

MADAME PROSECUTOR

Confrontations with Humanity's Worst Criminals and the Culture of Impunity

By Carla Del Ponte
with Chuck Sudetic

“Del Ponte, protagonist of this dogged, hard-nosed memoir,
was chief prosecutor for the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia and
Rwanda, the biggest war crimes prosecution since WWII....
Her implacable quest for justice is admirable and at times illuminating.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

In 1999, Carla Del Ponte became the former Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. For the next eight years her efforts to bring perpetrators of genocide and other war criminals to justice were constantly undermined by political compromises, denial, and impunity. In **MADAME PROSECUTOR** (Hardcover, \$25.95, January 20, 2009), written with award-winning journalist Chuck Sudetic, we follow the courageous and outspoken Del Ponte as she seeks to prosecute not only the obvious culprits who executed orders, but also those in command who were giving the orders—cases that are far more difficult to prove with evidence.

As Chief Prosecutor, Del Ponte confronted genocide and crimes against humanity in Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Belgrade, Zagreb, and Kosovo, despite what she calls the “murra de gomma,”—the wall of rubber that “causes your words to bounce back when you approach powerful people with an unwelcome request or demand”—that insidiously stood in her way. She also insisted on working on both sides of the divide, unbiased in her handling of all parties involved. In Rwanda, she sought to prosecute not only the Hutu perpetrators of genocide against the Tutsis, but also the Tutsi members of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, which had also committed grave violations of international humanitarian law during the genocide. She insisted that they, too, must answer to the larger power of international justice if crimes were committed.

The Italian publication of **MADAME PROSECUTOR** in April of 2007—released on the heels of Kosovo's independence—unleashed a storm of controversy, focusing on Del Ponte's revelations that her office was informed that persons who had disappeared during the Kosovo conflict had been used in organ smuggling operations. Human Rights Watch has called the account credible enough to demand a full investigation.

MADAME PROSECUTOR is an extraordinary and unprecedented account of Del Ponte's relentless quest—even when her own life was threatened—for justice.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Carla Del Ponte was chief prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia from 1999 to 2007 and chief prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda from 1999 to 2003. Her work contributed to the indictment, arrest, or prosecution of dozens of persons accused of genocide and other war crimes, including Slobodan Milošević, Théoneste Bagosora, and two of the world's most-wanted men, Radovan Karadžić and General Ratko Mladic. Del Ponte has received numerous awards and honors. She is currently Switzerland's ambassador to Argentina.

Co-author Chuck Sudetic reported for the *New York Times* from 1990 to 1995 on the breakup of Yugoslavia and the transition from communism in other Balkan countries. He is the author of *Blood and Vengeance* (1998), and his articles have appeared in such publications as *The Economist*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Mother Jones*. From 2001 to 2005, he worked as an analyst for the Yugoslavia tribunal. He is now a senior writer for the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) and is completing a book about the Adriatic town of Dubrovnik. He resides in Paris.

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Other Press

Hardcover, 448 pages, \$25.95

978-1-59051-302-6

January 20, 2009