



Fonds au Profit des Victimes
The Trust Fund for Victims



CINEMA FOR PEACE
FOUNDATION

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon: „You can count on me!“

Ban Ki-moon endorses International Criminal Court at Gala evening on the eve of the first ICC Review Conference / Decisions on International Criminal Justice will be made in Kampala in the next 2 weeks

KAMPALA/UGANDA - International Criminal Justice may rise to a new level in the next two weeks. Delegates from more than 110 countries have come together to the first Review Conference since the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court came into effect in 2002. The Conference has ambitious questions on its agenda, such as the aim to include “crimes of aggression“ in the Rome Statute. This will be crucial for future decisions on whether heads of state can be held responsible for waging war.

On the eve of the conference on Sunday night, the Trust Fund for Victims and the CINEMA FOR PEACE Foundation (CFPF) presented a “Special Evening on Justice“. This evening was created to draw attention to the plight of victims, for example with the film “Children of War“, about child-soldiers in Uganda. The child counsellor Jane Ekayu reported of nine-year old children who had been forced to kill their mother.

The president of the Assembly of the State Parties, Christian Wenaweser, representing 111 member countries of the ICC, called all delegates to keep in mind the plight and suffering of victims of war during the next 12 days when these questions will be discussed. Wenaweser emphasized the “historical importance“ of the conference, and he invited all delegates to visit victims in Northern Uganda to gather personal impressions of the suffering. Wenaweser called Ban Ki-moon “the biggest champion of the International Criminal Court“.

Ben Ferencz (91), Nazi war crime prosecutor in Nuremberg and the strongest advocate for the ICC for 60 years, warned in a very emotional speech not to try to discuss the definition of “crimes of aggression“ and admonished the audience to make political compromises. Ferencz expressed his view that, just like slavery was abolished, wars and crimes against humanity could be ended. He also claimed that the decisions of the Review Conference will determine “if we take a step forward or a step back – Kampala can be a turning point in history“. Law could replace war in future.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon called for full support of the ICC, and expressed his anticipation that “crimes of aggression“ will become a part

of the Rome Statute of the ICC. The Secretary-General described the UN as a close partner of the ICC and said: "We must succeed, in order to end war crimes and crimes against humanity... I count on you, and you can also count on me as Secretary-General."

The CINEMA FOR PEACE Foundation (CFPF) presented on this occasion the first JUSTITIA Award to honor the United Nations and Ban Ki-moon for establishing and supporting the International Criminal Court. The award was presented to Ban Ki-moon by the Council of Europe Goodwill Ambassador Bianca Jagger, founder and Chair of the Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation. Ban Ki-moon said that it is a great honour to accept the first JUSTITIA award and he thanked the CFPF for recognizing the UN's persistent efforts to establish justice.

Ban Ki-moon applauded CINEMA FOR PEACE and founder Jaka Bizilj, stating that every time the creative community reaches out to help to learn about human rights and justice „you help the UN to keep the peace.“

Fotos and TV footage of the event on:

www.mydrive.ch

benutzername (user name): CinemaforPeace

passwort: peace1

For questions or further information please contact:

CINEMA FOR PEACE

Mrs. Anne Köhnen

Anne.Koehnen@cinemaforpeace.com

0049-(0)30-767752514