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THE CHICAGO ALLIANCE FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT



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“The theme for this year’s commemoration is ‘Legacies of Justice,’ in honor of the courage of, and the precedents set by, those who testified during the trials of Nazi war criminals. The theme also pays tribute to those who tirelessly work for the cause of justice, both then and now. Today, more than ever before, individual and communal willingness to seek justice after the Holocaust serves as a powerful example of how our nation can – and must – respond to unprecedented crimes. We must vigorously pursue justice for the victims of such acts of hatred and inhumanity, not only for their sake but for the sake of present and future generations.”

- *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

Panel to Discuss U.S. Role in Nuremberg and Sudan

U.S. Currently Opposes International Criminal Court Investigating the Situation in Darfur

Chicago – The Chicago Alliance for the International Criminal Court (CAICC) will be hosting “NUREMBERG NOW”, its first annual Holocaust Remembrance Day event at the Northwestern University Medical School’s Baldwin Auditorium on Tuesday, April 25th. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. and admission is free. There will be a brief introduction by CAICC Convener Dan Thomann, followed by presentations from Alberto Coll of the DePaul University College of Law’s International Human Rights Law Institute, and David Scheffer, Visiting Clinical Professor at the Northwestern University School of Law. The event is co-sponsored by Northwestern University’s International Law Society and the Jewish Medical Students Organization.

In 1979, Congress charged the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) with the designation of the Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust. In 2006, the Days of Remembrance are Sunday, April 23rd through Sunday, April 30th. The theme for this year’s Days of Remembrance is “Legacies of Justice”, and the USHMM has designated Tuesday, April 25th as Holocaust Remembrance Day 2006.



The CAICC organized the panel discussion because this year's theme provides a unique opportunity to explore the legacy of American leadership at Nuremberg in light of the current administration's opposition to the International Criminal Court (ICC). In March of 2005 the UN Security Council voted to refer the situation in Darfur, Sudan, to the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC. The US government was instrumental in the prosecution of genocide at Nuremberg, but after declaring that genocide has taken place in Darfur it abstained, instead of voting in favor of, the referral of the case to the ICC.

The International Criminal Court is based in the Netherlands, at The Hague. It was created on July 1st, 2002, after the 60th ratification of the Rome Statute creating the Court was deposited at the UN. 139 countries have signed the Rome Statute, and 100 of those countries have ratified it. The Clinton administration signed on to the ICC, but the Bush administration took the unprecedented step of "un-signing" the treaty shortly after it took office. The ICC was created to investigate genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity when the perpetrators' home country is unwilling or unable to prosecute them.

The Chicago Alliance for the International Criminal Court is a local alliance created under the auspices of the New York based American NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court (AMICC). The CAICC is a volunteer-run organization working with area civic, religious, academic, and community groups to promote U.S. accession to the Rome Statute and full participation in the International Criminal Court.

A 2005 survey by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations and the Program on International Policy Attitudes found widespread, nationwide, bipartisan support for US participation in the ICC, as well as for referring the investigation of the situation in Darfur to the Court.

Upcoming Event

- Tuesday, April 25: 5:30 p.m.: 303 E. Superior, Chicago: Northwestern Medical School, Baldwin Auditorium: NUREMBERG NOW, a discussion featuring Alberto Coll, International Human Rights Law Institute, DePaul University College of Law, and David Scheffer, Visiting Clinical Professor, Northwestern University School of Law

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