

Stroom

Press release

**LE TRIBUNAL SUR
LE CONGO
THE CONGO TRIBUNAL
DAS KONGO
TRIBUNAL**



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The Congo Tribunal *a project by Milo Rau*

10 March - 8 April 2018

Opening: Saturday, 10 March, 17 hrs

with a.o. Axel Buyse, General Representative of the
Government of Flanders

www.stroom.nl

"Where politics fail, only art can help" - Die Zeit

Milo Rau, one of the most acclaimed theater makers in the world, has succeeded in bringing together victims, perpetrators, witnesses and analysts of the Congo War for an extraordinary civil tribunal. *The Congo Tribunal* brings these spectacular hearings to life – providing unique insight into one of the largest and bloodiest economic wars in human history. Art centre Stroom Den Haag is presenting Rau's work to the visual arts sector in view of its pronounced social commitment and characteristically challenging formats. The general public is relatively unfamiliar with the situation in Africa's 'wealthiest' country – with a surface area as large as Western Europe. This steered Stroom's decision to organize the exhibition *The Congo Tribunal* at this point in time, and in The Hague.

The documentary film *The Congo Tribunal* will be screened parallel to the installation at Stroom during the Movies that Matter Festival in The Hague.

"And with all the horrors shown in the film, it is important to me not to lose sight of hope. If 'The Congo Tribunal' has proved one thing, it is that the truth can be found, no matter how complicated the connections are. And justice is possible, here and now. We just have to establish it."

(Milo Rau, director's statement)

The Congo Tribunal examines the causes and backgrounds of a civil war that for over 20 years has turned a region the

size of Western Europe into Hell on Earth. Since it broke out in 1994, fueled by the Rwandan Genocide, the Congo War has already cost over 6 million lives. Observers not only define this war as a struggle for political dominance in Central Africa, but also as one of the most decisive conflicts in today's global economic arena. The war is no longer motivated by ethnic differences. Rather, the combatants continue it in pursuit of raw materials crucial to the manufacture of 21st-century technology.

The installation at Stroom Den Haag stages a number of elements. It consists of recordings of the tribunal hearings in Bukavu (Eastern Congo) and Berlin; an online game and VR installation that offer the audience a different experience of a specific case discussed in the civic tribunal; a study area where visitors can consult the web archive and a selection of literature about the background and realization of the film, and a short documentary about the film's impact in DR Congo. The installation is a co-production of Stroom Den Haag and [STUK, A House for Dance, Image and Sound](#) in Leuven (B) in the context of the Artefact Festival (13 February-1 March 2018).

[See You in The Hague](#)

The Congo Tribunal is part of Stroom's long-term program *See You in The Hague*, a multifaceted narrative about the ambitions and reality of The Hague as International City of Peace and Justice.

[Movies that Matter Festival](#)

The film *The Congo Tribunal* is presented in the context of the Camera Justitiae competition program, which features films and after-programs about legal dilemmas, truth-seeking, international law and the fight against impunity. The film is screened on 25, 28, 29 and 30 March and commented by Linda Polman (investigative journalist and author of a number of books about humanitarian aid and intervention) and Eva-Maria Bertschy (author and researcher specializing in European documentary and social-realist theatre and a collaborator of Milo Rau and his IIPM in a variety of projects).

The Congo Tribunal will continue!

A group of international and Congolese lawyers, human rights activists and journalists, are continuing the fight against injustice in DR Congo. They aim to install regional civic tribunals in the DRC after the model of Milo Rau's theatrical tribunal. A campaign to support this effort starts 9 March in Berlin. www.doctivism.org

Milo Rau (1977, Switzerland) studied Sociology, German and Romance languages and literature in Paris, Berlin and Zürich under Pierre Bourdieu and Tzvetan Todorov, among others. He has produced over 50 plays, films, books and campaigns since 2002. His productions have been staged at all major international festivals, including the Berliner Theatertreffen, Festival d'Avignon, Venice Biennale Teatro, Wiener

Festwochen and the Kunstenfestival in Brussels. In addition, Rau's works have been taken on a world tour that visited over 30 countries. He has been presented with a wide range of prizes and awards – most recently the 2017 Peter-Weiss Prize, the 2017 3sat Prize, the 2017 Saarbrücken Poetry Lectureship for Drama and, in 2016, the prestigious World Theatre Day ITI Prize. Milo Rau was appointed Director of NTGent at the start of the 2018-2019 season.

The installation 'The Congo Tribunal' at Stroom Den Haag was realized thanks to contributions from the General Representation of the Government of Flanders, the Mondriaan Fund and the City of The Hague. The Congo Tribunal Transmedia is financially supported by TURN Fund of the German Federal Cultural Foundation.

www.the-congo-tribunal.com

international-institute.de/the-congo-tribunal

Note for the press:

A preview of the exhibition *The Congo Tribunal* at Stroom can be attended on Friday 9 March. You are welcome to visit us throughout the day. To register or request an interview, more information or visual materials, please contact: Stroom Den Haag, Hildegard Blom, pers@stroom.nl, tel. 070-3658985, 06-24255772.



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