

# WHAT DID VICTIMS ACHIEVE IN KAMPALA? REVIEWING THE ICC REVIEW CONFERENCE IN RELATION TO VICTIMS

Aurora Elizabeth Bewicke\*

*From Nuremburg to Rome, victims have gained an ever-increasing role in international criminal justice. The Review Conference of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Kampala, Uganda in summer 2010 was an opportunity for victims and victims' interest organizations to take advantage of this elevated status to bring about further progress. From the first-hand perspective of participant-delegate, this advantage was never fully realized. This article presents a thematic summary of events at Kampala, as they related to victims within the ICC mandate, drawing from panel presentations, victim interventions, and distributed texts. Concluding that the conference was a decidedly limited success for victims' interests, this article offers a critical analysis of both positive achievements and missed opportunities, urging a more focused way forward*

## I. INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday, June 8, 2010, in Kampala, Uganda, the Assembly of the States Parties (ASP) to the International Criminal Court (ICC) adopted a resolution on *The Impact of the Rome Statute System on Victims and Affected Communities*, by consensus.<sup>1</sup> This resolution was accompanied by the adoption of five other resolutions and two declarations,<sup>2</sup> which were the result of years of preparation, a week and a half of ASP negotiations, panel presentations, civil society interventions, as well as informal meetings taking place at the Munyonyo Speke

---

\*Aurora Elizabeth Bewicke is a practicing attorney, working primarily in the areas of victims' representation and criminal defense. Apart from her legal work in the United States, she has appeared in victims' reparations proceedings before the Kosovo Property Claims Commission and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims Commission, as well as in criminal proceedings at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. In addition, she has conducted research for the Office of the Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone and is authorized to practice on defense teams at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. Ms. Bewicke attended the Kampala Review conference as a delegate for the International Criminal Bar. She would like to thank the executive committee and other members of the International Criminal Bar who have inspired her throughout her legal career and selected her to represent them as a delegate in Kampala.

<sup>1</sup> International Criminal Court [ICC], *Resolution on the Impact of the Rome Statute System on Victims and Affected Communities*, ICC-ASP/RC/Res.2 (14 June 2010) [hereinafter *Resolution on Victims*].

<sup>2</sup> ICC, *Kampala Declaration*, ICC-ASP/RC/Decl.1 (1 June 2010); ICC, *Resolution on Complementarity*, ICC-ASP/RC/Res.1 (8 June 2010); ICC, *Resolution on the Strengthening the Enforcement of Sentences*, ICC-ASP/RC/Res.3 (8 June 2010); ICC, *Resolution on Article 124*, ICC-ASP/RC/Res.4 (10 June 2010); ICC, *Resolution on Amendments to Article 8 of the Rome Statute*, ICC-ASP/RC/Res.5 (10 June 2010); ICC, *Resolution on The Crime of Aggression*, ICC-ASP/RC/Res.6 (11 June 2010); ICC, *Declaration on Cooperation*, ICC-ASP/RC/Decl.2 (8 June 2010).