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International  
Criminal Tribunal  
for the Former  
Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal  
International pour  
l'ex-Yugoslavie

International  
Criminal Tribunal  
for Rwanda

Tribunal Pénal  
International pour  
le Rwanda

Office of the  
Prosecutor

Bureau du  
Procureur

Ref: 970057/LA/PVS/cn

The Hague, 30 June 1997

Dear Ms. Copelon,

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 1997, and the enclosed copy of the *amicus curiae* brief that was submitted to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in the matter of Mr. Akayesu.

In early June, as a result of newly uncovered evidence, the trial attorneys were directed to file for leave to amend the indictment to include counts of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

On 17 June 1997, the Trial Chamber granted our motion for leave to amend the indictment. In the same hearing, the Trial Chambers found that a *prima facie* case existed and thus confirmed the amended indictment. The trial of Mr. Akayesu is rescheduled for 22 October 1997, at which time the accused will enter a plea to the charges of sexual violence. I am confident that the prosecution will prevail on proving that sexual violence occurred in the Taba Prefecture during the genocide and that Mr. Akayesu was in position of authority in relation to the subject matter of the new charges.

I welcome the constructive dialogue between the Office of the Prosecutor and dedicated women's and human rights organizations that has taken place since I took up my responsibilities, almost one year ago. Deputy Prosecutor Bernard Muna shares this view. Together we are grateful for the support you have given to the ICTR mandate to investigate and prosecute crimes of sexual violence.

Sincerely,

Justice Louise Arbour  
Prosecutor

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