



PRESS NOTICE

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www.victimstrustfund.org

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PROMINENT INTERNATIONAL FIGURES ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ICC VICTIMS TRUST FUND
Will raise profile of need for justice and reparations for survivors of atrocities

WASHINGTON – Today the Victims Trust Fund Campaign welcomes the election of five eminent international figures to the Board of Directors of the International Criminal Court's Victims Trust Fund. This revolutionary fund takes international law beyond the trial of tyrants and war criminals; it promises justice and hope for future victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity by providing them with concrete means to heal and rebuild their lives and communities.

"The men and women of high stature and credentials elected today to the Victims Trust Fund Board of Directors places the needs of the survivors of atrocities at the forefront of international justice," Heather Hamilton, Director of Programs for the World Federalist Association said. "The appointment of such respected international figures provides another essential wheel to the International Criminal Court. This will enable it to become a global vehicle for hope, justice and peace for the survivors of atrocities around the world today."

The Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court (ICC) today elected Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan; His Excellency Mr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, former President of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Prize recipient; His Excellency Mr. Taneusz Mazowiecki, former Prime Minister of Poland; Mme. Simone Veil, former Minister of Health of France and former President of the European Parliament; and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa and Nobel Peace Prize recipient.

"This prestigious Board of Directors attests to the importance that States Parties place on the plight of victims of the world's most heinous crimes," Dr. Yael Danieli, an international expert on victims' rights commented "This election will galvanize the conscience of the international community to fulfill its obligations of justice and redress to victims."

The ICC seeks to ensure justice for victims not only through criminal trials, but also by helping them through the Trust Fund to overcome the physical and psychological suffering they have endured. However, the Fund's success is dependent on donations from individuals, governments, and organizations.

The Victims Trust Fund Campaign has been active in raising monies for the fund among U.S. citizens. Since its launch in May, the campaign has raised over \$8000 from U.S. citizens across the country, mostly in donations of \$5 each. Citizens have also sent hundreds of letters to their senators expressing their support for the fund and the promise of international justice and peace as embodied by the ICC. These US funds are among the first donations from individual citizens to the Victims Trust Fund.

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Notes to Editors:

In the U.S., individuals can contribute to the Trust Fund by visiting www.victimstrustfund.org

The Victims Trust Fund Campaign is coordinated by the World Federalist Association and includes more than 20 U.S. civil society groups, from religious organizations to an anti-torture coalition. The campaign has been endorsed by President Jimmy Carter and more than 70 Hollywood celebrities have signed an open letter to senators in support of the campaign.

Campaign partners include: Advocacy Project; American Coalition for the ICC (AMICC); American Humanist Association; Amnesty International USA; Campaign for UN Reform; Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism; Conference of Major Superiors of Men; Friends Committee on National Legislation; Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and Their Children; Independent Student Coalition for the ICC; International Center for Transitional Justice; International Criminal Court Alliance; International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH); International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies; Islamic Society for North America; Lawyers Committee for Human Rights; National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union; Pax Christi USA; Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), Physicians for Human Rights; Presbyterian Church; REDRESS; Torture, Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC); Unitarian Universalist Association; United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society; United Nations Association – USA; Washington Kurdish Institute; World Federalist Association.