

ICC Awards Symbolic Reparations to Congo War Victims

On 24 March 2017, the International Criminal Court awarded symbolic reparations of \$250 each to 297 people who lost relatives, property or livestock or suffered psychological harm in a deadly attack by the militia under Congolese warlord Germain Katanga on a Congolese village in 2003.

Awarding both individual and collective damages, the court also found that Katanga, serving a 12-year term for war crimes, was liable for one million dollars of the total damages estimated at \$3.7 million. The collective reparations are in the form of projects covering "housing, support for income-generating activities, education and psychological support" for victims.

Katanga was sentenced by the ICC to 12 years in jail in 2014, after being convicted on five charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for the February 2003 ethnic attack on Bogoro village in Ituri province. He was accused of supplying weapons to his militia in the attack in which some 200 people were shot and hacked to death with machetes. Katanga is now on trial in the Democratic Republic of Congo on other charges of war crimes and insurrection in the mineral-rich Ituri region.