Rome Statute of the ICC

Article 68 - Protection of victims and witnesses and their participation in the proceedings

1. The Court shall take appropriate measures to protect the safety, physical and psychological well-being, dignity and privacy of victims and witnesses. In so doing, the Court shall have regard to all relevant factors, including age, gender as defined in article 7, paragraph 3, and health, and the nature of the crime, in particular, but not limited to, where the crime involves sexual or gender violence or violence against the children. The Prosecutor shall take such measures particularly during the investigation and prosecution of such crimes. These measures shall not be prejudicial to or inconsistent with the rights of the accused and a fair and impartial trial.

2. As an exception to the principle of public hearings provided for in article 67, the Chambers of the Court may, to protect victims and witnesses or an accused, conduct any part of the proceedings in camera or allow the presentation of evidence by electronic or other special means. In particular, such measures shall be implemented in the case of a victim of sexual violence or a child who is a victim or a witness, unless otherwise ordered by the Court, having regard to all the circumstances, particularly the views of the victim or witness.

3. Where the personal interests of the victims are affected, the Court shall permit their views and concerns to be presented and considered at stages of the proceedings determined to be appropriate by the Court and in a manner which is not prejudicial to or inconsistent with the rights of the accused and a fair and impartial trial. Such views and concerns may be presented by the legal representatives of the victims where the Court considers it appropriate, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

4. The Victims and Witnesses Unit may advise the Prosecutor and the Court on appropriate protective measures, security arrangements, counselling and assistance as referred to in article 43, paragraph 6.

5. Where the disclosure of evidence or information pursuant to this Statute may lead to the grave endangerment of the security of a witness or his or her family, the Prosecutor may, for the purposes of any proceedings conducted prior to the commencement of the trial, withhold such evidence or information and instead submit a summary thereof. Such measures shall be exercised in manner which is not prejudicial to or inconsistent with the rights of the accused and a fair and impartial trial.

6. A State may make an application for necessary measures to be taken in respect of the protection of its servants or agents and the protection of confidential and sensitive information.

Literature:


FIDH, *Enhancing Victims’ Rights before the ICC* (Paris 2013);


Jones, J., *The Practice of the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda* (Transnational Publishers, 1997);


Pérez León Acevedo, J. P., *Victims' Status at International and Hybrid Criminal Court – Victims’ Status as Witnesses, Victim Participants/Civil Parties and Reparation Claimants* (Åbo: Åbo Akadmi University Press, 2014);


**Rome Statute of the ICC**

**Article 75, Reparations to victims**

1. The Court shall establish principles relating to reparations to, or in respect of, victims, including restitution, compensation and rehabilitation. On this basis, in its decision the Court may, either upon request or on its own motion in exceptional circumstances, determine the scope and extent of any damage, loss and injury to, or in respect of, victims and will state the principles on which it is acting.
2. The Court may make an order directly against a convicted person specifying appropriate reparations to, or in respect of, victims, including restitution, compensation and rehabilitation.
3. Where appropriate, the Court may order that the award for reparations be made through the Trust Fund provided for in article 79.
4. Before making an order under this article, the Court may invite and shall take account of representations from or on behalf of the convicted person, victims, other interested persons or interested States.

5. In exercising its power under this article, the Court may, after a person is convicted of a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court, determine whether, in order to give effect to an order which it may make under this article, it is necessary to seek measures under article 93, paragraph 1.

6. A State Party shall give effect to a decision under this article as if the provisions of article 109 were applicable to this article.

7. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted as prejudicing the rights of victims under national or international law.

Literature:


Ferstman, C., & Goetz, M. (eds.), *Reparations for victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity* (Second revised edition, Brill Nijhoff, 2020);

FIDH, *Enhancing Victims’ Rights before the International Criminal Court* (Paris 2013);


McCarthy, C., *Reparations and Victims Support in the International Criminal Court* (Cambridge University Press, 2012);


Pérez León Acevedo, J. P., *Victims’ Status at International and Hybrid Criminal Court – Victims’ Status as Witnesses, Victim Participants/Civil Parties and Reparation Claimants* (Åbo: Åbo Akadmi University Press, 2014);


The right to truth:


Selected jurisprudence of the ICC:

*Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*, Trial Chamber I, Decision Establishing the Principles and Procedure to be applied in Reparations, ICC-01/04-01/06-2904, 7 August 2012; *id.*, Appeals Chamber, Judgement on the appeals against Trial Chamber II’s Decision Setting the Size of the Reparations Award for which Thomas Lubanga is Liable, ICC-01/04-01/06-3466, 18 July 2019.

*Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga*, Trial Chamber II, Order for Reparations pursuant to Article 75 of the Statute, ICC-01/04-01/07-3728, 24 March 2017; *id.*, Appeals Chamber, Confidential Judgment on the appeals against the order of Trial Chamber II of 24 March 2017 entitled ‘Order for Reparations pursuant to Article 75 of the Statute’, ICC-01/04-01/07-3778 [redacted], 8 March 2018; *id.*, Trust Fund for Victims, Draft Implementation plan relevant to Trial Chamber II’s order for reparations of 24 March 2017, ICC-01/04-01/07-3751-Conf, 25 July 2017.


**DISSEMINATION RESOURCES**

[VPRS_Victim-s_booklet.pdf (icc-cpi.int)](https://icc-cpi.int) - Victims before the International Criminal Court

A guide for the participation of victims in the proceedings of the ICC


before the International Criminal Court. A Manual for legal representatives

[Victims (unodc.org)](https://www.unodc.org) – UN Handbook on Justice for Victims (Int. Law) [also listed above]


Links to the [Nuhanovic Foundation Center for War Reparation](http://www.nuhanovicfoundation.org/en/legal-instruments/) website materials:
Declaration of the World Nuclear Victims Forum in Hiroshima ...

After 3 days session, the forum adopted “Declaration of the World Nuclear Victims Forum in Hiroshima,” which includes the draft elements of a charter of World Nuclear Victims’ Rights. The forum also issued “Fukushima Special Appeal” ahead of the 5th anniversary of the nuclear accident in Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Japan and IAEA risk Fukushima victims' lives with forced return

A massive decontamination exercise is under way in Iitate Village near Fukushima, writes Kendra Ulrich: step one in a plan to force 6,000 residents back into the evacuated zone in 2017. But as radiation levels remain stubbornly high, it looks like the real plan is to 'normalize' nuclear catastrophe, while making Iitate residents nuclear victims twice over - and this time, it's deliberate.

Publications

Developments since the 2013 UNSCEAR Report on the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the nuclear accident following the great east-Japan earthquake and tsunami. The 2015 White Paper to guide the Scientific Committee's future programme of work (available in English and Japanese). 2015 White Paper English