

PORIN TAIDEMUSEO | PORI ART MUSEUM



MODEL COURT: RESOLUTION 978 HD

13.06.-14.09.2014

LAWRENCE ABU HAMDAN, SIDSEL MEINECHE HANSEN, LORENZO PEZZANI and OLIVER REES

Pori Art Museum presents: *RESOLUTION 978 HD* by Model Court

RESOLUTION 978 HD focuses on the recently concluded trial of François Bazaramba, a Rwandan national convicted of genocide by a small district court in the Finnish town of Porvoo. Bazaramba sought asylum in Finland in 2003. In a bizarre geographical inversion, the Finnish trial took place from 2009 to 2010 in improvised courts in Rwanda and Tanzania, with the legal proceedings transmitted to and from Bazaramba's Helsinki prison cell via Skype and other videoconferencing technologies. Universal jurisdiction, the legal principle by which the trial was conducted, is often presented as a form of "juridical utopia" whereby the most heinous of acts, such as genocide and crimes against humanity, can be tried without regard for national borders. Whereas most universal jurisdiction cases are brought to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, the Bazaramba trial presents a unique example of a de-centered legal process. Its unprecedented use of technology reconfigured the space of law and established an unexpected connection between peripheries.

Using photographic and video documentation of the trial taken by Finnish policeman Thomas Elfgrén, *RESOLUTION 978 HD* examines how both the trial and the principle of universal jurisdiction on which they were based are facilitated and interrupted by media technologies. By interrogating the Finnish court's genuine attempt to engage with the realities of genocide, the video comments upon the politics of media technologies and Europe's neocolonial relationship to Africa.

Model Court is an ongoing collaboration between London-based artists and researchers Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Sidsel Meineche Hansen, Lorenzo Pezzani and Oliver Rees who's practice explores the shifting infrastructures of international justice, interrogating how images and representations serve to complicate the production of legal space and the borders between nations.

RESOLUTION 978 HD (2013, HD video, 35 minutes, Finland / UK) by Model Court.

The film was commissioned by Gasworks Gallery with support from the Danish Art Council.

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