

Start date: 17/07/06

Make a positive impact for victims of human rights violations

<http://web.amnesty.org/wire/July2006/IJD>

AI calls on all governments to make voluntary contributions to the International Criminal Court's Trust Fund for Victims. Each year AI takes action to ensure the success of the International Criminal Court. International Justice Day on 17 July marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Established by the Rome Statute, the Trust Fund will benefit victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes which have been investigated and prosecuted by the Court. Its resources will ensure that reparations orders made to victims by the Court are fulfilled. Resources will also be used to fund projects and activities designed to help victims of the horrific crimes in situations under investigation.

The work of the Trust Fund is guided by a Board of Directors made up of: former Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa and Nobel Peace Laureate Arch-bishop Desmond Tutu; former Prime Minister of Poland and former UN Special Rapporteur on human rights on the territory of the former Yugoslavia Tadeusz Mazowiecki; former President of Trinidad and Tobago Arthur N.R. Robinson; Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan; former Minister of Health of France and former President of the European Parliament Simone Veil.

The Trust Fund will shortly begin its work for victims of the three situations being investigated by the Court: Democratic Republic of Congo, northern Uganda and Darfur, Sudan. All three situations involve very large numbers of victims who urgently need assistance.

The Trust Fund, which is funded primarily by voluntary contributions, requires a significant amount of resources this year in order to make a positive impact.

[take action]

Please write to your government urging them to make a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims this year and to make regular annual contributions to ensure its stability and success.

[Sample letter]

Dear [Minister of Foreign Affairs],

I am writing to request that the government of [country] make a voluntary contribution to the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Trust Fund for Victims as soon as possible and to commit to making annual voluntary contributions.

The Trust Fund, which has recently been established, will be an important complement to the efforts of the ICC to bring to justice those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. It will provide essential assistance to victims to address the horrific crimes they have suffered and to help them rebuild their lives. It will also help to ensure that victims receive full reparations awarded by the ICC.

With ICC investigations already advanced in the Democratic Republic of Congo, northern Uganda and Darfur, Sudan, it is important that the Trust Fund receives contributions now, so that it can act to benefit the victims of the thousands of crimes that have been committed in each situation.

A commitment from the government of [country] that it will make an annual contribution to the Trust Fund will give the Fund the stability and resources it needs in order to be able to perform its important work effectively.

I hope you will be able to give this matter your urgent attention.

Yours sincerely,
