

ICC useless in Uganda

BY CONAN BUSINGE

INTERNATIONAL justice is useless in solving conflicts since it is tainted with racism, the Director of Refugee Law Project, Chris Dolan, has said.

Dolan said the International Criminal Court has instead created more problems Uganda. "More attention has been focused on Uganda, Chad and Sudan, and this court is continuing to ignore other situations that are crying out for justice in Sri-Lanka and Iraq."

Dolan was speaking at a three-day workshop for transitional justice at Imperial Botanical Hotel, in Entebbe on Friday. The seminar was organised by the Amami Forum, the Refugee Law Project and Makerere University.

The programme themed 'Beyond Juba' is meant to build on strategies of ensuring sustainable peace in the country. The project was established in November 1999 as an autonomous project within the Faculty of Law at Makerere University, with the aim of protecting and promoting refugees' rights.



Prof. Ogenya Latigo shares a light moment with Makerere University's Sylvia Tamale

Dolan said the Rome Statute enshrines the principle of complementarity, where the ICC is only supposed to intervene where states are unable or unwilling to pursue judicial remedies to acts carried out by their own citizens. He said the

establishment of the special division in the Ugandan High Court to deal with senior commanders of the LRA, is a signal the ICC should have taken. Uganda showed that it can conduct her own trials.

The Leader of the

Opposition in Parliament Prof. Ogenya Latigo said: "It is necessary to delay justice for the sake of peace. How will the ICC help our communities cope with the challenge of resetting combatants in their villages".