



Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'Homme
International federation of human rights
Federacion internacional de los derechos humanos
الفدرالية الدولية لحقوق الانسان

PRESS RELEASE

ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE
The Hague 6-10 september 2004

Ensure Victims' Rights First!

Paris, the Hague 3rd September 2004 – For the first time since the entry into force of the International Criminal Court, the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute will be held in the Hague, seat of the ICC, first criminal jurisdiction with a universal vocation. This third session of the ASP will be held from the 6th to the 10th September 2004 at the *Netherlands Congress Center* (Churchillplein 10, The Hague, and The Netherlands). During these 5 days, the delegates of the States Parties will have to adopt a series of crucial decisions for the future of the Court and especially the election of the Deputy Prosecutor in charge of the prosecution.

Settled two years ago, the Court has entered in 2004 in operation: since the referrals from Uganda and DRC, the Prosecutor officially announced the opening of investigations in these two countries.

While the Rome statute contains a series of great innovations allowing participation of victims to the proceedings and recognizing their right to reparations, the FIDH doubts of the capacity of the Court to implement those rights. Indeed, the financial difficulties that the Court might face may prevent the effective participation and protection of victims. The provisions made in the draft budget 2005 are obviously insufficient to face this crucial stake.

The FIDH will participate at the ASP with the associated organisations and partners from : Bahrain, Bangladesh, Colombia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mali, Morocco, Mexico, Moldavia, Uganda, Peru, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Yemen.

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1. Press Conference

The FIDH will participate to the Press conference of the NGOs Coalition for the ICC (CICC) that will be held on **Friday the 3rd of September 2004 from 11 to 11.30 a.m**

ICC Headquarter

Room C0173, Maanweg 174, The Hague Netherlands

- William Pace, Coordinator of the coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)
- Jeanne Sulzer, International Justice Program, FIDH
- Richard Dicker, International Justice Programm, Human Rights Watch

The journalist who wish to participate must have a Press- accreditation for the ASP. For more information, please contact Sally Eberhardt, Media Liaison CICC office in The Hague: +31 (0) 70 363 4484 Temporary mobile: +31 (0)6-22882049 E-mail: eberhardt@iccnw.org

2. Position Paper

In its position Paper « **Ensure the respect of victims'rights** », published today, FIDH comments:

- The process of ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute
- The Activities of the ICC during last year
- The questions on the Agenda of the Assembly of States Parties, in particular the lack of resources in the budget 2005 addressing victims'issues (participation, protection, Victims'Trust Fund)
- The activities of FIDH

3.Panel

On Wednesday September 8, FIDH, in cooperation with the Grotius Center and the Victims'Rights Working Group, will organize a public panel at 6.15pm in the Netherlands Congress Center

Victims'Access and Participation to the Current Proceedings Before the ICC

- **Sidiki KABA**, President of FIDH
- **Carla FERSTMAN**, legal director of Redress, coordinator of the Victims' Rights Working Group
- **Vedrana MLADINA DAMJANOVIC**, Associate Victims Expert, ICC Office of the Prosecutor
- **Fiona MCKAY**, Chief of the Victims' Participation and Reparation Unit, ICC Registry
- **Flavien MISONI**, lawyer, association of victims in Ituri, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **Barney AFAKO**, lawyer, Justice resources, Uganda
- **Dr Yael DANIELI**, Trauma Specialist, Past President, Senior Representative to the UN, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies