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PREFACE

This is the thirty-first volume in the series ‘Annotated Leading Cases of International Criminal Tribunals’ and contains the most important decisions of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) from 28 November 2007 up to and including 30 November 2008. It is the tenth volume in the series containing decisions of the ICTR. Further volumes on ICTR case law will be selected soon and will cover decisions up to 1 January 2010.

The present volume is in its approach and structure similar to previous volumes. Thus, the book contains the full text of all the decisions and judgements, including separate, concurring and dissenting opinions, as well as annexes to the decisions. As with previous volumes, the editors have ensured that the decisions are fully identical to the *written* original text, as issued by the ICTR Press and Information Office and which bears the signatures of the Judges. We are aware that almost all decisions are available on the internet. However, only the written decisions bearing the signatures of the Judges can be considered as authoritative versions. In the course of our editorial work on this and previous volumes, we have occasionally discovered inconsistencies between the written original version of the decision and the internet version, if the latter is available at all. Much of our editorial efforts consist in making the texts in this series identical to the written original version.

We could only include the full text of the decisions in this volume by reducing their original format. Still, we wanted the reader to be able to identify the page number of the original text, which is throughout the text put in brackets []. We are again very happy that a number of scholars in the field of international criminal law were prepared to write interesting and stimulating commentaries regarding the decisions.

A few words regarding the selection of decisions may give the user an insight into our working method. In principle, we select all final judgements. In addition, we publish decisions taken at any stage of the procedure that are important for other reasons: because they deal with a specific legal question, because they are representative of a specific type of decision, or because they enter new legal waters. Of course, we cannot publish all decisions. As a result, we may not publish decisions in which issues have been decided in a way similar or identical to a decision that has already been selected.

The decisions are presented in different parts and under different headings.

Part 1, ‘Preliminary Matters’, relates to a couple of decisions concerning deferral and referral, a new development in the practice of the ad hoc tribunals, in which cases are referred back to states.

Part 2 deals with procedural matters. Whereas some decisions concern the way the proceedings are conducted in view of the requirements of a fair trial, others relate to *amicus curiae* and counsel, or to disclosure and evidence.

Part 3, ‘Judgement and Sentencing’, contains five judgements and covers by far the largest part of this volume. As mentioned above, judgements are by definition included in this series, because of their importance, both from a factual and legal perspective.

We owe acknowledgements to many persons without whom we could not have completed this thirty-first volume. These include Registrar Adama Dieng of the ICTR and his staff, who offered generous assistance in obtaining all the hard copies of decisions. Our publisher Intersentia, in particular Hans Kluwer, Tom Scheirs and Isabelle van Dongen, facilitated our work. We also acknowledge the work of our student assistants, Mariam Pathan (Maastricht), and Robert-Jan Winters (Amsterdam), who both assisted with the corrections of the text and without whom we would not be able to publish this series. The Netherlands School of Human Rights Research stimulated our work. Professor Steven Freeland from the University of Western Sydney, Australia, offered tremendous help by correcting our English. Last but not least, we wish to thank the distinguished authors for their commentaries on the decisions.

We hope that this volume will contribute to the further dissemination of the important work of the ICTR and that it will provide access to its decisions to practitioners, academics and students.

André Klip and Göran Sluiter

Maastricht/Amsterdam, October 2010