

# PROCLAMATION

The City of Philadelphia is known throughout the world as the home of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States, the cornerstones of the country's liberty and its legal structure. These revered documents hold up a beacon for a world seeking freedom and protection from unjust persecution.

To this day, crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and the crime of aggression threaten the overall peace, stability, security and well being of people in all corners of the world.

On July 17, 1998, delegates from more than 160 countries, gathered at an international treaty conference in Rome, overwhelmingly approved the Rome Statute that created the first permanent, independent, treaty-based International Criminal Court-a Court now fully functioning in the Hague, Netherlands. The International Criminal Court is a court of last resort, acting only when national judicial systems either are unable or genuinely not willing to act to investigate and prosecute these crimes.

The cases presented to the International Criminal Court relate to egregious and widespread violations of human decency, including the use of rape as an instrument of war, the enslavement of women and children, recruitment of child soldiers, the systematic cleansing of ethnic groups-all crying out for solutions and justice.

July 17 memorializes the importance of international criminal justice, and the need for bringing to justice those perpetrating these crimes through rule of law in an internationally constituted judicial body. To date, 139 nations have signed and 111 have ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court signifying the seriousness that nations and the world community give to ending immunity from punishment to those who would inflict such cruelty upon others.

## THEREFORE...

I, Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby proclaim July 17, 2010 to be

## INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DAY

in Philadelphia, and urge all citizens to be aware of the importance of this day and the International Criminal Court to Philadelphia, to America, and to the global community.



Michael A. Nutter  
Mayor

Given under my hand and the seal of the City of Philadelphia on this seventeenth day of July, two thousand and ten

