



Ref: 77/2002

Letter to all members of the Security Council

27 June 2002

Dear Ambassador

Amnesty International is profoundly concerned about proposals by the United States government to introduce language into Security Council resolutions that would exempt United Nations peace-keepers from the jurisdiction of any international tribunal, including the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), as well as any national court other than their own.

The Rome Statute of the ICC already contains ample safeguards that would protect any United States troops against politically motivated or frivolous prosecutions. If the Security Council were, in effect, able to amend the ICC's jurisdiction simply by adopting a resolution, it would set a dangerous precedent allowing for future amendments of the Rome Statute and possibly other international treaties by means that circumvent the process and safeguards provided in each treaty. For example, United States officials have already voiced criticisms about the definition of certain war crimes in the Rome Statute and their application to multilateral peace-keeping operations. Amending the Rome Statute is the sole right of the states parties.

Amnesty International is also opposed to any changes to the well-established jurisdiction of the ICTY or to any attempt to limit the jurisdiction of national courts over war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide committed by peace-keepers or anyone else.

Amnesty International calls upon the Security Council to reject any resolution that would undermine the integrity of international justice. We believe that this is one of the most important decisions that you can make for the future of international justice.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

United Nations Office ~ 777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor ~ New York, NY 10017
United States of America ~ Tel: 1 (212) 867-8878 ~ Fax: 1 (212) 370-0183 ~ E-Mail: ai-un-ny@amnesty.org

Amnesty International, International Secretariat ~ 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom
Tel: Int. Code: 44 (20) 7413 5500 UK Code: 020 7413 5500 Fax: Int. Code 44 (20) 7956 1157 UK Code: 020 7956 1157

