



Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

Official Transcript: Christine Graham (Part 5 of 13)



Role:	Senior Appeals Counsel
Country of Origin:	Sweden
Interview Date:	29 October 2008
Location:	Arusha, Tanzania
Interviewers:	Robert Utter Donald J Horowitz
Videographer:	Max Andrews
Interpreter:	None

Interview Summary

Christine Graham discusses the considerable length of ICTR cases, due in part to the unusual nature of the crimes and to an initial lack of infrastructure. She reflects that judicial systems usually are built over hundreds of years, yet the ICTR was tasked with building a justice system in roughly a decade. She observes that while the Tribunal contributes to reconciliation by providing a judicial response to the genocide, the mandate for reconciliation had little influence on the judicial procedures.

The transcript of Part 5 begins on the following page.

Part 5

- 00:00 **Robert Utter: I'm going to turn this over to my companion here very soon.**
- 00:03 Okay.
- 00:04 **RU: Two questions I'd like to end with at least in my part. What's been the most satisfying part of your work for you?**
- 00:14 Most satisfying part. Well I don't want to sound revengeful but it was actually having one victim witness identifying one of the accused in court in a very courageous way, having gone through what she had gone through. That was I think the most satisfying and one of the most, my proudest achievement, I think. Getting her as a witness was very hard. She was very resistant.
- 00:47 **RU: Of course.**
- 00:48 And she had suffered a lot of personal trauma. And there were very stupid little problems surrounding her. You know, she couldn't see very well because, and they couldn't get her glasses so she could see in the courtroom. So there was one thing after the other but eventually we managed to overcome all that. And I believe she made a very credible witness and she managed to identify one of the accused, in a, yeah, in a very special way, in a very courageous way.
- 01:24 **RU: And what's been the most disappointing part of your work?**
- 01:31 I think the most disappointing part is the fact that it's so hard to have, to get the logistical administrative support from, from the institution. And I am not, want to blame this institution specifically. I think that is something – if you work within a court system that existed for several hundreds of years and you have a court that has been there for, you know, maybe in the same place with a, for 50 or a hundred years everything is much easier.
- 02:15 **RU: Of course.**
- 02:16 Here you spend a lot of time and effort on what you really don't feel that you sh-, should spend your time on as a, a lawyer.
- 02:27 **RU: Thank you very much.**
- 02:28 Thank you.