



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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MEDIA ALERT

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International Justice Experts Available for Comment on Passage of Anti-ICC Legislation Through Senate

American Servicemembers' Protection Act Passes 75 - 19

Who: Individual members of the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court are available for comment on today's passage of the American Servicemembers Protection Act in the U.S. Senate by contacting CICC Media Liaison, Adele Waugaman, through the information provided above.

Why: In a roll call vote this evening, the U.S. Senate passed a version of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act (ASPA), legislation based on opposition to the future International Criminal Court (ICC). NGO experts find that this bill builds on the opposition expressed by the U.S. disengagement from the Court last month and is inflammatory to key U.S. allies that support the Court. Furthermore, some provisions of ASPA run counter to the statement by US war crimes ambassador, Pierre-Richard Prosper, at the time of U.S. disengagement from the Court, to "respect the decision of states to be part of this treaty consensually." The ICC, which has been ratified by 67 countries and has support from all regions of the world, will be formally created this July 1st.

What: The version of the ASPA that passed through the Senate contains broad Presidential waivers and a provision, included by unanimous consent, that explicitly permits the U.S. to assist with efforts to bring to justice foreign nationals accused of genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity.

This version of ASPA, which will now go before conference committee, contains the following provisions:

- Prohibits U.S. cooperation with the ICC;
- Prohibits military assistance to countries that are parties to ICC, except NATO countries, major non-NATO allies and Taiwan;
- Provides authority for U.S. to invade the Netherlands to free members of U.S. armed forces, civilians and allies detained by the ICC;
- Maintains that peacekeeping operations must exempt U.S. Armed Forces from criminal prosecution by the ICC;
- Prohibits U.S. Armed Forces from peacekeeping missions unless in possession of a presidential waiver.

How: The above experts on the US position on the ICC can be reached for comment through the contact information provided.

About the Coalition for the International Criminal Court

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (Coalition) is a network of over 1,000 civil society organizations working to create a permanent, fair and independent International Criminal Court. For more information, please visit: <http://www.iccnnow.org>.