



Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

Official Transcript: Angeline Djampou (Part 9 of 10)



Role:	Chief Librarian
Country of Origin:	Cameroon
Interview Date:	30 October 2008
Location:	Arusha, Tanzania
Interviewers:	Lisa P. Nathan Ronald Slye
Videographer:	Nell Carden Grey
Interpreter:	None

Interview Summary

Angeline Djampou describes the facilities provided by the ICTR library and the different groups using library services. She speaks about embedded prejudices towards Hutus at the Tribunal, and the challenges of working with detainees, drawing attention to the importance of the presumption of innocence. Djampou reflects on travelling to Rwanda as part of her ICTR induction and stresses the importance of this experience for her work. She notes that many of those working at the Tribunal have never travelled to Rwanda.

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Part 9

- 00:00** **Ronald Slye: Let me ask something a little more specific about the library here that you raised before which concerns defense counsel. You mentioned how the prosecutors and the judges many times do their research in their offices but defense counsel do it in the library. Have there been concerns about privacy and confidentiality that that's raised by defense counsel?**
- 00:25 In terms of library services?
- 00:26** **RS: In terms of their, if they're in the library sort of in the public doing their research, is there a concern that – or have they raised a concern about their own privacy and the confidentiality of the work they're doing on behalf of their clients?**
- 00:42 No, they've not, they've not done that. But when, for instance we, we subscribe to online databases, we alwa-, al-, we always make sure that we have a password that only defense counsel use for instance so that if – because if you share one password, you can see the search history – so we always make sure that if the defense is using one password that no other group is using it, yes.
- 01:17 But them, they've not come forward to raise questions about confidentiality but those access to legal databases, they, they, they have passwords. Yes, they usually have passwords. They had password. Now they don't, because we noticed also that these passwords were being used out of ICTR and we're not really sure that it is used in relation to a work connected with the work of ICTR.
- 01:53 And this is also an issue because you may end up being very unfair to the defense but that's due to the fact – and they've raised this question of being treated, treated unfairly in terms of access to information. Because – it is simply due to the f-, to, due to the fact that due to the structure of the ICTR they are treated a bit separately and others follow, other services follow, yeah.
- 02:27** **RS: When you mentioned before also how they – because they're many times in court all day – the fact that the library is only open from eight to five Monday to Friday may mean that it's very difficult for them to get access to the library's materials. How would you recommend in the future libraries like this structure themselves to address that sort of problem?**
- 02:52 If the, if the tribunal was structured the same way as ICTR, I will recommend that libraries be given more resources to open maybe one extra day for the defense. But my recommendation will go, would, would concern the structure of the organization itself for the defense to be treated as the prosecution and be given the same services and the same privileges.

- 03:22 For instance here, the defense counsel, they come and they go. No-, nobody knows when they come. Nobody knows when they're gone. And the library services are based on a check-in and check-out process. When for instance the prosecution or any other staff comes in the li-, in ICTR, they check-in in different services just to indicate that they are now part of ICTR and that, and that they can be provided with specific services.
- 03:59 When their assign-, assignment with the ICTR ends, they also go, go through different services and check-out so that in the library, I'll make sure that they have returned the books. The IT will make sure that they've returned the computer and so on. So, on this basis, they are given the services because there's this process.
- 04:25 The defense does not check-in and does not check-out. So if I give them books on loan, I don't know when they are leaving, and yet I have to account for these books. So that's the only reason why they're not given the same services as, as the other staff of the ICTR. So I will recommend that the organization be structured differently to treat them as members of the organization.
- 04:55 RS: You mentioned before when you first started to work for the ICTR, somebody gave you three books to read. What were those books?**
- 05:05 I don't remember the books. I, there was one books on the creation of the ICTR, the panel of expert-, of experts that came, that did the qualification of the facts as genocide and th-, that recommended that the ICTR be established. I remember that there was one book actually on the history of Rwanda, and there was one book – I, but I don't remember the title – and there was one books on the genocide itself, on the killings.
- 05:38 RS: And that was something that it sounded like not everyone was given, that that was (___). Do you think that everybody should have been given something like that?**
- 05:46 Definitely, definitely because I'm, I'm convinced that my attitude towards ICTR is influenced by the fact that I read those books and that I went to the field. Some judges have not been to the field.
- 06:04 RS: Did that make you a better librarian?**
- 06:09 It makes me a better librarian that I'm more – I have a sense of service, much more than when I came here, and not service to the immediate people that I serve. (___), to me, promoting libraries is a major concern. I, I definitely did not have, I wanted a job as a librarian before, but now I actually want to be a part of the promotion of information services where in, in the communities where I live or where I can be helpful.
- 06:50 So it has made me a better librarian, I can say that. Yes.