



“The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish were so calculated, so malignant and so devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, nor survive their being repeated.”

– Justice Robert H. Jackson, Chief of Council for the United States, in his Opening Statement before the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg

## The Globalization of Justice

We live in an increasingly globalized and interdependent world. The physical boundaries that separated countries have given way to a global economy, instantaneous communication, the ability to span the globe in less than a day and the proliferation of crimes that have international implications. This phenomenon both necessitates and enables the creation of an international system of justice that complements and reinforces national justice systems.

The trend towards a “globalization of justice” is defined by an increasingly wide net of international obligations covering everything from free trade to labor standards, environmental regulations and the protection of fundamental human rights. It is evidenced by the establishment of an International Criminal Court, the creation of ad hoc tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, the creation of internationalized courts and the increasing use of domestic courts to bring criminal and civil cases against individuals accused of gross violations of international human rights.

The world has sustained atrocity after atrocity without having recourse to justice, but this is changing. Global rules and systems that enforce human rights at the international level have become significant tools to prevent conflict and promote peace and justice. An international system of justice is essential to deter those contemplating human rights crimes, to enable victims to obtain justice and redress, to rebuild nations ravaged by war and to support post-conflict reconciliation.

### Factsheet 1 The International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the world’s first permanent, international judicial body capable of bringing to justice those individuals who commit genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes when states are unable or unwilling to do so. The Court is also able to provide reparation to victims. The ICC treaty, which was adopted in 1998 and entered into force in 2002, has been hailed by governments, legal experts and civil society as the most significant development in international law since the adoption of the United Nations Charter. Currently, over 100 countries, representing all regions of the world, accept the Court’s jurisdiction. The Court is now operating in The Hague. It made its first arrest in March 2006.

### Factsheet 2 Universal Jurisdiction

Universal jurisdiction is the principle that every country has an interest in bringing to justice the perpetrators of the most grave crimes, no matter where the crime was committed, and regardless of the nationality of the perpetrators or their victims. The Pinochet case is the most well-known universal jurisdiction case.

### Factsheet 3 International and Internationalized Criminal Tribunals

International criminal tribunals are courts established to try individuals accused of crimes recognized under international humanitarian law as committed in a specific place at a particular time. The Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals – the first international war-crimes tribunals – were established by the victorious Allies at the end of World War II to prosecute leading military and political leaders. In response to the shocking crimes that took place in both the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the U.N. Security Council established two ad hoc international criminal tribunals, one for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and another for Rwanda (ICTR), to bring the perpetrators to justice. Internationalized courts are a mixture of national and international courts. They are sometimes called “hybrid courts.” Some examples of internationalized courts include the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Extraordinary Chambers for Cambodia and the Special Panels for East Timor.

### Factsheet 4 Victims’ Rights

International standards give victims the right to truth, justice and reparation. Victims have the right to be treated with humanity and respect for their dignity. Appropriate measures should be taken to ensure their safety, physical and psychological well-being, and privacy, as well as those of their families. Victims have the right to participate in any proceedings and to adequate, effective and prompt reparation, which should be proportional to the gravity of the violations and the harm suffered.

