



MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Prominent American Groups Welcome Creation of
International Criminal Court;
*Call on US Government to Maintain Leadership***

NEW YORK -- The leaders of a broad spectrum of 25 national non-profit organizations today welcomed the 60th ratification of the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court, deposited during a special ceremony at the United Nations. The following statement was signed by representatives of human rights, women's, international, and religious organizations. The full list of signatories is below.

"Today's ratifications of the International Criminal Court treaty mean that the international community will finally hold the worst global criminals accountable for their atrocities in a court established and embraced by the closest allies of the United States. The United States was involved as a leader in the Court's creation, and it should remain involved as a leader in the Court's development."

The International Criminal Court will be a permanent, independent institution that will have jurisdiction over individuals accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Its treaty will enter into force on July 1, 2002.

The Washington Working Group on the International Criminal Court (WICC) is composed of legislative and governmental affairs offices of thirty American non-governmental organizations committed to the cause of the International Criminal Court. The WICC supports and provides materials and information for education and advocacy about the Court. For more information, visit www.wfa.org/wicc.html or www.USAforICC.org.

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James Matlack, Director, American Friends Service Committee-Washington Office
John L. Washburn, Convenor, American NGO Coalition for ICC
June Willenz, American Veterans Committee
Bill Shultz, Executive Director, Amnesty International-USA
Ian Davis, Executive Director, British American Security Information Council
Don Kraus, Executive Director, Campaign for UN Reform
Rev. Michael Dodd, Columban Fathers' Justice and Peace Office
Lonnie Turner, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Jenefer Ellington, Chair of Platform Committee, DC Statehood Green Party
Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch
Christina Hartman, Independent Student Coalition for the ICC
Mike Posner, Executive Director, Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights
Rev. Peter Ruggere, Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns
Stephen Richard, Director, Nuremberg Legacy Project
Kathy Thornton, RSM, National Coordinator, NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Sarah Aird, Executive Director, Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala
Kevin Martin, Executive Director, Peace Action Education Fund
Kenneth Shear, Executive Director, Philadelphia Bar
Robert K. Musil, Ph.D. MPH, CEO and Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility
Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rainbow Push Coalition
James K. Wyerman, Executive Director, 20/20 Vision
George Garland, Executive Director, United Nations Association National Capital Area
David Scheffer, Senior Vice President, United Nations Association-USA
Veterans for Peace
John B. Anderson, President, World Federalist Association
Morton Sklar, Executive Director, World Organization Against Torture USA

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