The International Criminal Court: Taking Stock of Peace and Justice

Tuesday, May 11th

Forum Details:
In recent years, prosecuting gross human rights violators has become a more tangible reality. This development, however, has spurred a reaction from some who claim that the pursuit of justice and accountability can be counterproductive, impede peace processes, or reignite conflict after a conflict has ended. The International Criminal Court's (ICC) 2005 arrest warrant for the rebel leader Joseph Kony in Uganda and the 2008 indictment of Sudanese President Omar-al-Bashir have highlighted this tension between peace and justice camps.

Since the creation of the ICC in 1998 in Rome, 111 signatory nations have entrusted to an international body a degree of their sovereignty related to the prosecution of crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and the crime of aggression. In June 2010, signatory nations will gather in Kampala, Uganda to consider amendments to the Rome Statute and take stock of the ICC's pursuits. One "stocktaking" session at the Rome Review Conference will focus on Peace and Justice, and the question of how to increase cooperation and maximize both peace and justice will be of central concern. What outcome from this conference would be most useful going forward in better managing the tension between peace and justice in ways that maximize the attainment of both? What does balance and increased cooperation between peace and justice groups look like?"

Speakers:
Juan Mendez, Advisor to the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court
Ruth Wedgwood, Professor and Director, International Law and Organizations Program, SAIS
Janet McElligott, President of McElligott Associates

Moderator:
John Marks, President and Founder, Search for Common Ground

Bios
Juan E. Méndez - Juan E. Méndez is an advisor on crime prevention to the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court. He is also Co-Chair of the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association. Until May 2009 he was the President of the International Center for Transnational Justice (ICTJ) and in the summer of 2009 he was a Scholar-in-Residence at the Ford Foundation in New York. Concurrent with his duties at ICTJ, the Honorable Kofi Annan named Mr. Méndez his Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, a task he performed from 2004 to 2007.

He is the recipient of several human rights awards: the Goler T. Butcher Medal from the American Society of International Law (2010); a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of Quebec in Montreal (2006); the inaugural "Monsignor Oscar A. Romero Award for Leadership in Service to Human Rights," by the University of Dayton (2000); and the "Jeanne and Joseph Sullivan Award" of the Heartland Alliance (2003). Mr. Méndez is a member of the bar of Mar del Plata and Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the District of Columbia, U.S., having earned a J.D. from Stella Maris University in Argentina and a certificate from the American University Washington College of Law.

Ruth Wedgewood - Ruth Wedgewood is currently the Edward B. Burling Professor of International Law and Diplomacy and Director of the International Law and Organizations Program at SAIS. She has also served as the U.S. member of the U.N. Human Rights Committee, a member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee for International Law, the Defense Policy Board and the CIA Historical Review Panel and the U.S. public delegate to Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Warsaw Human Dimension Meeting. Ruth Wedgewood was
also an independent expert for International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and is a former professor at Yale Law School and director of studies at the Hague Academy for International Law in the Netherlands, former member of the Hart-Rudman Commission on National Security in the 21st Century. She was a senior fellow for international organizations at the Council on Foreign Relations and chief of staff to the head of the criminal division in the U.S. Department of Justice, chairing the attorney general's working group on informant and undercover investigative guidelines. She held the positions of vice president of American Society of International Law, vice president of International Law Association-American Branch and board member for the American Journal of International Law, World Policy Journal and American Interest as well as director of Freedom House and member of the advisory council of National Interest. She has also been a commentator for BBC, NPR and PBS.

Janet McElligott - Janet McElligott, President of McElligott Associates, is an international business and political strategist, with a successful record in engaging stakeholders and negotiating agreements in zones of conflict in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

McElligott was the spokesperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for the Sudan Peace talks, and served on the task force that freed the ICRC aid workers from rebel territory in 1996. She serves as an unofficial liaison between the Catholic Church of Sudan and the Sudanese Government. From 1997 through 2001, McElligott was the liaison between the Sudanese intelligence service and the US FBI some of which is chronicled in the book 'Losing bin Laden' by Richard Miniter (2003) and Vanity Fair’s 'The Secret bin Laden Files' by David Rose (2002).

Ms. McElligott was instrumental in assisting the first environmental symposium of the Arab Organization of Agricultural Development in Damascus, Syria. She served under President George Bush in 1990, and prior to this served on the staffs of three U.S. senators.

John Marks - John Marks is President and founder of Search for Common Ground, an international conflict prevention NGO headquartered in Washington and Brussels, with offices in 20 countries. He also founded and heads Common Ground Productions, which produces radio and television programming around the world to help prevent and transform conflict. He wrote and produced The Shape of the Future series of TV documentaries, which was aired simultaneously on Israeli, Palestinian, and Arab satellite television - something that had never been done before. He is a best-selling, award-winning author and in 2006 was awarded a Skoll Fellowship for Social Entrepreneurship.

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