

THE SENTIMENTAL COURT

Modern law seems to be designed to keep emotions at bay. *The Sentimental Court* argues the exact opposite: that the law is not designed to cast out affective dynamics but to create them. Drawing on extensive ethnographic fieldwork – both during the trial of former Lord’s Resistance Army commander Dominic Ongwen at the International Criminal Court’s headquarters in the Netherlands and in rural northern Uganda at the scenes of violence – this book is an in-depth investigation of the affective life of legalized transitional justice interventions in Africa. Jonas Bens argues that the law purposefully creates, mobilizes, shapes, and transforms atmospheres and sentiments and further discusses how we should think about the future of law and justice in our colonial present by focusing on the politics of atmosphere and sentiment in which they are entangled.

JONAS BENS is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology and the Collaborative Research Center “Affective Societies” at Freie Universität Berlin. His work focuses on law, statehood, and colonialism in capitalist modernity. His books include *The Indigenous Paradox: Rights, Sovereignty and Culture in the Americas* (2020).

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THE SENTIMENTAL COURT

*The Affective Life of International
Criminal Justice*

Jonas Bens

Freie Universität Berlin



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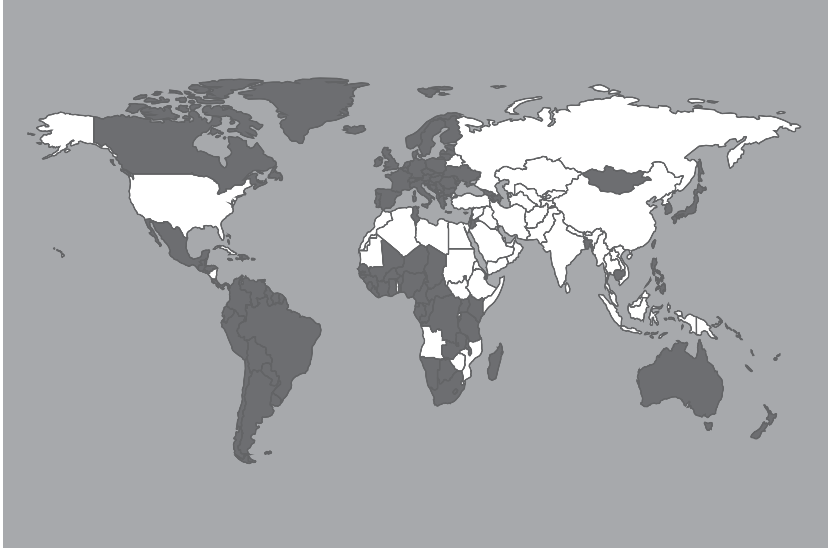
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ABBREVIATIONS

CAR	Central African Republic
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
IDP	internally displaced person
ISO	Internal Security Organization (a Ugandan secret intelligence agency)
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
NRM	National Resistance Movement (the government party in Uganda)
OTP	Office of the Prosecutor (of the International Criminal Court)
SPLA	Sudan People's Liberation Army
UPDF	Uganda People's Defence Force (the Ugandan army)



i.1 The four massacre sites formally included in the ICC case *The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen*



i.2 The member states of the Rome Statute accepting jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court as of April 2021 (in gray)



i.3 Countries and regions that are the location of crimes tried in ongoing and completed cases before the International Criminal Court as of April 2021 (in gray)