

VICTIMS TRUST FUND CAMPAIGN EVENT

www.victimstrustfund.org

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Iraqi Secret Graves Demonstrate Need to Prevent Future Crimes Survivors of atrocities join with U.S. citizens in campaign for International Criminal Court

WHAT: Press Conference; open to the public

WHO: Paiman Halmat, President of the Kurdish Foundation and an Iraqi Kurdish survivor of the Hussein regime who will discuss the particular needs of women victims and survivors; Frederick Terna, a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust who is participating in the campaign by telling his Senators about his donations to the Victims Trust Fund; Dr. Orlando Tizon, Assistant Director of Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International (TASSC), and a torture survivor from the Philippines; Fiona McKay, Director of the International Justice Program, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

WHEN: 8:00 am to 10:30 am Tuesday, May 6, 2003. The panelists will speak from 8:30 to 9:30, with breakfast beforehand and time for questions and individual interviews afterward.

WHERE: Zenger Room at the National Press Club (529 14th Street, NW, Washington DC, 20045)

WHY: Recent discoveries of mass graves in Iraq further illustrate the need for a permanent court to deter such atrocities in the future. Americans are committed to helping victims of the world's worst crimes, as demonstrated by the tremendous outpouring of citizen support for the Victims Trust Fund Campaign in its first month. Throughout April, thousands of U.S. citizens across the country have joined the campaign by sending a small check to the Victims Trust Fund to help survivors of future atrocities. By telling their Senators about their donations, they are demonstrating the breadth and depth of Americans' commitment to U.S. leadership in international justice.

In only one month, more than 20 U.S. civil society groups, from religious organizations to an anti-torture coalition, have joined the campaign. The campaign website, www.victimstrustfund.org, has received more than 20,000 hits, and more than 70 Hollywood celebrities have signed onto an open letter to senators.

The Victims Trust Fund is a part of the International Criminal Court, and will provide money directly to the victims of future genocides, war crimes and crimes against humanity. It provides funds for medical and other necessary social goods to help survivors rebuild their lives and communities.

Campaign partners include: Advocacy Project; American Coalition for the ICC (AMICC); Amnesty International USA; American Humanist Association; Campaign for UN Reform; Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism; Conference of Major Superiors of Men; Friends Committee on National Legislation; Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and Their Children;

Independent Student Coalition for the ICC; International Criminal Court Alliance; International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies; Lawyers Committee for Human Rights; National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union; REDRESS; Torture, Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC); United Nations Association - USA; United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society; Unitarian Universalist Association; Washington Kurdish Institute; World Federalist Association.