

Rwanda Genocide Tribunal Archival Legacy - A Personal Reflection on and Response to the ICTR Advisory Committee on Archives

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ABSTRACT

As the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda [ICTR] finally winds down for completion by 2010 and with major staff reductions looming by the end of 2008, the attention is now focused on the fate of the ICTR archive. An Advisory Committee on Archives consisting of eminent persons was established in mid-2007 to prepare a report on the future of the Rwanda genocide court's archival legacy. The ICTR's archival legacy is being studied in the framework of the ICTR completion strategy and is a joint effort with the Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia [ICTY]. The author was asked for his input and thoughts over the matter, based on his eight years of experience at ICTR. The response deals with three main areas of concern for the archival legacy of the ICTR. These three areas are preservation, security and access. The audiovisual component of the archive is an invaluable asset to humanity but requires a large financial investment to ensure its long term viability. The vexed

question of where the archive will be housed is shrouded in political sensitivity. Whatever the final decision on location or deposition of copies, the right to access of the Rwandan community is vital in making these determinations.

Key terms: *archives, genocide, information management, information access, justice, preservation, reconciliation, Rwanda, security*