

The accused have the right to a defence, but the state is not responsible for the costs incurred.

Another law, adopted on 8 September 1996, has considerably extended the time limits in regard to various procedures, such as the preparation of the record of arrest, the delivery of an arrest warrant, official confirmation of detention, etc. Although strongly criticized by some international human rights organizations, this is a necessary law. Over 40,000 people had already been arrested when the first IPJs began working, and the rate of arrests was far too high to hope that the previous time limits could be respected. Similar legislation is allowed in very exceptional circumstances under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The number of cases to be dealt with has led to the passing of a further law on 12 December 1997, which again extends procedural deadlines. Unfortunately, this law was badly drawn up, is technically incomplete and is being used by the judicial authorities as an excuse for relaxing their efforts to ensure procedures are correctly implemented.

2. New institutions and legal reforms

The government and the National Assembly have already completed a remarkable amount of legislative work. In theory at least, in addition to the genocide law, all the judicial institutions foreseen by the Arusha Accords have been set up. The Security Court has been abolished and the Supreme Court was established under a law passed in June 1996. This body, which is completely autonomous, comprises the Court of Final Appeal, the Council of State, the Accounting Office (*Cour des comptes*), the Constitutional Court and the Department of Courts and Tribunals.

The Council of Magistrates, created under a law passed in March 1996, is responsible for matters relating to magistrates' careers and disciplinary measures; the government cannot intervene. Further legislation in April 1997 created an independent bar association. Another law covered the organization of the military justice system. Further draft bills are under study relative to bailiffs (*huissiers*), notaries, the creation of tribunals to deal with labour matters, commerce, etc. Sooner or later, Rwanda's constitutional law code (*la loi fondamentale*) will have to be revised. This comprises various texts, including the previous constitution and the Arusha Accords. At issue here is the whole question of Rwanda's political system.

3. Human and material resources: international support

Large-scale training programmes have been underway since January 1995 in an urgent attempt to deal with the lack of judicial personnel. Courses last from one to five months. They are always organized in the same way: a radio appeal for candidates holding secondary school diplomas, an admission test, training culminating in examinations and the allocation of posts to those who pass them. It is a remarkable fact that candidates are