

Note on the Passing of Judge Antonio Cassese

New York (USA), 23 October 2011 - The Coalition for the International Criminal Court learned with great regret of the passing of Judge Antonio Cassese on 21 October 2011. A fervent human rights advocate and a renowned professor of international law, Judge Cassese served as the first President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), President of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and Chairperson for the United Nations International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur. Judge Cassese published extensively on international law and was the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards.

Statement by William R. Pace, Convenor of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court:

“The Coalition is deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Judge Antonio Cassese. From 1995 to 1999, gaining support for the ad-hoc tribunals was one of the Coalition’s most important goals, for if they had not succeeded, campaigning for a permanent international criminal court would have been much more difficult. As ICTY President, Judge Cassese attended many of the Coalition’s first meetings to seek our support for the ICTY at the United Nations. Together, we lobbied governments, the UN Security Council, the UN Fifth Committee and the media. Few realize just how fragile the political support for international justice was in those early years. Judge Cassese played a major role in the historic development of international justice in the last 16 years. Our thoughts are with his family and relatives at this difficult time.”

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court includes more than 2,500 civil society organizations in 150 countries working in partnership to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the ICC is fair, effective and independent; make justice both visible and universal; and advance stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. For more information, visit: www.coalitionfortheicc.org

###