

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Public Statement

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International Criminal Court's Trust Fund:

Amnesty International welcomes the election of a Board of Directors

Amnesty International today welcomed the election of a new Board of Directors for the International Criminal Court's Trust Fund for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

"The election of eminent personalities to the Board who have experience of working with victims is an encouraging beginning for the Trust Fund, which will assist victims of the worst crimes know to humanity rebuild their lives," Amnesty International said.

Those elected by the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court today in New York included Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan; His Excellency Mr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, former President of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Laureate; His Excellency Mr. Taneusz Mazowiecki, former Prime Minister of Poland and former Special Rapporteur on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the Territory of the former Yugoslavia; Mme. Simone Veil, former Minister of Health of France and former President of the European Parliament; and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa and Nobel Peace Laureate.

The Trust Fund for Victims was established by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court for the benefit for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and the families of such victims. The Board of Directors will be responsible for managing the fund and fundraising.

"The establishment of the Trust Fund is a unique development in international justice ensuring greater assistance to victims. The International Criminal Court seeks to ensure justice for victims not only through criminal trials, but also by helping them through the Trust Fund to overcome the physical and psychological suffering they have endured," Amnesty International added.

The success of the Trust Fund is dependent on the amount of donations that it receives. In the United States of America, individuals can contribute to the Trust Fund by visiting www.victimstrustfund.org. In other countries, individuals can send donations in Euros payable to the International Criminal Court, to International Criminal Court - Trust Fund for Victims, Maanweg 174, 2516 AB The Hague, The Netherlands.

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