

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2000

The President
William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Mr. President:

You have a historic opportunity to advance the international rule of law by signing the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court (ICC) before it closes for signature on December 31, 2000. As Members of Congress, we urge you to do so.

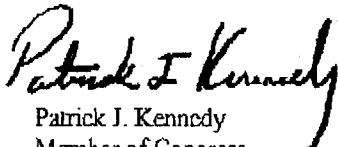
Signing the Rome Statute for the ICC would be a reaffirmation to our allies such as the United Kingdom and Canada, who have already signed this treaty, of the United States' commitment to equal justice under the law and the Nuremberg principles. In addition the U.S. would send a message to victims of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity that we will not allow the world to stand idly by while perpetrators of these horrendous crimes continue to act with impunity.


Creation of a permanent ICC would eliminate any further need for ad hoc tribunals, such as those in Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and create a permanent mechanism to hold perpetrators of atrocities accountable. It would also give greater protection to American service members involved in peacekeeping operations and international military initiatives.


Your signature would lend legitimacy to the ICC statute and reassure Americans that the safeguards built into the treaty reflect American judicial values and uphold the rights enshrined in our Constitution. Although the ICC treaty is not, as your Administration has expressed, an absolutely perfect instrument, we believe its positives overwhelmingly outweigh its negatives.

Most importantly, your signature would give members of Congress a solid ground to push for the ratification of the Rome Statute and guarantee your legacy as a proponent of international rule of law.

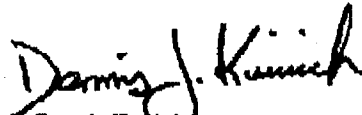
Sincerely,



Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress

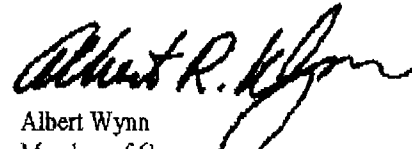

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



Pete Stark
Member of Congress

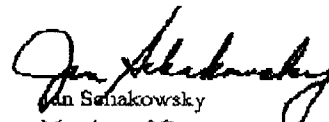

Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

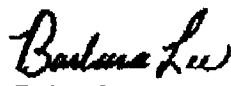

James McGovern
Member of Congress

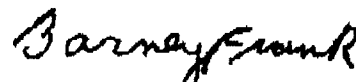

Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress

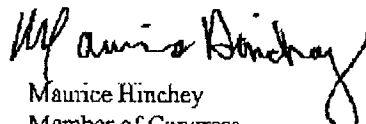

Albert Wynn
Member of Congress

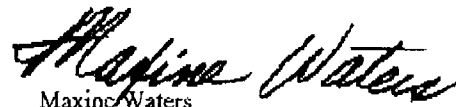

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

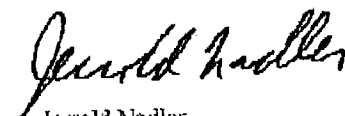

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

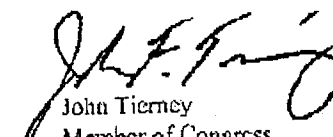

Barbara Loe
Member of Congress

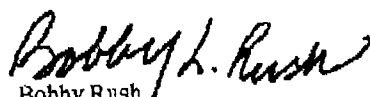

Barney Frank
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

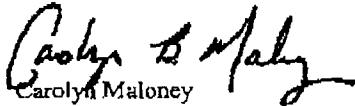

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

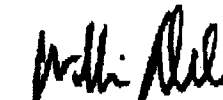

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



John Tierney
Member of Congress

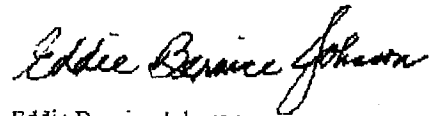

Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress


Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

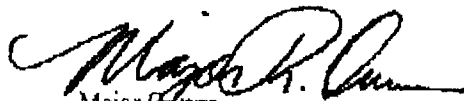

William Delahunt
Member of Congress

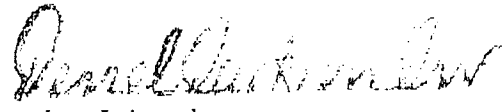

Tim Holden
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

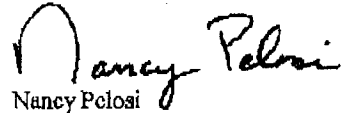

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal Allard
Member of Congress

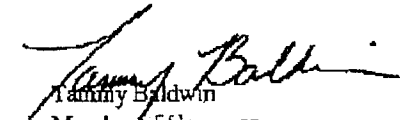

Major Owens
Member of Congress



Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

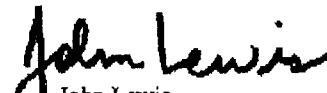

Shelia Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress


Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress


Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress


Donald Payne
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress