



## ***AMICC REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DAY ACTIVITIES AND CELEBRATIONS AROUND JULY 17, 2008***

July 17 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the treaty which established and now governs the ICC. The American NGO Coalition for the ICC, a program of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) works to educate Americans about this permanent court which tries those individuals most responsible for atrocity crimes. Many of the ICC celebrations around the world took place on July 17, three days after the ICC prosecutor sought an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir on ten counts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In observance of International Justice Day, AMICC Convener John Washburn led UNA-USA's delegation to a day-long, high-level event at UN Headquarters which featured UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, ICC President Judge Philippe Kirsch, ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo and other leaders and experts on international justice. Also on July 17, Mr. Washburn spoke to a group of Amnesty International USA activists celebrating International Justice Day and taking action on US participation in the ICC.

AMICC Deputy Convener Matthew Heaphy traveled to Iowa for a three day visit around International Justice Day organized by Iowa UNA and AMICC member Amnesty International USA which also primarily funded it. During the first part of the trip, he met with local UNA-USA and Amnesty leaders in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. In addition, Mr. Heaphy and UNA Student Alliance leaders met with an editor and reporter from the Cedar Rapids Gazette which resulted in favorable and prominent press coverage of the ICC and of the UNA Student Alliance event.

On July 17, International Justice Day, Mr. Heaphy lectured two courses at the University of Iowa, an undergraduate course on Ethnic Conflicts and a graduate law course on US Foreign Relations Law. He also addressed the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council on the subject of American foreign policy and the ICC, which was later broadcast on Iowa Public Radio. On the evening of July 17, he spoke to a UNA Student Alliance at Kirkwood Community College at an event co-sponsored by Amnesty International, Iowa UNA and the Linn Co. UNA Chapter. Iowa ICC activists also successfully achieved mayoral proclamations in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids recognizing July 17 as International Justice Day.

In addition to the celebrations in Iowa and New York, AMICC also provided support to celebrations around the country. In Los Angeles, the ICC Alliance held an event "The 10th Anniversary of the Rome Treaty of the International Criminal Court: Meeting the Challenges of International Justice" which included distinguished speakers on international justice. In Minneapolis, the local AMICC alliance organized an event on "The ICC: An Important Enforcer of International Human Rights". In Chicago, AMICC member Amnesty USA organized an International Justice Day Happy Hour geared to local ICC activists. In Boston, Amnesty's Firefly Project held an International Justice Day celebration on July 14.

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