



Press Advisory

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Val Schrock
202-546-3956 or vschrock@cunr.org

USAforICC.org Laments Anti-ICC Legislation

Washington, DC – USAforICC.org deplors continuation of the United States' multi-prong attack on the International Criminal Court (ICC) with the passage of the misnamed *American Servicemembers Protection Act* (ASPA). President Bush signed the bill into law today as part of a 2002 supplemental appropriations bill.

The passage of ASPA disregards the Administration's own pledge not to "wage war" against the ICC and to respect the decision of those who ratified the treaty. According to USAforICC.org coordinator Don Kraus, this "unilateralist bill includes punitive measures against countries that wish to say 'Never Again' to the perpetrators of the world's most horrendous crimes — crimes that have affected millions of people — genocide, mass executions, murder, rape, gender apartheid, mass torture and mutilation."

The legislation includes provisions that:

- Prohibit U.S. cooperation and intelligence sharing with the ICC,
- Restrict U.S. participation in U.N. peacekeeping,
- Prohibit military assistance to most countries that ratify the ICC Statute, and
- Authorizes the President to use "all means necessary and appropriate" to free from captivity any U.S. or allied personnel held by or on behalf of the ICC.

Though the President may under certain circumstances waive many of the above prohibitions, Kraus notes, "this legislation leaves the glass less than half empty for ICC proponents and is not a brew the world wants to drink." The bill has already cost the U.S. untold diplomatic capital in Europe, where it is referred to as "The Hague Invasion Act", because it gives the President expansive authority to use force against the Netherlands, future home of the ICC.

With the signing this bill USAforICC.org calls for the Bush Administration to rebuke further legislative attacks on the Court. The ICC is an international *fait accompli*. The United States should now closely monitor the Court as it develops and seek to cooperate with it to bring war criminals to justice.

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More information about the ICC and ASPA, including **bill text** and **statements by members of Congress** can be found at http://www.usaforicc.org/facts_news.html.

USAforICC.org's Steering Committee consists of: Amnesty International, the Campaign for United Nations Reform, the Feminist Majority, Human Rights Watch, the Independent Student Coalition for the ICC, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, the Nuremberg Legacy Project, The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society, United Nations Association of the USA, and the World Federalist Association.

Isn't it time we stop letting war criminals get away with murder?

USAforICC.org