

AI Index: IOR 40/021/1998 16 July 1998  
News Service 140/98

AI INDEX: IOR 40/21/98  
16 JULY 1998

## **INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT: Final Statement At the Diplomatic Conference Delivered by Pierre Sané**

Amnesty International would like to give its appreciation to the dedication and commitment shown by the bureau throughout this process.

Amnesty International has worked steadfastly towards this historic moment for five years. Eight hundred NGOs in our coalition have shared the common goal of creating an effective, independent and just international court. Tonight we have come nearer to that goal.

- We have an independent prosecutor empowered to initiate investigations on the basis of information provided by the victims.
- We have a permanent mechanism with competence over the three core crimes.
- The court will have the power to award reparations to victims.
- The statute expressly recognized that rape and other forms of sexual abuse are war crimes and crimes against humanity.

However, Amnesty International is disappointed that a few powerful countries appeared willing to hold justice hostage by threatening and bullying other states and were all along more concerned to shield possible criminals from trials rather than producing a charter for victims.

From tomorrow Amnesty International members worldwide will mobilize to ensure that this court will fulfill its true purpose.

- By campaigning for universal ratification.
- By opposing interference by the security council to block investigations and prosecutions.
- By exposing and shaming states who are considering opting out of the court competence over crimes committed by their nationals or on their territory.
- By demanding that states of custody and states of the nationality of the victims are reintroduced as a basis for the jurisdiction of the court.

The ultimate goal of an international community dedicated to ending impunity must be universal jurisdiction. We will work to ensure that this court responds to the cries of all victims everywhere.

AI Index: IOR 40/021/1998 16 July 1998