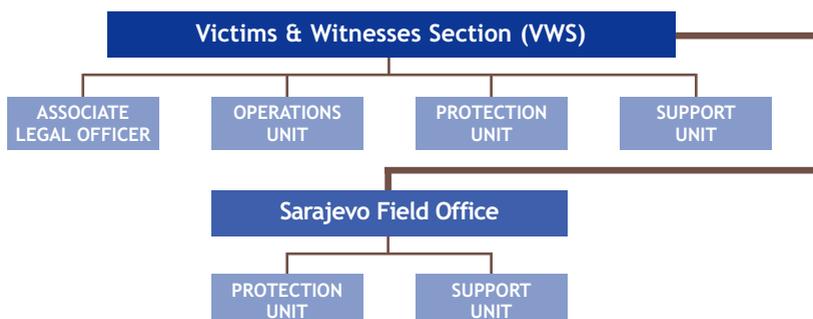
**The Registry** is responsible for the administration and management of the Tribunal, servicing both the Chambers and the Prosecutor. This includes the provision of assistance and protection to victims and witnesses through the Victims and Witnesses Section.

**The Defence** of the suspect or accused is not, as such, part of the organisation of the Tribunal. A suspect or accused has the right to legal assistance of his or her own choosing and to appoint counsel to organise his or her defence before the Court.

### The Tribunal:



### The Victims and Witnesses Section:



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# Testifying before the Tribunal

## **A. The importance of testifying before the Tribunal**

Your testimony is crucial for the proper functioning of the Tribunal in giving a fair and equitable judgement to those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law. Your testimony will not only enable the Judges to render a fair judgement, it will help the international community to learn the truth about the crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia and deter persons from committing these crimes again. Your testimony will constitute evidence upon which Judges may base their judgement, for it may shed light on that which occurred in the former Yugoslavia. Ultimately, by testifying, you are making a necessary and valuable contribution to the restoration of justice and reconciliation in the region of the former Yugoslavia.

## **B. Ways of testifying**

### **1. Oral testimony**

The witness is physically present in the courtroom and will tell the Court what he or she saw or heard, or what he or she knows of the accused or other events upon which he or she is being questioned. In exceptional circumstances, if for example a witness cannot travel to the Court, a witness may give evidence away from the seat of the Tribunal by way of live video-conference link.

### **2. Deposition**

In exceptional circumstances, a witness may be asked by the Court to give evidence by way of deposition. A deposition can either be taken in The Hague or elsewhere by a representative of the Court in the presence of the Prosecution and the Defence. The party who has not requested the deposition shall have the right to cross-examine the

person whose deposition is being taken. The proceedings will be recorded, at least on audio tape.

### 3. Evidence in the form of a written declaration

The Court may, in certain circumstances, admit evidence in the form of a written declaration proving matters not related to the acts and conduct of the accused as charged in the indictment. An official authorised to witness such a declaration shall be present. The Court may nevertheless decide whether the witness is required to appear in Court for further questioning.

## C. About your testimony in Court

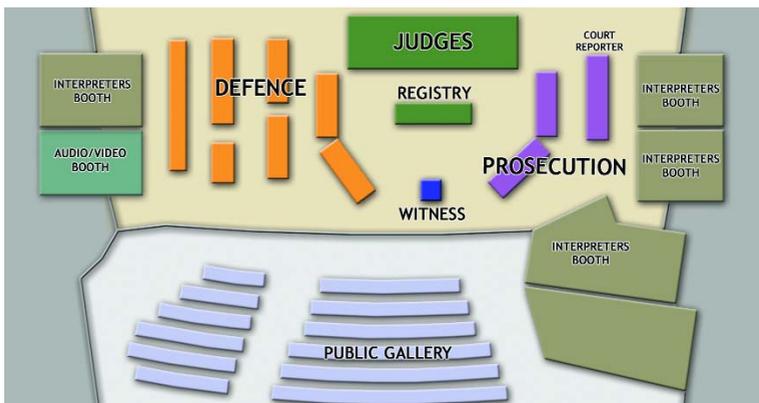
### 1. In Court

If the Prosecutor has called you to testify, you will first be asked questions by the Prosecutor. After that, the Defence will ask some questions and may challenge what you have testified. When the Defence has finished, you may be asked some more questions by the Prosecutor. If you are a witness called by the Defence, the order is reversed.

The Trial Chamber exercises control over the questioning of witnesses and the presentation of evidence.

The panel of Judges may also put questions to you at any time.

You have the right not to make any statement which might incriminate you. The Court can compel you to answer a question, but your answer will not be used against you before this Tribunal, except in the case of false testimony. If you have any further questions about this matter, please contact an official from the Office of the Prosecutor/Defence Team.



## 2. Telling the truth and the facts as you know them

- The purpose of your journey to The Hague is to give testimony before the Tribunal and to tell the Judges the facts as you know them to assist the Court in determining the guilt or innocence of the accused. You are therefore required to tell the truth. The Court will then assess the truth of your testimony and its value.
- In Court, before you testify, you will be required to solemnly declare that you are speaking the truth by stating: **“I solemnly declare that I will speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth”**. By doing this, you have committed yourself to tell what, to the best of your knowledge, is the truth.
- Do not hesitate to inform the Court if you do not understand a question put to you, to ask for clarification or to ask for the question to be repeated.
- Consider each question before you answer. Take your time and speak slowly and clearly. Please remember that the interpreter has to translate what you say. It is therefore helpful to speak in short sentences and to give the interpreter sufficient time to translate.
- Do not guess; if you are not sure of the answer to a question, just state that clearly to the Judges.
- Just answer the questions one after the other. It is the responsibility of the lawyer who puts the questions to lead you. It is not for you to recount all the events at once.

## 3. False testimony

To give false testimony before the Tribunal constitutes an offence under the Rules of the ICTY. The maximum penalty that may be imposed for false testimony is a fine of 100,000 Euros or a term of imprisonment of seven years, or both.

## 4. Contempt of the Tribunal

If you knowingly and wilfully interfere with the Court’s administration of justice, you could be held in contempt of the Tribunal.

This includes situations such as the following:

- disobedience and failure to answer questions;
- the disclosure of information in knowing violation of an order of a Chamber; and
- without just excuse, the failure to comply with an order to attend before a Chamber.

The maximum penalty that may be imposed for contempt is the payment of a 100,000 Euros or a term of imprisonment of seven years, or both.

## **5. Can the Court order a witness to testify?**

Yes. A Trial Chamber may issue summons to a witness ordering his or her attendance at the Tribunal. If the witness fails to comply with such order of the Court, he or she could be held in contempt of the Tribunal and be penalised.

## **6. Sexual assault cases**

Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence relates specifically to victims testifying in sexual assault cases. For further details concerning the Rule, speak to the Prosecution or Defence lawyer handling the case.

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**A. The Victims and Witnesses Section:  
Making your testimony a positive experience**

Testifying before the Tribunal may be a difficult and painful experience. In order to minimise the difficulties that may occur, the Victims and Witnesses Section has been established to support and protect you when you are called to testify before the Tribunal. The Victims and Witnesses Section will contact you when the time for your testimony approaches. From that day the Victims and Witnesses Section is there to help you and take care of you, so that you are able to give testimony to the ICTY.

The Victims and Witnesses Section is an independent and neutral body in the Registry of the Tribunal that facilitates the appearance of all witnesses before the Tribunal, whether called by the Chambers, Prosecution or Defence.

The Victims and Witnesses Section works to ensure that all witnesses can testify in safety and security and that the experience of testifying does not result in further harm, suffering or trauma to the witness. The Victims and Witnesses Section fosters an environment in which testifying can be experienced as a positive, strengthening and enriching event. The Victims and Witnesses Section operates with the highest levels of integrity, impartiality and confidentiality, and ensures that all witnesses are informed about their rights and entitlements and have equitable access to the services of the section.

There are three units in the Victims and Witnesses Section. The Protection Unit co-ordinates responses to the security requirements, the Support Unit provides social and psychological counselling and assistance to witnesses, and the Operations Unit is responsible for logistical operations and witness administration.

The Victims and Witnesses Section is also assisted by a Field Office in Sarajevo which provides victims and witnesses from all regions in the former Yugoslavia with easier access to the protection and support services of the Victims and Witnesses Section, both before and after they testify before the ICTY.

## **B. Practical arrangements for your testimony**

### **1. What will happen before I travel?**

You will be advised by the lawyers or the investigators who have been in contact with you that the Victims and Witnesses Section will contact you shortly before your travel to The Hague. We will then assist you to prepare for your travel. If you do not have a valid passport or another valid travel document we can help you to obtain such a document. However, you must inform us of this as soon as possible, since in some situations, getting a travel document can take a number of weeks. We will also arrange a visa for you if that is required for entering The Netherlands.

If necessary, we can inform the relevant authorities in your country of residence about "a necessary absence" in order to protect your right to benefits, your rights as an asylum seeker or your other rights to remain in the country.

If you have this kind of preliminary requirement, please inform the lawyers or the investigators who have been in contact with you or the Victims and Witnesses Section as early as possible.

Please keep and bring receipts for miscellaneous expenses like passport photos, bus or train tickets with you. These costs relating directly to your travel to The Hague will be reimbursed.

Remember to pack your passport, your medicines and any documentation the lawyers or investigators have asked you to bring with you. If you wear glasses, do not forget to take them with you, to help you read documents in Court. Your trip will usually last about seven days, but it could very well be longer. Please pack adequate clothing with you and remember that it might be cold and wet in The Hague.

### **2. How will I get to The Hague?**

Your travel expenses, paid by the Tribunal, are based on the most economical route and standard of travel. If you need to fly, you will be provided an economy class pre-paid flight ticket to The Netherlands. An allowance will be paid to you for your expenses for getting to the airport. For the amounts, please see the table with the

list of entitlements listed in the separate insert accompanying this booklet. If you have to travel more than 100 km to the airport, you will be reimbursed for this. However, you are obliged to use public transport and you must bring your receipts with you to The Hague. Taxi fares will not be reimbursed unless this has previously been organised with us. Entitlements do include a maximum amount which may not be exceeded. Where applicable, maximum amounts are listed in the separate insert accompanying this booklet.

If you require assistance before or during your journey, one of our staff members will collect you from your residence, take you to the airport and travel with you to the Netherlands. Our staff will be there to assist you with check-in, customs and immigration controls. We will also apply for and collect your visa to enter The Netherlands.

The shortest flights possible are booked. We will provide you with overnight accommodation close to the airport, if the distance between the airport and your residence is such that you cannot make it to the airport on the same day the flight departs. If you cannot fly or are afraid of flying, please inform us well in advance and we will make alternative arrangements to enable you to travel to The Hague.

### **3. When will I travel? How long will I stay in The Netherlands?**

You will be informed as early as possible before your journey about travel dates and the approximate length of time you are required in The Hague. However, please note that changes in travel dates are frequent. The Court schedule is subject to changes and the Tribunal may have to call some witnesses at very short notice or even postpone their testimony. We will stay in contact with you to keep you informed of any changes. Normally you will arrive in the Netherlands a few days prior to your testimony to allow you some rest and time for the lawyers to prepare you for your testimony.

The average stay of a witness in The Hague is approximately seven days. It may occur, however, that things in the courtroom take longer than expected. In that case your stay will be prolonged. Please inform the staff of the Victims and Witnesses Section if an extended stay causes difficulties for you and request our assistance to plan accordingly.

### **4. Will I receive any compensation for the expenses of being away from home?**

Witnesses receive two payments from the Tribunal while they are in The Hague. One is called the Daily Allowance and the other is called

the Attendance Allowance. The amounts are listed in the separate insert accompanying this booklet.

The Daily Allowance covers incidental expenses you incur while you are in The Hague.

The Attendance Allowance is paid for the duration of your travel and stay in The Hague and the amount paid is set at the rate of a minimum United Nations salary in the country where you reside. This allowance is designed to compensate you for any lost wages, economic loss and the expenses at your home for the time you are away.

If the Attendance Allowance is insufficient to cover your actual losses and you will suffer undue economic hardship, you may apply to the Tribunal to be considered for an "Exceptional Loss" claim. This application, which should be addressed to the Registrar of the Tribunal, must be supported by full documentation. This may include such documentation as tax statements, pay slips, bank statements, rental agreements, utility bills, etc. in order to demonstrate the hardship suffered and loss sustained. Our staff will be in touch with you to assist you in making this claim.

#### **5. What if I have special problems that make it difficult for me to be away from home?**

The Victims and Witnesses Section has professional Support Officers to assist you with special needs you may have. If you have dependent children or other dependent members of your family who need to accompany you or need care while you are away from home, we may be able to assist you. We may also be able to assist you with special services if you suffer from any disabilities or conditions that cause you difficulty in travelling or being away from home, or if you require a family member or friend to travel with you. Our Support Officers will assess your individual requirements and determine your eligibility for assistance. Please inform us of your needs when we contact you. Otherwise you can apply for assistance through the Office of the Prosecution investigators, defence counsel, directly to the Victims and Witnesses Section via the witness hotline telephone number, or in writing to our address.

#### **6. What if I become ill or the stress of testifying becomes too great for me?**

The Victims and Witnesses Section has made arrangements with local health and medical services for a rapid response to the health needs of witnesses. Should you fall ill while in The Hague, you are insured for any necessary medical treatment. The Victims and Witnesses Section also has Support Officers who provide counselling and

psychological services on a 24-hour basis as well as Witness Assistants who visit witnesses at the hotels and are also on 24-hour duty.

## **7. What happens when I first arrive in The Netherlands?**

A staff member from the Victims and Witnesses Section will welcome you upon your arrival at the airport or train station in The Netherlands and will drive you to your accommodation. This staff member will assist you in collecting your luggage and escort you through the immigration and custom formalities. You will be provided detailed instructions on where and how to meet the Victims and Witnesses Section staff before your start your journey.

You will be taken directly to your place of accommodation where you will meet one of the Witness Assistants of the Victims and Witnesses Section. The Witness Assistants will welcome you to The Hague and, throughout your stay in The Hague, will be your points of reference for any questions or concerns you may have. If they are not able to answer your questions, they will do their best to refer you to a proper source.

## **8. Then what happens?**

### **a. Assistance available when you need it**

The Witness Assistants are a team of support staff whose job it is to ensure you are as comfortable as possible in your place of accommodation and over the duration of your visit. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to refer to the Witness Assistant on duty. Witness Assistants will visit your hotel on a daily basis. They can provide assistance around the clock, and in difficult situations, for example at night. The Witness Assistant may be located at your place of accommodation, or could be at another location nearby, but is always accessible by mobile telephone. You will be given a Witness Assistant business card on which four phone numbers are provided. In case of emergency you may call the Witness Assistant on duty from the hotel reception. You can show the hotel staff your card and they will dial the number for you.

### **b. On arrival at the accommodation**

You may feel a bit overwhelmed by your trip, the procedures and all the information that will be given to you. Please note that you don't have to remember it all and that you can always ask again, as many times as you need.

After arriving at the hotel, the Witness Assistant will have to go through some administrative procedures with you. You will be asked certain questions and requested to provide your tickets and any claims that you have for childcare or any other kind of special care you wish

to apply for. You will also be given a daily allowance and asked to sign for it. The Witness Assistant will give you some information leaflets. You are requested to read them carefully. They will give you some information about the courtroom and inform you that you are not allowed to discuss your testimony with other witnesses.

### **c. Confidentiality and safety**

The staff of the Victims and Witnesses Section prioritise your safety concerns. We go to great lengths to protect your identity thereby ensuring your safety during your stay. We give every witness a special code number and we book your hotel room under that code, not your name. We would ask you, within reason, to be careful about giving your name to staff employed at the hotel.

You will receive a card when you arrive for you to keep while you are in The Netherlands, called an "Assistance Card". It has information on it in Dutch and in English which tells the reader how to contact the Tribunal. Please carry this card with you when you go out; if something happens which causes you anxiety when you are away from our staff, you can show this card to request assistance in reaching us. We will know who you are by the special code number written on the card.

### **d. My accommodation and meals**

Your accommodation and meals are covered by the Tribunal. Some hotels offer their guests a minibar, telephone in their room and 'PAY-TV', which allows you to watch a movie of your choice. Please note that these services are NOT free of charge. They are in fact very expensive. Please bear in mind you are responsible for costs that you incur in your hotel room. The Tribunal will NOT reimburse them.

All witnesses will automatically be provided with bed and breakfast at the hotel during their first day in The Hague. After the first day, you may choose between full board or a combination of bed and breakfast and 'meal allowance', a small sum of money with which you may buy your own meals wherever you wish. For meal allowance entitlements, please see the table at the back of this booklet.

### **e. Telephone calls**

When you first arrive at your accommodation, you will be offered the use of the mobile phone of the Witness Assistant to make one telephone call to your family to confirm that you arrived safely. If you want to make further phone calls, you can buy a telephone card that you can use in a public telephone booth. The Witness Assistant can help you to purchase one.

## 9. When will I go to the Tribunal?

The Witness Assistant will inform you about the times that you are required at the Tribunal for meetings or for your testimony. You will be notified in advance when a driver will be coming to pick you up to take you to the Tribunal. The first time that you are taken to the Tribunal, the Witness Assistant will wait for the driver with you.

### a. Will I meet with my lawyers before I testify?

Before you testify at the Tribunal, it is usual that the lawyers and investigators who have called you to testify will want to meet with you to talk about Court procedures and information to do with your testimony. This is called “proofing”. This is a good opportunity to ask the lawyers any questions you have concerning Court procedures. You can also ask the lawyers to show you the courtroom, as this can often reduce feelings of nervousness you might have about going into the courtroom. The Witness Assistant will tell you at what time you are expected for this meeting and will tell you when the driver will pick you up.

### b. What happens on the day that I am required to testify?

On the day that you are going to testify, the driver will pick you up from your accommodation. The driver will escort you to a witness waiting room, where Support staff will receive you. You will wait in this waiting room until the usher comes to take you into the courtroom. The amount of time that you spend waiting to be called into the courtroom can vary from very short to very long. If you have any reading material or other things to do, bring them along. There are refreshments, playing cards, magazines and other material for your use during the time you are waiting in the witness waiting room. And the Support staff will be there to help make you feel more comfortable.



During the court proceedings, there will be several breaks, usually every 90 minutes. Support staff will come to see you on these breaks. If there is a lunch break in the proceedings, you may be brought back to the hotel. At the end of proceedings for the day, you will be brought back to your accommodation by the driver. You are then free to relax and do as you wish; if you are still under oath however, you cannot discuss the court proceedings with anyone.

### **c. The Support Officer**

Sometimes, when witnesses testify about difficult or traumatic events, they may experience physical and emotional feelings of discomfort, stress, sadness and anxiety. The professional Support Officer is trained and experienced in providing counselling and debriefing to assist people who experience these feelings. The Support Officer is available to see you before, during and after your testimony, usually in the waiting room, but she/he can also visit you in the hotel if you prefer. If you require any medical attention during the time you are at the Tribunal, the Support Officer will arrange for a nurse or doctor to attend to you.

### **d. The Protection Officer**

If you have concerns or worries about your safety as a result of testifying, there is a Protection Officer available whom you can request to meet to discuss these issues.

## **10. Recreation**

During your leisure time, you are of course free to explore The Hague. However, we do ask you to inform the Witness Assistant of your whereabouts so that we are able to contact you if the need arises.

Please do not forget to take your Assistance Card with you.

## **11. Meeting relatives and friends**

If you have any relatives or friends living in The Netherlands that you would like to meet, you are more than welcome to do so. However, please organise to do this in cooperation with the Witness Assistant. We are generally very careful about letting the public know which hotels we use to accommodate our witnesses during their stay in The Hague. Therefore, please do not invite persons to your hotel. Furthermore, do not arrange to meet persons in the vicinity of your hotel.

If you wish to meet relatives or friends outside of The Netherlands once you have finished testifying, you must discuss this with the VWS before you commence your travel from your home. There are a number of conditions that you must fulfil before embarking on private travel which the VWS will explain to you.

## **12. What happens when my testimony is finished?**

You will return home as soon as possible after you finish your testimony. Before departure, the Witness Assistant will give you your

final payment. Please check the amount before you sign for it. You will also be given a “thank you” letter from the Tribunal. The day you leave, the Witness Assistant will collect your Assistance Card, Witness Assistant business card and room key. The driver will pick you up and bring you to the airport. He will escort you through the airport to the departure gate.



# Special measures for confidentiality, security and protection

**T**he Judges of the Tribunal can grant special measures in and outside the courtroom both before and during the trial to protect witnesses who justify to the Judges that they and/or their family are at risk because of their testimony. These special measures have to be consistent with the rights of the accused.

If you require protective measures in the courtroom, make sure that, as early as possible, you have clearly stated this to the investigators and the lawyers. If you have the opportunity, you may also ask to speak to a Protection Officer from the Victims and Witnesses Section.

The Victims and Witnesses Section protects the privacy and provides for the safety and security of all witnesses. Staff of the Victims and Witnesses Section will treat all information about you with the strictest confidentiality.

## **A. Who knows I am here and whom can I tell?**

You are advised to remain discrete with regard to the reason of your presence in The Hague. Members of the media will be present in the public gallery during most of the trial proceedings. The Tribunal therefore advises you or anyone who may accompany you not to give interviews to the media during your stay in The Hague. In addition, you are advised not to reveal your accommodation location to others.

Once you have started testifying, you are not allowed to have any contact with the Prosecution or Defence staff until the end of your testimony. You will not be allowed to follow the testimonies of other witnesses. It is also very important that, if you converse with other witnesses, you do not discuss your or their testimony.

In case you meet other witnesses during your stay in The Hague or in the event that you are staying with other witnesses at the same place

of accommodation, it is important that you do not disclose their personal details and the fact that they are also testifying in cases before the Tribunal to anyone else, as they or you may be appearing under protective measures.

For the sake of safety and security while you are in The Hague, the Tribunal does not encourage you to have visitors or make contacts with other persons not related to the Tribunal. If however, you do wish to make such contacts, you must inform the Witness Assistant before making any private arrangements. The Witness Assistant will assist you to make your arrangements in a secure manner.

## **B. Protective measures**

As a witness testifying before the Tribunal, you can, if there is a justified need, ask for protective measures to be taken in relation to your identity. The protection measures available to the Tribunal are to a great extent aimed at minimising the risks to your safety. You may be asked to state the reasons why such protective measures are needed. It is indeed important that the proceedings remain as public and transparent as possible.

You should also be aware that your identity may, in principle, not be hidden from the accused.

The Court may grant the following measures:

- Your name, address and whereabouts and other information which may identify you can be withheld from the public and the media. In case the Trial Chamber orders that your identity may not be disclosed to the public and media, you may be given a pseudonym which will be used in all trial proceedings. In addition to that, your name can be removed from all existing court documents and all identifying information may be sealed or excluded from all of the Tribunal's public records.



- Voice and image altering devices can be used to alter your appearance on the court television screens and/or the sound of your voice. Screens can be placed around you in order to prevent the people seated in the public gallery from recognising you.
- The Judges may order closed sessions, which means that you may be permitted to give your evidence in camera. These court sessions are closed to the

public and the only people present in the courtroom are the accused, the Judges, lawyers and court officials.

- Evidence may be also given by one-way closed-circuit TV, so that you do not have to see the accused. Evidence will be given in a separate room. You will be able to hear what is going on in the courtroom and the Judges will be able to see your face on the courtroom television screens on their desks. You will also be seen and heard by the accused, the Defence and Prosecution lawyers and others in the courtroom.

### **C. Can my testimony and identity be disclosed in another case?**

Yes. You should be aware that once you have testified, your testimony and your identity may be disclosed at a later date in another case before the Tribunal. This can happen without your involvement. You will be fully briefed by the Victims and Witnesses Section about this upon your arrival in The Netherlands, prior to your testimony.

You may, however, require that your identity not be disclosed, for instance, in relation to a specific case or an accused person. The Trial Chamber might then decide whether the interest of the Defence to know your identity outweighs your security concerns.

You should also be aware that, in case you enjoy protective measures, these shall continue to have effect in any other proceedings before the Tribunal, unless these measures have been altered by the Court. The Court could decide to rescind, vary or augment the protective measure accorded to you. If, for example, you were given a pseudonym in one case and your testimony is used in another case, a pseudonym will be used in that other case to protect your identity, unless the Court has decided to alter the protective measure.

If you have any further questions, please speak to the Prosecution, the Defence or a staff member of the Victims and Witnesses Section before you testify.

### **D. Who is responsible for my safety while I am in The Hague?**

Responsibility for your safety rests in the hands of competent Dutch authorities. We are confident that all necessary steps have been taken to ensure your safety in The Hague.

### **E. Who is responsible for my safety after I return home?**

Should you for any reason feel concerned as to your safety after you return to your home country, please do not hesitate making your concerns known to the Victims and Witnesses Section. We will most

certainly look into the matter, and should you request us to do so, we are able to contact the relevant authorities in your home country. We would only do this with your permission and when we assess that this is necessary.

#### **F. What is relocation and when is it possible?**

When there is a threat to your life that is so serious that you are not able to return to your country of residence by virtue of your actual testimony, the Victims and Witnesses Section can arrange for you and your close family to be relocated to a third country. A comprehensive assessment will be made by the Victims and Witnesses Section, which can recommend appropriate measures such as relocation. This is an extreme measure, which will only be recommended in cases where the Victims and Witnesses Section assesses that there exists a verifiable, identifiable and sustained threat to the life of a witness.

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# Who can I ask for compensation?

**T**he Tribunal does not have the authority to grant compensation to victims nor can it direct States to award compensation. However, if you are a victim of a crime committed by a person convicted by the Tribunal, you may bring an action in a national court or other competent body to obtain compensation in accordance with the relevant national legislation. In certain circumstances, following the conviction of an accused, the Court may order restitution of property or the proceeds thereof.

## A. Map of The Hague



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# Basic information about The Hague

## B. The weather

The Netherlands has a maritime climate, which means that winters and summers are usually mild. The period between February and May is the driest. Despite its small land area, The Netherlands experiences different climates. Because of this, the average minimum in the east is one degree Celsius lower in the winter and two degrees higher in the summer than it is on the coast. Rain is common in all seasons in the Netherlands. Even in summer the weather may be cold and rainy. From June to September, however, the coast has more sunshine-hours than the rest of the country.



Photo: Zoran Lesic

We therefore strongly recommend that you bring a raincoat and an umbrella with you.

## C. Language

After Dutch, the languages most frequently spoken are English, German and French.

**Notes:**



