



VOICES OF THE FUTURE

UNITED STATES STUDENTS, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEXT GENERATION'S
LEADERSHIP IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, PARTICIPATING IN NEGOTIATIONS AT THE
ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT UNDER
THE AUSPICES OF

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT



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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

History of the ISC-ICC

The Independent Student Coalition for the International Criminal Court (the “ISC-ICC”) was founded in November 2000 in Washington, D.C. by Christina Hartman, its current President. The organization began as a petition signed by students and professionals at numerous East Coast colleges and universities urging the United States to sign the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (the “Rome Statute”) before the December 31, 2000 deadline. What initially started as a simple petition has now grown in size and recognition domestically and abroad.

Today, the ISC-ICC maintains two offices. The first office, located in Washington, D.C., focuses on the domestic efforts related to the International Criminal Court (the “ICC”). The second office, located in New York City, fosters relations with the Coalition’s counterparts around the world and relevant international organizations, including the United Nations.

Purposes of the Organization

The ISC-ICC is the only student-based grassroots organization in the United States dedicated to educating the American public about the Rome Statute and the ICC. The purposes of the organization are (1) to assist student organizations in developing educational programs about international civil society and, in particular, with respect to such issues as the ICC; (2) to disseminate factual ICC information and to develop educational materials, conferences, and educational internships on issues related to international civil society and the ICC; and (3) to provide information and materials to the public relating to the programs developed by the Coalition.

There are presently over thirty campus chapters of the ISC-ICC throughout the United States with over 500 members in undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools. The ISC-ICC is working to extend its membership to include alumni members, educators, and other young professionals dedicated to a fair and effective ICC.

The ISC-ICC, although *independent*, works in conjunction with other NGOs in numerous capacities. Specifically, the ISC-ICC is a contributing member of the following NGOs: (1) The International NGO Coalition for an ICC (**CICC**), (2) The Washington Working Group for the ICC (**WICC**), and (3) The American NGO Coalition for the ICC (**AMICC**).

For further information about the organization, please visit our website at www.isc-icc.org or contact Irina Kebreau, Vice President, at Irina@isc-icc.org or (917) 941-1663.

Members of the Executive Committee of the ISC-ICC



Christina Hartman is the President and founder of the ISC-ICC. Christina is a B.A. candidate at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. majoring in Politics and Biology. Christina plans to pursue a career in public health with an international focus. It is her dream to do this through the auspices of the World Health Organization. Ms. Hartman's experiences include an internship in the Americas Division of Government Affairs and the Rx Health Value, a Prescription Health Care Coalition.

Ms. Hartman is conversational in French and is presently learning Arabic. In her free time, Christina enjoys reading, writing, skiing, and playing the violin.



Irina Kebreau is the Vice President of the ISC-ICC and has been a part of the organization since September 2001. She is a Ph.D. candidate at New York University, School of Arts & Sciences, Department of Politics, concentrating on policy analysis and methodology. Irina received her M.A. from New York University and a B.A. in Political Science and Mathematics from Pace University (New York). Her current plans include attendance of a law school to pursue her interest in law.

Irina is interested in the success of the ICC because it “embodies the universalization of the principles of criminal liability for core crimes against human rights. The Court raises the bar of tolerance for the egregious violations of human rights around the world.” She believes that it is important for the United States to play an active role in the ICC in order to legitimize the new human rights regime that is being established vis-à-vis the ICC.

Ms. Kebreau has emigrated from USSR in 1993 and is a naturalized US citizen. She enjoys reading, dancing and being actively involved with human rights issues.



Elizabeth Mary Trottier heads the Department of Outreach & Development of the ISC-ICC. She is a J.D. and M.A. candidate at the Seton Hall University School of Law and School of Diplomacy & International Relations (Newark, New Jersey). Ms. Trottier also received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with concentration in French from the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA). Elizabeth plans to pursue a career in foreign relations or diplomatic affairs.

Ms. Trottier aims to combat the isolationism of the United States in international affairs, particularly in the areas of international law and justice. “The world is decreasing in size as a result of globalization. International law must respond accordingly. The ICC will be a precious mechanism for so many victims of the worst kinds of crimes. It is with the victims in mind that, as U.S. citizens, we must fight U.S. opposition to this new Court.”

Ms. Trottier enjoys skiing, flute, violin, cinema and traveling. She traveled extensively across Western Europe (where she mastered French as a second language), Mexico and Egypt.



William Lim directs the Information Services of the organization. He is currently a B.A. candidate in Hunter College, City University of New York in Political Science. Mr. Lim plans to obtain a master's degree in International Relations along with a law degree upon completing his undergraduate studies.

Mr. Lim's interest in the success of the ICC stems from his opinion that the "ICC represents the globalization of human rights. We need the ICC if we are to have a 21st century that does not repeat the horrors of the 20th." William believes that "by boycotting the ASP, the US has abdicated its leadership in the cause of human rights, despite rhetoric to the contrary. It is critical that the US become involved in the ICC again because there will be so many foreign policy issues interrelated with the ICC that it will be impossible for the US to avoid the Court for much longer."

Mr. Lim is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and conversational in French and Spanish. William traveled extensively in Taiwan, China and Canada. In his free time, he enjoys jazz, science fiction, and computer programming.



Anna Astvatsaturova has recently joined the organization in the capacity of the Director of Education Programs. She is currently a student at the University of Maine School of Law (Portland, Maine) and a graduate of the University of North Dakota, where she majored in English, Philosophy & Religion with a minor in Russian. Anna's post graduation plans include a career in international law with a focus on human rights. Ms. Astvatsaturova dreams of working for the ICC.

Mindful of the experiences of her family (an Armenian family in Azerbaijan) and the struggles of her ancestors (Armenian genocide in Turkey in 1915), Ms. Astvatsaturova wants to dedicate her life ensuring that the Armenian genocide is recognized and that such atrocities never happen again.

Anna is fluent in Russian (her mother tongue) and conversational in Armenian and Spanish. Ms. Astvatsaturova emigrated from Azerbaijan in 1992 and is a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. Anna has spent significant amount of time in Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. In addition to traveling, Anna enjoys watching hockey and painting.



Esti Tahina Tambay has recently joined the organization as a Director of International Outreach & Development. Esti is a student at Columbia University, Columbia College (New York, New York) majoring in Political Science with a focus on international relations and minoring in philosophy and human rights. Ms. Tambay plans to attend law school after graduating from college.

Ms. Tambay is interested in issues related to the ICC because, in her eyes, "it represents the historical culmination of international law principles set at Nuremberg. This institution allows for a great step for humanity in enforcing accountability and deterring future egregious human rights violations. It closes an important gap in the web of international law." Esti also believes that the United States always stood for the very principles embodied in the Rome Statute and as such, it is important for the United States to take a leading role in the establishment of the Court. "The US should not only be a leader in economic and military affairs, but it must also prove itself to be a moral leader."

Esti was born in Hawaii; however, she spent a significant amount of time in Switzerland and France. She is fluent in French, German and Italian. Ms. Tambay enjoys playing tennis, drawing, reading, traveling, discussing philosophy, and raising awareness about human rights issues.



Linda Veronica Khan-Rampertab is a recent graduate of the Hunter College, the City University of New York, where she received her Bachelor's degree in English Literature and Philosophy. She is preparing to start law school shortly. Linda's post-graduate plans include working with an advocacy group focused on human rights issues. Linda has recently joined our organization in the capacity of Corporate Secretary.

Ms. Khan-Rampertab strongly believes that "not only will the ICC be a mechanism for justice, it will also be a mechanism for deterrence and reconciliation which are among the main elements to achieve lasting peace." As the "climate changed somewhat since the 11th of September, America should realize that the ICC is no longer a court for people outside of the American soil, rather, it is for people in an international community that is becoming more and more intertwined with every passing day."

Linda came to the United States from Guyana and is now in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen. She spent significant amount of time in Antigua, St. Lucia, and Barbados, where she perfected conversational French. In her free time, Linda enjoys hiking, swimming, running, reading, and listening to classical music.

Members of the ISC-ICC Delegation



Megan Foster Doherty is a Bachelor's Degree candidate at the University of Virginia, where she is pursuing a degree in foreign affairs and history. Megan plans to take a few years off before continuing with graduate studies to do human rights fieldwork with either the UNCHR or a NGO pursuing similar goals.

Ms. Doherty believes that the ICC is a fundamental means by which the process of protecting human rights can be institutionalized to an unprecedented degree. The ICC is a herald of a new regime of international justice in which human rights and human dignities are paramount. Megan further believes that the United States must abandon its attempts to undermine the ICC, as these actions are a threat to the progress and survival of international justice. When it comes to war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity, there is no neutrality.

Ms. Doherty has lived in Ireland, Uruguay, and Mexico, and has traveled extensively in Canada, England and Portugal. She is fluent in Spanish and conversational in French. Megan enjoys writing, singing, painting, reading, model UN activities, and debating.



Nema Elsayed is a recent graduate of the City College of New York with a B.A. in International Studies. Ms. Elsayed is presently pursuing a Master's degree in the same school in International Relations. Nema plans to eventually work for the ICC or the UN upon completion of her studies. Nema has recently joined the organization in the capacity of the Co-Chair of the Children's Rights Committee of the ISC-ICC.

Ms. Elsayed is interested in the success of the ICC because she believes that "there must be a permanent Court to try war criminals and bring them to justice. Current policies of punishing criminal such as Saddam Hussein, through sanctions and war, punish entire countries, including millions of innocent civilians, while the dictators remain in power." As an American, Nema believes that "it is important for the U.S. to play an active role in the ICC, because it will show that the U.S. is serious about punishing people who commit unthinkable crimes against humanity.

Ms. Elsayed traveled extensively in Egypt where she perfected her knowledge of Arabic. Nema is also conversational in Spanish. In her free time, Ms. Elsayed enjoys swimming, roller blading, ice-skating, reading and watching T.V.



Matthew C. Kane is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of St. Andrews (Scotland, UK), where he is focusing his studies on International Relations. Mr. Kane has recently received his J.D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Matthew received his B.A. in History from the University of Oklahoma. He plans to teach and practice International Law upon completion of his current course of studies.

Mr. Kane wants the ICC to succeed because, as in the words of Benjamin Ferencz, “Law is better than war.” He further believes that the U.S. must be involved in the ICC “both to further international justice and to adequately protect US interests.”

Matthew traveled extensively in Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Tanzania, Rwanda and Italy. In his free time, he enjoys remodeling his new home, traveling and spending time with his dogs – great Danes.



Seher Khawaja is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in International Studies at John Hopkins University. Seher plans to pursue a graduate degree in law or international affairs. She also considers working in a field of international affairs.

Seher believes that leaders can hold power that sees very few limits and that they cannot be trusted to learn from the past. As a result, world history has been tainted with unjustifiable acts against humanity. She is interested in the success of the ICC, because, in her opinion, it has the potential to set the building blocks that will build barriers to future ills like genocide and crimes against humanity. Ms. Khawaja further believes that, in international affairs, the US has two faces. It exploits countries and it helps them. Based on this role, the US needs to play an active role to maintain legitimacy in its foreign policy and to serve as a global example of diplomacy without a commitment to the ICC; American policy comes off as a tool of flawed power.

Ms. Khawaja traveled extensively through England, France, Pakistan and Australia. She is conversational in French and Urdu. Seher enjoys writing, film and photography.



Renate Jean Lunn is currently a J.D. candidate at Columbia Law School (New York) and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Liberal Arts from St. John’s College (Annapolis, MD). Renate plans to pursue a career in international human right law after working at a federal district court for one year.

Ms. Lunn does not want people to commit genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity with impunity. She is interested in the success of the ICC, because she wants to believe that there is a universal notion of justice that can be enforced through the collective work of people throughout the world. Renate pragmatically believes that it is important for the U.S. to play an active role in the ICC. “The U.S. can have a role in shaping and effecting it if it ratifies the [Rome] treaty. Like it or not, the U.S is a superpower and its support will legitimize the fledgling court.”

Renate has traveled in Germany, Hungary, Tanzania, and India, where she perfected her conversational French and German. Ms. Lunn enjoys listening to music, jogging, yoga, vegetarian cooking, and traveling.



Ana Laura Olman has recently graduated from the Florida International University with a Bachelor's degree in International Relation. Ana prepares to start a law school in the Fall of 2003.

Ms. Olman is interested in the success of the ICC because, in her opinion, authorities have abused their power causing/allowing great suffering for civilians. She believes that the responsible parties should be punished and hopes that the Court will act as a deterrent. As an American citizen, Ana believes that it is important for the United States to play an active role in the ICC, because being a superpower, the US's involvement would aid towards the legitimization of the Court.

Ana Laura has traveled extensively in Argentina, where she immigrated from as a child, and Spain. Ms. Olman became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2000. She speaks fluent Spanish and enjoys dance and reading.



Maria Weydemuller is currently pursuing a law degree at the University of California at Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. Maria presently holds a Bachelor's degree in French and International Studies from Portland State University. Upon completion of her legal studies, Ms. Weydemuller plans to work in human rights organization on issues of discrimination.

Ms. Weydemuller is interested in the success of the ICC, because she believes that it will give a forum in the international sphere to allow for suits against private persons who have grossly violated human rights and strengthen the international community by forming stronger international legal system. Maria further believes that the U.S.'s participation in the ICC is important, because it "will give the ICC more global responsibility and legitimacy."

Maria traveled through France, Switzerland, Ireland and Netherlands, where she perfected her fluency in French. She enjoys soccer, swimming and reading.

The ISC-ICC is pleased to bring the delegation of these exceptional individuals to the meeting of the Assembly of State Parties. This is the sixth delegation that the ISC-ICC is bringing to the negotiations. The ISC-ICC attended the last four meetings of the Preparatory Commission of the ICC and we plan to continue to attend the meetings of the Assembly of States Parties and other ICC related meetings in the future.

For further information about the ISC-ICC or our programs, please visit our website at www.isc-icc.org or write to us at ISC-ICC, 1109 Joselson Avenue, Bay Shore, New York 11706.

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

ABOUT US

The Independent Student Coalition for the International Criminal Court (“ISC-ICC”) was founded in November 2000 in Washington, D.C. by Christina Hartman, its current President. The organization began as a petition signed by students and professionals at numerous East Coast colleges and universities urging the United States to sign the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (“Rome Statute”) before the December 31, 2000 deadline. What initially started as a simple petition has now grown in size and recognition domestically and abroad.

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There are presently over thirty campus chapters of the ISC-ICC throughout the United States with over 500 members in undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools. The ISC-ICC is working to extend its membership to include alumni members, educators, and other young professionals dedicated to a fair and effective ICC.

The ISC-ICC has maintained a consistent presence at the meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the ICC since its 7th meeting. Over 75 American students from across the country, representing the next generation of American leaders, have participated in negotiations for the Court under the auspices of the ISC-ICC. The ISC-ICC plans to continue to participate in the work of the Court and the Assembly of State Parties.

BACKGROUND OF THE COURT

The ICC was formally established on July 1, 2002 when the Rome Statute entered into force. It is designed to be a permanent, impartial court that will investigate and bring to justice individuals who commit the most serious violations of international humanitarian law: the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes.

The ICC was created by the Rome Statute, which was the product of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (“Rome Conference”), held from June 15 to July 17, 1998. After five weeks of intense negotiations, 120 nations overwhelmingly voted in favor of the Statute, while only seven (including Israel, Iraq, China and the United States) voted against. On April 11, 2002, less than four years after the Rome Conference, the Rome Statute achieved the requisite 60 ratifications for formal establishment.

As of February 2003, 139 nations have signed the Rome Statute and 88 nations have ratified it. The United States submitted its signature to the Statute only a few hours before the period for signing the Statute was closed on December 31, 2000. Most allies of the United States, including all members of the European Union, have ratified the Statute. All members of NATO, with the exception of Turkey and the United States, have also ratified the Statute.

Although the ICC will have universal jurisdiction over the crimes listed in the Rome Statute, it only has a *complementary jurisdiction* to domestic legal systems of nations that are parties to the Statute. This means that the Court will only investigate allegations of a crime if (1) the party state is *unwilling or unable* to prosecute the alleged perpetrator in their domestic courts, (2) the Security Council of the United Nations refers the case to the Court, or (3) a party state requests such an investigation by the Court.

The seat of the Court is located in the Hague, Netherlands. The Assembly of State Parties, the governing body of the Court, will elect 18 judges and the chief and deputy prosecutors, who will represent the membership of the Court according to geography, gender, and area of law.

Unlike the International Court of Justice (ICJ or the “World Court”), the ICC has jurisdiction over individuals committing crimes under the jurisdiction

of the Court.¹ Additionally, the Rome Statute provides for investigations of alleged crimes at the initiatives of the Security Council of the United Nations or the Prosecutor of the Court. Furthermore, unlike ad hoc tribunals, such as the Rwandan and Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunals, the jurisdiction of the Court is not limited to a specific time or place.²

THE NEED FOR THE ICC

“Never again” was the communal vow after World War II: the world must never again see another Holocaust. Yet 50 years later, war in Bosnia, genocide in Rwanda and other examples of heinous violations of human rights persist around the world. An estimated 14 million civilians have died in war-related deaths since the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal in Germany.

Until July 1, 2002, impositions of sanctions, embargoes or collective military interventions were the world’s only recourse to these violations. Despite their positive intentions, these actions are most often more hurtful to innocent civilians than to those committing the crimes. The creation of the ICC allows the world to effectively hold accountable the real perpetrators of those crimes. The *complementarity principle* of the Court’s jurisdiction strengthens domestic legal systems. Domestic laws are implemented to include prosecution of individuals for the core human rights violation such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Similarly, the same principle allows for the prosecution of the perpetrators where such domestic action is not possible due to a conflicted political atmosphere, or a collapse of domestic legal systems. Finally, the permanency of the Court removes the need to negotiate political and economic barriers to the creation of ad hoc tribunals, which are sometimes created years after the crimes have already occurred.

UNPRECEDENTED MEASURES

On May 6, 2002, the United States took an unprecedented step in international law: The Bush

¹ The ICJ hears civil claims over international legal questions made only by nation states against other nation states.

² The ICC hears criminal claims against individuals arising out of acts committed after July 1, 2002 either by or against nationals of a state party, or on the territory of a state party.

administration announced that it has no intention to ratify the Rome Statute, thus effectively nullifying its signature to the treaty. The United States further separated itself from the Court by withdrawing itself from any negotiations related to the Rome Statute and the establishment of the Court (such as meetings of the UN Preparatory Commission for the ICC).

The United States began its campaign of seeking immunity for US troops – members of the UN peacekeeping missions and other military and non-military personnel – from the Court’s jurisdiction through so-called “Article 98” agreements, citing potential politically motivated prosecution of the US personnel by the Court. However, recent analysis of the potential US exposure to the Court’s prosecution by numerous legal experts indicates that there is “zero”³ exposure to the US military under international law and the Rome Statute. Despite this, the US attempts to exempt itself from the internationally accepted norms, treaties and conventions by expanding the scope of the sought immunity to non-military personnel. These recent actions by the United States are harmful not only to the Court by to the reputation and the international standing of the US as well.

For more information on any of the information in this pamphlet, please visit our website at www.isc-icc.org. (Last updated February 6, 2003)

³ Based on data collected in “Zero US Exposure to ICC,” a document produced by the CICC.

Data available at <http://www.iccnw.org/documents/otherissues/1422/USexposuretoICCchart.pdf>.

Analysis available at: <http://www.iccnw.org/documents/otherissues/1422/USexposurechartexplanation.pdf>.