



March 16, 1998

President Laity Kama  
President  
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda  
P.O. Box 6016,  
Arusha, Tanzania  
By courier and fax: (212) 963-7365

Dear President Kama:

**Re: Amicus Curiae Brief Submitted by the NGO Coalition for Women's Human Rights in  
Conflict Situations in the case of the Prosecutor v. Jean-Paul Akayesu**

We are writing following the recent visit to the Tribunal of my colleague, Ms. Isabelle Solon Helal, who had the pleasure of meeting with Ms. Cecile Aptel to discuss the amicus curiae brief submitted in May 1997, by the NGO Coalition for Women's Human Rights in Conflict Situations ("NGO Coalition"), in the case of the Prosecutor v. Jean-Paul Akayesu. The amicus curiae brief requested the amendment of the indictment and supplementation of the evidence to ensure the prosecution of rape and other sexual violence within the competence of the Tribunal. Our organization is one of the members of the NGO Coalition.

The amicus curiae brief was originally submitted on May 27, 1997, by fax to the Tribunal through the Office of the Registrar. On July 7, 1997, the receipt of the brief was confirmed by the Office of the Registrar by letter (Ref: ICTR/JUD-11-6-219) to Ms. Rhonda Copelon of the International Women's Human Rights Law Clinic ("IWHR"). By letter dated July 3, 1997, (Ref: 970057/LA/PVS/en), Justice Louise Arbour indicated to Ms. Annie Bunting of the Working Group on Engendering the Rwanda Tribunal ("Working Group") that she received the brief and welcomed the constructive dialogue. Both the IWHR and the Working Group are members of the NGO Coalition.

Following the submission of the amicus curiae brief, we sent the Trial Chamber two letters, on June 5, 1997, and on September 24, 1997, in order to inform the Tribunal of the names of additional organizations who had requested to be added to the list of signatories on the amicus curiae brief.

At the time we filed the amicus curiae brief, which we understand is the first such brief filed at the Tribunal, the Akayesu indictment did not contain any charges of sexual violence. We are, of course, very pleased by the decision announced in June 1997 by the Office of the Prosecutor to

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revise the above-mentioned indictment to include sexual violence charges. With respect, at the suggestion of Ms. Aptel, we request confirmation from the Trial Chamber that the amicus curiae brief has been made part of the Akayesu file.

We appreciate your attention this matter and look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



for Ariane Brunet  
Coordinator  
Women's Rights Programme

encl.

Amicus Curiae Brief in the case of the Prosecutor v. Jean-Paul Akayesu.