



STATEMENTS OF BARACK OBAMA ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

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

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>

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/

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