

Template letter to *The American Legion Magazine*
on ICC article in the issue of May 2004.

The American Legion Magazine
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“Tied Down” (May) about the International Criminal Court needs correction. The ICC is not about constraining the United States. It was created to hold to account evil leaders (like Hitler or Saddam Hussein) who orchestrate horrific crimes. The Prosecutor has rejected all complaints against U.S. citizens. The U.S. delegation helped draft and approved the Court’s war crimes definitions. The ICC can try a citizen of a country not part of the Court (like the U.S.) only if s/he commits an atrocity in a country that is.

The Court will shortly start on its first cases: the Congo and Uganda. One of the warlord suspects recruits child soldiers by forcing them to kill and eat their parents. Yet, the U.S. is trying to wreck the Court. This has offended the great majority of NATO and EU countries who belong to the Court just as we are asking their help in Iraq. We should work with the ICC on selected cases, influence it our way and strengthen it on issues like protecting POWs.

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