



International Justice Center

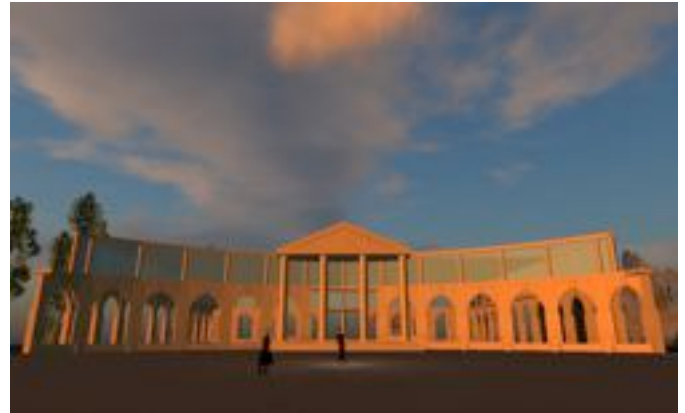
A Virtual Clearinghouse for Information and Action in Support of Global Justice and the International Criminal Court

In July 1998, nearly 200 governments met in Rome and agreed to a multilateral treaty to create the International Criminal Court, a historic world human rights tribunal. The ICC is designed to investigate and try those accused of committing some of the worst violations of human rights, including genocide, mass rape and war crimes.

Ten years later, the ICC, now established in The Hague, Netherlands, is investigating and trying crimes committed in Sudan, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic. However public knowledge and support for the Court is almost non-existent in most countries of the world, except where current investigations are taking place. Since the Court relies on government cooperation and funding, public awareness and support is essential for it to accomplish its mission.

Existing efforts to use traditional media, broadcast media, and the web to build up public interest in the Court have made some progress. Meanwhile virtual worlds show tremendous promise to create compelling and immersive experiences for participants, as well as create cross-national communities around specific campaigns and concerns.

Global Kids in 2008 will be exploring the use of the virtual world Second Life and a variety of teen-oriented virtual worlds to support the ICC and global justice concerns. Activities will be centered around the “International Justice Center” that launched in Second Life in March 2008, in association with the University of Southern California’s Institute for Network Culture. The International Justice Center is a virtual education and action center where people from all over the world can learn about the court, engage with ICC officials, experts and victims, and take action in support of human rights and international justice. More importantly, the Center will serve as the hub of a new social network connecting those already doing the work on the ground with each other and with individuals new to ICC issues within Second Life.



Activities planned at the International Justice Center:

- **Education:** An information center about the ICC, current cases and situations before it, and issues of concern to the court (genocide, gender-based crimes, child soldiers, etc.)
- **Awareness Raising:** Using the unique capability of virtual worlds to hold emotionally and intellectually engaging online events, visitors will be able to interact directly with victims testifying before the court, ICC officials, legal experts, and activists on the ground. This effort will be supported by a specific tool being developed under the auspices of Global Kids that will facilitate people connecting to Second Life using only a standard cell phone.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** We will explore how Second Life can facilitate practical and ongoing coordination among different ICC-related institutions, including officials from the ICC itself, human rights NGOs, law associations, government agencies, and educational institutions.
- **Specific Campaigns:** The IJC may support specific campaigns that support the court, such as efforts to arrest indictees in Sudan or fundraising for victim’s relief, protection and rehabilitation.
- **A Shared, Collaboration Space:** NGOs, government agencies, and other ICC-related institutions will be encouraged to use the Center to host their own events and activities as they experiment with incorporating virtual worlds into their work.

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