



Coalition for the  
International  
Criminal Court

**Statements from Members of NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court  
on the Outcome of the First Ballot in the Election of Judges**

**Christopher Hall, *International Justice Program Director*  
Amnesty International**

“Amnesty International has consistently called for the Court to ensure a fair representation of men and women, not only among the judges, but among the Court staff. We strongly supported the procedure used for electing the judges in the first ballot and the results of the first ballot are an encouraging sign that this procedure will lead to a fair representation of men and women in the Court. However, we continue to be disappointed that the nomination procedures at the national level were not transparent and did not involve broad consultation with civil society, thus leading to far fewer women candidates being nominated for election. We will continue to work for reform of national nomination procedures to ensure that a larger number of women candidates are nominated for the next election.”

For further information, call: 646.298.8258

**William Pace, *Convenor*  
Coalition for the International Criminal Court**

“The Coalition’s campaign to improve the procedures, fairness and transparency of international elections worked extremely well today. Coalition members state that all of the candidates that won were highly qualified. Our members also felt that the candidates that were the most unqualified received very few votes. The group of Western States split their votes in the first round, whereas the African and Latin American Groups voted strategically and for highly qualified candidates within their regions. The gender representation requirement clearly worked.”

For more information, call: 917-214-5535

**Jeanne Sulzer, *International Justice Program Coordinator*  
Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de L’Homme**

“This ballot shows that a transparent and credible election process to an international organization is possible. For the first time in history, the proactive work of NGOs has been extraordinary in facilitating representation and transparency. This first ballot shows that the traditional opacity of UN election processes can be overcome when real checks and balances and outside monitoring are provided from international civil society. For FIDH, the struggle for gender balance is not over. The outcome of the first ballot should not prevent States from seeking an equal number of women as men in the process.”

For more information, call: 646.298.8258

**Richard Dicker, *International Justice Program Director***

**Human Rights Watch**

“Human Rights Watch is very impressed by the results of the first round of balloting. The process worked -- only two ballots were invalidated. Of those elected, there is strong representation of experience in criminal law. Lastly, the overwhelming preponderance of women elected, while not conclusive as to gender balance on the bench, is a very good first step.”

For further information, call: 917-747-6731

**Fiona McKay, *International Justice Program Director*  
Lawyers Committee for Human Rights**

“Although this is on the first ballot, we are delighted with the outcome. In particular, we are pleased that the system set in place for ensuring fair representation – of different regions of the world and of women – produced today.”

For further information, call: 917-293-7944

**Womens Caucus for Gender Justice**

*Press Statement dated February 4, 2003*

“The Women’s Caucus applauds the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute for fulfilling the minimum gender voting requirement in the first round of ballot. Reacting to the results Betty Murungi, the Chairperson of the Women’s Caucus said, ‘The results are indeed encouraging. However, the states parties must go beyond the minimum voting requirement and ensure gender parity.’ There are four more qualified women nominees and states parties must remember that the requirement is a minimum and not a maximum. We encourage States Parties to continue the trend of voting for qualified women candidates in the successive rounds of ballots as well.”

For further information, call Pam Spees: 917-957-5801

**Pascale Kambale, *Counsel, International Justice Program*  
Human Rights Watch**

“The three African judges elected is a positive development for Africa. The candidates who received a low number of votes in the first ballot were also in low ranking positions in the opinion of many human rights groups in Africa.”

For further information, call: 212-874-7584

**Brigitte Suhr, *Counsel, International Justice Program*  
Human Rights Watch**

“The first round shows that this election process can and did work. Human Rights Watch is very pleased by the results of the first round. Among the winners are some of the very best candidates. We are also very pleased that six qualified women were elected and we urge States to remember that six is the minimum and that there are other qualified women candidates. In particular, in Latin America, the two candidates who were elected are widely considered to be very qualified. Finally, we urge States to vote for the most qualified candidates in the ensuing balloting.”

For further information, call: 917-974-3274

**About the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court**

The NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) is a global network of well over 1,000 members working together to support a permanent , fair and independent International Criminal Court. Established in 1995, the Coalition is the leading online provider of information on the ICC. For more information, please visit <http://www.iccnw.org>.