



Mission statement of the Institute for International Criminal Investigations

The Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI) is an independent international organization constituted for the purpose of educating professional criminal investigators in the techniques and knowledge necessary to impartially investigate war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, and for the purpose of quickly deploying multi-disciplinary teams to investigate such crimes.

The Institute will pursue these twin aims as an apolitical, non-profit, nongovernmental organization in close cooperation with duly constituted judicial bodies, including the ad hoc Criminal Tribunals, the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, with a view to gathering evidence for use in judicial proceedings in internationally recognized fora. The Institute will also assist truth commissions and other truth and justice mechanisms as appropriate.

The Institute, the only one of its kind in the world, provides an intensive training program for qualified investigators in the methods and special knowledge necessary to conduct investigations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The training is based in part on lessons learned from the ad hoc Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda (ICTY and ICTR) and includes courses on international humanitarian law, genocide, military chain of command/order of battle, crime scene investigations and forensics, interviewing skills, working with interpreters, investigating sexual violence and exploitation, witness protection, security and other topics. The IICI's aim is to help ensure that a pool of professionally trained investigators will be available to the International Criminal Court and to other internationally sanctioned courts, including national justice systems where national authorities invoke the principle of complementarity under the Rome Treaty that established the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The IICI maintains a roster of specialists to form professional, multidisciplinary investigative teams that can be called upon to assist international and national justice mechanisms.

The IICI has written and field-tested a curriculum for the International Investigators' Course, the core of its educational effort. The IICI has to date held seven courses with classes of 20-25 students in each. Currently, students are sent all materials, including a self-test quiz a month prior to the residence course. This introduces them to the theory of the course and basic information from the curriculum. They are expected to read the manual and the textbooks and administer the quizzes to themselves as a guide and preparation. In cases where students in developing countries may not have ready access to the Internet, materials are sent in hard copy; tests and feedback will be administered either by fax or mail.

During the two-week resident phase, the students receive instruction in each of the modules they studied in the distance learning phase followed by practical exercises and culminating in a graduation exercise in which skills and knowledge will be tested. Students have to demonstrate proficiency in all the skills necessary to a competent

international investigator. In brief, students will have to demonstrate understanding of the basic course information as listed above; the ability to organize and conduct a complex investigation; familiarity with IICI investigative protocols and the relevant statute and rules of procedure and evidence; proficiency in working in an unfamiliar cultural context (including conducting interviews and taking statements in a foreign language through an interpreter) and the ability to communicate the results of their investigation orally and in writing.

The combination of distance and resident learning is employed, as it is more cost and time efficient. For good practical exercises, however, the IICI Directors believe a resident phase of at least two weeks is absolutely necessary.

At the end of each training module and practical exercise and the course as a whole, students evaluate both the instructor/s and the course content. This methodology proved extremely valuable for both validating and improving the curriculum. The instructors also evaluate the course, as do Institute staff. Other evaluators sit in on the practicum, advise the students on the spot, and give suggestions to the Institute as to course content and student performance.

In addition to these internal evaluation measures, members of the IICI Council of Advisors and Board of Directors as well as representatives of the ICC, and relevant prosecutors and national and international police organizations are invited to monitor classes and render evaluations.

The IICI can also design and implement specific training projects to meet the needs of ad hoc or hybrid tribunals or national truth and/or reconciliation commissions.

The IICI Board of Directors and Council of Advisors are made up of international law specialists, former military officers, analysts, and academics from around the world. A number of the directors and advisors have participated in investigations by the ad hoc Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda; others have provided expertise to those institutions.

The IICI Board and Council members joined the IICI in recognition of the fact that the future success of international courts and truth and reconciliation commissions will depend, in great part, on the quality of the investigations conducted.

Board members and staff of the IICI have worked for the past four years on a largely pro bono basis to develop the curriculum and lesson plans for the Institute's core activity, the International Investigator Course or IIC.

The IICI is currently affiliated with Physicians for Human Rights (PHR); the Royal Netherlands Army School for Peace Missions; and the Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Ireland, Galway.