



Partners Toolkit for July/August 2006

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Citizens for Global Solutions
Partners Nationwide Teleconference

-International Law & Justice-

Saturday, July 8, 2006
1:00pm Eastern time

Dial: 800-391-2548
Verbal password: V A 3 1 7 8 5 5

Speakers

- Golzar Kheiltash, Legal Analyst, Citizens for Global Solutions
- Heather Hamilton, Chief of Staff, Citizens for Global Solutions

Agenda:

- IL&J update
- ICC Communications Guide

Here are some useful tips regarding how to access the call:

- Participants should dial in 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- When dialing in, the host and participants should hold the line for an operator.
- Participants will verbally give their password to the operator.
- All hosts should identify themselves accordingly to the operator when they dial in.
- Operators will take the city, state and number of people in the room and place them into the Main Conference.

July 2006

Over the last several months, many of you have asked for an update on International Law & Justice issues that Citizens for Global Solutions is working on as well as an update on the International Criminal Court. Over the past year, there have been many developments both in IL&J as well as with the ICC. Below is a short summary of these developments. You can find more information on each of these items by visiting:

www.globalsolutions.org/programs/law_justice/news.html

Darfur Referral

On March 31, 2005, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1593 which referred the situation in Darfur, Sudan to the International Criminal Court for investigation. The Resolution marked the first time that the Security Council has referred a situation to the ICC. Of particular significance was the U.S. decision to abstain, as opposed to veto the resolution, which allowed the resolution to be adopted. Since the referral, the ICC Chief Prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, has undertaken a rigorous investigation of the atrocities committed in Darfur. In his third six-month report to the Security Council on June 14, 2006, Mr. Ocampo described the development of his investigation, and highlighted his office's progress in identifying patterns of crimes committed in Darfur and potential perpetrators to be prosecuted. Mr. Ocampo expects to issue arrest warrants for a number of perpetrators by early 2007.

For more information on the referral, please visit the link mentioned above as well as the Darfur Resource Center, which you can get to by going to our homepage (www.globalsolutions.org) and clicking on Darfur Resource Center.

Nethercutt Provision

In June 2005, the U.S. Congress renewed the Nethercutt amendment in the Fiscal Year 2006 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. The Nethercutt amendment was originally introduced by congressman Nethercutt for the Fiscal Year 2005 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. The Amendment targets the International Criminal Court by cutting economic support funds (ESF) to ICC member states that have not granted U.S. personnel immunity from the ICC under a Bilateral Immunity Agreement (BIA). ESF are crucial for the countries that receive them and are used for rule of law, democratic governance, poverty alleviation, and other critical programs. Most of the countries affected by the Nethercutt amendment are either U.S. allies or friendly to the U.S., such as Mexico, Ireland, Cyprus, South Africa, Kenya, Ecuador, and Peru. Yet given the negative impact of BIAs on U.S. foreign policy and the counterproductive nature of this strong-arm tactic, key members of the State Department and Congress have begun to reconsider the rationale behind the Nethercutt amendment. Citizens for Global Solutions is capitalizing on this potential policy shift in an effort to do away with aid restrictions as well as open up the broader ICC debate among U.S. policy makers.

A full description of what BIAs are and how they harm our allies can be found by visiting these two links:

http://www.globalsolutions.org/involved/partners/BIA_FactSheet_July06.pdf
http://www.globalsolutions.org/involved/partners/BIA_talkpts_July06.pdf

ICC Issues Arrest Warrants

In October 2005, the ICC issued its first ever arrest warrants for the five senior leaders of Uganda's rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The government of Uganda referred itself to the ICC in January 2003, hoping that the ICC could investigate and prosecute those LRA leaders most responsible for committing atrocities during the 19-year civil war that has raged in Uganda. The warrants call for the arrest of LRA leader Joseph Kony, as well as four other high-level LRA members, namely Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo, Dominic Ongwen, and Raska Lukwiya. There are a total of 86 counts against these five men, ranging from sexual enslavement, rape, inflicting serious bodily injury and suffering, pillaging, and forced enlistment of children. The ICC has called on all countries and in particular Uganda and Sudan to execute the warrants.

100th ICC Ratification

In October 2005, Mexico made history by becoming the 100th country to ratify the Rome Statute and become a member of the ICC. With its ratification of the ICC's Rome Statute, however, Mexico will be facing millions of dollars of cuts in economic and military aid from the U.S. Specifically, this U.S. ally and NAFTA partner will lose \$11.5 million under the Nethercutt amendment and \$3.6 million of military aid under the American Servicemembers Protection Act. Mexico joins Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela as Western Hemispheric countries that are party to the International Criminal Court.

Hissene Habre Arrested

In November 2005, Senegal arrested Hissène Habré, the former president of Chad, for crimes committed by the Chadian intelligence service between 1982 and 1990. Habré has lived in exile in Senegal for 15 years. Dubbed the African Pinochet by human rights advocates, Habré was the subject of an international arrest warrant issued by Belgium under its international jurisdiction law. The law allowed Belgium to claim jurisdiction to prosecute those accused of egregious human rights violations. Habré has been accused of ordering arbitrary arrests, torture, and mass executions of tens of thousands of Chadians during his reign. Belgium has requested Habre's extradition to be tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity; however Senegal has so far refused to extradite Habre to Belgium.

Jordan Signs Bilateral Immunity Agreement

In January 2006, the Jordanian Parliament's Lower House bowed to U.S. political and economic pressure and signed a BIA. Under the terms of the BIA, Jordan agreed to refrain from surrendering any U.S. personnel accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide to the International Criminal Court. Jordan's refusal to sign a BIA would have cost the country \$250 million in economic support funds (ESF) from the U.S. for fiscal year 2006. In July 2005, the Lower House explicitly stated that approving a BIA with the U.S. would "undermine [Jordan's] sovereignty." However it caved to U.S. pressure in January, stating that a BIA was in Jordan's "political and economic interests." Jordan is the only country in the Middle East who is a member of the ICC. Jordan also has a judge serving on the Court.

ICC Turns Down Iraq Case

In February 2006, the ICC's Chief Prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, officially turned down requests for an ICC investigation of alleged war crimes committed by U.S. and UK troops in Iraq. With respect to the U.S. soldiers, Mr. Ocampo reasoned that the Court did not have jurisdiction over U.S. soldiers in Iraq because neither Iraq nor the U.S. is a party to the ICC. He then stated that even if the Court had jurisdiction, the U.S. has a competent legal system that could try the soldiers, thereby precluding the Court from investigating the alleged crimes. Lastly, the Prosecutor explained that even if the Court could investigate and prosecute the U.S. soldiers, the alleged crimes, while condemnable, did not rise to the level of gravity required for the Court to investigate. The Prosecutor's decision reaffirmed the fact that the ICC is an impartial court of last resort, sending a clear message to the U.S. administration that the Court is not targeting U.S. servicemembers.

First Arrest for ICC

For the first time since its inception in July 2002, the ICC obtained physical custody of a suspected war criminal in relation to its ongoing investigation of atrocities committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). On March 17, Congolese national Thomas Lubanga Dyilo was arrested and extradited to the ICC in The Hague to face charges of war crimes. Mr. Dyilo is the founder and leader of the Union de Patriotes Congolais (UPC), a rebel group in the DRC that is suspected of committing grave human rights violations, particularly in the Ituri region of the DRC.

Since the fighting broke out in Ituri, more than 8,000 civilians have died and at least 600,000 others have been displaced. The DRC government itself referred the conflict to the ICC in 2004. The Office of the Prosecutor, led by Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, initiated a formal investigation of the situation shortly thereafter. Mr. Ocampo has described the alleged crimes by Dyilo as "extremely serious."

Charles Taylor Arrested and Sent to The Hague

In March 2006, Charles Taylor, West African warlord and former President of Liberia, was arrested and repatriated to Sierra Leone. He was taken into custody by the Nigerian Police in Nigeria after a foiled attempt to escape justice. Taylor was to be tried by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), which has indicted him on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Taylor is accused of providing funding to Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, the group that plunged the country into a brutal war that claimed at least 50,000 lives and maimed many more. In June 2006, however, the SCSL requested that Taylor's trial be moved to the ICC in order to avoid renewed instability and violence in Sierra Leone. The ICC has agreed to lend only its trial and detention facilities for the Taylor trial; the SCSL still has jurisdiction over the case.

Again, for more information on any of these issues as well as more analysis of International Law & Justice issues, please visit www.globalsolutions.org/programs/law_justice/news.html

THE NEW ICC COMMUNICATIONS GUIDE: "And Justice for All: How to Talk about the ICC in the U.S."

The Bush Administration's opposition to the ICC is well known. For the past four years, the United States has refused to participate as an observer in the Court's Assembly of States Parties (ASP), has instituted sanctions against countries that did not exempt all U.S. citizens and some foreign personnel from the Court's jurisdiction, and has made it clear that the U.S. does not intend to cooperate with the Court. What is not clear is how the U.S. will choose to act now that the Court is up and running and investigating several cases in which the U.S. has interests.

This is a critical time for proponents of the ICC to make their case. While it is unlikely that the U.S. will ratify the ICC's Rome Statute (the treaty that established the ICC) in the near future, it will now start facing real and visible choices about how it deals with the ICC.

To that end, the ICC Communications Guide was inspired by a shared sense among advocates of the ICC that a common strategy and approach to deal with the crippling polarization and lack of genuine debate about the Court in the U.S is needed.

This Guide is intended to help ICC supporters understand how key American audiences perceive the ICC and how to best engage these audiences in a constructive dialogue about the Court. It provides a set of "key messages" that were developed through a collaborative process involving leading U.S. organizations working on the ICC and tested in focus groups and in-depth interviews with key audiences.

You can use this guide to lobby, talk with friends, write LTEs, or meet with editorial boards.

To download the guide, please visit

http://www.globalsolutions.org/programs/law_justice/icc/resources/FINAL_ICC_Comm_Guide.pdf

You can also get to the guide by going to the International Law & Justice Homepage:

http://www.globalsolutions.org/programs/law_justice/law_justice_home.html

July/August Partners Projects

There are two projects for July/August, in addition to past Partners projects. You don't need to do them all, but we encourage you to do as many as you have time for.

1) Get an Editorial printed in your local paper about the International Criminal Court.

How to get an Editorial in your Local Newspaper

An editorial is one of the most powerful tools you can use to bring global issues to your own community and elected leaders in Washington, D.C. Anyone can call an editorial writer and ask him/her for a meeting to discuss global issues of importance, such as the International Criminal Court.

Step 1

Select your target. Find the largest and most influential newspaper in your area. Look on the editorial page for the name of the editorial page editor. You can also call the newspaper and ask for the name of the editorial writer who focuses on global issues.

Step 2

Study the information. Review the fact sheet information, talking points and ICC Communications Guide. The fact sheet and talking points can be found here:
http://www.globalsolutions.org/involved/partners/ICC_PubOpPoll_July06.pdf
http://www.globalsolutions.org/involved/partners/ICC_talkpts_July06.pdf

The ICC communications Guide can be found at:

http://www.globalsolutions.org/programs/law_justice/icc/resources/FINAL_ICC_Comm_Guide.pdf

Step 3

Send an e-mail or letter to the editorial writer. Using information from the information in step 2, write a one-page letter or e-mail to the editorial writer you have targeted. Ask him/her for a meeting to discuss the importance of the ICC.

Step 4

Make a follow-up call. After you send an e-mail or letter, call the editorial writer. Journalists get a lot of e-mails and letters. A follow up call is important and often effective. The editorial writer will most likely agree to a meeting or ask you to send more

information.

Step 5

If the editorial writer asks for more information: After you send them the fact sheets, follow up again a few days later, and if appropriate, ask again for a meeting. Sometimes, newspapers will run an editorial without a meeting. If they decline an in-person meeting, ask if they intend to run the editorial.

Step 6

If you meet with the editorial writer: If you do arrange an in-person meeting, take another local chapter member with you. Plan the meeting with the other person before you go in and make sure you're both knowledgeable on the issue, talking points and ICC Communications Guide.

During the meeting, don't feel like you have to know all the answers. You are a concerned citizen from the community, but no one expects you to be the expert. If you don't know the answer to a question, feel free to refer the editorial writer to a Citizens for Global Solutions staff person.

Step 7

Follow up. After your meeting, or even if the editorial writer declines an in-person meeting, send them a thank you note. Remember: Journalists are people too!

2) Lobby Visits

August is a great time to lobby as Senators and Representatives usually return home for extended stays in August. The following is information on how to set up a lobby visit. On July 10th, you will receive fact sheets, talking points, and leave-behinds for your lobby visits. We will be asking you to lobby on climate change, BIAs, and UN Funding. Again, you can pick one of the three issues to lobby on, or, if you're feeling particularly ambitious, you can lobby on all of them.

Scheduling a Lobby Visit

How to Plan an Effective Lobby Visit

Lobbying is the most effective tool you have as a grassroots activist. Your Members of Congress will listen to what you have to say because they know you are a voter in their district/state.

Setting Up Your Lobby Meeting

To make an appointment, call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, and ask to be connected to your Member of Congress' office. If you are meeting with your member locally, look up the number for your local district office in the phone book or online at www.senate.gov or www.house.gov. When you call, tell the scheduler that you would like to meet with your Member

of Congress on the date that works best for you. Be flexible with your time if this increases your chances of having a meeting with the Congressperson. If that is impossible, meet with the staffer who works on international issues.

Before the Meeting

Send a copy of the fact sheets to the office you will be visiting as soon as you have a confirmed date and time. You can find copies of the fact sheets below the sample fax for scheduling a lobby visit. This way the person you meet with will already know what you intend to talk about and can be prepared with questions for you. This will ensure your meeting is focused and productive. It will also give a professional impression of your group.

Draft an agenda for your meeting that gives everyone a chance to speak. If you have a large group – more than five people – let everyone introduce him/herself but choose a few representatives to speak.

Be clear and specific about what you are asking for. Make sure your meeting includes a request for a concrete action that you want your Representative or Senator to take.

During the Meeting

Be accurate. Tell the truth. If you aren't sure about a specific fact or can't answer a particular question make a note of it and contact the Citizens for Global Solutions office. We will provide clarification so that you can call your Member of Congress back and answer the question. This builds your credibility as a reliable source of information.

Be brief. Keep your meeting focused. Present your case, answer questions, make your request for action, set a date with the member/staffer for when you can follow up to find out their position on your issue and politely depart. Members of Congress have very long workdays already.

Be courteous. Treat the staffers in the office well and work to build a positive relationship with them.

After the Meeting

Did everything go according to plan? After your meetings are over, talk with your group to discuss the outcomes of your visit. What worked? What didn't? What new information do you have on your members' positions?

Send a thank you letter. Be appreciative of the Member's time and attention to your issue. Remind him/her of the date and time you set to follow-up on your visit. This will ensure that they have no excuse for missing your call.

Follow up until you have a firm response to the request you made during your lobby visit.

Sample Fax For Scheduling a Lobby Visit

<Date>

Dear <Scheduler's name>:

I am writing to request a meeting with <Member of Congress> in <his/her local/Washington> office on <date>. During the meeting, I will be asking that s/he support [chosen topic/topics here].

As a member of Citizens for Global Solutions and a voter in <Member of Congress'> <district or state>, I believe that making the world a safe, just and equitable place we all want to live in will require teamwork and a common set of rules we can all live by. No one country can solve global problems alone, and the US should be a leader in this collective effort.

I will have the details about a more specific topic for our meeting in a few weeks. When I do, I will contact you again and fax you supporting materials with a specific request for action. In the meantime, please note that the following people will also accompany me on our visit: <names of others>. Like me, they are voting members in <his/her state/district>. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Monthly Report of Your Accomplishments for May/June

Chapter _____ Leader _____

What is your chapter working on? How are your events and meetings going?

Have you held a flash party?

Is there anything the national office can help you with?

Have you written any LTEs? Were they printed?

Letters to the editor and op-eds *(Please note them here even if you are enclosing copies)*

Total Submitted	Total Printed	Type: LTE, op-ed	Topic	Written By	Paper	Date It Ran

Other Political or Media Activities Your Chapter Engaged In

Use another sheet if necessary to continue your report. Please detach and return to Sara Bodenbergl by July 25th so your accomplishments can be published in the next mailing.

Mail: Partners Monthly Report
 418 7th Street, SE
 Washington, DC 20003-2796
 Fax: (202) 546-3749
 E-mail: sbodenbergl@globalsolutions.org

*****PLEASE TAKE 5 MINUTES TO FILL THIS OUT AND SEND IT BACK TO THE NATIONAL

OFFICE. I AM RECEIVING FEWER AND FEWER OF THEM. THIS INFORMATION IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR SEVERAL REASONS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THAT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM GOES TO LOBBY, IT GREATLY HELPS TO TELL THE SENATOR OR REP WHAT THEIR CONSTITUENTS HAVE BEEN DOING. EVEN IF YOU SEND ME A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR CHAPTER, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT SOMEONE IN THE CHAPTER FILLS THIS OUT.

We have 34 chapters and yet I only received 2 of these last month!

News from the Field

- Congratulations to Jerry Tetalman of our **San Diego Chapter**. His book, titled *One World Democracy*, won the San Diego Book Award for Best Political Science Book of 2005! Congratulations!
- Becky Tan of our **Manhattan Beach Chapter** had a letter to the editor published in *The Daily Breeze* on June 11th. The LTE talked about how to address climate change at the local level. Congratulations!
- Our **Orange County Chapter** has been busy getting the word out about Citizens for Global Solutions by tabling at two separate events in June. Keep up the good work!
- Our **St. Louis Chapter** is holding its annual essay contest. The student who wins the contest will be granted an all-expenses paid trip to Citizens for Global Solutions Annual Conference in Washington, DC in November. Good Luck with the contest! In addition, St. Louis just held its annual conference.

Please remember, I can't tell everyone about the wonderful things you are doing if you don't tell me about them. Don't forget to fill out the monthly report form.

Every day, you are changing the world!