



## STATEMENTS OF U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

### John McCain

January 28, 2005: "I want us in the ICC, but I'm not satisfied that there are enough safeguards."

<http://platform.blogs.com/passionofthepresent/2005/01/> or  
[http://www.iccnw.org/documents/CGS\\_McCainpr\\_28Jan05.pdf](http://www.iccnw.org/documents/CGS_McCainpr_28Jan05.pdf)

September 10, 2006: "U.S. and allied intelligence assets, including satellite technology, should be dedicated to record any atrocities that occur in Darfur so that future prosecutions can take place. We should publicly remind Khartoum that the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction to prosecute war crimes in Darfur and that Sudanese leaders will be held personally accountable for attacks on civilians." (Co-author: Bob Dole)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/08/AR2006090801664.html>

### Barack Obama

Response to a candidate questionnaire during 2004 Senate race:

*Question:* "Should the United States ratify the 'Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court'? If not, what concerns do you have that need to be resolved before you would support joining the court? Prior to ratification, what should the United States relationship with the Court be, particularly in regards to sharing intelligence, prosecuting war criminals, and referring cases to the UN Security Council?"

*Answer:* "Yes[.] The United States should cooperate with ICC investigations in a way that reflects American sovereignty and promotes our national security interests."

[http://globalsolutions.org/politics/elections\\_and\\_candidates/questionnaire/2004?id=20](http://globalsolutions.org/politics/elections_and_candidates/questionnaire/2004?id=20)

October 6, 2007 responses to candidate questionnaire:

*Question:* "Given the International Criminal Court's recent activities in pursuing war crimes and crimes against humanity, what would be your administration's policy regarding U.S. cooperation with ongoing investigations?"

*Answer:* "Now that it is operational, we are learning more and more about how the ICC functions. The Court has pursued charges only in cases of the most serious and systemic crimes and it is in America's interests that these most heinous of criminals, like the perpetrators of the genocide in Darfur, are held accountable. These actions are a credit to the cause of justice and deserve full American support and cooperation. Yet the Court is still young, many questions remain unanswered about the ultimate scope of its activities, and it is premature to commit the U.S. to any course of action at this time.

"The United States has more troops deployed overseas than any other nation and those forces are bearing a disproportionate share of the burden in the protecting Americans and preserving international security. Maximum protection for our servicemen and women should come with that increased exposure. Therefore, I will consult thoroughly with our military commanders and also examine the track record of the Court before reaching a decision on whether the U.S. should become a State Party to the ICC."

<http://globalsolutions.org/08orbust/quotes/2007/10/31/quote484>

*Question:* "Beyond cooperation with current investigations, what should the United States' relationship be with the Court?"

*Answer:* "My administration would continue to cooperate with ongoing ICC investigations in Sudan."

<http://globalsolutions.org/08orbust/quotes/2007/10/31/quote483>





## Barack Obama

April 23, 2008: “Those that continue to commit war crimes and obstruct peace and protection efforts must face significant penalties. The US should lead in the UN Security Council to impose effective targeted sanctions and to curtail violations of the arms embargo through the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee and the US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control. At the same time, the Administration should urge the AU to rebuke Khartoum for its role in the attempted coup in Chad. The US also needs to work with the International Criminal Court to ramp up the pace of indictments of those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity, while Khartoum must feel increased pressure to hand over those individuals already indicted by the Court.”

[http://obama.senate.gov/press/080423-statement\\_of\\_se\\_22/](http://obama.senate.gov/press/080423-statement_of_se_22/)

## *Candidates for Vice President:*

### Joe Biden

March 3, 2003: “We made it clear to the rest of the world what we thought our priorities were, and when they told us, regionally and internationally what theirs were, we found little regard for their concern. We unilaterally announced our pulling out of the ABM treaty, we suggested we would not negotiate [sic] any further on the international criminal court, we pulled out of the Kyoto agreement without any willingness to negotiate [sic] any changes, and we sent a stark message to the rest of the world at the very moment that it was prepared. It was prepared at least in its rhetoric, to consider whether or not there would be new rules of the road.”

<http://biden.senate.gov/press/speeches/speech/?id=7614481b-2ae7-4a6a-81ff-d7669ce564f9>

September 9, 2003: “Unfortunately, this administration’s gratuitous acts of unilateralism have alienated the partners we need to meet most of the challenges we face. We said no thanks to NATO when it offered to help us in Afghanistan. We summarily rejected treaties on climate change, the international criminal court, a nuclear test ban, and so on. That meant a lot to other countries, even if they meant little to the Administration. Should we sign on the dotted line just because our friends like a treaty and we don’t? Of course not. Should we roll up our sleeves, sit down at the table with our partners and try to come up with a compromise or an alternative? Of course we should.”

<http://biden.senate.gov/press/speeches/speech/?id=095c24cd-c012-4f5d-a5e0-e057749bf567>





## *Former Candidates:*

### Hillary Clinton

February 13, 2005: “Fourth, Europe must acknowledge that the United States has global responsibilities that create unique circumstances. For example, we are more vulnerable to the misuse of an international criminal court because of the international role we play and the resentments that flow from that ubiquitous presence around the world. That does not mean, in my opinion, that the United States should walk out of the International Criminal Court. But it does mean we have legitimate concerns that the world should address, and it is fair to ask that there be sensitivity to those concerns that are really focused on the fact that the United States is active on every continent in the world. As we look to the future, there are so many opportunities for us to renew our relationship and we need to because we face so many challenges.”

<http://clinton.senate.gov/~clinton/speeches/2005217C29.html>

November 12, 2007 response to candidate questionnaire:

*Question:* “Given the International Criminal Court’s recent activities in pursuing war crimes and crimes against humanity, what would be your administration’s policy regarding U.S. cooperation with ongoing investigations?”

*Question:* “Beyond cooperation with current investigations, what should the United States’ relationship be with the Court?”

*Answer:* “There is broad support in this country across political and ideological divides that perpetrators of genocide, mass atrocities, and war crimes must be held accountable.

“When President Clinton signed the Rome Treaty, he noted our serious concerns about the treaty. But he signed, nonetheless, to underline this basic principle, and to signal that the United States would seek to address the concerns we had about the treaty, as well as to ensure that the institution operated as effectively as possible. The Bush administration’s ‘unsigned’ of the ICC not only damaged our international standing, it also separated us from our allies, with whom we have a shared interest in promoting accountability for war crimes and atrocities.

“Fortunately, some of the worst fears about the ICC have not been borne out. The institution was created to prompt the development of justice institutions in countries that lacked them, and to assure accountability for the worst human rights crimes in countries where those institutions do not exist. It has over the past eight years operated on that basis. The ICC has also avoided politicized prosecutions.

“The Bush administration has begun to cooperate with the ICC in allowing referral of indicted war criminals in Darfur to the Court, and signaling a willingness to share information with the Court pertaining to those prosecutions.

“Consistent with my overall policy of reintroducing the United States to the world, I will as President evaluate the record of Court, and reassess how we can best engage with this institution and hold the worst abusers of human rights to account.”

<http://globalsolutions.org/08orbust/quotes/2007/11/27/quote615>





## Chris Dodd

September 29, 2006: “Let’s lead the world toward making our international institutions meet the new realities of the 21st Century. Let’s lead the world in solutions to global warming and global disease. And let’s make good on the vision of Robert Jackson, Whitney Harris, and my father and lend American support to a strong, stable, permanent international criminal court to help end genocide once and for all.”

<http://dodd.senate.gov/index.php?q=node/3614>

## John Edwards

December 28, 2006: “America – when America doesn’t engage in these international institutions, when we show disrespect for international agreements, it makes it extraordinarily difficult when we need the world community to rally around us to get them there. We should be the natural leader in all of these areas, and, certainly, we should be a member of the International Criminal Court.”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/28/AR2006122800457.html>

June 16, 2007: “What’s happened with Bush is America is disengaged from international institutions in general and the ICC is one of those. And if America wants to be a leader in the world and we want to be respected by other countries and treated in a way we like to be treated, then we’re going to have to show that we’re willing to engage with the international community.”

<http://www.charlotte.com/local/story/164126.html>

December 2007 response to candidate questionnaire:

*Question:* “Should the United States support and join the International Criminal Court for the prosecution of crimes against humanity, particularly in its investigation of ongoing cases in Darfur, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and the Central African Republic?”

*Answer:* “When America doesn't engage in international institutions like the ICC, when we show disrespect for international agreements, it makes it extraordinarily difficult when we need the world community to rally around us to get them there. We should be the natural leader in all of these areas. We should be a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and we should cooperate with its ongoing investigations. The U.S. is committed to bringing war criminals and perpetrators of crimes against humanity to justice. We will always stand by this commitment. I strongly believe in the principles underlying the Court—to ensure that criminals are brought to justice. We must be able to protect American servicemembers from politically-motivated prosecutors. I believe we can do this while joining the court and assisting in its investigations.

“The United States has the human and practical resources to support a relatively new multilateral organization like the ICC. Supporting the ICC will ensure that those who commit the most serious crimes against humanity are punished even if national courts are unable or unwilling to do so. This will help promote lasting peace and security, enable members of communities victimized by these crimes to rebuild their lives, and send a strong message to all would-be tyrants that their crimes will not go unpunished.”

<http://www.unausa.org/site/pp.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=3748137>





## Dennis Kucinich

April 26, 2007: “As president of the United States, I intend to take America in a different direction, rejecting war as an instrument of policy, reconnecting with the nations of the world, so that we can address the real issues that affect security all over the globe and affect our security at home: getting rid of all nuclear weapons, the United States participating in the chemical weapons convention, the biological weapons convention, the small arms treaty, the landmine treaty, joining the International Criminal Court, signing the Kyoto climate change treaty.”

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18352397/page/16/>

2007 responses to candidate questionnaire:

*Question:* “What should be the U.S. policy toward the ICC?”

*Answer:* “The United States needs to be a part of the International Criminal Court, and be held accountable by it. Only the ICC presents a workable framework for the functioning of an international justice system which will affirm the basic human rights of all people of all nations. The ICC should be immediately signed along with a long list of other treaties that the Bush administration has ignored. It is time for the US to end its status as a nation above nations and be a nation among nations.”

<http://www.asil.org/il08/kucinich.html>

## Ron Paul

April 8, 2002: “The United Nations and the ICC are inherently incompatible with national sovereignty. America must either remain a constitutional republic or submit to international law, because it cannot do both. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and the conflict between adhering to the rule of law and obeying globalist planners is now staring us in the face. At present we fortunately have a President who opposes the ICC, but ultimately it is up to Congress – and concerned citizens – to insure that no American ever stands trial before an international court.”

<http://www.house.gov/paul/tst/tst2002/tst040802.htm>

2007: “So called free trade deals and world governmental organizations like the International Criminal Court (ICC), NAFTA, GATT, WTO, and CAFTA are a threat to our independence as a nation. They transfer power from our government to unelected foreign elites.

The ICC wants to try our soldiers as war criminals.”

<http://www.ronpaul2008.com/issues/american-independence-and-sovereignty/>

## Bill Richardson

February 8, 2007: “And it means respecting the Geneva conventions and joining the International Criminal Court.”

<http://www.richardsonforpresident.com/newsroom/speeches?id=0003>

April 18, 2007: “I would stress, however, that the single most important thing that America can do for human rights globally, is to be impeccable in our own behavior. We need to end Bush administration policies which are inconsistent with the Geneva conventions and international law. And we need to join the International Criminal Court.”

<http://www.richardsonforpresident.com/newsroom/speeches?id=0010>





## Bill Richardson

August 8, 2007: “Beyond the United Nations, a commitment to international law means that the United States must be impeccable in its own human rights behavior. The US government must join the International Criminal Court and respect all international treaties, including the Geneva Conventions. It should reward countries that respect the Universal Declaration on Human Rights—and it should negotiate, constructively but firmly, with those who do not. The United States must also start taking human rights in Africa seriously. The two most horrendous recent human rights abuses have taken place in Rwanda and now Darfur, and history teaches that if the United States does not take the lead on ending these abuses, no one else will. The United States should have sent a special envoy as soon as the mass killings began in Darfur and should now put pressure not only Sudan, but also on other states, like China, that have influence in Sudan. US diplomatic engagement and leadership is essential to put global, multilateral pressure on such regimes. One way of doing so would be to enthusiastically support the International Criminal Court, so that individual leaders who engage in or allow crimes against humanity know they will be held accountable.”

<http://hir.harvard.edu/articles/1630/> or <http://www.richardsonforpresident.com/newsroom/articles?id=0155>

October 2, 2007 responses to candidate questionnaire:

*Question:* “Given the International Criminal Court’s recent activities in pursuing war crimes and crimes against humanity, what would be your administration’s policy regarding U.S. cooperation with ongoing investigations?”

*Answer:* “My administration would cooperate with all ongoing investigations of war crimes and crimes against humanity. It’s that simple.”

<http://globalsolutions.org/08orbust/quotes/2007/10/03/quote426>

*Question:* “Beyond cooperating with current investigations, what should the United States’ relationship be with the court?”

*Answer:* “The U.S. should join the International Criminal Court as a full-fledged member. We have nothing to fear.”

<http://globalsolutions.org/08orbust/quotes/2007/10/03/quote425>

January/February 2008:

“In the long run, I believe that the most important tool to stop human rights violators will be the ICC. If the United States joined the ICC and supported it enthusiastically, the calculus of leaders who engage in or allow crimes against humanity to take place would change. A strong ICC would hold criminal leaders accountable. When all else fails, the United States also should take the lead in providing military support to local and regional forces opposing genocide and in assembling multilateral interventions to stop the killing.”

<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20080101faessay87111/bill-richardson/a-new-realism.html>

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