

Face to Face with International Criminal Justice

International Law Conference

&

Art Exhibition

Weights and Measures: Portraits of Justice



Fugitive - Hissène Habré, standing trial at the Extraordinary African Chambers (guilty of murder, torture, crimes against humanity, kidnapping, forced disappearance, and unlawful confinement, after video still from Human Rights Watch) 2016, Oil on Linen, 173cm x 122cm, x2. Image of artwork courtesy of Bradley McCallum

Presented by

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The concept of justice for Colombians is at the heart of the difficult historical transition that Colombia is entering into. In an effort towards peace, the country is divided between opposing views of justice amidst tensions, fear, confusion and politics. The conference *Face to Face with International Criminal Justice* and the exhibition *Weights and Measures: Portraits of Justice* intend to create a space for Colombians to examine their concept of justice from a refreshed and unexplored perspective, devoid of politics, yet with proximity and emotion through a close encounter with the international case law and the faces of the accused.

The enterprise of building peace and putting an end to the oldest armed conflict in Latin America is having a tough start. Critics of Nobel Peace Prize winner and president Juan Manuel Santos find his government too ready to compromise the state's prerogative to punish war criminals harshly. Others fear lack of asymmetry in the treatment of guerilla fighters and members of the regular armed forces. Colombians from all walks of life, including retired military, civil society, academia, politicians, question the Special Jurisdiction for Peace designed to prosecute for war crimes and set out in the Havana Peace Agreement of 2016 between the State and the guerrilla group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the FARC. These debates have polarized the population and risk jeopardizing a unique opportunity for Colombians to embrace the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.

As part of the conference Colombians can experience the complexity of international justice through the visual art exhibition *Weights and Measures* by American artist Bradley McCallum, who explores cases in which powerful men have been held accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Over the past four years the artist created approximately eighty portraits of the faces of individuals involved in international justice in different times and places. Thus far the collection includes paintings of 20 defendants standing trial, photographs of more than 60 justice practitioners involved in courts and human rights processes, as well as audio-portraits from survivors of international crimes.

The importance of the artists' portraits is that it makes visible the often invisible aspects of international courts and tribunals. ILAC is inviting local and international experts and the public to take a closer look at cases of criminal tribunals worldwide, as well as the poignant faces of key actors and important voices. Colombians, with a traditionally formal and civil legal system, tend to focus on the text of the Rome Statute, with less examination of the case law, which is fundamental in understanding and applying a hybrid system of law.

Through the conference, *Face to Face with International Criminal Justice*, and the artwork presented in *Weights and Measures: Portraits of Justice*, the ILAC makes international criminal justice more tangible to Colombians through the faces and stories behind the cases and the reasoning of justices.

Faces and cases will be exposed by artists and international law experts open to engaging in dialogue with Colombians, bringing South African, Canadian and Eastern European perspectives to the conversation. Ultimately, this project contributes to the task that lies ahead for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace of Colombia, whose cases will in turn contribute to the development of international criminal law beyond the borders of the Colombian legal system.

María del Pilar Vanegas Guzmán, President of the International Law Association Colombia