

LUBANGA TRIAL: TIMELINE

February 10, 2006: An ICC arrest warrant is issued for Thomas Lubanga after two years of investigations by the ICC's prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo into the conflict in the Ituri region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lubanga is handed over to the ICC on March 17.

June 13, 2008: Ten days before the trial is due to start before the ICC's Trial Chamber I, the judges halt the proceedings. The court rules it is impossible for Lubanga to receive a fair trial after it learns the prosecutor withheld potentially exculpatory evidence from the defense.

July 2, 2008: The court orders Lubanga's unconditional release from detention.

October 21, 2008: The ICC Appeals Chamber reverses the release order, but maintains the stay of proceedings. It returns the case to the trial chamber, which subsequently determines that the necessary information has been handed over, and sets a trial date.

January 28, 2009: The trial begins.

May 22, 2009: Victims participating in the trial file an application claiming existing evidence warranted the additional charges of sexual slavery and cruel and inhuman treatment.

July 14, 2009: The prosecution closes its case. The Trial Chamber judges rule in favor of the victims' application to add new charges based on both fresh and existing evidence.

December 8, 2009: After months of delay, the Appeals Chamber reverses the Trial Chamber decision to allow additional charges.

July 8, 2010: The court stays the case a second time, after the prosecution refuses to obey an order to disclose the identity of an intermediary used by the prosecution to contact witnesses. The defense had claimed this intermediary had coached and bribed witnesses. The court issued a formal warning to the ICC prosecutors for refusing to implement the chamber's orders.

October 8, 2010: The stay of proceedings is reversed by the Appeals Chamber which says the Trial Chamber erred when it stayed the proceedings without first considering less drastic measures.

April 15, 2011: Final defense witness concludes his testimony.

May 20, 2011: The official close of the evidence phase of the trial.

