

Name:

Period:

Understanding International Law

The Charges:

1. Is Arthur Mabo guilty of having conscripted children under the age of 15 years into armed groups?
2. Is Arthur Mabo guilty of having enlisted children into armed groups?
3. Is Arthur Mabo guilty of having used children to participate actively in armed conflict?
4. Is Arthur Mabo responsible for the death and the suffering of Alia Rutu's son?

A large part of your and your group's success in the mock trial depends on understanding and correctly interpreting laws that govern the proceedings. These laws are dense and often hard to understand. Successful groups find ways to make the laws understandable laws and will use them to their advantage. The time you take to understand the law will be proportionate to your success in the trial.

Instructions: Read and annotate pages 11-16 (use strategies on page 6 of reference book). Read through once by yourself and then go back and answer the following questions as a group.

1. As a group, use the text to create a student friendly definition of a war crime.

War Crime:

2. What is the key difference between The Rome Statute and The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Labour Organization? Why is understanding this key difference important when considering the charges that Arthur Mabo faces?

3. What is the role of the Prosecutor and the Victim's Lawyer in the trial?

4. What is the role of the Defense counsel in the trial? (Describe what is meant by raising reasonable doubt.)

5. What does Article 8, Section 2b and 2e allow? Based on your answer to question 2, is there anything the defense could do to counter this?

6. What does it mean in the Rome Statue when it says, "The jurisdiction of the court shall be limited to the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole? (Put in your own words)

7. What crimes can be tried in the court?

8. How does Article 8 of the Rome Statue define war crimes?

9. Which of these crimes may apply to Mabo?

10. Look up the definition of conscripting.

11. Look up the definition of enlisting.

12. Summarize Article 37.A of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

13. Summarize Article 37.B of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

14. Summarize Article 37.C of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

15. Summarize the four parts of Article 38 the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

16. Summarize Article 4 (Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict).

17. What information from the International Labour Organization-C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention is relevant to this trial?

18. Summarize Command Responsibility. Why is this principle important to this case?

Reflection: Now that you and your group have examined these laws, is there anything here that helps or hurts your case? Explain