

Parliamentarians from the Andean Region and International Experts Debate about International Criminal court¹

LIMA, October 22, 2001 – With the attendance of parliamentarians from the Andean region and outstanding experts from Argentina, the United States, Sweden and Switzerland, the international seminar “The Andean Countries and the International Court” took place from October 22 to 24. This took place in the parliament “Raúl Porras Barrenechea” of the Congress of the Republic.

The event, which was organized by the Andean Commission of Jurists (ACJ) and the Coalition of NGOs for the International Criminal Court (CICC) with the sponsorship of the Commission of External Affairs of the Congress and the Advocacy of the People, had as its objective to report on the content and implications of the Rome Statute, to create a forum of discussion for experts in the field, and to support the ratification process and implementation in the Andean countries. It should be noted that although all the countries in the Andean Region have signed the Rome Statute, only Venezuela and Peru have ratified it.

Some of the issues tackled in the seminar include: the complementary character of the ICC and the national jurisdictions, the current state of the ratification process at a global level, the obligations of the States Parties as well as the related opportunities that come with the full implementation of the Rome Statute, and others.

As you will recall, on September 13, the Peruvian congress approved the ratification of the Statute that creates the International Criminal Court by a wide majority. This is an instrument that will bring justice against the most outrageous crimes against human rights and international humanitarian law, and is called the fundamental basis of a new and stronger international system of protection of the basic human rights.

The Coalition of NGOs for the International Criminal Court (ICCC) is an alliance of over a thousand organizations from civil society at a global level that champion an opening of the International Criminal Court in the near future. Right as this note is being written, the ICC has received 43 of the 60 ratifications necessary for it to enter into force.

¹ Translation provided by volunteer Alicia Day to the Communications Section of the NGO Coalition for the ICC. For suggestions, contact rodriguez@iccnw.org