



Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

Official Transcript: Saidou Guindo (Part 8 of 8)



Role:	Detention Warden
Country of Origin:	Mali
Interview Date:	16 October 2008
Location:	Arusha, Tanzania
Interviewers:	Donald J Horowitz Lisa P. Nathan
Videographers:	Max Andrews Nell Carden Grey
Interpreter:	None

Interview Summary

Saidou Guindo discusses the detention facilities used to house those accused and indicted by the ICTR in Arusha. He describes instances where inmates went on hunger strikes in protest against decisions taken by the Tribunal. Guindo also comments on the common critique that the ICTR detention facilities are far more comfortable than those in Rwanda that house people indicted for lesser offenses. Guindo asserts that the ICTR has a duty to meet the minimum detention standards guaranteed under international law.

The transcript of Part 8 begins on the following page.

Part 8

- 00:00** Lisa P. Nathan: Is there – if you – I don't know if you ever take trips to Rwanda, but if you were to speak to the Rwandan people about your role here, what would you like them to know?
- 00:15 To know that the international standard, to implement the international standard is very important for people who are in a jail – in detention. Okay, because it is something which is written by the United Nations, approved by the United – ratified by many countries, among them Rwanda.
- 00:39 And when we went there during – when I was working there from October '94 to '98, it was not easy at the beginning. Even to visit the, the, the prisons it was difficult. Slowly they agreed that you can visit but you have to be very, very – what they say – firm.
- 01:02 And later on when we went to, for negotiation of agreement, it was not easy regarding facilities we want them to, to have if they are maybe one day transferred there. Like to have to be in touch with the family is very important, to have a visit is very important.
- 01:23 Later on when even when we, we implemented the conjugal visit the Minister of Justice of Rwanda reacted very, very, very strongly. Those kind of things I think – (___) we say, “No, you have to go, you cannot . . .”
- 01:39 The husbands are in detention, okay, but why to, to, what they say, the family members have to suffer, the wife? It is the kind of thing which can maintain, I think, the contact of, consolidate the, the, the unity of, the union of the family. But if there's nothing and after ten years it's not easy.
- 02:08** LPN: So for my last question, I would like to hear your thoughts on justice. What do you think about when you think about justice?
- 02:20 Justice if something did something wrong, he has to be brought to justice, of course, to show him that what he did is wrong according to the society. And it is not because you're strong or you're not, you're weak in the society, it's supposed to be equal for everybody. This is what I think of justice.
- 02:50** LPN: Thank you.