

## PRESS RELEASE



### **JUSTICE AND PEACE THE NETHERLANDS ESTABLISHES CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION**

*On this year's International Human Rights Day, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2003, Justice and Peace the Netherlands has officially registered the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation. This Centre wishes to promote support for those who suffer from gross human rights violations in finding justice and reconciliation. The Centre will especially focus on the possibilities of the International Criminal Court in The Hague.*

On 17 July 1998 in Rome, 120 States adopted the Rome Statute for the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, The Netherlands. The ICC has jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, committed after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002 (date of entry into force of the Statute). A unique task of the Court is its duty to guarantee the rights and interests of the victims at all stages of the proceedings.

With a view to this, Justice and Peace the Netherlands, based in The Hague, has taken the initiative to establish the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation (CJR). Justice and Peace, just as the organisations Cordaid, Solidaridad and CMC with which it co-operates, has a network of partner organisations around the world, especially in areas where conflict and violence rule. These groups have indicated their strong interest to co-operate with the CJR: to be shown the way to the ICC and to receive assistance in national lobby- and education activities. In addition, the CJR aims to serve as an expertise centre to contribute to reflection and initiatives around themes of transitional justice: establishing the truth and going through reconciliation processes. In doing so the Centre will operate from a broad international and inter-faith basis.

The Centre will be advised by an International Advisory Council. At its commencement, the Advisory Council will be chaired by Theo van Boven, Professor Emeritus International Law at Maastricht University and presently UN Special Rapporteur on the Question of Torture.

#### *Centre for Justice and Reconciliation*

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