

AMICC

American Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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PREEMPT WAR!

The International Criminal Court can try and punish leaders who cause war

To stop and punish tyrants like Saddam Hussein, the international community has established a permanent court to try those who commit genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, when their own countries cannot or will not. Now with nearly 90 member countries, the ICC has jurisdiction over atrocities committed since July 1, 2002. Authorized to try leaders in office, the ICC can peacefully change regimes. ***With the ICC, war with countries like Iraq will no longer be our only option.***

If the ICC had been in existence at the time Saddam Hussein committed his most notorious and well-documented crimes, it would have indicted him, making him a pariah BEFORE he attacked Kuwait, BEFORE the United States and the rest of the world decided he was no longer a useful ally. Branded an international criminal, he would have lost long ago the patronage of foreign states as well as power and legitimacy within Iraq. The death of almost million innocent Iraqis due to sanctions could have been prevented. ***And the concerns that propelled us toward a destructive second Gulf War would never have arisen.***

The Crimes of Saddam Hussein

Seeking weapons of mass destruction is not the only crime committed by Saddam Hussein. The crimes of Hussein and his party stretch back more than twenty years and include systematic acts of genocide, persecution, torture, and sexual violence, all crimes covered by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. **If the ICC had existed then, the international community could have stopped Saddam Hussein by indicting him...**

- In 1980, when tens of thousands of Fayli Kurds were forcefully expelled from their homes;
- In 1983, when he arrested and summarily executed 8,000 Kurdish males;
- In 1984, when he killed 4,000 political prisoners at Abu Ghraib;
- In 1988, when he conducted the Anfal genocidal campaign, resulting in the deaths and disappearances of over 100,000 Kurds;
- In 1990, when he used 38 documented methods of torture against Kuwaiti prisoners;
- In 1991, when he imprisoned and disappeared thousands of Shia Muslims;
- In 1999, when he destroyed entire Shia villages in the south;
- Or at any other time for his consistent use of torture and rape to persecute political prisoners.

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Ad-hoc Tribunal: Justice for the Iraqi People

The ICC can only try individuals whose countries have joined the ICC Statute or who commit crimes in states that have joined it. However, the UN Security Council can refer to the Court ANY situation it wishes, including the crimes of Saddam Hussein.

Nevertheless, even with Security Council referral, the ICC could only investigate and prosecute Hussein and his supporters for crimes committed after July 1, 2002, which represent just the “tip of the iceberg” of the colossal atrocities his regime has committed.

The Iraqi people – abused, oppressed and terrorized for decades – deserve justice. They deserve to learn the truth about their leaders, discover the fate of disappeared loved ones, and start healing the deep scars in their society.

The world community has the necessary evidence, collected over the past 20 years by human rights organizations, the United Nations, and concerned governments. The model has been established: the special tribunals for the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and now Sierra Leone.

What we need now are U.S. leaders who will call on the UN to establish an ad-hoc tribunal to try Hussein for his crimes. With an ad-hoc tribunal, the Iraqi people could lay the foundations of a new democracy through accountability (not impunity), reconciliation (not denial), and law and order (not war).

Building Tomorrow’s Freedom

Justice, truth, accountability, law and order – all are necessary cornerstones for building new, stable democracies. If we truly seek freedom for the world, then we must *insist that an ad-hoc tribunal is established to try Hussein and his cronies for their crimes*, and we must *actively support the International Criminal Court to prevent future Husseins from wreaking decades of terror and suffering*. We need better options than war to solve the challenges of tomorrow. Let us invest in future freedom by building up international justice today.

ACT NOW TO PREEMPT WAR

Urge your representatives to support United States cooperation with and membership in the International Criminal Court as the world’s best chance to stop arch criminals like Saddam Hussein BEFORE they become a threat to world peace.

For more information about the ICC, the US position, and how YOU can make a difference, go to www.amicc.org and www.usaforicc.org.