

## Bemba loses ICC bribery appeal

War crimes judges last week rejected an appeal by former Congolese Vice-President Jean-Pierre Bemba against a bribery conviction, calling instead for a new jail term to be imposed. The appeals judges effectively reversed the sentences imposed on Bemba and two of his co-accused and remanded the matter to the original trial chamber 'for a new determination of their sentences'. Bemba had appealed against his conviction, a one-year jail term and a €300 000 fine imposed last year by the International Criminal Court for bribing 14 defence witnesses to lie for him in his main war crimes trial. A report on the [New Vision](#) site notes that it was the first such corruption case at the court in The Hague to be successfully prosecuted since it opened its doors in 2002. **The five appeals judges on Thursday dismissed all Bemba's 12 grounds of appeal**, finding instead in favour of the prosecution. Bemba is also separately appealing his war crimes conviction and 18-year jail term, but no date for the appeals judgment has been set yet.