
PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am writing this preface in the country where the idea of writing this book first crossed my mind: Rwanda. The suffering of the Rwandan people in 1999, five years after the end of the genocide, inspired me to study and work in the field of international criminal law. At present, working at the International Crimes Section at the District Court of The Hague, again being confronted with the country's struggle for peace, justice and reconciliation, as well as the anger and fear among its citizens, it is clear to me that much remains to be accomplished in this area of the law. I realise that it is quite unlikely that the writing of a book will make any concrete difference for the people themselves. However, the rapid development of international criminal law in the last decade is a testimony to the increased attention of the international community to international crimes. For that reason, I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to carry out this research.

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