



PRESS KIT

MILO RAU / IIPM – INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL MURDER

THE CONGO TRIBUNAL

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CREDITS

THE CONGO TRIBUNAL

A PRODUCTION OF MILO RAU / INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL MURDER (IIPM)

HEARINGS:

29 - 31 MAY 2015, BUKAVU HEARINGS, COLLÈGE ALFAJIRI, BUKAVU (EASTERN CONGO)

26 - 28 JUNE 2015, BERLIN HEARINGS, SOPHIENSAELE, BERLIN

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY Milo Rau RESEARCH AND CASTING Eva-Maria Bertschy PRODUCER Arne Birkenstock, Olivier Zobrist CO-PRODUCER Milo Rau STAGE DESIGNER Anton Lukas CAMERA Thomas Schneider SOUND Jens Baudisch, Marco Teufen EDITING Anke Trojan LINE PRODUCER Mascha Euchner-Martinez, Mirjam Knapp PRODUCTION MANAGER Mascha Euchner-Martinez, Kirsten Schauries, Eva-Karen Tittmann ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Mirjam Knapp RESEARCH ON SITE Kris Berwouts, Chrispin Mvano Ya Bauma, Jean Moreau Tubibu TECHNICAL MANAGER BUKAVU Patric Byamungu CORPORATE DESIGN Nina Wolters PUBLIC RELATIONS Yven Augustin CROSSMEDIA Sebastian Lemke EDITORIAL BOOK Rolf Bossart

***THE CONGO TRIBUNAL** is a film and theatre production of Milo Rau and the International Institute of Political Murder (IIPM).*

***The theatre project** is a coproduction of IIPM and Sophiensaele Berlin, in cooperation with Fruitmarket Arts and Media, Langfilm, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights and Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, funded by Regierender Bürgermeister von Berlin – Senatskanzlei – Kulturelle Angelegenheiten, Hauptstadtkulturfonds Berlin, Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (bpb) and the Goethe Institut Johannesburg. With the kind support of Brussels Airlines.*

***The film** is a German-Swiss coproduction of Fruitmarket Arts and Media and Langfilm, in cooperation with IIPM and Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen SRF & Radio Télévision Suisse RTS, Lemafrika Culture et Développement (Bukavu) and Kwetu Film Institute (Kigali), funded by Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, Bundesamt für Kultur (Switzerland), Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (Germany), Kulturförderung Kanton St. Gallen / Swisslos, Zürcher Filmstiftung, Filmförderungsanstalt, Deutscher Filmförderfonds and Volkart Stiftung.*

1. THE CONGO TRIBUNAL

Milo Rau's theatre and film project "The Congo Tribunal" convenes in the tradition of Jean-Paul Sartre's "Vietnam Tribunal" in Bukavu – the "World Capital of Rape" – and in Berlin – the city of the historical Africa Conference of 1885. More than 60 witnesses and experts investigate the causes and backgrounds to the 20 year ongoing war in Eastern Congo – one of the richest regions of natural resources in the world.

Over six days Congolese government and opposition politicians, soldiers, rebels, UN and World Bank officials, large mining companies as well as ordinary Congolese citizens, philosophers, economists and lawyers face an international jury. In Bukavu the economical perspectives of a politically unstable region haunted by rebels and ethnic conflicts are examined, based on three concrete cases. Subsequently the hearings in Berlin shed light on the involvement of the international players - the multinational companies and the World Bank, the industrial nations, the UN and the NGOs - in the war in Eastern Congo and the mechanics of „disaster capitalism“ (Naomi Klein).



Milo Rau during a film shooting with Congolese soldiers.

The subjects of the inquest are discussed controversially and with an open end. The hearings are filmed and form the centre-piece of the same-titled documentary film with international cinema release in autumn 2016.

For over 20 years, an unfathomable civil war has transformed an area the size of Western Europe into Hell on Earth: It is the Congo War, a war that has claimed the most victims of all wars since World War II. It first presented itself merely as a repercussion of the genocide in neighboring Rwanda and the subsequent fall of the Congolese dictator Mobutu. It soon developed into an ongoing massacre of the Congolese population. In its early stages the conflict was limited to a split among the genocide militias who fled Rwanda, before it developed into a globally networked, autonomous "economy of war", to which child soldiers armed with cheap Kalashnikovs and machetes belonged just as much as the German NGOs, biodiesel producers, Chinese commodity traders and Canadian mining companies.

This is because the reason for the continuation of the war in the Congo is no longer ethnic antagonism, but commodities, such as coltan, niobium or cassiterite, which were essential to survival in the upcoming 21st century. "Our mobile phone manufacturers lead in the Congo War", as the daily newspaper "Die Welt" summarized - because nowhere else are the deposits of coltan, which is crucial for communication technology, greater than in Eastern Congo. Coltan which is equally applicable as a base material for new technology that will go into mass production in the context of the "green revolution".



Theatre hall of the Collège Alfajiri in Bukavu, where „The Congo Tribunal“ will taking place at the end of May 2015.

For the first time, "The Congo Tribunal" creates an unshrouded portrait of this, one of the most immense economic wars in human history, as well as of its economic and political causes and its tangible face on the ground. Why do all the efforts of the UN (which does not shy away from the term "genocide") and the processes against the militias conducted by the International Criminal Court remain completely ineffective? Is the reason perhaps that the war in the Congo is not being allowed come to an end that too many local and international players are involved in the booming commodity trade in the Eastern Congo?

In May 2015, "The Congo Tribunal" convenes the main protagonists and analysts of the Congo War in Bukavu – the

provincial capital of South Kivu, the province in the Congo most affected by the war – and one month later in Berlin for a large, three-day tribunal. Based in form on the Russell-Sartre Tribunal (1966) about the crimes of the Vietnam War and presided over by a half-Congolese and half-international panel of experts as well as the two leading human rights lawyers in the region, the central lines of the conflict in the Congo War will be examined based on hearings with victims, witnesses, militia officers, politicians, UN and NGO members, commodity traders and local human rights activists. Unlike the International Criminal Court or national courts, not only the local players, rebel leaders and low-rank soldiers will be held accountable before the Congo Tribunal but also their international accomplices who provided the supply lines for this atrocious civil war or prevented its cessation.

As in Milo Rau's film "The Moscow Trials", acclaimed by the international press, the subjects of the investigation are controversial and debated with an open end: Are the causes of the "African World War" to be found in a colonial past which has still not yet been overcome? To what extent is the energy revolution with its enormous demand for rare metals and biodiesel a declaration of war on the Congo region? And will one of the biggest and bloodiest economic wars of human history decide the future order of the global community?

With "The Congo Tribunal", Milo Rau completes his preoccupation with Central Africa, which he started with the theater, film and book production of "Hate Radio" (about the Rwandan genocide) in 2011 and, amongst others, with the 2013/2014 talk show series "The Berlin Dialogues". The international cinema release of "The Congo Tribunal" will be in autumn 2016.



„The Congo Tribunal“ convenes more than 60 witnesses and experts of the Congo War in Bukavu and Berlin.

2. SCHEDULE

A. THE BUKAVU HEARINGS

**Collège Alfajiri, Bukavu, Eastern Congo
29 - 31 May 2015**

Opening Session (Friday 17:00 - 19:00)

Introductory Speeches

Explanation of the rules and the objectives of the tribunal

Session 1: The Bisie Case (Saturday 11:00 - 14:00)

In 2002 artisanal miners discovered a large deposit of cassiterite on a hill close to the city of Walikale in the North Kivu province. As the region was occupied by numerous armed groups, troops of the Congolese army occupied the mine in order to protect it and walked away with a large part of the profits. Four years later the company MPC acquired an exploration licence for the mine from the government in Kinshasa. This led to an open conflict with the miners on the site.

Key Question: Does the industrial mining of the raw materials in Bisie contribute to the security and economical development of the region or are the foreign mining companies the only ones who profit?

Session 2: The Twangiza Site Case (Saturday 16:00 - 19:00)

When Zaire (later Democratic Republic of Congo) was on the verge of bankruptcy in 1996, the Canadian start-up company BANRO bought the licence for gold mining from Mobutu for the Twangiza site near Bukavu. When the company began mining in 2003, the local population were to be relocated. This led to a conflict with the inhabitants of Luwhindja.

Key Question: Has BANRO profited from the political instability during the war in order to plunder the natural resources of Eastern Congo or are they pioneers of the industrialisation of the region?

Session 3: The Mutarule Case (Sunday 13:00 - 16:00)

In June 2014 a massacre took place in Mutarule, a village in the border region between Rwanda and Burundi in Eastern Congo, resulting in 35 deaths. This was the fourth massacre in two years. Although the local authorities had on a number of occasions warned about the increasing insecurity in the region, neither the troops from the UN Mission nor the Congolese army could prevent the atrocity.

Key Question: Is there no end to the insecurity in Eastern Congo because too many local and international players are involved in the numerous conflicts and profit from them, or do they in fact prevent something even worse?

Closing Speeches (Sunday 17:00 - 19:00)

Press Conference (Monday 13:00 - 15:00)

Presentation of the results by the jury

B. THE BERLIN HEARINGS

Sophiensaele Berlin, Germany

26 - 28 June 2015

Opening Session (Friday 19:00 - 21:00)

Introductory Speeches

Summary of the results from the Bukavu Hearings

Explanation of the rules and the objectives of the tribunal

Session 1: Responsibility of the Multinational Companies and the World Bank (Saturday 12:00 -15:00)

The different measures – like the Dodd-Frank Act or the OECD guidelines – designed to stem the trade and processing of so-called “conflict minerals” from Eastern Congo, to date seem to above all serve the cultivation of the image of the electronics industry, while local conditions have barely improved. Instead the Congolese mine workers are displaced by multinational companies who profited during the war, acquiring concessions under favourable conditions.

Key Question: Are the companies responsible for the human rights violations in Eastern Congo or do they in fact contribute to the stabilisation of the region?

Session 2: Responsibility of the EU, its Member States and Switzerland (Saturday 17:00 – 20:00)

While the sanctions against “conflict minerals” affect the Congolese artisanal miners in particular, the multinational companies are scarcely held responsible for the violation of human rights in Congo. In view of the increasing need for natural resources in western industrial countries, the regulation policies of the EU in Central Africa presumably conduce to the security of future consumption. Thus the “clean” energy policies of the industrial states rely on a neo-colonial outsourcing of all “dirty” primary industries, accompanied by a massive resettlement programme.

Key Question: Are the multinational companies not prosecuted for their human rights violations because their involvement in Africa is necessary for Europe's current energy policies?

Session 3: Responsibility of the NGOs and the United Nations (Sunday 14:00 - 17:00)

In Congo, like many other former colonies, independence could never cultivate a stable government - let alone a functioning civil society. The ruined traditional and civil society structures and absent state monopolies have been superseded by western financed parallel structures: the NGOs and the UN peace missions. They currently find themselves in a crisis of legitimacy. Denounced as merely self-sustaining, fatally entangled in the respective power systems.

Key Question: Is the peace-keeping policy of the international community in the field responsible for the continuing conflict by stabilising the status quo?

Closing Speech (Sunday 18:00 - 20:00)

Press Conference (Monday 14:00 - 16:00)

Presentation of the results by the jury

3.

„IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BECOME INVOLVED.“

A CONVERSATION WITH MILO RAU
ABOUT THE BACKGROUND TO “THE CONGO TRIBUNAL”

Dirke Köpp: Mr. Rau, you were recently in Congo for your new documentary project “The Congo Tribunal”. A journey into the heart of darkness?

Milo Rau: In a sense, yes. “Heart of Darkness” by Joseph Conrad is a book about classic colonialism and Europe's stake in Africa's darkness – which is currently being repeated in a neo-colonialism at a higher level. In regions like Eastern Congo people are paying the price for what we in Europe are gaining in quality of life. When we mine raw materials like coltan, when we plant mono-cultures for bio-diesel. And as for the work on “Congo Tribunal”, it really is a journey into the heart of darkness: mass deportations, massacres, 20 years of war. And although I have already seen a lot, it was a new dimension for me.

What exactly is the “Congo Tribunal” about?

Milo Rau: “The Congo Tribunal” is similar to my previous projects - e.g. “The Moscow Trials” or “The Zurich Trials” - a tribunal format. Over three days in Bukavu and another three days in Berlin we will conduct hearings with international and Congolese experts, who will examine the involvement of local players, multinational raw material traders and mining companies in this war that has claimed more victims than any other since World War Two. But also the involvement of the EU, the United Nations and China. For example, what has Europe's African policy to do with the massacre in Eastern Congolese Mutarule, which I coincidentally witnessed a year ago? Another case we will hear is the resettlement programme of thousands of people in a region

»In regions like Eastern Congo people are paying the price for what we in Europe are gaining in quality of life.«

Milo Rau



The massacre of Mutarule in June 2014 (film still research trip “The Congo Tribunal”).

that is actually uninhabitable, so that raw materials can be mined on a large scale. This all happens with the UN present, with the largest blue helmet contingent in its history. One has to ask: who is the contingent protecting actually? For their part, the Congolese government collaborates with the international companies – against the interests of their own people. The project tries to shed light on such involvements and backgrounds.

Where do you draw the line between fiction and reality? Are you not afraid the project will get out of control? The war in Congo is far from over.

Milo Rau: There will be no actors, no script – this tribunal is not biased. I have no idea how the whole thing will end. Everyone will be questioned, from high-ranking officials to ordinary mine workers, from rebel to UN officer. It will conclude with the jury of experts announcing their verdict in Bukavu and in Berlin. I think it will have a direct influence on politics, because the cases heard at the “Congo Tribunal” in reality have been protracted or not heard at all - or then on a level that affects only the lowest underlings. When one takes the resettlement actions by large companies, that are illegal both in international and Congolese law, it is classic economic crime. At the same time one can say: it is just the birth pains of industrialisation, in the end the majority will profit, like in Europe. To hear such cases without prejudice – and then in collaboration with all sides, the mining companies as well as civil rights organisations, rebels as well as the official army, with globalisation critics, the OECD and the World Bank – is of course a balancing act. The danger is that the whole thing will be taken so seriously that in the end the tribunal will founder on its own ludicrous demands.

At the same time you and your tribunal will become involved in this conflict.

Milo Rau: I think it is essential to become involved. If I am later asked: “What did you do as six million people in Congo died?” then I don't want to say: “I de-constructed a book by Michel Houellebecq in Paris.” Anyone with any moral decency has to be active,



Milo Rau during a technical rehearsal for the Bukavu Hearings in February 2015.

»Anyone with any moral decency has to be active, has to become involved. The globalised economy demands that art acts globally.«
Milo Rau

has to become involved. The globalised economy demands that art acts globally.

What politicised you?

Milo Rau: I don't think I'm very good at blocking things out – I cannot forget the massacre I witnessed in East Congo, or the deported people, the refugee camps, the unbelievable misery. But above all I cannot forget that these things are cynically necessary to guarantee our prosperity, to preserve the world economy. What politicised me is plain and simply the reality in which we live - the utterly different standards that apply to Europe and Africa for example. But the Congo is not a distant planet, where beings live without any entitlement to be happy. I have to become involved, I can't distance myself, otherwise I'd go mad.

In your opinion, what is next for Congo?

Milo Rau: Difficult to say. I've met different politicians and in my opinion there are a few who are actually independent and can possibly change something. Also the current head of the UN Mission in Congo, Martin Kobler, has put a few things into motion. One hope is that the federal system can be strengthened, that the Congolese federal states receive more independence. You have to remember that this country is nearly as big as Europe – it is impossible to travel from West to East on land. Without infrastructure, without thinking locally, without an industrialisation negotiated with the population, nothing will ever change. My impression is that everything - the direct neighbours, the rebel organisations, the international mining companies, even the government and the NGOs – profit from the constant chaos. It is a war economy: coltan, gold, tin, crude oil, crop land, even raped women bring money onto the world market. And as long as so many people earn their money with this war, nothing will change in Congo.

Very pessimistic...

Milo Rau: Not at all. I am not interested in wallowing in misery, or filming massacres and indicting people. Instead I want to have a vision of how to move forward. The world is bad because we profit

»Either we find an alternative to the global capitalism we have today or it is the end of this planet.«

Milo Rau



Milo Rau while film shooting "The Congo Tribunal" in a gold mine in Eastern Congo.

from it. We no longer need a well-meaning cultural exchange, we need justice and truth, but especially we need an alternative plan. In the words of the globalisation critic Naomi Klein or the German sociologist Harald Welzer: either we find an alternative to the global capitalism we have today, with its incredible cheapening of commodities, its disruption of the processing and producing industry, its increasingly shorter investment periods, that makes any sustainability impossible – or it is the end of this planet.

This interview was taken by Dirke Köpp (Deutsche Welle).

4. MILO RAU / IIPM

Milo Rau was born in Bern in 1977. He studied sociology, German and Roman studies in Paris, Zurich and Berlin under Tzvetan Todorov and Pierre Bourdieu among others. He started his first reporting trips in 1997, travelling to Chiapas, Cuba. From 2000 he worked as an author for Neue Zürcher Zeitung, and from 2003 as a director and writer at home and abroad.

In 2007, Rau founded the theatre and film production company International Institute of Political Murder which he has been running ever since. His theatrical works and films have been invited to some of the biggest national and international festivals, including Berliner Theatertreffen, Festival d'Avignon, Theaterspektakel Zürich, Noorderzon Performing Arts Festival Groningen, Festival TransAmeriques, Wiener Festwochen and the Kunstenfestival Brussels.

Alongside his work for stage and film, Milo Rau lectures on direction, cultural theory and social sculpture at universities and colleges. His productions, campaigns and films (including "Montana", "The Last Hours of Elena and Nicolae Ceausescu", "Hate Radio", "City of Change", "Breivik's Statement", "The Moscow Trials", "The Zurich Trials", "The Civil Wars" and "The Dark Ages") have been touring in more than 30 countries around the world.

In 2014, Milo Rau received u. o. the 'Swiss Theatre Price', the 'Hörspielpreis der Kriegsblinden' (for "Hate Radio"), the Special Jury Price of the 'German Film Festival' (for "The Moscow Trials") and the Great Jury Price of the German Theatre Triennale Festival "Politik im Freien Theater" (for "The Civil Wars").

Milo Rau's philosophical essay "What is to be done. Critique of the Postmodern Reason" (2013) became a bestseller, was awarded as "Best Political Book 2013" by the German daily newspaper 'Die Tageszeitung', while his play "The Civil Wars" was selected as one

»One of the most sought after theatre directors of his time.«
Süddeutsche Zeitung



In 2007, Rau founded the theatre and film production company International Institute of Political Murder (IIPM) in Zurich and Berlin.

of "The 5 best plays 2014" by the expert's commission of Swiss State Television.

The belgian newspaper La Libre Belgique recently named Rau "Europe's most sought after director", with the German weekly Der Freitag calling him "the most controversial theatre director of his generation".

5. MEMBERS OF THE TRIBUNAL / JURY

SYLVESTRE BISIMWA (INVESTIGATOR)

Sylvestre Bisimwa was the lawyer for a group of women rape victims in the so-called Minova trial against the Congolese army and regularly works at the International Criminal Court.



COLETTE BRAECKMAN (JURY)

Colette Braeckman is the Africa correspondent for the Belgian newspaper "Le Soir". She is one of the leading authorities on the Congo war, its antecedents and the involvement of European governments.



PHILIPPE CURRAT (INVESTIGATOR)

Philippe Currat is a lawyer in Geneva, who regularly acts as consultant at the International Criminal Court in Den Haag and teaches international criminal law at the Universities of Kinshasa and Goma, among others.



JEAN-LOUIS GILISSEN (CHAIR OF THE TRIBUNAL)

Jean-Louis Gilissen is an expert for international criminal law and as a counsel at the International Criminal Court represented a group of child soldiers in a trial against Congolese militia leaders, among others.



SARAN KABA JONES (JURY)

Saran Kaba Jones formed the aid agency FACE Africa in 2009, which provides remote regions of Liberia with safe drinking water. She is listed by the Guardian as one of Africa's 25 Top Women Achievers and is a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader.



WOLFGANG KALECK (JURY)

Wolfgang Kaleck is the General Secretary of the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) in Berlin, that litigates cases of human rights violations by state actors and multinational companies. As a lawyer he is currently representing the whistle-blower Edward Snowden.



GILBERT KALINDA (JURY)

Gilbert Kalinda is a lawyer and a member of the district government in Walikale. Two years ago he became a lawyer for the multinational mining company Alphamin/MPC, operating in Eastern Congo.



PRINCE KIHANGI (JURY)

Prince Kihangi is a jurist in Goma and one of the leading experts on the governance of natural resources in the African Great Lakes region. He is considered to be one of the harshest critics of the "Dodd-Frank Act".



VÉNANTIE BISIMWA NABINTU (JURY)

Vénantie Bisimwa Nabintu is a Congolese human rights activist from Bukavu. She is one of the most active critics of the role of the NGOs, the UNO and the multinationals in Africa.



KATHRIN RÖGGLA (CLERK)

Kathrin Rögglä is an Austrian author living in Berlin. She addresses social crises in her text and staged readings (including "Worst Case"), which have won her numerous awards.



SASKIA SASSEN (JURY)

Saskia Sassen sociologist, economist and one of the worlds leading globalisation critics, examines the destruction of local civil society as an intrinsic necessity of globalisation.



MARC-ANTOINE VUMILIA MUHINDO (JURY)

Marc-Antoine Vumilia Muhindo grew up in Kisangani (DRC) and is a playwright and director living in exile in Sweden. He fled Congo, after he and 84 other suspects were held responsible for the death of Laurent-Désiré Kabila and sentenced to death.



HARALD WELZER (JURY)

Harald Welzer is a social psychologist, founder and director of the foundation Futurzwei as well as an honorary professor at the University of Flensburg and author of "Climate Wars: What people will be killed for in the 21st century".



JEAN ZIEGLER (JURY)

Jean Ziegler is a Swiss sociologist and a member of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council at the UN. He is one of the world's most noted globalisation critics, with his books having been translated into over 50 languages.

